



# THE SPINNEY TRAILS: History Trail



This trail is  
**1km**  
or 0.6 miles

**Circular route around  
the old Park Prewett  
Hospital buildings.**



**Brimstone**  
Credit Sean Barnett

**Starting point**  
From the starting point you can see a line of trees (including pine) that were planted on the old track bed of the branch railway line that used to supply the hospital.

The dirt footpath that passes by the gate is the old Roman Road from Winchester to Silchester.



# The route:

 **From the gate follow the tarmac footpath to Park Prewett Road. Once you have come to the road, cross it and turn right.**

 **Before you get to the mini roundabout, turn left into Knowle Road.**

Knowle Road is named after Knowle Hospital near Fareham, Hampshire's first psychiatric hospital. Park Prewett Hospital was developed here at Park Prewett Farm as a result of the overcrowding at Knowle. From here you can see the start of the refurbished old ward buildings for the Park Prewett Hospital, and in the garden on the left, one of the pavilions used by the hospital's patients to get some fresh air.

 **At the junction with Canadian Way, turn right.**

As you enter Canadian Way you will notice that the first of the old hospital ward buildings has a thicker black wooden edge under the roof guttering, as the roof was replaced following a fire. Canadian Way is named for the Number Four Canadian General Hospital which operated here in World War One, before Park Prewett Hospital opened.

 **Walk past a second pavilion on your right hand side, and continue on towards a third pavilion.**

 **After the third pavilion you will see the rear entrance to Idsworth Court straight ahead and Canadian Way turns left. Turn right here along the tarmac path with the pavilion on your right. On reaching Park Prewett Road turn left.**

Idsworth Court, the building with the clock tower that you pass on the left, is the old main entrance and administration building for Park Prewett Hospital. By the front doors is a blue plaque by Basingstoke Heritage Society for Sir Harold Gillies who led the plastic surgery team at Rooksdown House between 1940 - 1959.

 **Take the first path on your left and you will see a fourth pavilion in the garden to your right.**

As you continue onwards, on your left you will see the magnificent main hall for the hospital. It was used as a dining hall, a dance hall and a theatre with a large stage and changing rooms. It remained derelict and under threat of demolition until a plan was agreed to convert part of the building into space for the local community and the remainder into apartments.

 **At the corner of the hall, the road meets Northbrook Crescent.**

As you approach the road junction you can see the top of the former water tower that used to supply the hospital. The water tower is now a block of five apartments, with the top window giving the residents great views over Basingstoke.

 **Turn left at Northbrook Crescent and then at the telephone box, turn right into Greenlands Road.**

This is the last remaining K6 public telephone box in Basingstoke. Produced from 1936 until the late 1960s, the K6 was the first design of the classic red telephone box to be extensively installed outside of London.

 **Walk down Greenlands Road past the shops and turn left back on to Park Prewett Road.**

Opposite the shops, you will see some more of the old hospital buildings. One is still in use for health services by the charity Headway. The other was the last to see NHS services move out in 2015.

 **Head down Park Prewett Road with the shops on your left until you get to the mini roundabout. The tarmac footpath back to the starting point is in between the playground and the building made of buff coloured bricks.**



Water tower

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