

Day 1: Wanborough to Purton

S Robertson/S Paynter, 28 February 2026

The walk begins at St Andrew's Church, Wanborough (SN4 0BZ) and ends at St Mary's Church, Purton (SN5 4EB), passing through the middle of the large town of Swindon, with its designer outlet shopping centre and fading town centre.

The bulk of the day's walking is on tarmacked paths through the suburbs and centre of Swindon, whilst the beginning and end of the day are on country footpaths.

Distance: 12 miles

Duration: 5 hours, not including breaks

Level of difficulty: Easy

Maps: Ordnance Survey Explorer 170, 169

Car parking: A car park exists right next to St. Andrew's Church, Wanborough, although gates locked at night time. Limited on street parking at Purton Church. Railway station in Swindon centre. Extensive bus network in Swindon urban area, but limited services to Wanborough and Purton (see www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/, <https://www.swindonbus.co.uk/>, <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/>)

Refreshments: Cafés and pubs in Swindon, café in Lydiard Park, pubs Lydiard Millicent and Purton.

Toilets: Portaloo at St. Andrew's, Wanborough, Christ Church Swindon, Swindon town centre, Designer outlet, Lydiard Park and at Purton Church..

Directions:

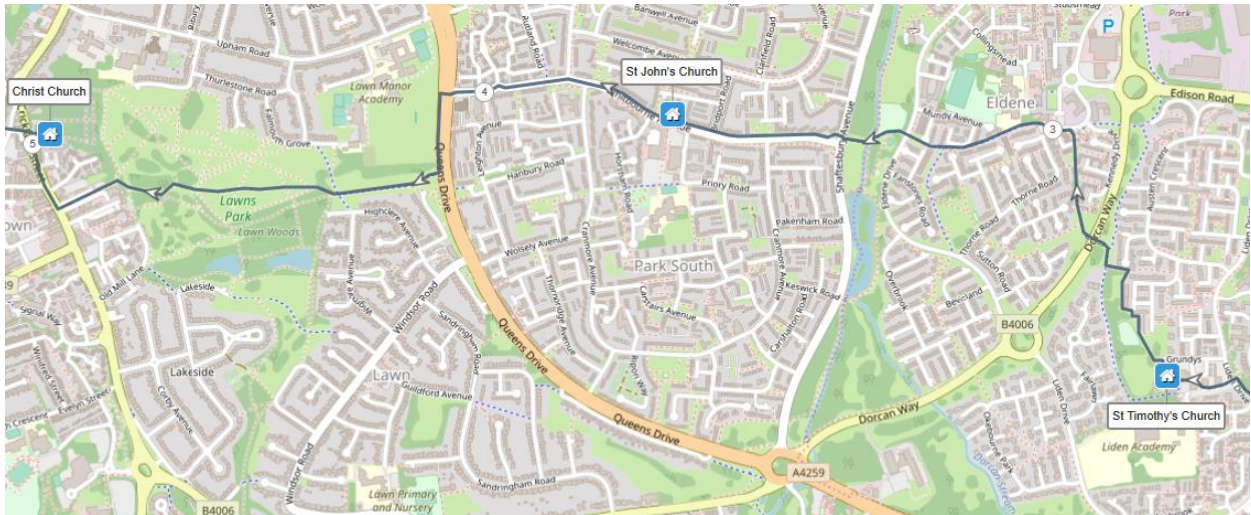
1. Leave St. Andrew's via the road, turn left onto Church Rd, and at the next RH bend go straight on, taking the narrow concrete footpath between driveway on left and Mayfield Rd on the right.
2. This pathway leads down beside a small stream under trees. Keep going downwards, passing through kissing gates and gates into Weanage Wood.
3. At the path T junction opposite the houses on RHS go left, across small stream and bear right, following the path. Keep following main path to The Marsh Road at the bottom. (If you come to a bridleway, turn left to meet The Marsh Road.)
4. At The Marsh Road turn left and follow all the way to Common Head Roundabout.



