

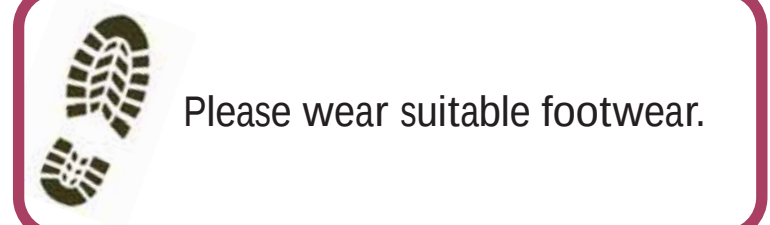


# Walking Through Time...



Most of Sutton Park is a scheduled ancient monument and it contains many well-preserved archaeological remains. If you follow the trail marked on the map, you pass some of these remains left by our ancestors and you will be.... **Walking through time**....to see a Roman road, the boundary of a medieval deer park, military targets and practice trenches, a well fed by a spring, a prehistoric burnt mound, and an 18th century millpond.

Some of this route is on uneven ground with some slopes and may not be suitable for people with mobility difficulties. The first part of the route, up to the Roman road, is on a fairly level path, and you can reach Longmoor Pool along a level tarmac road from Banners Gate.



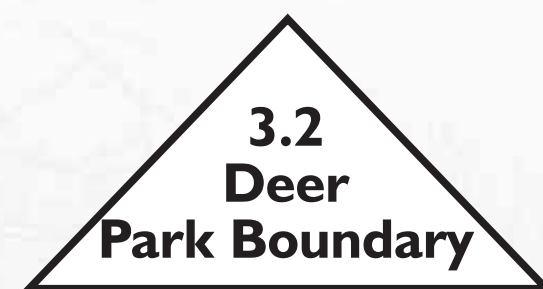
## Walking Through Time Archaeological Trails



3.1  
Roman  
Road



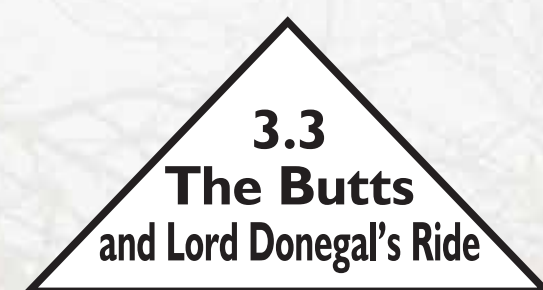
The marker is alongside the track, next to the slight but prominent grass-covered bank that is the Roman road. A Roman Road, Ryknield or Icknield Street, was constructed in the 1st century AD to link forts at Metchley in Birmingham and Wall near Lichfield. You can see the raised carriageway or agger made of compacted gravel and the ditches and quarry pits on each side along most of its 2 kilometre course through Sutton Park.



3.2  
Deer  
Park Boundary



The marker is just off the path, inside the wood. Sutton Park was created by King Henry I in the 12th century to conserve deer for hunting. It was surrounded by a substantial ditch and bank to prevent the deer escaping. Over the centuries the bank has subsided and the ditch has partly filled in, but you can still trace it along the edge of the Park from Banners Gate to Four Oaks Gate.



3.3  
The Butts  
and Lord Donegal's Ride



The marker is near the path. The concrete-lined trench sheltered the soldiers who manned the targets for a 19th century military rifle range. The mound behind it, constructed with soil dug from the surrounding ditch, stopped stray bullets. The rifle range was abandoned in 1893 after a stray bullet passed very close to a walker. The track alongside was created by the Earl of Donegal in the 1780s as a route for fox hunters riding in from the gate near the Parson and Clerk (Royal Oak Gate).



3.4  
Military  
Practice Range



The marker is off the main path, just before the trenches. The practice trench was dug by soldiers in a zig zag shape, which means that there is no direct line of fire along the trench. Longmoor Valley was used for military training during the 19th century and again during the First World War, when the 'Birmingham Pals' volunteers trained here.



3.5  
Rowton's  
Well



The marker is off the main path at a point where you can see the well over the slope. The well is a natural spring which was believed to have curative powers. It attracted considerable crowds in the early nineteenth century when a stone wall was built around it and a fence to keep cattle away. Water from the well was used in Birmingham Eye Hospital in Church Street in the city centre (now a hotel) for many years. Peat was dug for fuel in the 18th century from The Old Peat Pit on the other side of the stream.



3.6  
Burnt  
Mound



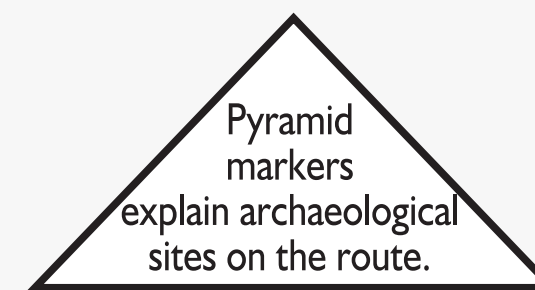
The marker is on the edge of the path. A low mound on the edge of boggy ground is a burnt mound formed about 3000 years ago from discarded heat shattered stones. The stones were heated by fire then water was poured on them to produce steam for a 'sauna', similar to practices recorded amongst North American Indians. The mound is crossed by a later ditch and bank which may be a subdivision of the medieval deer park, or a boundary of fields created in the Park in the 16th century, or a channel built in the 18th century to take water to Longmoor Pool.



3.7  
Longmoor  
Pool



The marker is on the edge of the road. Longmoor Pool was created in 1733, probably for fishing and duck-shooting. Behind the marker you can see the remains of the quarry where sand and gravel were dug out to construct the dam. Longmoor Mill was built below the dam in 1754 as a corn mill, but was soon converted to other uses such as button polishing. The mill was demolished in 1938, but the remains of hedges around fields which belonged to the mill can be seen above the road.



Pyramid  
markers  
explain archaeological  
sites on the route.

- Vehicle Entrance
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Minor Path
- Steep Gradient
- Car Park
- Play Area
- Main Path/Bridleway
- Walking Through Time Marker
- Horse Box Parking
- Hand Washing Available
- Golf Course
- Boggy Areas (Take Care)



"Walking through Time" was created by the Friends of Sutton Park Association and the Sutton Coldfield Civic Society. It was funded by FOSPA and made possible by the generous Bequest of Mr. Laurence William Loader, Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust and Severn Trent Water.

Please note that most of Sutton Park is a scheduled ancient monument. It is a criminal offence to damage the archaeological sites or to use a metal detector without prior consent.

There are interpretation panels at **Streetly Gate, Banners Gate, Town Gate, Boldmere Gate, Blackroot Bistro and Bracebridge car park** and a self-guided trail can be followed from each of these.

A leaflet about the trails is available from [www.fospa.org](http://www.fospa.org) and can be downloaded from the QR code.



Birmingham  
City Council