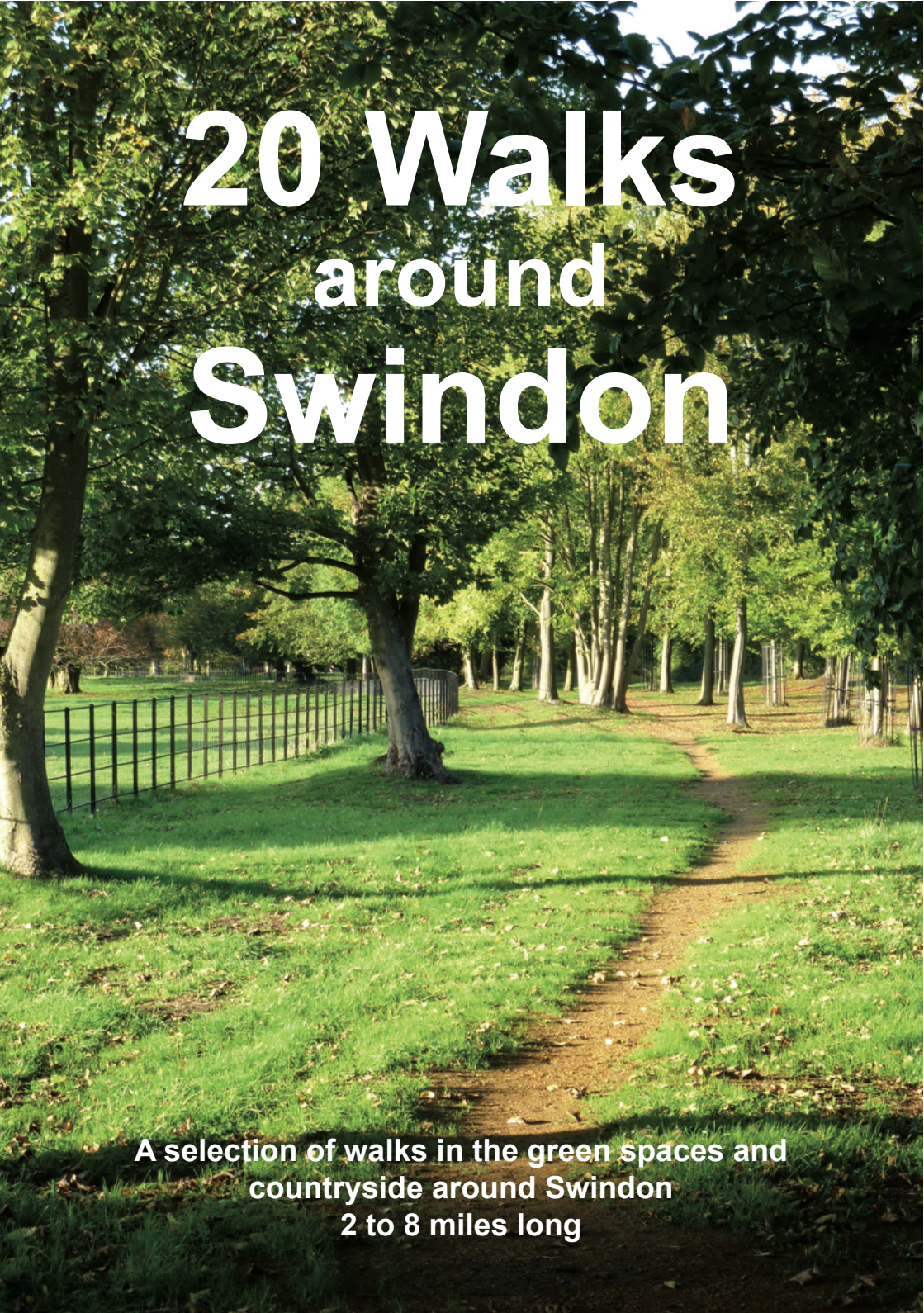




20 Walks around Swindon

A selection of walks in the green spaces and
countryside around Swindon
2 to 8 miles long

These walks were devised to take you to the most interesting or scenic locations and to return you to your starting point. Twenty five years ago, it was assumed that walkers would reach them by car but because use of public transport is becoming more desirable, information on access by bus has been added to this latest edition. However, times and routes will need to be checked before setting out.

As a result of housing and other developments, we have replaced Walk 14 with a new walk in Royal Wootton Bassett and amended several of the other walks to reflect those changes.

