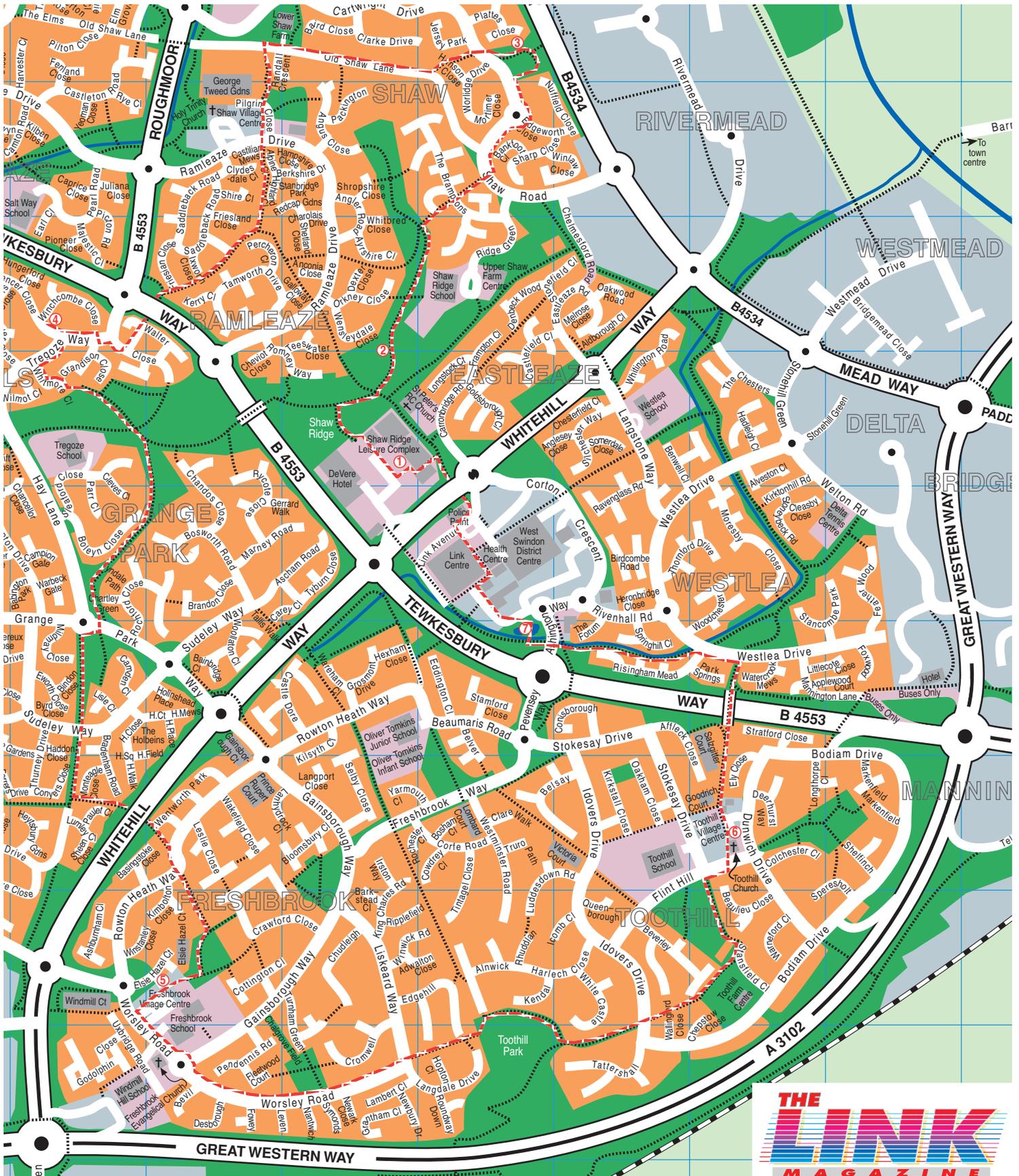


WEST SWINDON WALKS: THE SCULPTURE TOUR

Approximately 5 mile circular route on tarmac footpaths, except for a steep gravel path in Shaw and short grassy section across Toothhill Park.



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WEST SWINDON WALKS: THE SCULPTURE TOUR - 2

This walk is about five miles, all on tarmac paths except for a steep gravel path in Shaw and a short grassy section across Toothill Park. It is a circular route linking seven sculptures in West Swindon. Allowing time to stop and look at each sculpture, the walk should take around two hours at a leisurely pace.

☞ Starting at the Link Centre, carefully cross Link Avenue and take the underpass beneath Whitehill Way. Turn left into the Shaw Ridge Leisure Complex where you will find the statue of Diana Dors outside the cinema.

The following descriptions are taken from *'The Works: Exploring Public Art in the Borough of Thamesdown'* - a leaflet produced by the then Thamesdown Borough Council in the early 1990s.

Diana Dors - Film Star 1991. Artist: John Clinch. Material: Bronze

Project Details: Commissioned by Thamesdown Borough Council through the Percent for Art Policy, funded by Carter Commercial Developments. The sculpture is a flamboyant tribute to one of Swindon's most famous and glamorous residents.

☞ Follow the path uphill from the cinema to the Zu Bar and as it bears left and takes you up through the trees to the Shaw Ridge Open Space. When you reach the ridge turn right and go straight ahead at the crossroads of paths. The second sculpture is just ahead on the left.

