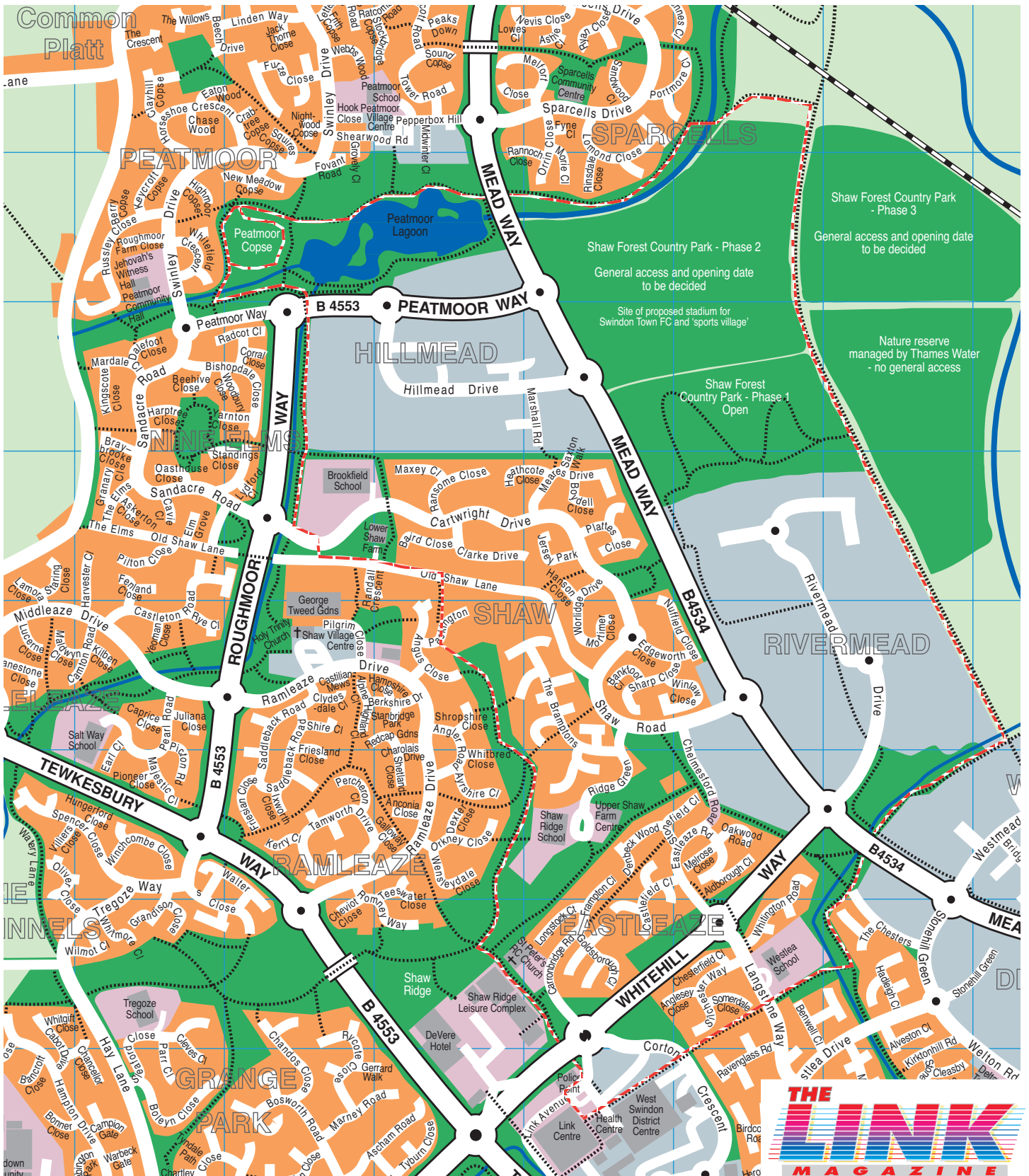


WEST SWINDON WALKS:

WESTLEA, SHAW COMMUNITY FOREST PARK, PEATMOOR LAGOON & SHAW

Approximately 4.5 miles on tarmac footpaths and gravel footpaths which can be muddy



Swindon Services



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

The West Swindon Walks have been created by Brian Gardner at the Link Centre in association with The Link magazine.

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WEST SWINDON WALKS: WESTLEA, SHAW COMMUNITY FOREST PARK, PEATMOOR LAGOON & SHAW

This walk is about four and a half miles on tarmac and gravel paths some of which can be muddy.

Starting at the Link Centre, walk along the path on the Northern side of the West Swindon Centre and carefully cross Corton Crescent, walking straight ahead on the footpath immediately opposite. Cross Langstone Way, still straight ahead on the path, with Westlea School on your left. Turn left at the T-junction where the path crosses a footbridge. Follow the path, ignore all turnings and take the subway which passes under Mead Way and go straight ahead until you reach a crossroads of paths.

Turn left and follow the sign to Mouldon Hill, following the Rivermead Pathway. This is a conservation area. On the left is the steep rising bank of earth at the edge of Shaw Forest Country Park. (Part of it is open and the footpath access is marked on the map. This is not part of this walk but it can be explored at your leisure. It can be muddy in the park so be prepared.)

Walk for approximately fifteen minutes until you come to the green finger post where you turn left following a path with the pumping station on your left until you come to a tarmac path and cycle route. Branch left over the bridge and turn left again following the path under the subway.

Emerging from the subway follow the path and walk anti-clockwise around the lake. At the western edge of the lake there is a path to your left which crosses a footbridge and takes you to the roundabout at Peatmoor Way. Alternatively you can follow the anticlockwise path around Peatmoor Copse or spend some time exploring the copse itself, emerging at the roundabout. (The Peatmoor Community Woodland Group carries out woodland maintenance work on the first Sunday of the month and are always keen to welcome new volunteers helpers. Call Liz Emerson on 01793 876654 for more information).

Carefully cross the road, with the roundabout on your right, and fork off to the left keeping on a loose shingle path until you come to a tarmac cycle path. Turn left here with Brookfield School on the right. Follow the cycle path as it crosses Cartwright Drive and go straight ahead with Lower Shaw Farm on your right. Turn left on to Old Shaw Lane and take the first path on your right, signposted Shaw Ridge. This path crosses Packington Drive and comes out on to the grass on Shaw Ridge.

Join the main tarmac path which traces a route through the trees and along the top of the ridge. Go straight ahead through three crossroads of paths, passing on your right a sculpture called 'How the Mighty Fall.' At the next crossroads of paths, enjoying fine views across the northern part of West Swindon and beyond, turn left and follow the cycle path down the hill with St. Peter's RC church on your left and Shaw Ridge Leisure Complex on your right. As you come out of the subway, turn left and carefully cross the road to finish at the Link Centre.

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