

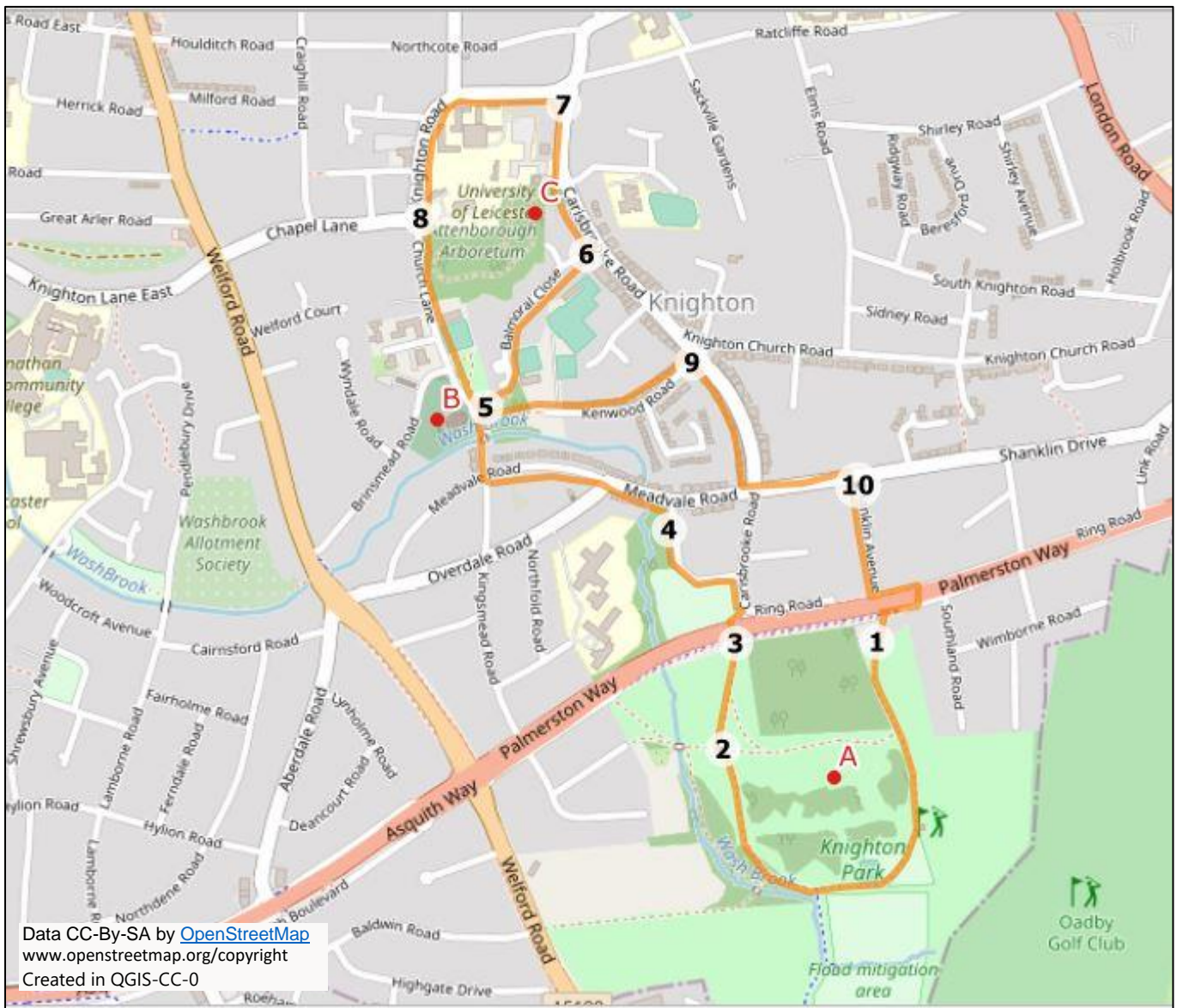
# Knighton Park to St Mary Magdalen Church

**Start location:** Knighton Park car park, off Palmerston Way, Leicester, LE2 3RT.

**Time taken:** 1 hour 20 minutes (steady, pace)\*    **Distance:** 2.7 miles    4.3 km    **Circular route**  
 1 hour 10 minutes (medium pace). Allow additional time for information stops.

## Description:

This figure-of-eight walk starts in beautiful Knighton Park and uses suburban streets and gittys to explore the residential area north of the park. The route passes old Knighton village, St Mary Magdalen Church and the Attenborough Arboretum along the way.



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 Created in QGIS-CC-0

- Main route
- Alternative route
- 1 Stage / waypoint
- Point of interest

\*Time is calculated at a steady pace of 2mph, if walked without stopping. Allow extra time to look at points of interest and read the information.

This route was developed by staff and volunteers for Leicester City Council:  
[www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/walks](http://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/walks)



**Walk starts:**

**Knighton Park car park, off Palmerston Way, Leicester, LE2 3RT.**

**Safety tips:**

- Take care crossing all roads, including the residential side streets. Use pedestrian crossings where available, including at Palmerston Way which is particularly busy and traffic is fast.
- Watch for cyclists throughout, especially crossing cycle routes at the entrance/exits from Knighton Park.
- In places, some paths are cracked or uneven and there may be protruding tree roots. Tread carefully.
- Remember to observe the guidance on social distancing.

