



Points of Interest ▶ General

Warmley Forest Park lies on the site of former extensive clay quarrying. Until recently it lay derelict, but is now popular with local residents for walks and runs.

Evidence of this industrial activity is in the form of earthbanks and ponds that represent filled in quarries. Piles of old bricks can also be seen at a number of locations within the park.

The areas adjacent to the Forest Park are also of interest, including features such as evidence of coalmining on Siston Common.

Alongside the Park are the remains of the Dramway and former Midland Railway line between Bristol and Bath (*now the Bristol and Bath Railway Path*)

The park and common are home to a surprisingly diverse range of plants and animals. Dragonflies and damselflies can be seen flitting across the ponds and in summer a display of wildflowers colour this beautiful area. A number of 'veteran' tree species can be seen on the section between the Forest Park and Siston Common.



Clay pipe works, Warmley

Points of Interest

A	Warmley Station	The signal box here is very well preserved. The sidings here were for coal and red ochre destined for the works at Wick. The station itself was declared redundant in 1965.
B	Midland Spinner Public House	This pub was formerly known as the Midland Railway Inn and was popular with local workers. The Warmley Crown Colliery was adjacent to the pub.
C	Evidence of quarrying for clay and the pottery industry	The peaceful surroundings of Warmley Forest Park as it is now contrasts greatly with the site fifty or more years ago when clay was quarried at the site. You can see evidence of this activity if you look carefully; depressions, small mounds and ponds.
D	Siston Common	Siston Common dates back to the time that most fields were enclosed in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Running alongside the road here remains of the Dramway can be seen in the form of limestone blocks. The common is designated as a site of importance for nature conservation, with many wildflowers and grasses offering food and shelter to insects, birds, bats and other mammals.
E	Siston Hill Colliery	The remains of this quarry can be seen alongside Norman Road.
F	The Dramway Path	The Dramway path is a 9 mile walk that follows sections of the route of a 19th Century tramway which carried coal from Coalpit Heath in the Bristol coalfield down to the River Avon. It was a horse drawn railway and got its name from the 'drams' or carts that carried the coal. Along this section you can see limestone blocks to which the tracks are fixed.

Points of Interest continued

G	Bristol and Bath Railway Path	This very popular 13 mile path, open to both cyclists and walkers was constructed on the track bed of the former Midland Railway which closed to passenger traffic towards the end of the 1960s.
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Within South Gloucestershire lie many hidden treasures that have helped shape the landscape as we know it today. Natural, industrial and cultural forces have played a part in making up the local environment that we live and work in.

Wild Roots is an innovative Heritage Lottery Funded, three year project that is working with local communities to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of South Gloucestershire.

www.southglos.gov.uk/wildroots ☎ 01454 863581

Further information

Friends of the Commons and Warmley Forest Park
www.southglos.gov.uk/friendsgroups ☎ 01454 868000

Kingswood Heritage Museum
www.kingswoodheritagemuseum.org.uk ☎ 0117 960 5664

Bristol to Bath Railway Path
www.bristolbathrailwaypath.org.uk
 Booklets about the Dramway and The Bristol to Bath Railway Path are available from South Gloucestershire Council

Walking the Way to Health in South Gloucestershire
www.southglos.gov.uk/walkingtohealth ☎ 01454 868006



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WALKING TO HEALTH Warmley Forest Park Heritage Walks



START/FINISH POINT

At **Warmley Station**, Station Close, off High Street, Warmley (A420). This is a disused station on what is now the Bristol to Bath Railway Path.

BUSES

43, 43a, 319, 634, 635

PARKING

In the Station Car Park

REFRESHMENTS

Pubs nearby in Warmley/Station Café (seasonal)

TOILETS

Next to the station





Longer Walk ▶ 2.5 miles

This lovely route affords great views towards Bath, the Cotswold escarpment and back into Kingswood. An area of great historical interest with sites including the Dramway, colliery workings and evidence of quarrying.

Warning: Parts of the route through Warmley Forest Park can get very muddy after rain, so sturdy walking boots are highly recommended.

- 1 At **Warmley Station (A)**, turn left out of car park onto the High Street and continue to reach the entrance to Warmley Forest Park after about 200 metres. You can see the **Midland Spinner Public House (B)** on the opposite side of the road.
- 2 Turn left to enter the Park near the access road opposite the 'Build Centre'. Go through an 'easy access' gate onto a path adjacent to Siston Brook.
- 3 Keep going on this path until you reach a large open area ahead and take a sharp left turn onto a gravel track. Hooks Pond is to your right. Continue to a track junction, turn right and ascend the hill.
- 4 At the top of the hill you can pause to admire the view southwards and to study **Evidence of quarrying (C)** around you.

- 5 Now go straight on into the woodland and join a grassy ride. This can be muddy so take care. Keep going on this to meet a path running roughly north-south. Veer slightly to the right to follow this path as it runs parallel to the hedgerow to your left.
- 6 At the top of the field, turn left and go through an 'easy access' gate. Then go straight on, following a faint grassy path which slopes downwards.
- 7 At a 3 way junction, take the right hand path and continue as it veers right around scrubby woodland and then parallel to a hedge. Keep going on this path so that the road is on your left and hedge on your right.
- 8 Upon reaching the road, cross carefully and veer left to descend a track marked as 'Siston Hill'. Descend to reach a bridge where you must cross the Ring Road to reach **Siston Common (D)**. On the opposite side, turn left down a track, descend to reach a road, cross and then descend again. Upon reaching the next road, cross the central reservation and turn left and continue along this cycle/walk way.
- 9 Keep going until you reach a tunnel under the Ring Road. Upon exiting the tunnel, go straight on and onto a wider track and then a paved road. At the roundabout, turn left and walk along the pavement. At the other side of the tunnel, turn right and cross the road. Go straight ahead onto a grassy path and keep going to reach a narrow road. If you look left you can see where **Siston Hill Colliery (E)** once stood. Cross this road, turn right and follow the signs for the '**Dramway Path (F)**' and continue through a tunnel.
- 10 Continue to reach a major path junction, turn right and go immediately through an 'easy access' gate.
- 11 Turn left and walk along the **Railway path (G)** to return to Warmley Station.



Warmley Forest Park and Siston Walks

Heritage walks - WALKING TO HEALTH



Shorter Walk

▶ 1 mile

Follow instructions 1-4 then

- 1 Turn left and walk parallel to the brow of the hill. Keep going to reach another gravel track. At this track turn left and descend. Just beyond the hard standing area to your right, go straight on and keep going as the path veers to the left.
- 2 Descend slightly to reach the **Dramway Path (E)** which crosses your route. Here turn left and continue on the Dramway back to the High Street. The start location is on your right.

