



# SHAFTESBURY SNOWDROPS

DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMUNITY LEGACY

**This walk of 15 - 20 minutes on tarmac and cobbles takes in key plantings of Shaftesbury Snowdrops together with some history and stunning views of the surrounding countryside. There is a suggested diversion for making this a longer walk of about 30 minutes or so.**

**[1]** Start the walk at Shaftesbury Town Hall. You can reach the Town Hall from the Tourist Information Hub as follows:

Exit the store to face the Shaftesbury Arts Centre. Cross over the road and turn right along Bell Street continuing round the corner (The Commons) where you will see the Town Hall ahead of you.



**[2]** With your back to the Town Hall head left through a short section of pathway, which will bring you out onto Park Walk. From here you can see beautiful views across the Blackmore Vale to Melbury Hill. Pass Shaftesbury's ancient Abbey and continue as far as the war memorial.



**[3]** The path ahead forks and here you can chose your onward route **[A or B]**

**[A1]** A nearby signpost points to Castle Hill along a gravel path to the right known as Pine Walk. Follow this for a short way to see snowdrops growing beneath mature beech and pine trees on a very steep slope. This hanging wood is home to owls, woodpeckers and badgers. Now retrace your steps to the war memorial.

**[A2]** At the war memorial turn left along Abbey Walk and walk a short distance until a path opens on the right. Turn here and head into the Holy Trinity Churchyard, where 1000s of snowdrops have been planted by volunteers and visitors.

**[A3]** When you have enjoyed the snowdrops here leave the churchyard at the opposite end and walk along Church Lane to emerge back on the High Street with the Town Hall on the right and The Grosvenor Arms to the left.



**For those who wish, the walk can be extended to about 30 minutes by taking option [B] from the war memorial. It involves a steep climb back up into Shaftesbury – see below.**

**[B1]** At the signpost on Park Walk descend the tarmac slope on the left to the top of Stoney Path. Snowdrops have been planted on the slope beside this picturesque cobbled path and it is well worth walking down to admire them.

(Please take care going down the path and use the hand rail if necessary, it may be slippery when wet).

**[B2]** At the foot of Stoney Path is Laundry Lane. Turn right and immediately left to go down a short lane between walls (Tanyard Lane). Then turn left along St James' Street. This was a medieval suburb which has many old cottages including the picturesque Pump Yard. Further along on the left is St James' Park where snowdrops are planted under the trees. The Two Brewers pub is on the right.

**[B3]** Keep straight ahead until you reach the foot of Gold Hill, where you turn left and ascend the famous steep cobbled street. The wall to your left was part of Shaftesbury Abbey but the hill was made famous in the 1970s, when Ridley Scott filmed an advertisement for Hovis bread here.

**[B4]** When you reach the top of Gold Hill you can take the path either side to arrive back at the Town Hall.

**[B5]** Retrace your steps back to the war memorial and rejoin the original route.

