



## POINTS OF INTEREST

### General

For much of its history, the area covered by the Three Brooks Way was covered in heavy forest. By the time of the Norman Conquest, the area had settled into what essentially remained unchanged right up until the 20th Century; a patchwork of small fields surrounding small farm based villages.

In more recent times, the construction of the M4 in the 1960s and the development of Bradley Stoke itself meant that most of the existing buildings and vegetation vanished. There are, however a number of remnants which provide a fascinating insight into a forgotten world. These include woodlands, parish boundaries and a number of old buildings.



### Acknowledgements

Photos and pictures: Old photographs kindly supplied by Mr Martin Davis. Many thanks to the Year 2 pupils at Wheatfield School, Bradley Stoke for the animal pictures.

Historical Information: Thanks to Sharon Newton and David Baker for their detailed historical information. Many thanks also to Gail Lambert and all the Volunteer Walk Leaders involved in checking out the walk route.

### Further information

#### Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group

This group consists of local residents who help look after the reserve. They organise regular activity days and nature walks. The group is free to join and is open to anyone who has an interest in the reserve.  
 ☐ [www.three-brooks.info](http://www.three-brooks.info)

#### Green Gym

This group meets every Thursday morning from 10am to 1pm to undertake a range of conservation projects. It's a great way to keep fit as well as improving our local environment.  
 ☎ Telephone: Green Gym Officer, BTCV on 0117 9291624

#### Wild Roots

Wild Roots is an innovative Heritage Lottery Funded, three year project that is working with local communities to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of South Gloucestershire.  
 ☐ [www.southglos.gov.uk/wildroots](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/wildroots)  
 ☎ Telephone: 01454 863581

#### Walking to Health

Walking to Health in South Gloucestershire aims to get residents more physically active by participating in regular health walks in their local areas. The project works with a team of volunteers and other projects such as Active South Gloucestershire and Exercise on Prescription.  
 ☐ [www.southglos.gov.uk/walkingtohealth](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/walkingtohealth)  
 ☎ Telephone: 01454 868006

This information can be made available in other languages, in large print, Braille or on audio tape. Please phone 01454 868004 if you need any of these or any other help to access Council services.



WALKING TO HEALTH

# Bradley Stoke

THREE BROOKS WAY WALKS

### START/FINISH POINT

Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, Fiddlers Wood Lane.

### BUSES

483, 574

### PARKING

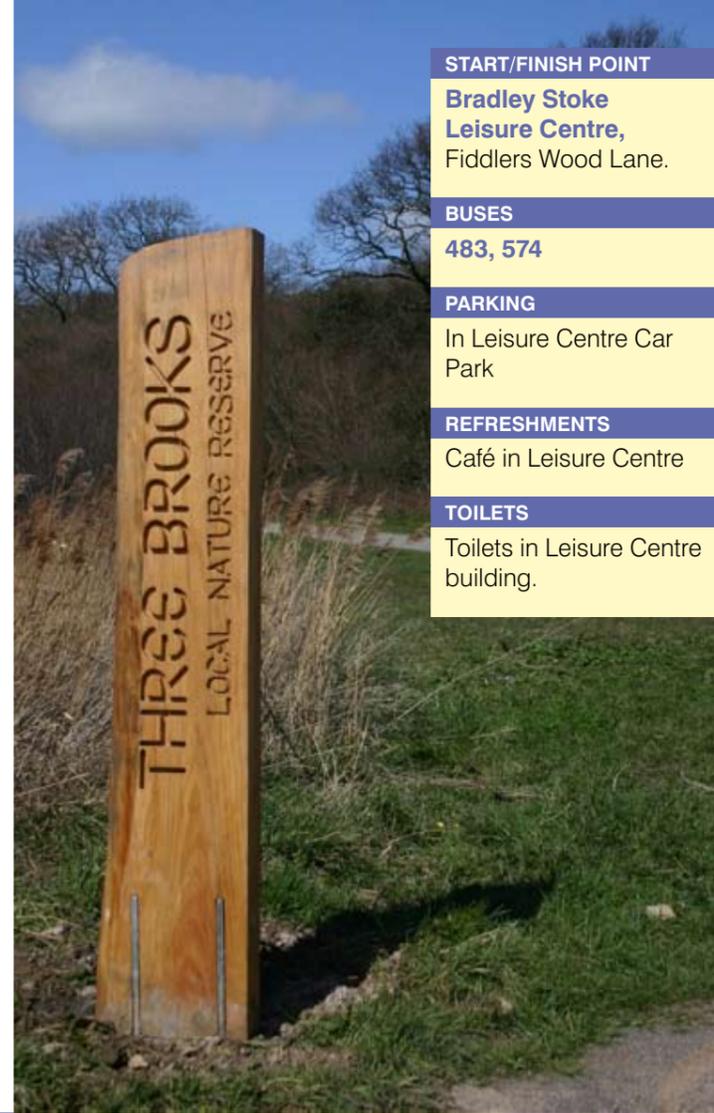
In Leisure Centre Car Park

### REFRESHMENTS

Café in Leisure Centre

### TOILETS

Toilets in Leisure Centre building.



