



Discover Swindon's canal heritage, landmarks and attractions

The Southern Flyer



Swindon Travel Choices



The Southern Flyer forms a part of Swindon Borough Council's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) project (that runs up to March 2016) which is known as Swindon Travel Choices.

For more information about the Southern Flyer and the wider Swindon Travel Choices project please visit:

www.swindontravelchoices.org.uk

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/swindontravelchoices

StreetSmart

Report any maintenance issues along the Southern Flyer route such as broken glass, to Swindon Borough Council's StreetSmart team on **01793 445501** (Monday to Friday 8.00am-8.00pm; or at all other times on **01793 466453**

www.swindon.gov.uk

To report any infrastructure maintenance problems please call Swindon Direct on the numbers above, as StreetSmart.

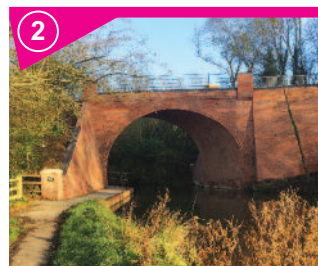


The Southern Flyer starts at Waitrose, where you can cycle the paved route to town, or walk along the canal route. Here are some points of interest along the way...



Beavan's Bridge

The small neat stone bridge called "Beavan's Bridge" used to be an old farm access. The current bridge itself is relatively new, built in 2000 by Wilks & Berks canal volunteers with funding from the Millennium Commission. When built in 2000, it was the first new stone-arch bridge built over the canal in living memory.



Link to Old Town Railway Path

This is Skew bridge, which when built in the 1880's carried the then Midland and South West Junction Railway over the canal. The line closed again circa 1961 and the track was finally removed in 1978. It is now a footbridge and cycle route over the newly restored section of the Wilts & Berks Canal.

There is access from the Skew Bridge up onto the old railway path, and there are also steps (and a wheeling channel to assist cyclists) to the path from Redposts Drive.

This is part of the National Cycle Network (Route 45) and you can follow the path east towards Old Town, or head west to get to the Mannington Retail Park.



Rushey Platt Nature Reserve

Managed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, this nature reserve sits alongside the canal just south of Kingshill Road. Here you can discover the wetland plants and animals that have evolved to suit these special conditions. If you listen carefully you may hear the 'plop' of the Water Vole as it dives into the river or canal. See Birds such as Jack Snipe, and the Reed Warbler. Dragonflies can be abundant in the pond.



The Runner Pub

There has probably been an inn on the site of The Runner since early in the 18th century, but the current building is relatively young - only 110 years old!

In 1825, a John Garlick built a pub here and called it The Royal Oak but the name was shortlived and only a year later it was re-christened The Running Horse.

Arkell's were the fourth owners in 1883 and rebuilt it in 1891. Outwardly it remained the same until 1964 when the front of the

building was altered to its current appearance. A recent refurbishment accompanied the change of name to "The Runner".

Did you know?

Hundreds of people take part in the duck race every two years, held by the Swindon Old Town Rotary Club over the late May Bank Holiday. The fun, family event is held on the Westcott Recreation Ground with 10,000 plastic ducks meandering down the River Ray and through the Arkell's pub, The Runner.



Radnor Street Cemetery

Radnor Street Cemetery is also known locally as Clifton Street Cemetery.

The cemetery covers a large sloping area, incorporating some 33,000 internments.

Inside the grounds is a small chapel, which is not used for weekly worship, but in the past was used when a funeral took place; nowadays it is opened on occasions for displays by the Friends of Radnor Street Cemetery, who also hold tours of the cemetery (details can be found on their Facebook page).

Outside the chapel is a war memorial. This is an official Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery where 104 servicemen are buried from both world wars.

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Cambria Bridge and mural

This Cambria Bridge was built in 1877, and modified in 1893 and again in 1978. It is now home to a time-travelling community mural to reflect aspects of the town's history and heritage.

