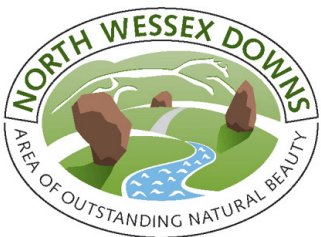


The Friends of the Railway Path is a charitable organisation.

Our vision is to develop and maintain the railway path to encourage a wide variety of users and make it an interesting place to visit.

For more information visit [www.friendsofthepath.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthepath.org.uk)

Friends of the Railway Path is supported by:

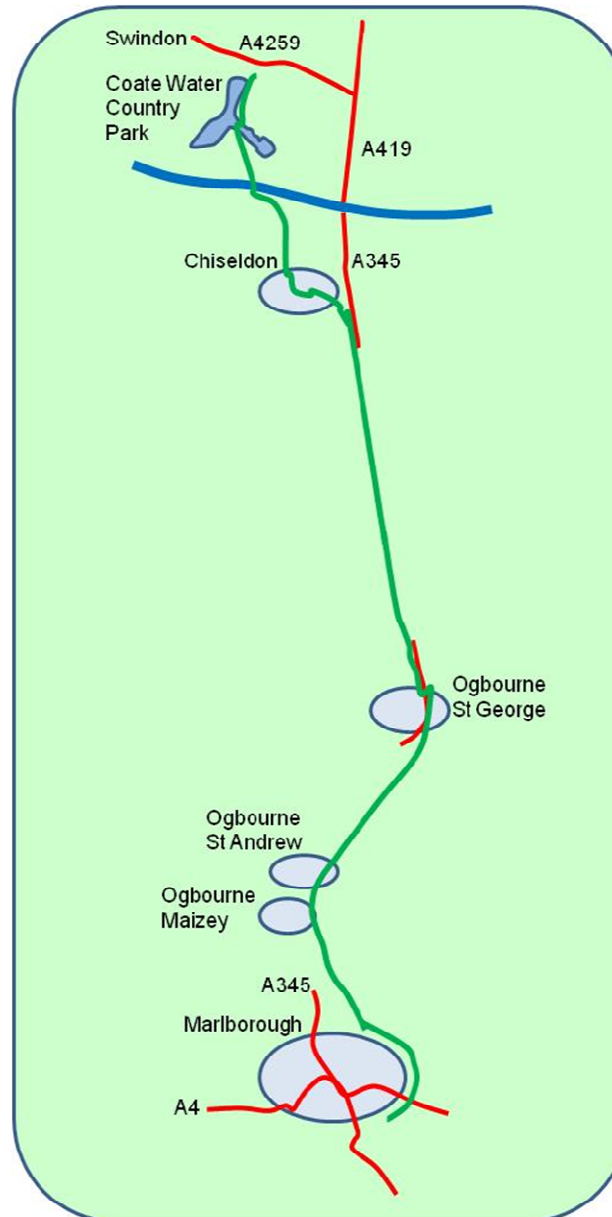


[www.northwessexdowns.org.uk](http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk)



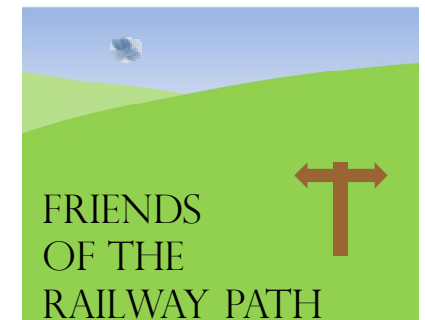
[www.wiltshirebridlewaysassociation.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirebridlewaysassociation.co.uk)

## Swindon to Marlborough Cycle Path



# Friends of the Railway Path

Promoting and developing the Swindon to Marlborough Railway Path



# Friends of the Railway Path

## Our aims

1. To advertise and promote links to paths, byways, bridleways and minor roads to enable walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders to relax, exercise and explore the local countryside.



2. To support the biodiversity of the area by maintaining and improving habitats along the path and its surrounds.
3. To improve and develop the path, connecting people with the local economy by supporting local communities with a safe route for people to get to work, schools, shops and local businesses.
4. To help attract people to the area, encourage a fuller appreciation of its history, agriculture, ecology, culture and geology and promote the path as a gateway to the Marlborough Downs, the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and to "Jefferies' Land".

### The Friends do this by:

- Fundraising
- Organising volunteer activities
- Working with a range of local partners
- Publicising the route
- Arranging events on the route and its surrounds

## The Path

The path runs from Coate Water Country Park to Marlborough, mostly along the line of the former Swindon, Marlborough and Andover Railway. The railway closed in 1967, and the cycle path was created in 1988, since when it has been maintained by Sustrans.



Climbing from Coate to Chiseldon on a gentle slope, the path then runs across the Lower Chalk and through the Og valley. The countryside on either side bears the imprint of three thousand years of history since the Bronze Age. From the path there are magnificent views of the downs.

The path supports the varied ecologies of the clay vale and chalk downland through which it passes.



The path is part of the National Cycle Network and connects with routes to Cirencester, Salisbury, Avebury and

Hungerford. There are local circular routes accessible from the Path, on a variety of terrains.

From Coate to the entry to Chiseldon, the path has a sealed surface. From Chiseldon southwards, it retains its original stone dust surface. Improving this will make the Path more attractive for a variety of users.



## How you can help

### Join Us - Membership

Every new member is of direct benefit to the Friends. An increase in membership numbers demonstrates to our partners and potential funding organisations an increasing passion and determination to promote and develop the Path. Why not join today and help make a difference?

A membership application is enclosed with this leaflet: or visit our website [www.friendsofthepath.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthepath.org.uk)

### Work Parties

We plan to run volunteer workdays to help with specific improvements. These will include clearing vegetation and leaf fall. Let us know if you would like to help. Visit our website for details of the next event.



### Ideas

If you have ideas about what we should do, what events we should organise, or where we could get help, please let us know.

### Contact us

Please contact us via our website or [dick.millard@friendsofthepath.org.uk](mailto:dick.millard@friendsofthepath.org.uk).