# Bradley Stoke

THREE BROOKS WAY WALKING TO HEALTH



### Sites en route

<b>A</b>	<b>The Tump</b>	This large mound looks a bit like an iron age hill fort, but is, in fact created from the spoils of the Second Severn Crossing. A climb is worth the effort for the excellent views.
<b>B</b>	<b>Three Brooks Lake</b>	This popular and attractive area is worth visiting regularly. There is always something interesting to see including frequent kingfishers and a large number of ducks and dragonflies. The lake itself is of recent origin having been created when a huge relief sewer was constructed leaving a large crater. The water was then acquired by damming the confluences of Patchway, Hortham and Stoke Brooks. Where they merge, they assume a new name – Bradley Brook.  The bridge at the western end of the lake is older than it looks. When Manor Farm on Patchway Common was demolished the stone was used to build this structure.
<b>C</b>	<b>Webbs Wood Living Landmarks – Plaque 26</b>	Adjacent to Stoke Brook is the ancient woodland of Webb's Wood. For centuries hazel trees within the wood would have been cut to ground level and the poles used for fencing and firewood.  A different part of the wood would be used each year. This coppicing allows more light into the wood, stimulating the growth of woodland flowers.  The Three Brooks Conservation Group have resumed coppicing here after a break of almost 60 years and the results are very encouraging.

<b>D</b>	<b>Line of Saxon Path Living Landmarks – Plaque 26</b>	The wood running alongside the path at this point follows the route of a footpath that once linked Stoke Gifford to Patchway Common during the Saxon times. The northern end of the Saxon Path can be seen along the section from Cornfield Close to Patchway Common later in the walk. Sometimes an ancient hedgerow associated with the path can be seen, such as near to Wheatfield Drive and again adjacent to Savages Wood.
<b>E</b>	<b>Sherbourne's Brake</b>	Part of this feature is at least 200 years old and is completely protected by a Tree Preservation Order. Long tailed tits and woodpeckers may be seen and grey squirrels are abundant. Black poplars can also be seen. These trees are quite rare and do not usually grow in woods, preferring the edges of rivers and brooks.
<b>F</b>	<b>Old Parish boundary</b>	The hedge that borders Stoke Lodge School once marked the parish boundary between Patchway and Stoke Gifford.
<b>G</b>	<b>Davis' Pond</b>	Two generations of the Davis family were farmers at Little Stoke Farm from 1896 to 1956 with Edward Davis taking over ownership in 1915. The farm was situated at the top of Clay Lane. It was Howard Davis, the second of the two Davis farmers, who, in 1946, introduced Peter Scott to the wildfowl on the banks of the Severn near Slimbridge, inspiring the formation of the Severn Wildfowl (now the Wildfowl and Wetlands) Trust.

<b>H</b>	<b>Patchway Common Living Landmarks – Plaque 17</b>	This was the original Patchway and is believed to be very ancient. Along this stretch you can see a number of cottages and the site of Manor Farm. Manor Pond is opposite and is home to a number of water-borne species.  Primrose Footbridge crosses Bradley Stoke Way to the east of Patchway Common and was named after Primrose Cottage which once stood on the site.
<b>I</b>	<b>Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve</b>	This Local Nature Reserve declared by South Gloucestershire Council in 2004 comprises of a mixture of woodland, grassland, streams and ponds and ancient hedgerows that create valuable wildlife corridors.
<b>J</b>	<b>Bowland Wood Living Landmarks – Plaque 24</b>	Bowland Wood is an extension of Savages Wood. Bowland Farm once stood here at the eastern end of Patchway Common. Some remnants of the Farm's garden in the form of Leylandi, laurel and other ornamentals can be seen amongst the native trees.
<b>K</b>	<b>Savages Wood Living Landmarks – Plaque 25</b>	Savages Wood is a beautiful remnant of woodland which is filled with bluebells during the Spring. During the Autumn, the southern end is worth visiting to see the golden foliage of the beech and hornbeam. Again, a network of hedgerows can be seen here, all rich in tree species.
<b>L</b>	<b>Dewfalls Pond</b>	This small pond is now regularly overgrown but was once used by thirsty livestock. It tends to dry out completely during the summer.



# Bradley Stoke

THREE BROOKS WAY WALKING TO HEALTH

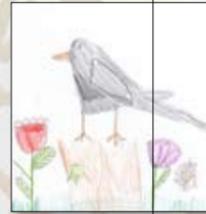


## Longer Walk ▶ 3.5 miles

**A** fascinating walk through some of the most important wildlife habitats and heritage areas of Bradley Stoke. The route passes by a number of plaques created by local people via the Living Landmarks project, undertaken during 2007 – 2008. The main route is flat and on good surfaces.

The alternative route (Option 1) through Savage's Wood can be slightly muddy and sometimes slippery after rain. Option 2 is a dry route suitable for poor conditions.