A concrete post at the end of Cambria Bridge has become a Tardis, and a shimmering stream of time, emerges from its open door to spread along the structure. Among the images are The Mechanics' Institute, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, a Swindon-built locomotive, a large '175' and Billie Piper - aka Doctor's assistant Rose Tyler. Also featured are suffragette Edith New, Railway Works pioneer Daniel Gooch, the Octobus mobile youth project and community TV station Swindon Viewpoint. There is a large image of Ken White, the Swindon artist who first painted a mural at the bridge more than 30 years ago as part of a series across the town. A painted plaque says: "Dedicated to Ken White's Cambria Bridge mural in 1982."

The new mural was produced in 2015 by local artists' group The Visual Drop in a collaboration with The Railway Kids, a youth club organised by the Mechanics' Institution Trust, and in partnership with Swindon Borough Council.



Did you know?

Over the years, Swindon artist Ken White has painted a number of murals around the town, including many with a canal theme. One of his best known is that of the Golden Lion Bridge on the side of a house on Fleming Way.

Ken is also the official artist for Richard Branson and is credited with the "Scarlett Lady" emblem on the side of Virgin's aircraft. You can see more of his work at www.kenwhitemurals.co.uk



Milton Road Bridge

Erected in 1890, the Milton Road Bridge replaced the previous "Black Bridge". The Central Club and Institute on Milton Road used to have an overhanging extension, which was thought to have been related to canal activity, but wasn't. (The club was demolished in the 1970's).

The original bridge had ornamental balustrades but these were replaced in 1981 with brick and concrete.



Brunel Cycle Park

Located within the ground floor of the Brunel West Car Park, the Brunel Cycle Park opened in 2010 as an undercover storage area for people to leave their bikes whilst in town. Protected with swipe card access (anyone can apply for a card; there is a one off cost of £10), there are now hundreds of users.



Faringdon Park

Faringdon Park (once known as the GWR Park - and also known over the years as The Plantation and Victoria Park) played a big part in the social life of the Swindon Railway Villagers and occupies a special place in the history of Swindon. It was purchased by the Great Western Railway in 1844 for the benefit of the railway workers who lived in the 300 cottages to the east of the park. In 1925, the park was made over to Swindon Corporation for use as a public park, and is now popular with local residents enjoying a leisurely stroll and central Swindon office workers taking a break from work.



The Goddard family

You'll come across a lot of references to "Goddard" around Swindon, such as Goddard Avenue and The Goddard Arms pub. The Goddard Family were Lords of the Manor of Swindon, living on the Goddard Estate in The Lawns from 1563 until 1927. The last of the male line, Major Fitzroy Pleydell Goddard, a diplomat, died in 1927. His widow, Eugenia Kathleen, left Swindon in 1931. The Manor was demolished in the 1950's and the grounds were opened as parkland and remain so today. The wood, lake, sunken garden, elements of the walls and the gateposts at the entrance to Lawns are all open to the public.

The Southern Flyer



The Southern Flyer project is an upgrade of an existing cycle and pedestrian route between Michelstowe and Swindon town centre. The route is two miles in length and is paved and off the road, with safe crossing points at busy junctions.

On this guide, we also show two walking routes to town; one along the Wilts and Berks canal, the other through Old Town and the viewpoint of the Radnor Street cemetery.

The cycle route uses Redposts Drive, Wootton Bassett Road and follows the old canal route up to Wharf Green, where you can park your bike in the Brunel Cycle Park. The route is suitable for high-speed commuter journeys as well as leisure purposes for all abilities.

From the route it is also possible to connect onto the Old Town Railway Path and extend your journey to West and North Swindon, or Old Town, Coate Water and beyond.



