

LEGEND

ROUTES:

 South Swindon Green Trail (and section)

 Alternative green and urban paths

 National Cycle Route 45

 Green Trail information

FEATURES:

 nature reserve

 birdwatching

 play area

SITES OF INTEREST:

 on-Trail site

 site on alternative path

 mural

AMENITIES:

 café or pub

 shops

 bus stop / route

 toilets

 car park

SCALE:

 — Approx. 10 minutes —>



South Swindon Green Trail

Circular trail through South Swindon's green areas and transport history

Canal Section



Canal Section



These notes follow the South Swindon Green Trail clockwise from Skew Bridge, along the route of the Wilts & Berks Canal, through the Town Centre to Newbridge Square. Read from the bottom to the top if starting your walk at Newbridge Square.



ADVISORY NOTES FOR CYCLISTS AND WHEELCHAIR USERS. ACCESS TO THIS SECTION FROM THE RAILWAY SECTION IS VIA AN INCLINE.

The Wilts & Berks Canal carried goods to and from Swindon from 1810 until it was officially closed in 1914. The canal ran for 52 miles / 83.6 km joining the Kennet & Avon Canal at Semington to the River Thames at Abingdon.



Walk north-east along the tow-path towards the Town Centre.

1

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: head off the tow-path at one of the gaps in the hedgerow for Rushey Platt.



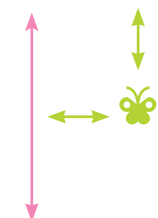
Rushey Platt Local Nature Reserve is a remnant of the lush wetland marsh that used to cover much of South Swindon before land drainage for agriculture made this type of habitat uncommon in Wiltshire. The River Ray flows through Rushey Platt and joins the River Thames just to the east of Cricklade.



At the canal's end, cross over Kingshill Road onto the now-paved route between the backs of houses.

2

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: Around 30 yards / 25 m after crossing Kingshill Road, head right off the tow-path, and over William Street onto Stanmore Street. Follow the steep hill round to the gates of **Radnor Street Cemetery** (just after the junction with Clifton Street).

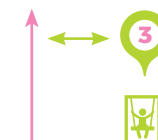


Radnor Street Cemetery was established in 1881 in response to a lack of burial space in the town. 33,000 souls are buried in the half-acre site, and there are 104 Commonwealth War Graves. Now closed to new burials, the cemetery has been a Local Nature Reserve since 2005.



Cambria Bridge Mural was created by local artists in 2015 to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Great Western Railway in Swindon.

The **Cambria Bridge** was built in 1877, modified in 1893 and refurbished in 1978. There was a large wharf and timber yard here, roughly where the playground and kickabout area are now located.



3

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: Leave the canal route and join Cambria Bridge Road, by walking left. Carefully cross over Faringdon Road to visit the **GWR Park** in the Railway Village.



The park was purchased in 1844 for the recreation of railways workers living in the Railway Village. It was first used as a cricket pitch and later developed to include an ornamental garden.



Continue to follow the route of the old canal under the road bridge at Milton Road, then under the multi-storey car park and into Wharf Green.

CYCLING IS PROHIBITED THROUGHTOUT THE TOWN CENTRE.



Running the entire length of the car park wall is the **'Mother Earth with Flower of Life'** mural created in 2021 by members of Artsite, Peter Cowdy and Dayna Baxter.



4

Just before the pedestrian crossroads with the 'Stacked Fountain' artwork, look out on the Bridge Street side for a relocated 19th century, Grade II listed **canal milestone** showing the distance of 26 miles to the start of the Wilts & Berks Canal at Semington near Melksham



The Golden Lion statue is a replica sculpted by a local artist Carlton Attewood in 1977 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's golden jubilee. It replaced the original weatherworn lion which once adorned the roof of The Golden Lion public house, close to this site.



Follow the Green Trail on the Parade and turn right on to College Street. Follow College Street on to Islington Street and turn left towards the Swindon NHS Health Centre. As you reach Fleming Way turn right towards the Whale Bridge junction [please note this section of route has recently changed and isn't reflected on the map].

This section of the South Swindon Green Trail ends at the Fleming Way underpass, which was the junction of the Wilts & Berks Canal with the North Wilts Canal. From here you can continue on the Trail's Magic Roundabout Section, or walk into Broad Green.

South Swindon Green Trail Code

- Keep to the South Swindon Green Trail or follow appropriate public rights of way.
- Dogs should be kept on a lead.
- Clean up after your dog and use the waste bins.
- Take your litter home.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Take special care when crossing roads.
- Cyclists should give way to walkers.
- When walking alone on the quieter sections of the Trail, be aware of your surroundings



For more information and to download other Green Trail section maps scan the QR codes on the Trail's waymarkers or go to www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk