



SNOWDROP SEASON 3 MILE WALK

The 3-mile walk takes in key plantings of Shaftesbury Snowdrops, (highlighted on the map) treats walkers to highlights of the town's slopes, history, stunning views, and offers glimpses of its surrounding countryside.

- [1] Start the walk at the Angel Lane Car Park and walk up through the Library gardens  Turn left onto Bell Street passing the Snowdrop Festival "Pop Up" shop on the way. At the end of Bell Street turn left towards the High Street. **Cross carefully** over the road, heading left.
- [2] Just after Barclay's Bank turn right into Church Lane and go through the ungated entrance into the grounds of the Trinity Centre. Here over 100,000 snowdrop bulbs have been planted to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. At the far end exit the gardens to Abbey Walk.
- [3] Turn left down Abbey Walk towards the War Memorial on "Park Walk". Turn right, keeping the wall of hospital garden  on your right following it as it bends until you reach the kissing gate.
- [4] Here on the left is a plaque where snowdrops have been planted by families and friends to commemorate their loved ones along with the Weldmar Hospice Trust. 
- [5] Go through kissing gate onto a single-track lane turning right along Magdalene Lane. *This is the probable line of the East wall of the Saxon burgh founded by Alfred in the 9th century. St Mary's church was on the left of this lane, and so would have been on the town wall.*
- [6] Cross Bimport (**checking for traffic both ways**). Go straight ahead (between Jude Cottage & the ambulance station-) into Castle Green. Turn left on the tarmac path along edge of Green, with panoramic views to the North. On the horizon is Alfred's Tower on the Stourhead estate. *The gardens of the fine houses bordering the left of the green include the homes of, among others, a member of the House of Lords; a renowned cookery writer; and a novelist who wrote episode one of TV's Upstairs Downstairs.*
- [7] Follow the tarmac path round the green turning to your left, emerging onto Bimport. Turn left along this road for a short stretch, (**watching out for traffic, no pavement**). On your right is *Edwardstowe, the oldest surviving house in the town.* .
- [8] Shortly turn right into Langford Lane (single-track road) then right again into Love Lane; it ends at the corner of St Johns Hill. *This hill was a main entrance to the Saxon burgh.* (**Don't cross this road, beware of fast moving traffic-**) Turn left immediately onto the gravel footpath of "Pine Walk" .
- [9] When you reach the signpost "Pine Walk" T Turn sharp right around it and go down the cobbled "Stoney Path" . Snowdrops have been planted on the slopes here  . *The "Hanging wood" is home to owls, woodpeckers badgers.* (**Please take care going down the path and use the hand rail if necessary, it may be slippery when wet**).
- [10] At the foot of Stoney Path, turn right and go straight ahead along Tanyard Lane.
- [11] At the end of the lane go straight across St Johns Hill onto Breach Lane (**Cross the road carefully watching out for traffic both ways**). Keep on this lane as it curves to the right.

[12] Proceed as far as a field on the left with views across the vale to the twin peaks of “Duncliffe Woods” now in the care of the Woodland Trust. Descend with the hedge on your left until you reach a gate into “Homegrown Community Farm” Go through the side-gate (unlocked)  The raised beds here were used as a nursery for some of the many snowdrops now planted in the town. Have a look around and say “Hello” to the sheep”.

[13] Retrace your steps back along Breach Lane until you reach Raspberry Lane. Turn right down this lane. At the end of the lane turn left or go straight across the road to admire the snowdrops in St James Churchyard (**Be careful when crossing the road and when continuing left look carefully for traffic at the three-way junction**). Walk across a small green and along St James St. *This was a medieval suburb which has many surviving cottages built by the “Grosvenor Estate” including the “Pump Yard” halfway along on the left.* Further along on the left, at the foot of the park there are our “Father’s Day” Snowdrops planted under the trees bordering the road. .

[14] Keep straight ahead, past the foot of Gold Hill on the left, and continue forward onto Layton Lane. As it curves to right, divert briefly to left, up the tarmac path of Shooters Lane.  Snowdrops are planted on the shady banks.  At the railings in the middle of path, turn back down the path to Layton Lane. (**The path is fairly steep**). Turn left at Layton Lane. At the crossroads, (**cross carefully**) and continue up “Hawkesdene Lane” until you reach a footpath on the left (opposite a stile). The path rises fairly steeply into town. At the top, turn left into Salisbury Street. *Note the ancient cast-iron mile-mark.* As you walk along Salisbury Street pause to enjoy the view from St Rumbold’s Churchyard on your left. At the end of Salisbury Street fork left into High Street.

[15] At the end of the High Street behind the town hall is the iconic view from the top of “Gold Hill” and the Gold Hill museum.

[16] Return to the High Street and just passed “Oxfam” on your left is Park Walk. The Abbey Museum and Gardens are on the right. Visit the Heritage collection of Shaftsbury Snowdrops displayed in the Abbey garden during the festival each February.  *The Abbey ruins are a Scheduled Monument. Founded by King Alfred the Great, with his daughter as the first Abbess, it is the site where King Canute died, where Robert the Bruce’s wife was held hostage for a year, and where the remains of King Edward the Martyr were buried after his murder at Corfe Castle. The Abbey was venerated by many generations until Henry the Eighth dissolved all the monasteries in the 16th Century. There are snowdrops here from a time before living memory.*

[17] On leaving the Abbey turn left back along Park Walk.  Pause to admire the views over the Blackmore Vale and continue on towards the Town Centre. Walk back down the High Street, until you reach “Swans Yard” on your left with its pretty troughs of snowdrops. .

[18] Walk through here pausing to admire the local arts and crafts at the “Cygnet Gallery”. Continue under the arch to Bell Street. From there you could retrace your steps back to our Snowdrop Pop-Up Shop (number 17) and on to the “Snowdrops” art exhibition at the local Gallery.