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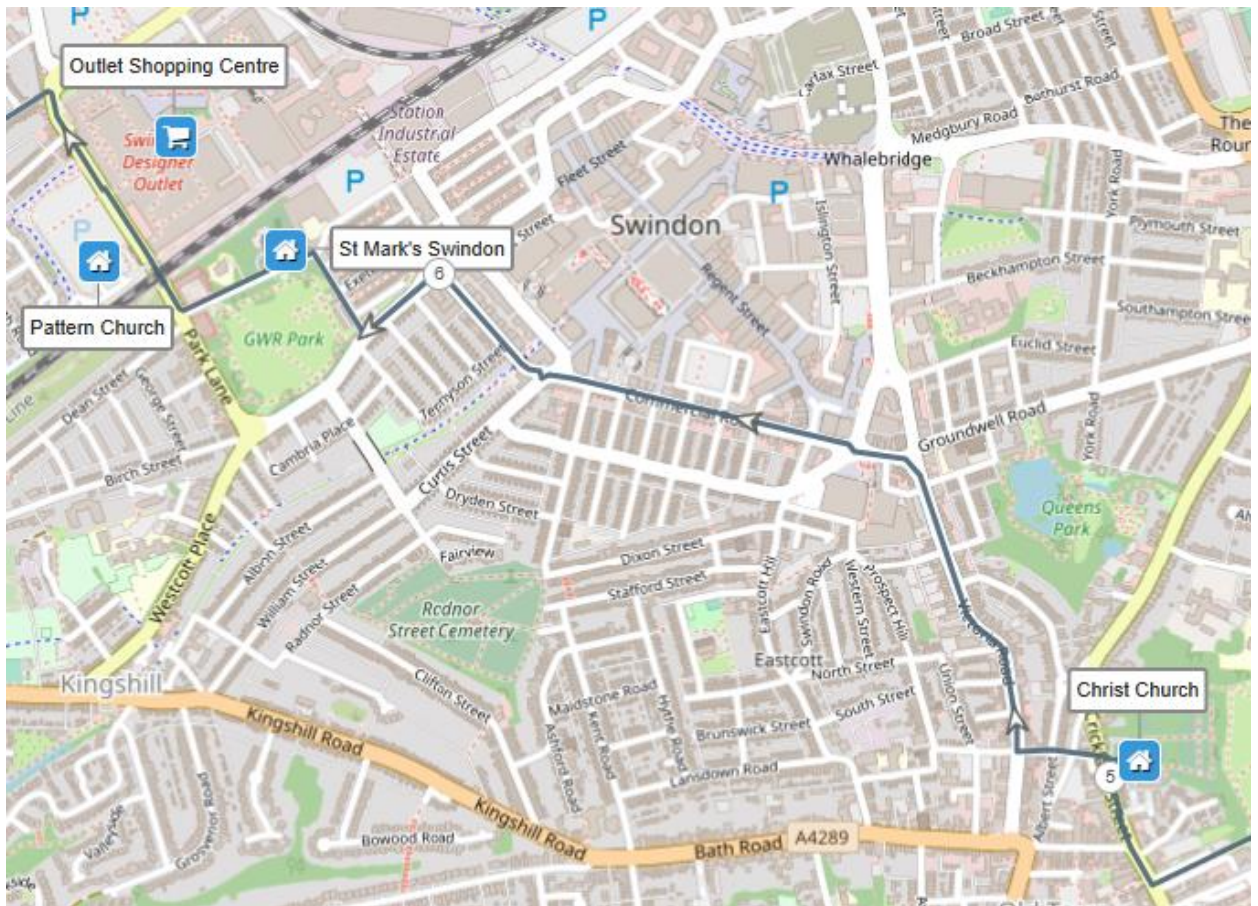
5. Pass under the road using the pedestrian crossing points and head towards the Swindon on the Marlborough Road.
6. Within a short distance take the first opening on the right: A tarmacked pathway through the housing estate.
7. Follow this all the way up until the T junction with another tarmacked pathway: turn left and follow. At the next T junction turn left again and go under Liden Drive, and follow the path on up past Tesco's to St. Timothy's Church (SN3 6HP) on the Grundys.



