



The countryside charity Bedfordshire

Discover: Mowsbury Hillfort and Putnoe Wood

If you're looking for a short walk full of wildlife and history on the edge of Bedford then Mowsbury Hillfort and Putnoe Woods might just fit the bill.

From views over Bedford to woodland birds, there's something for everyone. You can combine the two sites into one figure of eight walk or visit them separately depending on how much time you have.

The walk

To get to Mowsbury Hillfort from the Wentworth Drive entrance to Mowsbury Park, head through the park towards the second car park and turn right on to the road (B660), follow the roadside pavement until you reach the golf club. You then walk through the golf club car park until you reach the gate. Follow the footpath round the wildflower meadow until you reach the entrance to the hillfort itself. At the top of the meadow you can pause and enjoy the view over Bedford. In early summer the meadow is full of wildflowers, butterflies and other pollinators. Inside the hillfort you'll find medieval fishponds, orchards and earthworks. Look out for birds of prey overhead, including red kite.

Once you've explored the hillfort and meadow, retrace your steps to Mowsbury Park.

There are a number of entrances to Putnoe Wood from Mowsbury Park. Once inside you'll find a main perimeter path and a wide central walk. Narrower paths criss-cross the rest of the wood. A small brook flows alongside one edge, separating the wood from the golf course. In spring look out for bluebells followed by blowsy swathes of cow parsley. By summer, the canopy has filled out and it's easy to feel as if you have escaped the bustle of everyday life. Listen out for woodpeckers and visit at dusk if you want a chance of spotting a bat.

If you want a longer walk, you can exit the woods at the far side from the park and follow the bridleway up towards Renhold.

Find the full factfile for this walk at <https://www.cprebeds.org.uk/discover/discover-mowsbury-hillfort-and-putnoe-wood/>

The car parks are marked in red. You can see the bridleway as a dashed line towards the right of the map.

