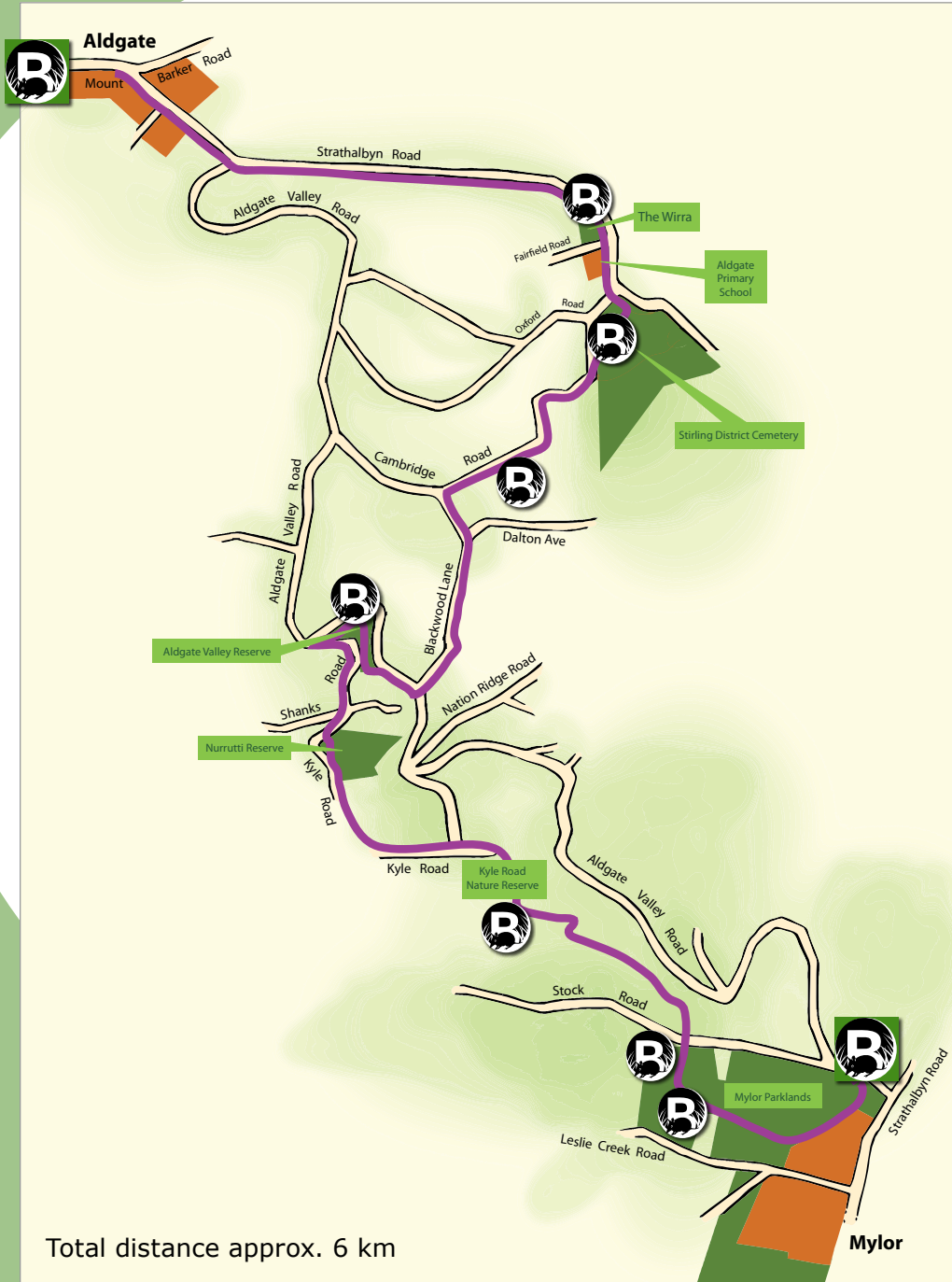


The Aldgate Valley Nature Walk



Key	
	Walking trail
	Reserves
	Roads
	Interpretive sign
	Large trail sign



Aldgate Valley Nature Walk

The walk takes about two hours, and it highlights the work of the *Aldgate Valley Landcare Group* and other local groups in rehabilitating and reconnecting native bushland on private and public land.