**Introduction:**

The residential suburb of Knighton was once an agricultural village surrounded by fields, a couple of miles from the centre of Leicester. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the development of large factories, Leicester (already an industrial centre) grew further. More people came to the city to work and there was increased demand for housing. From the late 18<sup>th</sup> century into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some of Leicester's wealthy industrialists and tradespeople chose to build large properties in neighbouring Stoneygate, away from the hubbub of the industrial town. In the 1880s Clarendon Park developed as a residential area with a large proportion of terraced housing for workers. These developments connected Leicester to Knighton. Knighton underwent development in the 1930s and 1940s as semi-detached properties were built. The range of residential areas passed on this route reflect this history.

**Route directions:**

1. From the car park enter Knighton Park and walk ahead on the main path. Pass a junction on the right and keep ahead. Pass the football/golf and children's play areas.

**(A) Knighton Park**

This area was once part of the estate of the Cradock-Hartopp family. The park covers 78 acres and was purchased by the City Council in the late 1930s. Due to the Second World War it was not converted into a park until 1953. Knighton Spinney to the east is a local nature reserve.

2. At the path 'roundabout' go straight ahead.
3. Exit the park with care (watch for cyclists here – you are crossing a cycle path) and cross Palmerston Way at the pedestrian crossing. Bear slight right on the footpath into Carisbrooke Road and continue. Soon, turn left into Ashclose Avenue and continue to the next junction.
4. Cross Meadvale Road with care and turn left along it for a while. Turn right into the short section of Kingsmead Road. At the end cross the bridge over the Wash Brook into Church Lane. After the bridge you can see a cluster of large stones on the right which were used for washing clothes in the

Wash Brook.

### **(B) St Mary Magdalen Church**

A little further along on the right is St Mary Magdalen Church, a Grade II listed building. You may wish to divert from the route to take a look - either now or on your return. The original parts of the building date from the 13th century with later restoration and additions in the 19th and 20th centuries. The church retains some medieval features, including the medieval statue of Mary Magdalen situated in a niche high up on the east side of the tower. Another interesting feature in the graveyard is a large Celtic Cross in memory of Denzil Jarvis who died on the Titanic. It is situated about 20m on the left of the path walking from the lych gate.

5. Leave Church Lane via the second path on the right by wooden posts. The footpath leads to Balmoral Close, a modern residential development. Continue ahead along this pleasant residential street.
6. At the end turn left on Carisbrooke Road.

### **(C) Attenborough Arboretum**

Attenborough Arboretum is situated on a 5-acre site in the old village of Knighton, on land that once belonged to Home Farm. It is now owned by the University of Leicester. The arboretum is named after Frederick Attenborough and was opened in 1997 by his son, Sir David Attenborough. It is managed as a wild site with native trees, ponds and possibly the only surviving example in the city of a ridge and furrow field. The planting scheme is designed to display native trees more or less in the sequence in which they arrived in this country following the ending of the last ice-age, approximately 10,000 years ago. However, not all the trees in the arboretum are natives. The car park is on Carisbrooke Road and there is public access on foot at this entrance. Please see the University of Leicester Botanic Garden webpage for opening times and other information. It is worth a visit, when open.

7. At the junction, turn left on Knighton Road.
8. Where the main road bears right, turn off into Chapel Lane and continue. You will pass the private entrance gates and gatehouse to Knighton Hall on your left.

### **Knighton Hall**

In the 1750s the Cradock family were significant land owners in Knighton and by the early 19th century their descendent Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp was recorded as the lord of the manor. The name of the Cradock Arms pub reflects the local significance of the family. Knighton Hall was once the manor house. It is not visible from the road. The hall is an early 18th century red-brick house with remaining sections of an older building at its core dating from the 16th century. It is Grade II listed. The family sold the manor house in 1931. The hall is now owned by The University of Leicester and is the official residence of the Vice Chancellor. Student halls of residence were built nearby in the grounds during the 1960s. These have since been converted into modern conference facilities, College Court.

Pass St Mary Magdalen Church (A). Before the footbridge turn left past at the concrete bollard (not the path next to the wooden bollards, which you took earlier). Pass the Knighton Green. This path leads to Kenwood Road. Continue to the end.

9. Turn right on Carisbrooke Road. Turn left on Shanklin Drive.
10. Cross the road with care to turn right into Shanklin Avenue. At the end use the pedestrian crossing over Palmerston Way to return to Knighton Park car park.

We hope that you have enjoyed discovering the places on this route. You may also be interested in this and other walks available to download from the Choose How You Move website:

[www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk](http://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk)

### **Acknowledgements**

Developed by staff and volunteers for Leicester City Council.

### **St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton**

Church website: <https://www.stmarysknighton.co.uk/>

Historic England listing: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1074020>

### **History of Knighton**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knighton,\\_Leicester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knighton,_Leicester)

British History online: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/leics/vol4/pp443-446>

### **Attenborough Arboretum**

Visitor Information: <https://le.ac.uk/botanic-garden/visitor-information>

Wildlife: <https://www.naturespot.org.uk/wild-place/attenborough-arboretum>

### **Knighton Hall**

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1074028>

### **College Court**

<https://collegecourt.co.uk/>