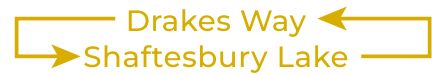




South Swindon Green Trail

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

Post-World War II Section



LEGEND

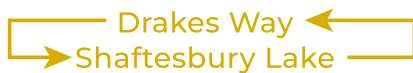
ROUTES: South Swindon Green Trail (and section) Alternative green and urban paths Green Trail information

FEATURES / SITES OF INTEREST: on-Trail site site on alternative path birdwatching forest, wood or tiny forest play area

AMENITIES: shops bus stop / route car park

SCALE: — Approx. 10 minutes —

Post-World War II Section



These notes follow the South Swindon Green Trail clockwise, leading on from the Magic Roundabout Section at Drakes Way. Read from the bottom to the top if starting your walk at Shaftesbury Lake.



From the Drakes Way underpass, follow Marlowe Avenue, past some small shops on your left before carefully crossing Greenbridge Road. Pass the new housing development at Oakfield and Buckhurst Field is to your right.



1 Buckhurst Field stretches to New College. At the northern end of Buckhurst Field is a new **Community Orchard** and a **Tiny Forest**. A Tiny Forest is a densely planted woodland using native species that helps to mitigate the effects of climate change, supports urban wildlife, and reconnects people with nature. This was the site of Little Walcot Farmhouse, one of the many farms whose land was developed to create housing in the 1950s and 1960s.

Strips of long grass form a wildlife corridor all the way across Buckhurst Recreation Ground providing a habitat for wildflowers, bees, and other insects.



ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: TO THE LAWN

Walk southwards across Buckhurst Field towards New College. **Lower Walcot Farmhouse** still stands close to the skate park. Cross over Queen's Drive and walk away from the town centre, past Upham Road junction and the school field, to the path leading to The Lawn. The Lawn is a 50 acre site with woodland, fields and two lakes, once owned by the Lords of the Manor of Swindon.



ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: TO QUEEN'S PARK

At Queen's Drive, cross at the pedestrian crossing, walk away from the town centre and turn into Upham Road. At the end of the road, cross Drove Road. Walk through the gates into Queen's Park.

Queen's Park was opened in 1950 by Queen Elizabeth II on the site of a Victorian brick and tile works.



Continue to walk along Marlowe Avenue.



3 Park South, Park North and Walcot East are housing estates built to solve London's post-World War Two overcrowding. Swindon was the first large town to receive approval and funding through the 1952 Town Development Act to develop new homes for people, and industry for employment.

Streets in Park North streets are named for English towns; in Park South for locomotive engines built by GWR, and in Walcot East for literary figures.



Walk past Holy Family Catholic Church and turn into Tyndale Gardens. Cross over the footbridge and follow the path south into Richard Jefferies Parkway public open space.



4 Named for the local, Victorian author who was born at Coate, **Richard Jefferies Parkway** is a linear area of public green space along Dorcan Brook. Created as part of the landscaping of the new housing estate of the 1950s and 1960s, it has now matured into varied habitats including woodland, hedgerows and grasses.



Follow the footpath along Dorcan Brook. At the lake, cross over the footbridge to your right where there is a Green Trail information board.



5 Shaftesbury Lake was created as part of the post-war development of Park South. Several streams flow into the lake from Coate Water and Badbury Park. Water is held back in the lake before being released into Dorcan Brook and eventually into the River Thames.

The lake supports a variety of wildlife, in particular Canada geese, mute swans, moorhens, coots, mallard ducks and if you are lucky, you may spot a kingfisher flying past.

With support from Parish Councils, a 'Friends' group helps to look after and improve the area for people and wildlife. Improvements include the provision of new dipping platforms, a wildflower meadow, flower beds, bulb planting and pollinator-friendly shrubs and fruit bushes.

This section of the South Swindon Green Trail ends at Shaftesbury Lake. From here you can continue on the Trail's Canal Reservoir section, or explore Park South.

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