

Active Swindon Trails Challenge

WINTER TRAILS



Trail #1 - Around Swindon's Railway Village to STEAM Museum



Enjoy this trail around Swindon's historic railway village

Distance: 1.1 miles

Starting Point: The trail starts near Emlyn Square, at bus stop on Bristol Street, outside the tunnel under the railway tracks. You can get here by bus - plan your journey at <https://www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/plan-a-journey/>.

What Three Words: [////wishes.turkey.rugs](https://www.wishes.turkey.rugs)

1. Walk along the pavement with the high wall on your right and workers' cottages on the left. Keep following the road past the water tower and the UTC. Soon you will come to St Mark's Church on the left.
2. Continue towards the end of the road and before the bus stop, carefully cross the road. On the left you will see an entrance into the GWR park. This was set aside for the railway workers to enjoy sport and nature.
3. Continue on an anti-clockwise loop of the park. **Things to note:** *How many railway references can you spot in the park? Look closely at the benches and some of the sculptures.*
4. Exit the park through its gates onto Church Place. The heart of the railway workers' cottages are in front of you. The size of the house reflected the status of the worker, and it wasn't uncommon to have 10-12 people sharing these tiny two-roomed properties.
5. Turn right and head down to the main road (Faringdon Road) and turn left. On the right you will see the side of the Milton Road Baths (now referred to as the Health Hydro). This iconic building has met the health and leisure needs of Swindonians since the 1890s. It included a suite of doctors' and dental surgeries, a dispensary, and a small and large swimming pool. **Did you know? No. 34 Faringdon Road has been preserved as a 'living museum' open to the public. For opening hours see: www.mechanics-trust.org.uk**
6. As you continue, on the left is the Central Community Centre. This started out as the medical fund hospital for the workforce. After this building turn left. At the pedestrian crossing you will see the Mechanics Institute Building, and the Glue Pot pub. Continue ahead and you will return to the Bristol Street tunnel.
7. Go through the tunnel and past the historic buildings on the right. Follow the walking route and you will see STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway ahead of you. This is the end of the trail.

If the museum is closed, you can enter the prize draw via this QR code or at <https://www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/home/activeswindonchallenge/>

**Badges are for the first 200 people to complete the trail.*



Between January 2nd 2026 and March 31st 2026 you can collect your limited edition badge* from the museum and post your prize draw entry. (Opening hours Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 11am - 4pm)

Trail #2 - West Swindon



Enjoy this trail around West Swindon's paths and green spaces

Distance: 2.5 miles

Starting Point: The trail starts outside the Link Centre shopping centre. Stand with your back to McDonalds. You can get here by bus - plan your journey at <https://www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/plan-a-journey/>.

What Three Words: ///enter.grant.verse

1. Walk away from the shopping centre building with the car park on your right and health centre on the left. Take care crossing the road and head towards the underpass.
2. Go through the underpass and the path heads uphill, passing the Shaw Ridge leisure complex on the left. At the top of the hill, turn left and take the main path heading away from the play parks.
3. Continue along the top of the ridge and head over the bridge that spans Tewkesbury Way. A little further on look out for a major path on the left. There is a bench close by.
4. Take this path on the left and follow it until it brings you to Hay Lane. Take care crossing over Hay Lane and turn right on the path. You'll soon come to the entrance to Lydiard Park. Cross over the entrance and continue on the path, which soon veers to the left. Go through the barriers and head down the slope.
5. Continue along this wide path for a quarter of a mile and then you'll see a path on the right (Look out for the red sticker signing you right). Take this path, going through the bollards, down the slope and through an underpass. On the other side of the underpass you'll come to a T-junction of paths. Follow the path to the right, signed "Shaw Village Centre".
6. Keep on this path, taking care when crossing Middleleaze Drive. The path heads over a small bridge and veers to the left where you'll see another underpass ahead. Go through the underpass, then straight into the village centre, passing the Village Inn pub on your right. When you reach the pharmacy, turn right and head for the pedestrian crossing.
7. Use the pedestrian crossing to safely cross Ramleaze Drive and continue ahead. After roughly 200 metres the path splits with a triangular piece of grass dividing it. Take the path that veers to the left. This path crosses Ramleaze Drive again, where you continue through barriers and soon come out at the bottom of the ridge. The path climbs up the hill to the playparks, where you can retrace your steps back to the Link Centre and the end of the trail.