Most of the walks cross roads and some use roads to link up footpaths. When walking on roads it is usually safer to walk on the right hand side in single file.



Twenty Walks around Swindon

Originally published in 1991 as 'Thamesdown Rambles' by Borough of Thamesdown, Arts and Recreation, Parks and Landscape Division.

*Revised and up-dated by The Swindon & NE Wilts Group of The Ramblers'
in 2000, 2003, 2011 and 2019*

This publication, or parts thereof, may not be reproduced in any form, by any method, or for any purpose without the prior specific authority in writing of the Swindon & NE Wiltshire Group of the Ramblers.

Photographs © by Pat Crabb and Rob Dawson

© **Published by the Swindon & NE Wiltshire Group of Ramblers 2019**

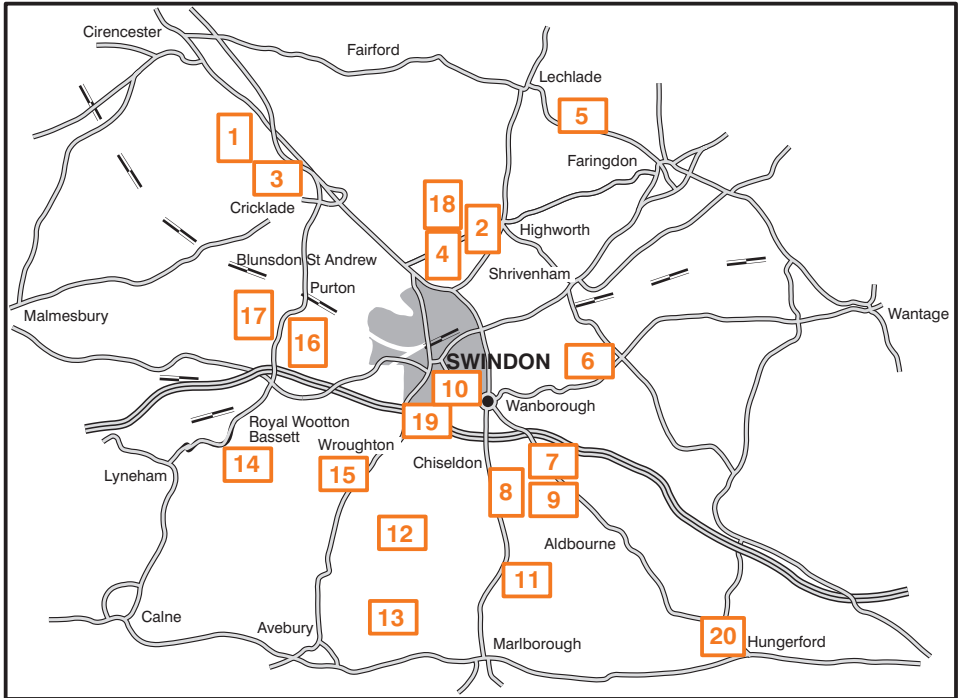
Production by Rob Dawson

Printed in England by Avon Printing Services
Roundponds, Melksham, SN12 8EB
01225 700303, avonprintingservices.com

Printed on paper produced from sustainable forests

ISBN 1-906494-59-2

Location of Walks



Ordnance Survey Maps

It is advisable to use Ordnance Survey maps in conjunction with the sketch maps in this book, but occasionally there will be a discrepancy between the two because of changes that have occurred on the ground and are not yet shown on the OS maps. The sketch maps attempt to show a route that is correct at the time of publication.

Ordnance Survey maps can be bought at local bookshops or borrowed from Marlborough and Swindon libraries.

Maps reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Licence No. 100033886

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this booklet but The Ramblers cannot accept any responsibility for changes which affect the routes described or for the consequences.

If using public transport please remember that bus services change frequently. Check that the quoted bus service is still running before setting out.

