

This walk is circular, and takes in several open spaces and many areas of interest in the town centre. The walk is on pavements for the whole route, and is predominantly flat, with some gentle slopes. The walk length is approximately 1.8 miles (3.0 km), and the time required approximately 30-40 minutes at a brisk pace.

The walk description should be read in conjunction with the route map. Although the most convenient starting point is described in this leaflet, being a circular walk it can be joined at any point on the route.



Shorter versions

The walk can be shortened by approximately half by following the route to St. Andrew's Church (8), turning right to the clock tower (15) and then re-joining the route on North Street.

The walk can also be shortened by a distance of about 0.34 miles (0.6 km) by omitting the section in Caldecott Park (directions in paragraph 1).

This walk is undertaken at your own risk.

This leaflet has been produced by the Sport & Recreation Development Section of the Leisure Services Division. For any queries or for further information on walking and cycling routes please contact the Active Lifestyles Officer on 01788-533721, by e-mail on activelifestyles@rugby.gov.uk, or visit the Council's website at www.rugby.gov.uk and click on Leisure and Culture. Revised January 2006

Pathway

to a Healthier Lifestyle



Rugby Urban Walks

Central Area Walk number 1



The Home of Rugby Football

The Walk

Starting point

- 1 Start at the public phone box outside the **Town Hall** and go through the iron gates into **Caldecott Park**. If you wish to omit this section, go past the gates, cross Park Road, and take the path across the green space (Chestnut Fields) until you re-join the main route across the road from **Jubilee Gardens** in Regent Place (6). **Caldecott Park** is the Town's principal park, opened in 1904.
- 2 Proceed past the public toilets along the left hand side footpath (the toilets will be on your left).
- 3 When you reach a **triangular rose bed** near the Park Keeper's kiosk, turn right and carry on along this path until you reach a pedestrian gate onto Park Road.
- 4 Cross the road, turn right and follow the road towards the town centre (the Park will be on your right) until you reach a green space known as **Chestnut Fields**.
- 5 Take the path that goes to your left across the grass, and turn left along **Regent Place**. In a few yards cross the road on the ramp and turn left, then right into Regent Street.
- 6 Across the road to your left is **Jubilee Gardens**, once the location of the **Town Baths**, and turned into a garden to celebrate the **Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977**. There is a statue of the poet Rupert Brooke in the gardens, erected to celebrate the centenary of his birth in 1987.
- 7 Continue to the end of Regent Street, turn right and continue a few yards to the road crossing.
- 8 Cross Church Street on the pelican crossing outside **St. Andrew's Church**, which dates back to the 14th Century.
- 9 Turn left along Church Street to the small paved "square" opposite the Squirrel pub, known as **The Pleasance**.

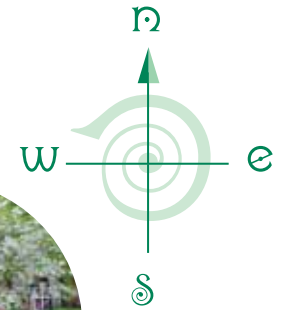
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- 10 Turn right and enter *St. Andrew's Gardens* and follow the path to the right to the other entrance. St. Andrew's Gardens is a closed churchyard, and is the burial place of one of Rugby's notable families, the *Wratislaws*, reputedly descendants of *King Wenceslas*, made famous by the Christmas Carol.
- 11 As you leave the Gardens turn immediately left along Church Walk (not the path straight ahead, which is also Church Walk - this part of the path is not signposted until it meets Hillmorton Road) and continue until you reach Hillmorton Road. The house immediately to your left is the birthplace of *Rupert Brooke*.
- 12 Turn left, continue for about eighty yards, and cross the road at the crossing point between the bollards, turn left and then right into Horton Crescent and continue, remaining on the same footpath and turning right at the tree encircled roundabout until you reach Barby Road.
- 13 Cross Barby Road, turn right and proceed along the road. The playing field on your left, known as *The Close*, is the place where, it is said, *William Webb Ellis "took the ball in his arms and ran with it" in 1823*, creating what became the game of Rugby. It is also the location at which The Riot Act was last read in England, following a mutiny by pupils in 1797, who had retreated to the hump known as *the Island*, at the time surrounded by a moat with a drawbridge. Other famous ex-pupils of the school include poet *Rupert Brooke*, author *Arthur Ransome*, and *Neville Chamberlain*, Prime Minister at the outbreak of World War Two.
- 14 At the end of Barby Road, turn left into Lawrence Sherriff Street before crossing at the pelican crossing.
- 15 Turn left, and then right into the High Street. Continue until you reach the *Clock Tower*, erected with subscriptions from the people of the town to celebrate *Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887*.
- 16 Follow North Street down to the bottom of the hill on the left side until you reach the pelican crossing which takes you back to the starting point outside the Town Hall.



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