How the Mighty Fall 1989. Artist: Tim Sandys-Renton. Material: Cast Aluminium, Cast Iron

Project Details: Commissioned by Thamesdown Borough Council through the Percent for Art Policy. The sculpture is like an archaeological artefact from the 20th Century which requires viewers to transport themselves into the future.

☞ Carry on walking along the ridge, ignore the path on your right to Shaw Ridge School. Instead, take the next right turn on to a path which takes you across The Bramptons, with a tennis court on your right. When the path emerges on to Shaw Road, cross the road and turn left. Follow the bend of the road, go straight across at the roundabout and turn right on to the next path, which leads to the third sculpture.

White Horse Pacified 1987. Artist: Julie Livsey. Materials: Steel and Concrete

Project Details: The sculpture was completed during an International artists exchange between Swindon and Lisbon, Portugal, funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Southern Arts, Wiltshire County Council and Thamesdown Borough Council. The work is an interpretation of the famous chalk cut white horses surrounding Swindon.

☞ The path sweeps around to the left behind the sculpture. Take care as you ascend this steep gravel path as it can be slippery. Cross Shaw road again and go straight ahead on the path which crosses Hanson Close and leads on to Old Shaw Lane. Turn right on to Old Shaw Lane and follow it downhill, passing Lower Shaw Farm on the right. Ignore the left turn into Randall Crescent and take the next path on the left, which leads to Shaw Village Centre. Walk past the shops on your left, cross Ramleaze Drive and go straight ahead on the path opposite. Ignore all turnings and take the subway under Tewkesbury Way. When you come out of the subway you are in Walter Close. Take the second turn on the right, ignore both the right turn down to the roundabout and the left turn into Grandison Close. You are now on Tregoze Way. Instead of turning left and continuing on Tregoze Way, cross the road and you have reached the fourth sculpture.

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WEST SWINDON WALKS: THE SCULPTURE TOUR - 3

‘Hey Diddle Diddle...’ 1992. Artist: Vega Bermejo. Material: Portland Stone

Project Details: Commissioned by Thamesdown Borough Council through the Percent for Art Policy and sponsored by Clarke Homes Ltd. This charming sculpture in a domestic setting depicts the popular nursery rhyme.

☞ Return to Tregoze Way and turn left into Whitmore Close. At the end of the close go straight ahead on to the path which traverses the open space. Take the second path on your right into Grange Park and follow this path all the way to the roundabout at Grange Park Way. Cross the road and ignore the path straight in front of you which leads to a play area. Carry on instead to the right and turn on to the next path on the left. Follow this path as it crosses Sudely Way then take the path on the left just before Lumley Close. Take the underpass beneath Whitehill Way and you are now in Freshbrook. Cross Rowton Heath Way and go straight ahead on the path immediately opposite. Follow this path until you reach a grassy area then take the main path to the right into Freshbrook Village Centre where you will see the fifth sculpture on your right.

Nexus 1986. Artist: Hideo Furuta. Material: Blue Pennant Stone

Project Details: Nexus was carved by the artist, using hand-made tools, in public and in situ. The residency was funded by Thamesdown Borough Council and Southern Arts.

☞ As you leave Freshbrook Village Centre, turn left on to the pavement beside Worsley Road but do not cross the road. Passing Freshbrook school on your left, go straight ahead at the roundabout and stay on the pavement as Worsley Road takes a long sweep to the left to join Liskeard Way. Cross Liskeard Way and go uphill on the path immediately opposite into Toothill Park. Here you can either walk straight across on the grass to the tarmac path on the opposite side of the park or you can walk a short way on the grass to your left to join a tarmac path around the top end of the park to end at the same spot. The view from the top of the park out towards the downs is far reaching and panoramic. Follow the tarmac path downhill, cross Idovers Drive and go straight ahead, passing Toothill Farm on the right, into Stansfield Close. Turn left at the end of the close and follow the path as it goes around the edge of a small park and ends at Flint Hill. Cross Flint Hill, turn right, walk past the bus stop then turn left into Toothill Village Centre where you will find the sixth sculpture in front of Toothill Church.

The Watchers 1982. Artist: Carleton Attwood. Material: Cement Fondue

Project Details: Funded by R.S. McColl and E.H. Bradley Building Projects Ltd. The sculpture represents guardian figures looking over the community.

☞ At the opposite end of the village centre, take the path downhill between the houses which leads to the footbridge over Tewkesbury Way. Over the bridge turn left into Westlea Drive. After a short distance turn left on to the path with a stream on your right. Cross Ashington Way at the pedestrian lights and walk straight ahead on the footpath immediately opposite. Cross the footbridge on your right and you will see the seventh statue on your left at the edge of the pond.

Looking to the Future 1985. Artist: Jon Buck. Material: Glass Fibre Resin

Project Details: This sculpture was completed by the first artist in residence during the development of West Swindon and funded by Thamesdown Borough Council, Southern Arts and Property 3.

☞ Carefully walk across the car park and back to the Link Centre. If you are planning to stop for refreshments inside the Link Centre at the end of your walk, you may care to look up at the murals. And what can you find out about Cassandra - an eighth sculpture - standing on her head above The Mall?