RAURI’S RAMBLE

Rauri’s Ramble is a 2km (1.2 mile) walking route that has been created in memory of Rauri Pountain who was a student and member of staff at Oxford Brookes University.

Following his graduation in Computer Science, Rauri went on to work for Brookes as a Graduate Intern on the ‘e-pioneer’ project, following that in a role in Careers and then with OCSLD.

Rauri sadly died on 1st September 2015 at the age of 28.

Rauri had a great affection for Oxford Brookes, its people and its environment. He was a unique young man with a love of nature and, in particular, trees. Rauri could often be seen on campus identifying and photographing the wonderful variety of trees we have all around us. The Lime, or Linden tree, was one of his favourites particularly in July when they are in flower.

This route inspired by Rauri is wheelchair accessible and has been developed to give staff and students at Brookes the opportunity to enjoy a short walk and discover these trees, in particular our fantastic Limes.

The following page is taken from a blog written by Rauri.

“Lime trees are, I think, the most underrated of British trees. They have big heart shaped leaves with a pointed tip which are quite easy to identify. They are also the tallest growing of any native British tree, so they often stand out as magnificent giants amongst other species. They have the most fantastic flowers; an unmissable show of gold and white decorates the tree when in bloom. Their scent is so subtle and delicate that it’s hard to catch, although when you do it’s overwhelming. The scent is so strong you can smell it hundreds of metres away and it is usually more pronounced further from the tree than next to it. They are, for me at least, the very scent of Oxford Brookes University in the summer.”

RAURI POUNTAIN
ROUTE DESCRIPTION

1. The starting point for Rauri’s Ramble is on Headington Road by the entrance to Buckley. However since the route is circular you can start at any point.

MARKER ON SMALL GRASS AREA BY WALL NEXT TO BUCKLEY.

2. Looking up Headington Road towards Headington you will see to your right, a long row of Lime trees lining the pavement. Walk along this pavement to the junction with Gipsy Lane.

3. In the area under the trees you will often see a range of flowers particularly spring bulbs such as daffodils in March and bluebells in April.

4. Near the corner with Gipsy Lane you can spot an oak. Turn right and continue down Gipsy Lane.

5. As you walk past Brookes Restaurant you can see on your right a further line of five lime trees.

6. In front of Cheney School you can see a range of different trees.

7. At the junction follow the path to the right and walk down Warneford Lane where you can see horse chestnut trees providing beautiful white blossom with pink spots in May and conkers in September and October.

8. Cross over the junction and follow the path to the right of South Park as it heads down Cheney Lane.

9. As you walk down Cheney Lane, you’ll see more lime trees lining the path on the left and horse chestnut trees on the right.

10. Having past the stone wall on your left, cross over Cheney Lane to enter the path beside the school playing fields.

11. As the path approaches the John Henry Brookes Building you have the opportunity to shorten the walk to be just over 1km.

MARKER NEXT TO PATH BY HORSE CHESTNUT TREE NEAR PATH DOWN TO JHBB.

12. Following the path around the playing field towards the sports centre you will pass the Tonge building where you can see one of the few silver birch trees on campus. The two wooden benches provide a quiet place in the shade to enjoy lunch.

13. To the right of the path behind the fence the grassy banks hide the Headington Hill reservoir, built in 1875 to supply St Clement’s and East Oxford following cholera epidemics.

14. As you pass the Sports Centre you’ll see a small oak dedicated to Mike Green. Walk past the Sports Centre and turn right.

15. Follow the lane to the bridge that crosses Headington Road. As you approach the bridge you’ll see two tall Scots pines standing either side like sentries. The bridge was built in 1877 to link the two parts of the Morrell estate which included Headington Hill Hall and what is now South Park.

16. To follow the standard route head straight on. If you would like to extend the route then head down the steps and down the hill and enter Headington Hill park. If you do take that option then there is an exit onto a path at the top of the park near Clive Booth Student Village that will take you up to Pullens Lane where you can re-join the route.

17. Walk through the gate onto the Headington Hill site and follow the path around to the left.

MARKER BESIDE PATH IN SMALL GRASS AREA ON THE CORNER BEHIND WILLOW

18. Ahead of you are some steps that will take you down into the gardens of Headington Hall but for a path free of steps follow the path around to the right and walk beneath the lime trees.

19. At the end of the Willow rooms, the path turns to the right. A bench set under the trees gives a nice place to eat your lunch or simply take a moment.

20. Walking past the Helena Kenedy Student Centre the main access road into the Headington Hill site is lined by tall Scots pines. Looking up into their upper branches you can see how the metal braces hold them together and stop the limbs splitting off.

21. Leave the Headington Hill site through the main gate and turn left up Headington Road before using the crossing to the John Henry Brookes building where lime trees line the right of the courtyard area.

22. By the road at the end of the Colonnade stands a large horse chestnut tree. Walk past it to bring you back to the start of the trail by Buckley.

See map overleaf.