Swindon’s Front Garden is the area bounded by the town and the M4 which is made up of small farms crossed with minor roads and footpaths which will lead you out to the wider countryside. The ridge and furrow field of a medieval village at Westlea Farm (10) can be seen from the Parkway.

Kingshill Canal (11) was once part of the Wiltsire and Berkshire Canal and is now a designated nature reserve. By following the canal towpath northwards you can reach the heart of Swindon’s shopping centre via Canal Walk.

Rusty Platt Station (12) has long gone but a brick platform remains which used to serve the loop line to the Great Western Railway. Close by is a wood mill which once loaded timber onto the trains in the sidings here.

Bear left to leave the railway embankment and follow the track to the Southlea Road. Go under the railway bridge to Telford Way, then right to Wotton Bassett Road.

After crossing the dual carriage way near Mannington (13) the Parkway divides in two before the underpass to Mannington Lane.

The eastern route is wider and may be wet underfoot in winter and spring. This can be found by heading right before the underpass along the path behind warehouses, skirting Sainsburys and around Mannington Recreation Ground to the farthest corner where the river and path go under Great Western Way. Follow the riverbank through the meadows till you reach the cycletrack from Barnfield Road and the next Parkway sign, rejoining the main route at Rivermead.

The western route goes along the pedestrian underpass, along the bus route to join Mannington Lane. Where the lane bears right, keep on the pedestrian route straight ahead to an overhead walkway and a Parkway sign. Cross Westlea Drive and bear right past the play equipment then left at the next sign. Cross Westlea Drive again following the cycletrace through the back of a housing estate, past a school and ahead then through Meadow Way underpass. Bearing right, then left, travel straight ahead with warehouses on your right and the river on your left and you will reach the next sign at the start of Rivermead and the main route to Moulton Hill.

Rivermead (14) is 11 acres of meadow important for flora and fauna. Dunbar Conservation Group have adopted this area and through their important work continue to improve the area for wildlife conservation. A public footpath over the Old Shaw Tip will provide you with a vantage point to look down on Swindon from the north. Keep straight ahead to reach the Purton Road crossing.

Moulton Hill (15) has been designated as the site of Swindon’s third country park and already you can see here Railway Wood planted in Spring of 1992 by the local clubs of Rotary International and the Great Western Community Forest. The Hill provides magnificent views north over farmland to Cricklade Church spire and southward over Swindon to the Marlborough Downs. Purton Road is the most northerly point of the River Ray Parkway but it is hoped to extend it eventually to Cricklade and the River Thames.

**USING THE RIVER RAY PARKWAY**

Every effort is being made to improve the River Ray Parkway for all users along its whole length. Please note however that on the following sections the surface is not suitable for family cyclists, wheelchair or pushchair users at the moment: Between Broomie Manor (2) and Pipers Way (4) also Wotton Bassett Road (13) and Rivermead (14) eastern section.

The River Ray Parkway is for everyone to enjoy so please can cyclists and horse riders make way for pedestrians, wheelchair and pushchair users where the Parkway is narrow.