

# Dragonfly Trail

The Dragonfly trail is 1.6 miles (2.6km) and takes in the site of the old canal. This route includes a picnic area, Caldecott recreation ground and lots to look out for. Look for the wildlife listed below and see how many you can spot – either the real thing or maybe a carving, image or sculpture.



## Ladybirds



Ladybirds are beetles and there are 47 species in the UK, with the most common one being the seven spot ladybird. Gardeners and farmers love them because during their one to three year lifespan they can eat up to 5000 aphids.



Town Centre



CANAL WALK

Abingdon, historically the county town of Berkshire until 1974, sits at the end of the Wiltshire and Berkshire canal. Work started on the 52 mile canal in 1795 and it was opened in 1810. The narrowboat canal was used to bring coal from Somerset and connect the West Country to the Midlands. In 1841 the Great Western Railway was completed leading to a loss of trade on the canal, which finally closed in 1914. Our canal walk follows the line of the tow path. For more information please visit [www.wbct.org.uk](http://www.wbct.org.uk)

## Dragonflies

Dragonflies are strong powerful predatory insects and there are around 3,000 species throughout the world. They are mostly seen in late spring and summer in sunny weather by rivers or ponds and like to eat small flying insects found by the water, along hedgerows and near woodlands. Their front wings are narrower than their hindwings and when resting, both pairs are held wide open. They are fast flyers, with some of the larger varieties able to fly at almost 30 miles an hour. They can live anything from a few weeks to up to a year, depending on the species.



### Look out for:

Bees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ladybirds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Butterflies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rabbits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dragonflies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Kites	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ducks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robins	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sparrows	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hérons	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spiders	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Bees

There are 270 different types of bee in the UK and they help us keep our gardens, meadows, woodlands, and hedgerows alive. They pollinate food crops for people, and the flowers and trees that all other wildlife depend on. Bees are in danger because of habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change. We can make a difference by creating bee-friendly, flowering gardens and neighbourhoods.



Abbey Sailing Club and Abingdon Rowing Club



# Three nature trails for South Abingdon

These nature trails have been created for everyone to enjoy and explore our local area, become more active and learn more about the diverse natural world around us.



■ Hedgehog
 ■ Dragonfly
 ■ Duck

Follow the directional signs and you will be able to discover:

- bug hotels and bird boxes
- nature brass rubbings
- community planters and wildflower areas
- pavement games and places to relax, play and explore

Make a list of any animals, birds, bugs, flowers or trees that you recognise along the way and share these with your friends – did you see the same things? Try walking the route at a different time of year or in the opposite direction and see what looks different.

# Exploring Abingdon

These trails have been devised by the Active Communities team at the Vale of White Horse District Council. Please take a look at our website for information about other community walks, which offer friendly group walks, designed to keep residents active within their local community, in a number of different locations throughout the district.



[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/activecommunities](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/activecommunities)

### Accessibility and safety

We have tried to make these trails accessible to all, but it should be noted that there are some pavements without dropped kerbs. The canal walk is a grass path and the marina park is at risk of flooding in adverse conditions due to its proximity to the River Thames. Please take care when crossing roads and be aware that near the marina there may be cars with trailers turning in the lane where there is no pavement.

The centre of Abingdon is just a short walk from the top of Caldecott Road and offers a wide selection of pubs, cafes and restaurants for you to enjoy. Along Preston Road, close to the duck and hedgehog routes, you will find the Midget Pub, originally named after the MG EX 127, a world-famous racing car, designed and built in Abingdon in the 1930s, also known as the Magic Midget. Here you can take a comfort break and enjoy some refreshments. The pub is open every day from 11am.

There are other walks within Abingdon for you to enjoy - for more details please visit: [abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk](http://abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk)



# South Abingdon Nature Trails

Explore our local area and celebrate the amazing natural world around us



# Hedgehog Trail

The Hedgehog trail is 2.1 miles (3.4km) and includes Southern Town Park, a great place to stop and play or enjoy a picnic.

In the last two decades the hedgehog population in Britain has declined by as much as 70 percent in some areas.

## Hedgehogs

In the summer hedgehogs spend most of the day sheltering in hedgerows. They come out at night and forage for food. In the autumn they find a sheltered spot to hibernate. Although their eyesight is poor, they have good hearing and a well-developed sense of smell.



### Look out for...

- Bees
- Blackberries
- Butterflies
- Deer
- Ladybirds
- Rabbits
- Red Kites
- Robins
- Snails
- Spiders
- Squirrels



### How can you help hedgehogs?

- Leave out foods like tinned dog or cat food, crushed cat or dog biscuits or a good quality hedgehog food. Never feed hedgehogs milk or bread.
- Clean the food and water bowls each day and top them up with fresh food and water.
- Don't use slug pellets or other chemicals, they may poison hedgehogs and other animals.
- Don't light a bonfire without checking to see if a hedgehog or other wild animal has moved in.



# Duck Trail

The Duck trail is 2.2 miles (3.6km) and takes in Marina Park and Southern Town Park. For a shorter route, follow the Duckling loop around Marina Park which is just 0.7 miles (1.1km). This route includes a picnic area, a quiet space to relax and reflect and a chatty bench which has a sign on it that shows by sitting there a person is happy to chat with whoever comes and sits next to them.



## Ducks

Ducks can live in freshwater or seawater and their feathers are waterproof. Along the Thames 22 varieties of ducks, swans and geese have been spotted including: Barnacle goose, Egyptian goose, Goldeneye, Goosander, Greylag goose, Mandarin duck, Mute swan, Pink-footed goose, Pintail, Red-breasted merganser, Shoveler, Smew, Teal, Tufted duck, Whooper swan and Wigeon. How many varieties can you spot?

### Look out for:

- |                  |                          |             |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Blackberries     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kingfishers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Butterflies      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Moorhens    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coots            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Otters      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Deer             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Red Kites   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dragonflies      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Squirrels   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ducks            | <input type="checkbox"/> |             |                          |
| Green Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> |             |                          |



### Feeding ducks

It is good for ducks to have a varied, healthy diet, so here's a list of things you can use to feed the ducks instead of bread:

- Sweetcorn • Frozen peas (defrosted)  
Lettuce • Rice • Oats • Wild bird seed**



This trail can be flooded in winter!