

Ware to Waltham Abbey Dragonfly Discovery Trail

Route Summary: A circular route that takes in the beauty of Cornmill Meadows and picturesque Tree Park. This trail helps you to discover the many species of dragonfly that inhabit this beautiful sanctuary. From Cornmill Meadows car park, the route travels into the Tree Park, before circling the meadows.

Distance: 2 miles

Terrain: Grass pathways throughout the route with several bridges.



Starting Point: Cornmill Meadows car park
Crooked Mile, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 2ES

- Exit the car park at the **dragonfly information panel**, entering the **Tree Park**.
- Turn right and then left along the grass pathway heading in a westerly direction, crossing the **Meridian Line**.
- Turn right at Cornmill Stream and continue heading north, keeping the stream on your left.
- Cross over the black metal bridge at the weir, passing a second information panel.
- Continue along the pathway, following the **Old River Lee** in a westerly direction, bearing to the left to head south.
- At the third information panel, proceed through the kissing gate and over a wooden bridge.
- Continue on the pathway passing a path on the left (*Wake Hide is a short diversion along this pathway*).
- Proceed south alongside the river and the **Royal Gunpowder Mills** site on the right, cross over the large bridge and onto a footbridge over the **outlet sluice**.
- Turn left before the kissing gate and follow the pathway east, keeping the road on the right.
- Continue through a kissing gate (**Waltham Abbey Gardens** is a short diversion from the route – turn right through the underpass).
- Proceed along the pathway, keeping the fence line on the left. (*A fourth information panel is a short diversion from the route – turn left through a second kissing gate and the panel is located opposite the **Abbey Fish Ponds***).
- Continue over a concrete bridge crossing the Cornmill Stream and proceed along the middle path, turning left onto the Meridian Line.
- Proceed across a wooden footbridge and over a second ditch.
- Continue north, and turn right at the crossroad junction.
- Turn left through an avenue of poplar trees, turning right into the car park.

Toilets:

- Waltham Abbey town, opposite Abbey Church – 5 minutes from route

Refreshments:

- Waltham Abbey town centre – 5 minutes from route