

This walk is circular, and includes two open spaces. The walk is on paved surfaces or good footpaths for the whole route, and mostly flat, but with some moderately steep slopes (in part 2 of both sections). The walk length is approximately 2.55 miles (4.1 km) for the full walk. Time required – 45 - 60 minutes at a brisk pace for the full walk. The walk can conveniently be broken down into two shorter walks of approximately equal length.



The walk description should be read in conjunction with the route map. Please note that some sections of this walk are not well lit, and it should therefore be undertaken in daylight hours. 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.

This walk is undertaken at your own risk.

This leaflet has been produced by the Sport & Recreation Development Section of the Leisure Services Division, with a funding contribution from the Agenda 21 / Sustainability Section of the Housing & Environmental Health Department. 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 3



The Home of Rugby Football

The Walk

The walk starts on Dunchurch Road at the traffic light controlled crossing point nearest to Hibbert Close, and on the same side of the road. This is the halfway point between the two shorter sections of the walk.

Section 1 (Approx. 1.3 miles / 2.1 km)

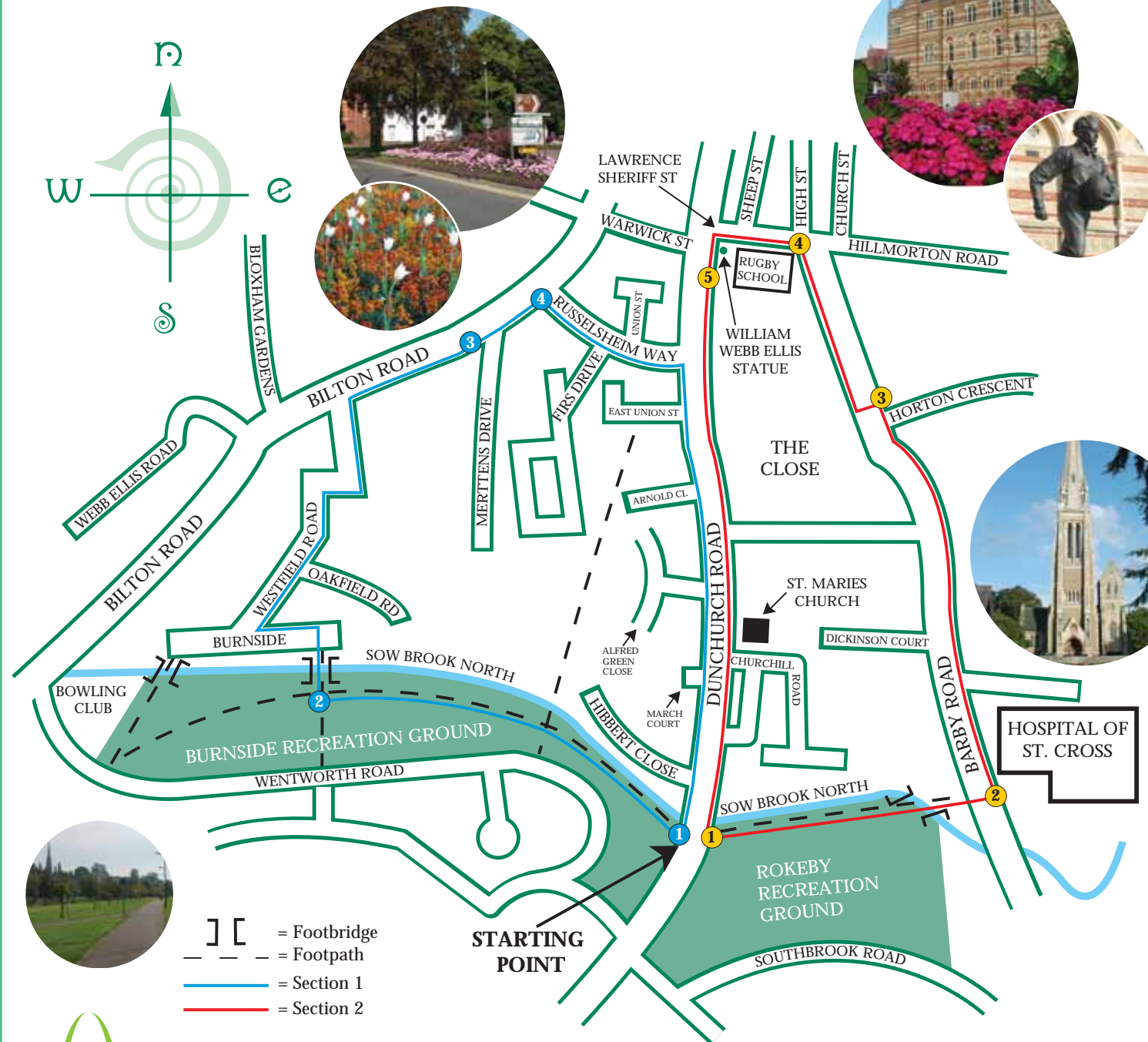
- 1 With the crossing behind you, walk into Burnside Recreation ground. The avenue of lime trees ahead of you was planted in 2002 to celebrate the **Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II**
- 2 Continue along the path, turning right down the second path you reach, and cross the stream onto Burnside. Turn left and continue for about 70 yards, and then right up Westfield Road. Follow the road and turn right at the junction with Bilton Road at the top of the hill.
- 3 Just before you reach Merttens Drive, look towards the big houses on the opposite side of the road. A blue plaque on the house to the left of the gap between the two houses commemorates the fact that **Sir Dennis Gabor**, Nobel Prize winner and inventor of **holography**, lived here in 1947. The poet **Rupert Brooke's** mother lived in the house to the right of the gap.
- 4 A short distance after Merttens Drive, the path turns to the right and follows Russelsheim Way for about 100 yards before it turns off to the right down Dunchurch Road. Continue straight ahead until you return to the starting point.

Section 2 (Approx. 1.25 miles / 2.1 km)

- 1 Cross the road at the traffic light controlled crossing point, and follow the tarmac path straight ahead through Rokeby Recreation Ground, with the stream on your left. Continue along the path, past the play area (on your right), and through the gap in the hedge through a field. The path continues over a bridge and joins Barby Road.

continued overleaf

- 2 Cross the road and turn left up the hill until you reach Horton Crescent.
- 3 At the corner of Horton Crescent cross Barby Road, turn right, and continue. 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*. This field 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*, children's author *Arthur Ransome*, and *Neville Chamberlain*, Prime Minister at the outbreak of World War Two.
- 4 At the end of Barby Road, turn left into Lawrence Sheriff Street and follow the path beside Rugby School, turning to your left at the end of the building. The statue of *William Webb Ellis* on the paved area was erected in 1997. The rugby football manufacturers Webb Ellis are based in the shop across the road, which also houses the *Webb Ellis Rugby Football Museum*.
- 5 Continue along the path with the school on your left, onto Dunchurch Road. About 150 yards along the road, on the left, is the Catholic Church of *St. Marie's*, with its distinctive spire rising to nearly 200 feet. The earliest part of the church (built in 1847 and subsequently added to) was designed by *Augustus Welby Pugin*, who assisted in the design of the *Houses of Parliament*. Continue along the road, crossing Churchill Road, and walk down the hill to the starting point.



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