Walks Index

Walk	Distance	Page
1 Cotswold Water Park	2, 3½, 4½ miles	4
2 Highworth, Red Down & Hannington	6½ miles	7
3 Cricklade & Cotswold Water Park	2½ or 5½ miles	10
4 Blunsdon & Stanton Fitzwarren	6 miles	12
5 Lechlade, Buscot & Kelmscott	2, 6½, or 8 miles	14
6 Bishopstone, The Ridgeway & Ashbury	5½ miles	16
7 Liddington Hill & Downs	5 miles	18
8 Chiseldon & The Ridgeway	6 miles	20
9 Upper Upham	3½ or 6 miles	22
10 Old Town Open Spaces	4 miles	24
11 Downs & Og Valley	6½ or 7 miles	26
12 Barbury Castle, Smeathe's Ridge & Burderop Down	5 miles	28
13 Manton & Fyfield Downs	3 or 5½ miles	30
14 Around Royal Wootton Bassett - Town and Country	5 miles	32
15 Clouts Wood & Elcombe	4 miles	34
16 Peatmoor, Shaw & River Ray Parkway	3½ miles	36
17 Lydiard Park & Purton	5 miles	38
18 Stanton Park & Stanton Fitzwarren	2½ miles	41
19 Coate Water & Broome Manor	4 miles	44
20 Chilton Foliat & Hungerford	5½ or 7 miles	46

Walk 1

Cotswold Water Park

Walks generally on good level tracks often close to lakes which have been formed as a result of gravel extraction, and alongside disused canal and railway. The path between points 1 and 3 is subject to flooding after prolonged wet weather.

Distance: 2 (A), 3½ (B) and 4½ (C) miles

OS Maps: Explorer 169 Landranger 163

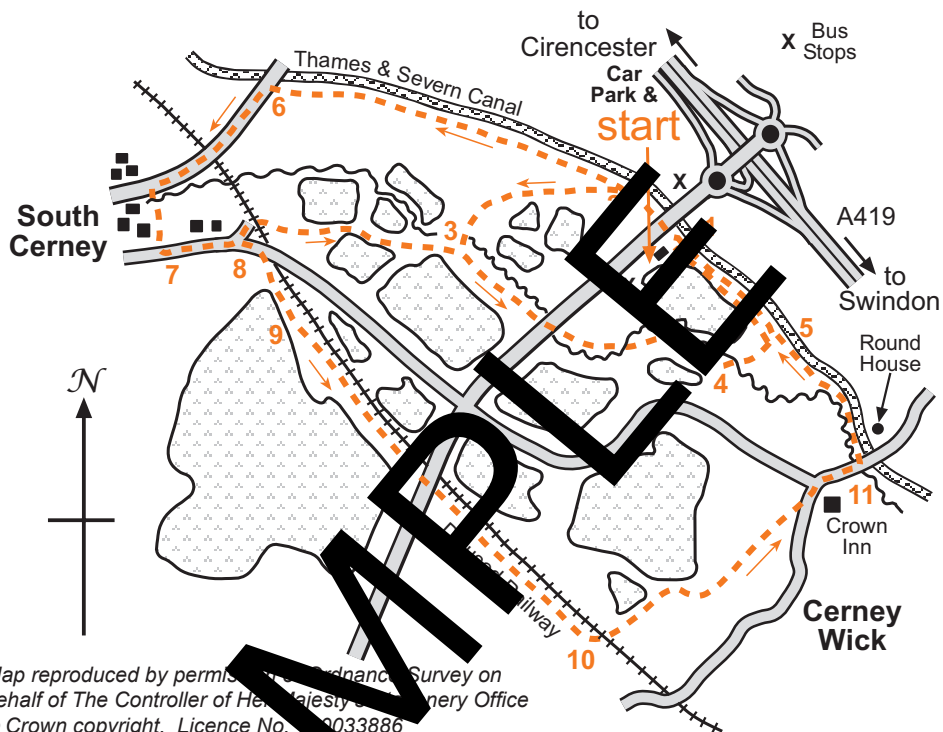
Start: **Car:** Leave the A419, Swindon to Cirencester road at the Spine Road junction (turn off for Ashton Keynes and South Cerney) and go down Spine Road for 300 yards. Turn left into the car park for The Gateway Centre which has a café, toilets and information leaflets.

Bus: No. 51 from Swindon.

Directions:

Walk A - 2 miles

1. With your back to the Gateway Centre, cross the car park aiming to go under the bridge (*built in 2004*) which carries Spine Road over the Thames & Severn Canal. Walk along the old tow path a short distance and at the next bridge go up the ramp to a kissing gate and finger post.
2. Take path to the left, signposted South Cerney 1½ miles, and continue to a metal gate with a kissing gate alongside. Pass through this and continue to the River Churn.
3. Cross the river by the smaller bridge and turn left, soon with views of lake on the right. This reaches the forecourt of a sailing club. Continue straight forward to the road. Cross the road and river (slightly left) to a signed path to Cerney Wick. Continue on this path with the river on the right until coming to a concrete bridge; cross the river on this, over a stile and turn left. Follow the lake to its end and continue between the lake and the stream.
4. Turn left and follow the stream to another stile. Immediately over this turn left over a bridge - there is a gate here with steps for climbing over. Now keeping the lake on the left, follow the hedge to the corner.
5. Here there is a choice: turn left again to follow the lake back to the car park (*the building can be seen over the hedge*); or find a bridge over the stream and through the hedge to turn left along the old canal and return to the car park.



