



South Swindon Green Trail

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

Motorway Section

Broome Manor Lane
Croft Road
1.2 MILES / 1.9 KM



SCALE: — Approx. 10 minutes —

LEGEND

ROUTES: South Swindon Green Trail (and section) Alternative green and urban paths

FEATURES / SITES OF INTEREST:



AMENITIES:



Motorway Section



These notes follow the South Swindon Green Trail clockwise from Coate Water, running parallel to the M4 motorway and through Croft Country Park. Read from the bottom to the top if starting your walk at Croft Road.



From the Coate Water Country Park gate, carefully cross over Broome Manor Lane to follow the Green Trail as it skirts around the edge of the Broome Manor Golf Course.

1

Keep your eyes open for a **brick culvert** on the southside of the Green Trail – this marks the route of the former Midland & South Western Junction Railway which, from Old Town Station, ran alongside Marlborough Road and Broome Manor Lane before heading out to Chiseldon and on to Andover.

2

During the construction of the M4 motorway in the 1960s, shards of Roman pottery were found at **Nightingale Farmhouse** suggesting that people have lived here for at least 2,000 years. The farmhouse dates from the early 19th century.

3

Casso's Wood was planted by 800+ people as part of the 'Plant a Tree for Africa' initiative on 19 January 1992. An inscribed sarsen stone memorialises the event.



Next to Casso's Wood, at Fir Clump, are the remains of an **ancient stone circle**. It consisted of two rings, about 351ft / 107m wide. 34 sarsen stones have been recorded – a few are visible in place in the bank. The memorial in Casso's Wood is carved into a stone taken from this ancient site.



The Trail now runs adjacent to the M4 motorway, you'll reach a pedestrian bridge over the M4 motorway at Ladder Lane (an alternative route), the Green Trail carries straight on.



ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: Ladder Lane heads south, over the motorway and up through Burderop Wood to Brimble Hill, meeting the Wroughton to Chiseldon road. This steep, historic trackway was the old Swindon to Marlborough route used by stagecoaches and carts drawn by horses or oxen that once hauled goods up and over the hill on the way to market.

You can access routes to the villages of Wroughton, Hodson, and Chiseldon, as well as the Iron Age hillfort of Barbury Castle and the Ridgeway National Trail via Ladder Lane.



At the motorway bridge, the Green Trail curves to the right and into Croft Country Park.



A mountain bike trail wind for 3 miles / 5 km through **Croft Country Park**. The waymarked trail has a blue family/beginner trail, and a more difficult red technical trail for more experienced cyclists. Croft Country Park is a mixed woodland established in the mid-1990s. There are ponds, grassy banks, pathways, and footpath links to Great Copse.



Follow the Green Trail signs through Croft Country Park, past a small pond with adjacent sarsen stone and thriving wildlife, to the Wish Hounds sculpture at the end of one of the lime tree avenues.



The Wish Hounds public artwork was created in 1994 by Lou Hamilton and consists of concrete cast lettering, powder-coated scrap metal and earthworks in a circle of trees. It doesn't take much imagination to hear the hounds howling as they chase cars along the M4.



The Green Trail passes by a small car park before it curves towards Pipers Way. Carefully cross the road (alternatively double back and cross using the traffic island just before the roundabout) and turn left along Pipers Way towards Croft Road. Cross Croft Road at the traffic lights and continue forwards on the footpath into East Wichel.



ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: For routes to the start of the Railway Path in Signal Way or to visit The Lawn via Bruddel Wood, cross Pipers Way and then turn back on yourself slightly and take the path between Glenwood Close Allotments and the roundabout. At the end of the track, turn northwards and head up into Great Copse and follow the trail to Pipers Way or Croft Sports Centre.

This section of the South Swindon Green Trail ends at Croft Road. From here you can continue on the Trail's Railway Section; head up the hill to Old Town, or left along the road to Wroughton.

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