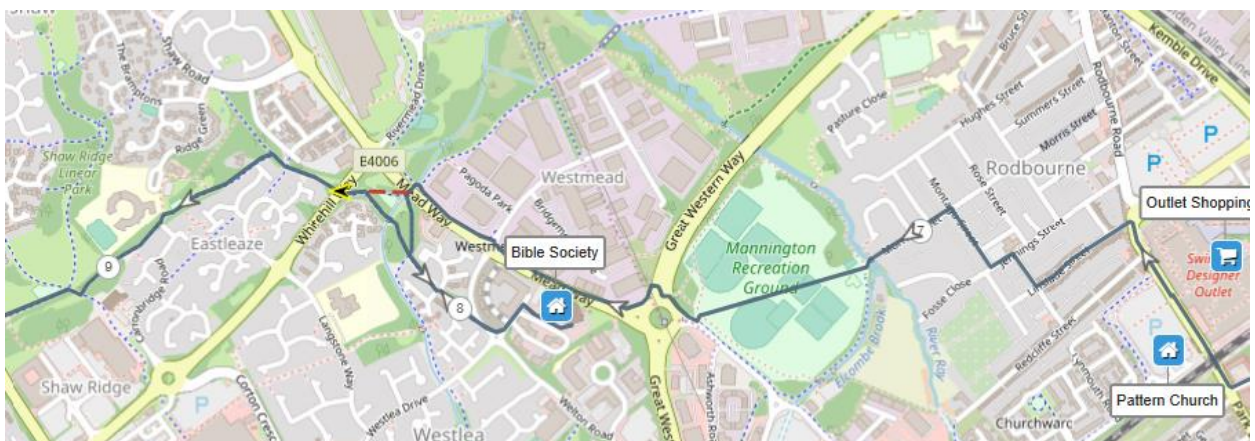
8. Head on up towards the play area and take the tarmacked footpath through the estate, it zig zags a little, across the footbridge across Dorcan way and on up towards the unusually shaped building (The Stripy Badger Pub) to Eleven Community Centre/Church.
9. From there back track around the back of the Stripy Badger onto the tarmacked footpath heading west towards Whitbourne Avenue. Cross the stream on the bridge, and then Shaftesbury Avenue, and head west along Whitbourne Avenue.
10. St John's Church will appear on your right.
11. Continue on west along Whitbourne Avenue to Queens Road. Cross Queens Avenue and turn left.
12. At the next opening on the right, turn right down the pathway into The Lawns.
13. Follow the main path west towards Christ Church, the spire of which is visible from Queens Avenue onwards.
14. Go down Horder Mews onto Cricklade Street and turn right. Christ Church will appear on your right past the Goddard arms.

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15. From Christ Church, cross Cricklade Street, go up Church Rd and turn right up Victoria Street, bear left into Regents Circus, then into Commercial Rd, which will become Milton Rd, left at the T Junction into Farringdon Rd and right into Church Place. At T Junction turn left into Bristol St and St. Marks will appear on your right.
16. Continue along Church place. Turn right into Park Lane / Rodbourne Road. Narrow pavement. Past Pattern Church on the left and the Outlet Shopping Centre on the right.
17. Left into Linslade Street. Right into Groves Street. Left at the end then right into Montague street. Left into Morris street. Ahead into Mannington recreation ground. Walk with the blue Basketball area on your right. Then straight across the recreation ground towards the pylon and a gap in the hedge. Turn right. Cross Great Western Way at the double pedestrian lights then follow the path along Mead Way.