The Aldgate Valley Nature Walk is a walking trail connecting Aldgate and Mylor.

Repairing & connecting fragments

One of the purposes of this trail is to highlight 'best practice management' in bushland rehabilitation.

Where we have done our job well, there is nothing to see. If after thousands of hours of careful weeding it looks as if no-one has ever been to a site, the landcare group has succeeded.

Another purpose of this walking trail is to highlight the need to connect scattered fragments of bushland together so that wildlife can move from one to another.

Wildlife needs lots of room to survive and thrive. Small parcels of isolated bushland are not enough - but lots of small parcels connected together gives wildlife a chance.

Flora & Fauna

The bushland along the Aldgate Valley Nature Walk provides habitat to dozens of species of native mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians.

Mammals include Kangaroos, Bandicoots, Possums, Water rats, Echidnas, Antechinus, Koalas and others. You might also come across several different species of snakes and lizards.

More than 150 species of native plants occur along the walk, ranging from delicate orchids to towering Candlebark gums. At all times of the year there will be something in flower, but the best wildflower displays are in spring. In autumn you can often find spectacular fungi.

Bandicoots: look for their diggings

The Southern Brown Bandicoot is a nationally endangered marsupial, which nests in thick bushland. It feeds mainly on insects and grubs, digging small conical holes to find them in the soil.

If you look closely you may be able to see these diggings beside the trail.

Bandicoots are shy creatures, and hard to spot in the wild, but they can sometimes be seen coming out to forage, particularly in the evening.

What is bushland rehabilitation?

Bushland rehabilitation can include many things. Along this trail it consists largely of minimum disturbance weeding, and some revegetation.

Our approach with weeding has been to start with the 'best' bush first, and to leave the most weed-infested areas until last. Careful removal of dozens of species of weeds, usually by hand, allows the native bush to regenerate by itself from the natural seedbank.

We only revegetate bushland as a last resort, when no native seedbank survives. About 25,000 seedlings have been planted on different sites along the walk, all of them grown from local seed.

Much of the weeding and revegetation work along the trail has been carried out by volunteers from the Aldgate Valley Landcare Group, Mylor Parklands Bushcare Group and Friends of Nurrutti.

We have also been helped by Government grants, private donations and by funding from Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board. The Adelaide Hills Council has provided in-kind support.

A two-stage experience

Stage 1 - Between Aldgate & Aldgate Valley Reserve: Open to walkers, cyclists and dogs on leash (footpaths, gravel roads and wide tracks).

Stage 2 - Between Aldgate Valley Reserve & Mylor: Strictly for walkers only - cyclists and dogs prohibited (narrow path through sensitive bushland, rocky and steep in places).

Important User Behaviour

- Please stay on the trail at all times.
- Please do not pick flowers or disturb the vegetation.

What you will see

Among other highlights, the walk will take you past:

- Aldgate Primary School
- Stirling Cemetery Bush
- The Valley of the Bandicoots 'wildlife corridor'
- Aldgate Valley Reserve
- Nurrutti Reserve
- Kyle Road Reserve Nature Trail
- Camp Gooden
- Mylor Parklands

Each of these locations (and many other sites along the way) has been the focus of careful bushland rehabilitation over many years.

The walk will also take you past numerous private properties which have also been involved in bush rehabilitation.

It is important to remember that all of these sites are 'works in progress'. We are slowly winning back the bushland from the onslaught of weeds and other pressures, but it is a slow, painstaking process.

Funding for this interpretive walking trail was provided by the South Australian Government's *State Natural Resources Management (NRM) Community Grants Program*
www.nrm.sa.gov.au