

Explore the Abbey Meadows

(A 1.5 km walk around the Abbey meadows, aimed at families with things to spot on the way!)

From the carpark near the museum, head across the bridge and into the meadows. Turn right down the main path that runs next to the stream.



As you walk down the path look across to the Abbey compound on your left. Can you see the conker trees? How many are there?

Continue down the path until you see a gate on the right. Go through the gate and onto the bridge in front of you.

On the bridge look carefully. Can you spot a hidden viaduct?
How many cross ties similar to the one in this picture can you see?



Follow the path ahead of you and on the 2nd bridge stop and look down the stream to your left.

What can you see? Are there any flowering plants? What colours are they?
Can you see a hawthorn tree in front of you? What colour berries does it have?

Keep following the path through the wooded area looking at the trees as you walk past. When you reach the gate, go through it into the meadows area and head left following the path.

As you walk along, listen to what you can hear. Can you hear any birds? Can you hear the crickets in the grass?

When you reach the gate at the end of the meadows, go through it and turn left back up the main path. On your right you will come to some fishponds.

These are the medieval fishponds. Can you see all the bulrushes growing? These would have been strewn across the floors in the Abbey. Look into the pond (staying away from the edge), can you see any fish swimming? What other pond life can you spot? You may even see a terrapin!



Head back to the main path and turn right along the path back to where you started the walk.



Look to your left and the tall Victorian building of Forge Mill will come into view. How many chimneys can you spot?

Look in front of you as you walk along the main path. Can you see the tallest tree? (A Wellingtonia) This is where you are heading. This tree was planted by James Woodward who first excavated the Bordesley Abbey site. Head up the path to your right and then bear left towards the tree. Once you get near, look for the gate which takes you into the grounds where St Stephen's Chapel once stood.

Go up to the tree and feel the bark. Does it feel different from other tree trunks?

Around you is a 16th Century graveyard and all the gravestones were made with pieces of the abbey ruins.

Have a good look around, can you see one where a shoe has been carved on? What initials are there inside the shoe?

Look for the gravestone pictured on the right, what word is missing?



Once you have explored the grounds head out of the gate, turn right and head straight across to the Bordesley Abbey compound. Go through the gate and approach the ruins.

Have a look at the information board. Can you find out when the abbey was built?

Explore the abbey ruins without climbing on the stone work. Can you see two different colours of stone? The older parts of the abbey were made of a green sandstone and the newer parts from a red sandstone.

(If you would like to further explore the abbey, have a look at our other trail on the website — Find the Stones**)**

Walk up to the viewing platform that overlooks the abbey ruins and sit on the stone seats. You deserve a rest—enjoy the view!



An artists impression of how Bordesley Abbey and the surrounding meadows would have looked.