Map reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown copyright. Licence No. 10033886

Walk B – 3½ miles

1. Commence as walk to the finger post above the bridge.
2. This time take the straight on route to South Cerney by going right through another kissing gate and turning immediately left alongside the old Thames and Severn canal.
(**WARNING** Immediately over the fence is one of the old locks that is unfenced and quite deep. Take care with children.)
Follow this path to eventually join the driveway to a house which ends at a tarmac road with a footpath sign showing left to South Cerney ½ mile (straight ahead Siddington).
6. Turn left along this country lane. On coming to the outskirts of the village, immediately after a large house called Lower Mill to the left, look for a wooden footbridge to the left over a stream with two gates leading to a surfaced footpath. Follow this between a wooden fence and a hedge to reach the main road.
7. Turn left and follow the road to the edge of the village. As the road begins to curve right, look for a road marked Wildmoor Way on the left.
8. Follow this to the footpath sign 'Cerney Wick – 1½ miles'.

Walk 15

Clouts Wood & Elcombe

A varied walk including woodland and fields.

Distance: 5½ or 3 miles

OS Maps: Explorer 169 Landranger 173

Start: **Car:** Ellendune car park, Wroughton (SU145806), off A4361.

Bus: Nos. 9 & 49 from Swindon to High Street, Wroughton.

Directions:

1. From the car park pass Ellendune Centre on the left, to reach the main road. Go across via the zebra crossing and, keeping to the right of the trees, go across the next road to the pavement by the church hall (former school). Turn left here and follow the road (Priors Hill) round and up.
2. Next to No 82 Priors Hill turn right, where the signpost says 'Clouts Wood' and, after the last house, keep the hedge on the right. Follow the hedge round to the corner and now through the gate and turn right. Keeping the mesh fence on the left, go through a gate at the end of the fence. Fork right and continue with an old fence on the right. At the next corner go ahead over a gate overlooking a little valley, then diagonally right to valley bottom, and up diagonally right to a gate on the left. *This is the entrance to Clouts Wood Nature Reserve maintained by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.* Keep going straight ahead ignoring any paths to right or left, and, at a crossing of tracks, turn right to go down a series of steps.
3. Beyond the steps, turn sharp right with the wooded hillside on the right. Follow the path through a glade, going left out of it, then right.



Clouts Wood

GALLIVANTERS WANTED

For beautiful journeys on foot

Are you drawn to the great outdoors? Do you breathe deeper when immersed in spectacular scenery, soaking in new sights while getting to know new people?

We're looking for gallivants to join us on our guided walking holidays in the UK, Europe and beyond. Enthusiasm and a sense of humour are a must. Unforgettable experiences are a promise.

Does this sound like you?

 **ABTA**
ABTA No. V5094



Visit: ramblersholidays.co.uk
Call: 01707 819261

Ramblers
Walking
Holidays **R**



ramblers

at the heart of walking

The Ramblers was founded in 1935 to encourage walking and mountaineering, to foster a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside, to work for the preservation of natural beauty, protection of footpaths and the provision of access to open country.

It has played a major role in gaining and improving legislation that protects and improves our countryside today, yet every year brings further need to represent the ramblers' case to Ministers, MPs and government departments. Specialist staff are employed to do this work and a headquarters office has to be maintained. Please give your support to the work they, and all the volunteers, do on your behalf by becoming a member of the Ramblers.

Membership will bring you a **quarterly colour magazine** and **local newsletters** and **walks programmes**

For further details please visit either www.ramblers.org.uk/join

or write to:-

Ramblers

1 Clink Street

3rd Floor

LONDON, SE1 9DG

Telephone: +44 (0)20 3961 3300

E-mail: ramblers@ramblers.org.uk

Web Page: www.ramblers.org.uk

The Ramblers' Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales. Company registration no. 4458492. Registered charity, England & Wales no. 1093577, Scotland no. SC039799. Registered office: 1 Clink Street, 3rd Floor, London SE1 9DG

ISBN 1-906494-59-2



9 781906 494599