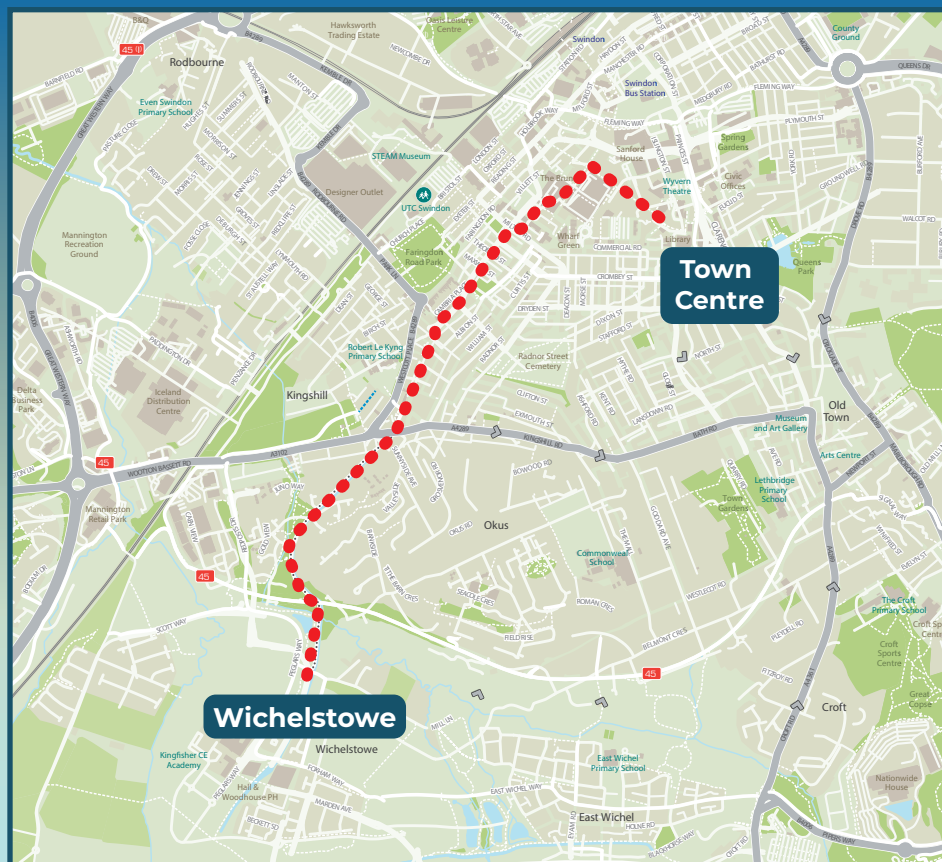
Between January 2nd 2026 and March 31st 2026 you can collect your limited edition badge* from the Link Centre Library and post your prize draw entry. (Opening hours Tues + Fri 10am - 2pm, Sat 10am - 1pm, Weds 1pm - 5pm)

If the library is closed, you can enter the prize draw via this QR code or at <https://www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/home/activeswindonchallenge/>

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Trail #3 - Along the canal from Wichelstowe to Swindon Town Centre



This is a one way route from Wichelstowe's canalside into Swindon Town Centre

Distance: 2 miles

Starting Point: The trail starts on the canalside outside Hall and Woodhouse pub. There is a ramp onto the canal path, as well as steps. You can get here by bus - plan your journey at <https://www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/plan-a-journey/>.

What Three Words: ///trail.safe.select

1. Walk along the canal path with the water on your right and Hall and Woodhouse on the left. Keep following the canal under the road bridge and past the new housing. **Can you spot? Keep your eyes peeled for the herons and if you are particularly lucky you might also spot a water vole. There are also bat boxes built into the underside of some of the bridges.**
2. Keep straight and you will go under Bevan's Bridge. This used to be a farm access, but today's bridge was built in the year 2000 by Wilts and Berks canal volunteers. It was the first new stone arch bridge built over the canal in living memory.
3. The next bridge along the canal is the Skew Bridge, built in the 1880s to carry the then Midland and South West Junction Railway over the canal. The tracks are long gone but the path is now the Old Town Railway Path, which can be accessed from the canal. For our trail, continue on along the canal.
4. You will pass the Rushey Platt Nature Reserve on the left. It's a vital area for wildlife and dragonflies can be abundant in the pond.
5. Continue towards town, and you will soon emerge onto Dunsford Close. Cross the road and then use the pedestrian refuge to carefully cross the busier Kingshill Road. In front of you there is a path, which becomes the Southern Flyer route.
6. Keep walking straight along the Southern Flyer, taking care when crossing the side road. You'll go under Cambria Bridge Road and a little further on, emerge onto Farnsby Street. Take care crossing this road and head through the tunnel at Brunel West car park into the pedestrianised town centre.
7. When you get to the 'crossroads' with Vodafone store on the left and the Metro bank ahead of you, turn right onto Regent Street. Walk along Regent Street to the top, where there is a red brick building, which houses Swindon's Central Library. This is the end of the trail

Between January 2nd 2026 and March 31st 2026 you can collect your limited edition badge* from the Central Library and post your prize draw entry.
(Opening hours Mon - Fri 10am - 5.30pm, Sat 10am - 4pm)

When the library is closed, you can enter the prize draw via this QR code or at <https://www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/home/activeswindonchallenge/>

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Getting back to the start: Bus 9 or 11 leaves from Princes Street stop CC (outside Wat Tyler House - The Council offices) and travels via Old Town to drop you back at Waitrose in Wichelstowe.

Congratulations on finishing the walk and we hope you had fun exploring!



www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/activeswindonchallenge