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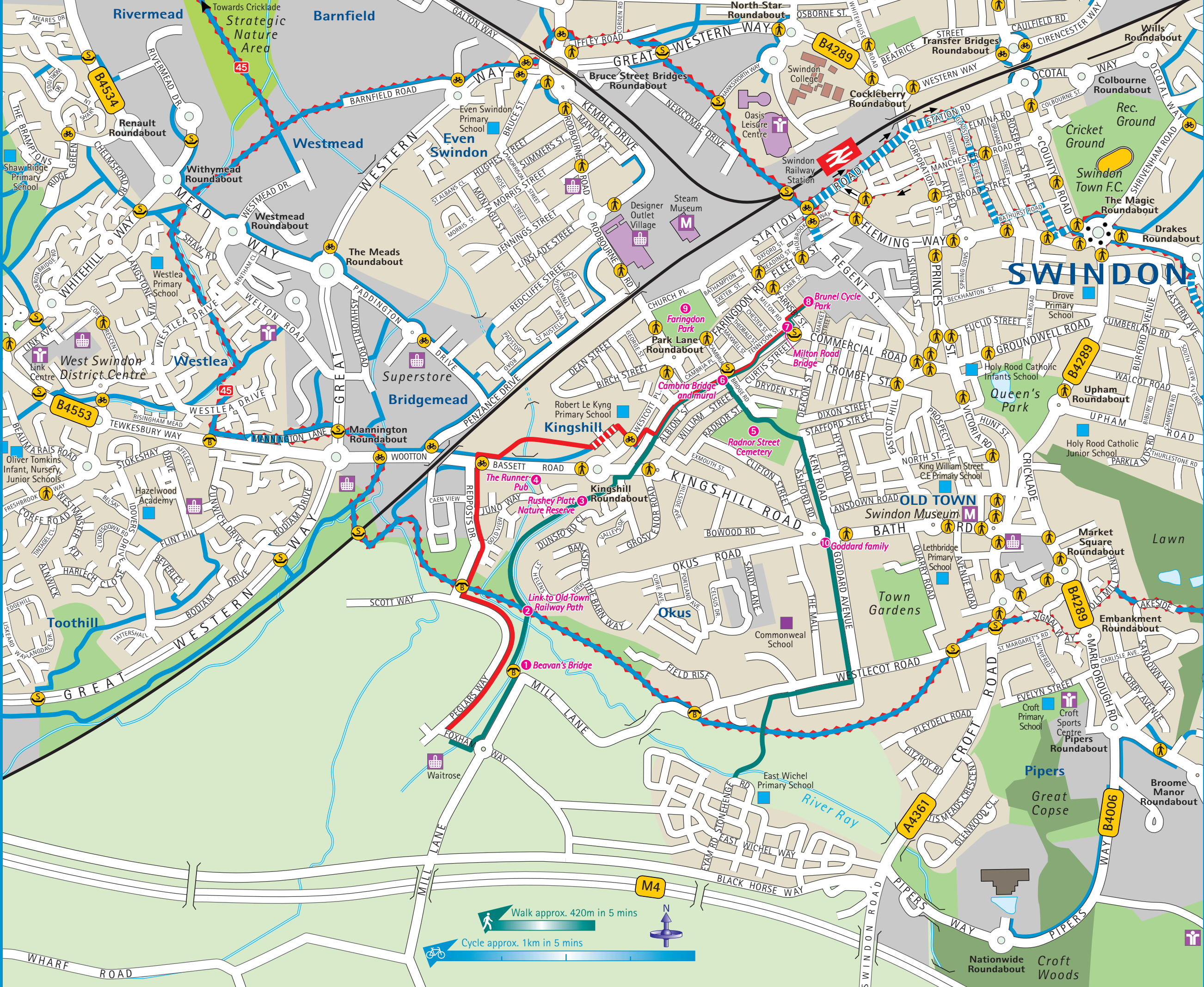
The benefits of cycling and walking include:



- Improves general health, helping to lower blood pressure and heart rate, as well as improving mental health and wellbeing
- Helps with weight and stress management
- Improves fitness
- In congested areas cyclists and pedestrians breathe in less fumes than drivers
- Saves you money
- Produces no pollution so is good for the environment and tackling climate change
- Often quicker to get around in towns and cities
- Fewer cars on the road and more cyclists and pedestrians means safer roads
- Have fewer days being ill each year

So whether you cycle or walk for your whole journey, or simply part of it, you know you will be healthier as a result!

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KEY

- The Southern Flyer (off-road)
- The Southern Flyer (on-road)
- NCN Route 45 (off-road)
- NCN Route 45 (on-road)
- Other Cycle Route (off-road)
- Walking Route
- Point of Interest
- Strategic Nature Area
- Signalled Pedestrian Crossing
- Toucan Crossing
- Subway or Underpass
- Bridge

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