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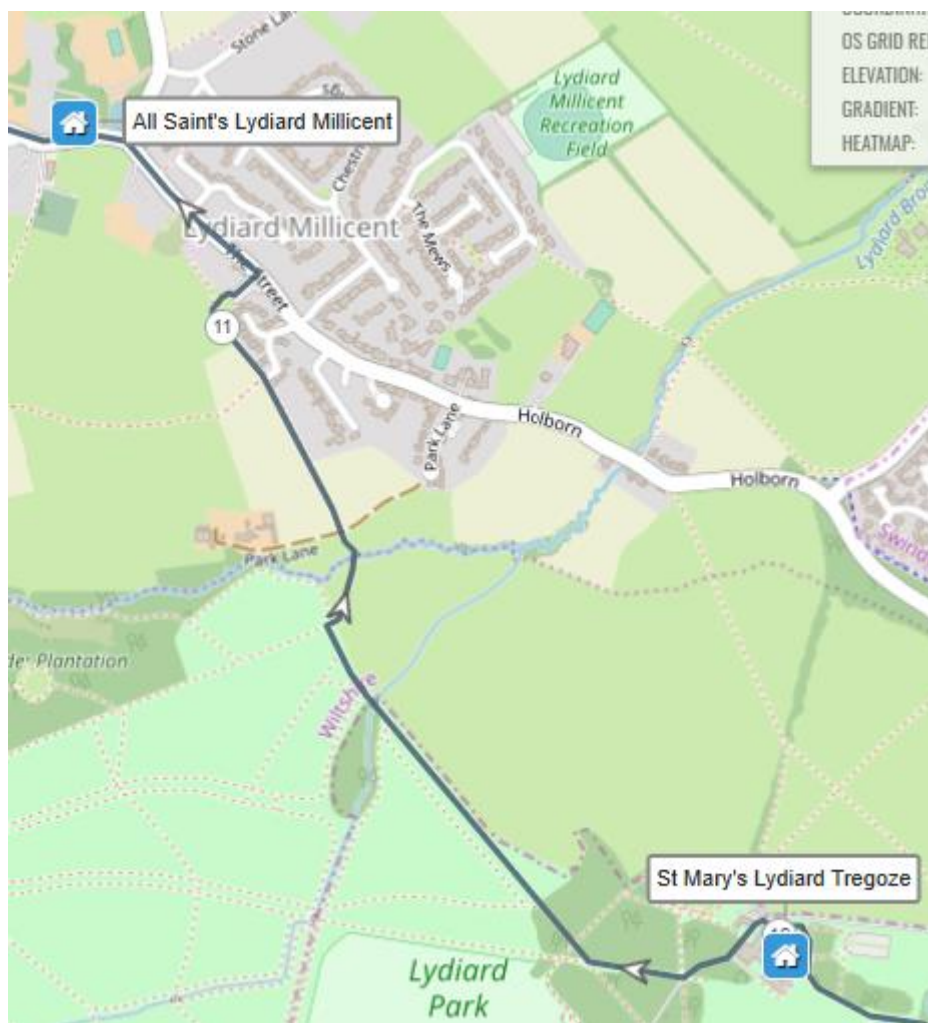
18. If the traffic is light you could cross to Bible Society here (entrance to left of building), otherwise continue along Mead Way. Cross West Mead, continue and turn left under tunnel under Mead Way.
19. After the tunnel
 - a. Turn left for Bible Society then left again. Go ahead, signed Oxford Brookes University and left at the roundabout into Bentham Close. Right into bible society, entrance at far end. Return along Bentham Close right at roundabout into Stonehill Green and ahead into The Chesters. Then keep going ahead along footpath, crossing a stream. Turn left
 - b. turn right.if not going to Bible Society.
20. Under another road signed West Swindon District Centre $\frac{3}{4}$ m and up hill. Cross road and then after 20m turn left (it has cycle path markings, the sign is currently missing). Continue along this path, turning left at a school, right then left at a hill top play park, cross a bridge over Tewkesbury Way, then left at a four way junction (litter bin 265).
21. Cross Hay Lane and go ahead, path curving slightly right. Turn right into Lydiard Park, and ahead with lake to left, wall to right. Follow the path to go to the right of Lydiard Tregoze church.



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22. From Lydiard Tregoze church, go to the left and then follow the road that goes between the hotel and tea rooms.
23. Go past the iron gates blocking the road. Turn to the right of the paved road through a wide avenue of trees. Just before reaching the open parkland, fork right onto a narrower straight path through the woodland which soon opens out. Continue going straight for 500m. You can see the church of Lydiard Millicent on the hill ahead of you.
24. When the path bends to the left, turn right, signposted Lydiard Millicent Purton. Go through a metal kissing gate and head diagonally left across the field to a bridge across a stream. Go straight across the next field and cross a track through two kissing gates. Keep going straight across another field through a gate onto an enclosed path with gardens to its right.