- 1 Start in front of the Leisure Centre. Turn left away from the centre, crossing over the road at the zebra crossing (taking you through the car park), then turn left again so that you are following the path towards the school fence and entering into the Three Brooks Way.
- 2 At the fence follow the path left and down the slope, descending towards Patchway Brook.
- 3 Turn right at the T-junction and keep going along this gravel track, passing **The Tump (A)** on your left to reach **Three Brooks Lake (B)**. Here, veer right and continue to reach Bradley Stoke Way. **Webbs Wood (C)** is on your right here.
- 4 Walk underneath Bradley Stoke Way and continue, crossing the line of a **Saxon Path (D)** and eventually reaching Brook Way. **Sherbourne's Brake (E)** is off to your left and can be reached via a muddy path.
- 5 Cross Brook Way and continue on this gravel path to reach Savages Wood Road, which becomes a cycleway at this location. Cross this cycleway, which marks the **Old Parish Boundary (F)**, and go straight on along a tarmac track for a further 100 metres to reach the corner of the playing field. Here, turn right and walk along the edge of the playing field and continue, passing a building and then tennis courts on your right. **Davis' Pond (G)** is on your left as you exit the field and enter a narrow footpath.
- 6 At the next T junction, turn right and then left as you reach Brook Way. Walk along this path / cycleway, until just before Winsbury Way, where you should turn right and cross Brook Way. Upon crossing, turn left and continue to reach Wheatfield Drive.
- 7 Turn right into Wheatfield Drive and then left to cross the road just beyond No.12. Follow the footpath sign to walk straight on to reach another road, veer slightly to the left and continue straight on along next footpath.



- 8 At T junction, turn right and continue along **Patchway Common (H)** to reach Primrose Bridge over Bradley Stoke Way. Cross bridge and turn sharply right just beyond it. Then, turn left to enter the **Three Brooks Nature Reserve (I)** (signposted).
- 9 Continue straight on adjacent to the remnants of **Bowland Wood (J)** until you reach a green bridge off to your right.

Here, there are two options:

### Option 1:

To walk through **Savages Wood (K)**, turn right here and then left after a few metres and continue straight on through the wood. Upon exiting, turn right and continue to return to the Leisure Centre

### Option 2:

For a drier route, continue straight on to reach another bridge, cross and turn sharply right. Here take the left choice at the Y junction to return to the Leisure Centre.

## Shorter Walk A

▶ 1.3 miles

This shorter version of the long walk takes in the section along Patchway Brook and allows exploration of Three Brooks Lake. The route returns to the Leisure Centre along a newly created path adjacent to Bradley Stoke Way. This route is suitable for pushchairs.

### Follow instructions 1 and 3 then

- 1 Just before the Bradley Stoke Way underpass, turn right. Continue on this slightly ascending tarmac path to reach a T junction.
- 2 Here, turn right and then left at the road. Continue along the road as it veers right and then left in front of Bradley Stoke Secondary School. The Leisure Centre is now in front of you.

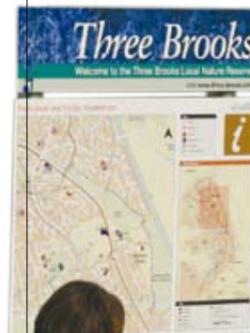
## Shorter Walk B

▶ 1.75 miles

This slightly longer short walk explores Patchway Brook and Patchway Common and returns via Dewfalls Pond, off Wheatfield Drive. This route is suitable for pushchairs.

### Follow instructions 1 and 2 then

- 1 At the first T junction, turn right and then turn left to cross bridge over the brook. Then, immediately veer left and continue on this path as it meanders to follow the Brook to its left.
- 2 At the end of this main path and just before the bridge over the main road, turn right and then sharply left to reach the bridge over Bradley Stoke Way. Cross the bridge and continue straight on to reach **Patchway Common (H)**.
- 3 Keep going until you reach a grassy area beyond a small pond, where you should turn left following the public footpath sign.
- 4 Upon reaching the first road, cross diagonally left to the next part of the path and then continue to reach Wheatfield Drive. Continue straight on to reach the next road (Dewfalls Drive). Here, turn left, then veer right and then turn right again at T junction.
- 5 Keep going straight on until you reach a sign to your right; 'Dewfalls Drive 20-40 Evens'. Just after this sign, turn right towards a group of trees and veer left to enter the path. At the Y junction veer left and continue, keeping the houses to your right. To your left you will see **Dewfalls Pond (L)**.
- 6 Veer left to emerge once more onto Wheatfield Drive. Here, turn right and then veer left. Continue straight on to eventually emerge onto Bradley Stoke Way. Turn right to walk alongside Bradley Stoke Way to reach Light Controlled Crossing. Cross to return to the Leisure Centre.



## Living Landmarks

This exciting project, started in 2007, aims to bring together local children, young people, older residents as well as families and carers to explore what existed in the past through story telling, arts workshops and audio recordings. It was a great opportunity for young people to work alongside older people and to get an insight into what the area was like before it was developed.

This project aimed to promote greater understanding of different generations, fostering greater respect and sense of understanding by reflecting and listening to the past and sharing knowledge of the present.

## Bradley Stoke History Group

Contact Mr David Baker on 01454 613005 for further details