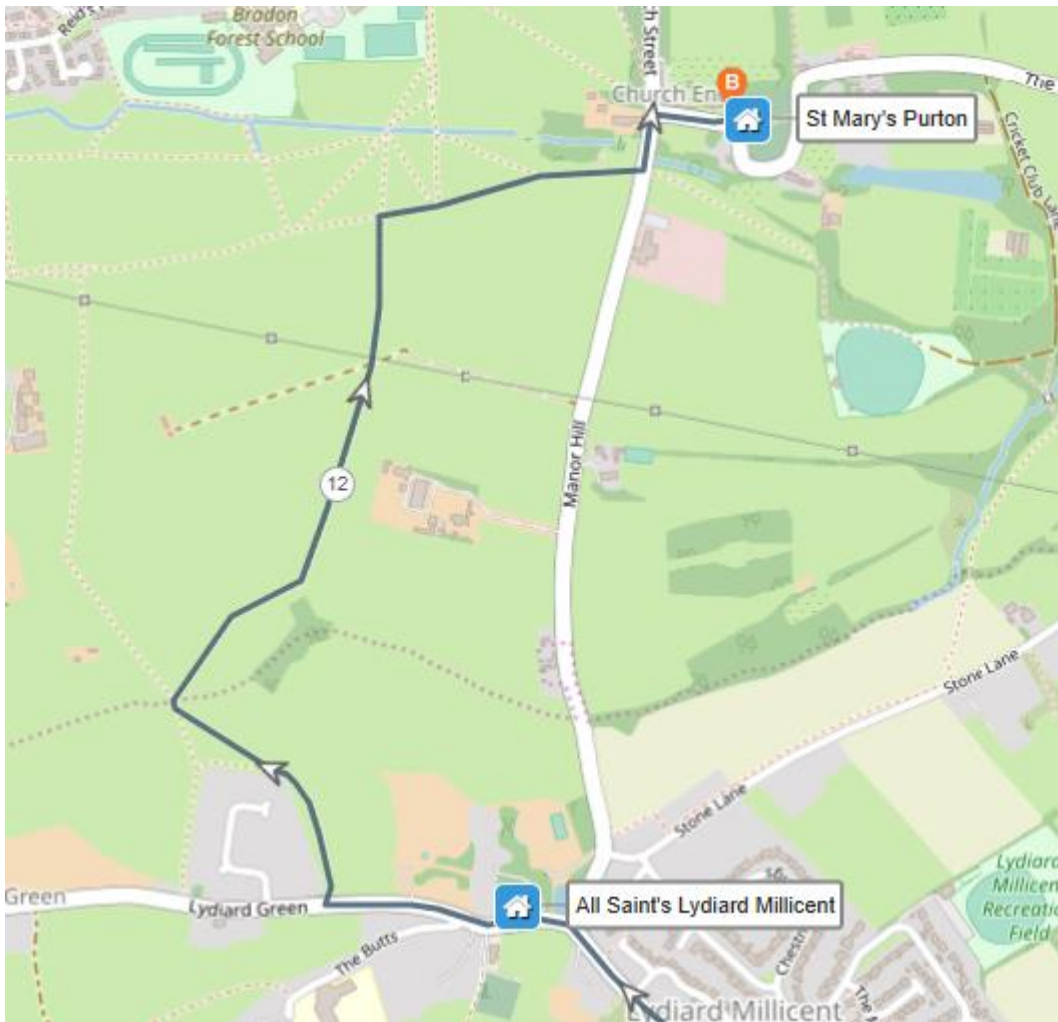


25. Cross a stile back into the field and continue in the same direction along the edge of the field with houses to your right. Through a wooden kissing gate. When the Hedge to the right finishes head diagonally right to a gap in the bushes (The Sun pub is to your right)
26. When you get to Lydiard service station turn right towards the road "the Street" then turn left and walk along the pavement on the left hand side until you reach the All Saints church, Lydiard Millicent.

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27. From the church go to the right out of the churchyard along Lydiard Green, on the right hand side pavement, for about 300m.
28. Turn right up a short tarmaced incline up to a gate and strike into a field. Sign “do not drop litter”. Follow the left hand edge of the field. turn to the left when the houses end. Head under the electricity wires across the field to a place two thirds of the way along the field edge (ahead of you slightly to the right). There is a double stile among the trees filled by another stile over a small bridge.
29. Go diagonally right across the next field to a gap in the hedge, where there is a stile, a small bridge and a stile then ahead across the next field with the hedge to your left. In the corner cross a bridge and a stile.
30. To the left there is a pill box and pylon. Aim to the right of the pylon and cross the field. There is a view in front / to the right to the suburbs of North Swindon behind the spire of Purton church.



31. Eventually you reach a fence break /stile. Cross it and head slightly downhill towards a gap in a hedge.
32. Head diagonally right across the field to metal gate. Then head for another gate in front of the church spire and then another gate onto the road. Turn left into the road and then right to reach St Mary's church Purton.