



POINTS OF INTEREST

General

The new housing estate of Emerson's Green contrasts greatly with the previous land use of the area, which was agricultural and industrial in nature. On first impression a brisk walk would reveal little about the area's heritage, but on closer inspection a wealth of information can be uncovered. Sculptures that hint at the area's industrial past, stone stiles that hide alongside newer field and premises boundaries, and buildings standing alone amongst the new development are just some of the features that can be discovered.

The area also benefits from a number of green spaces. The central Village Park area has a number of ponds and lakes created when the site was drained for development in the 1990s. A Green Lane has been created to the west of the Village Park and acts as a wildlife corridor for a number of species including hedgehogs and grey squirrels.

The area's name can be traced back to a family who farmed at Church Farm. The name first appeared in the Parish Records in 1743. Indeed, just a quick glance at a local map reveals that the developers have used local family names to name most of the new roads through the estate.



Further information

Downend Local History Society

For further information please phone Lincombe Barn on 0117 9562367 and enquire about the Society.
 ☒ www.downendlhs.org.uk/

Wild Roots

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
 ☎ Telephone: 01454 863581

Walking to Health

Walking to Health in South Gloucestershire aims to get residents more physically active by participating in regular health walks in their local areas. The project works with a team of volunteers and other projects such as Active South Gloucestershire and Exercise on Prescription.
 ☒ www.southglos.gov.uk/walkingtohealth
 ☎ Telephone: 01454 868006

Acknowledgements

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Walk Routes: Thanks to Val and Ralph Routley, Gail Lambert and many of the Walking to Health Volunteer Walk Leaders for helping to create and check the route.

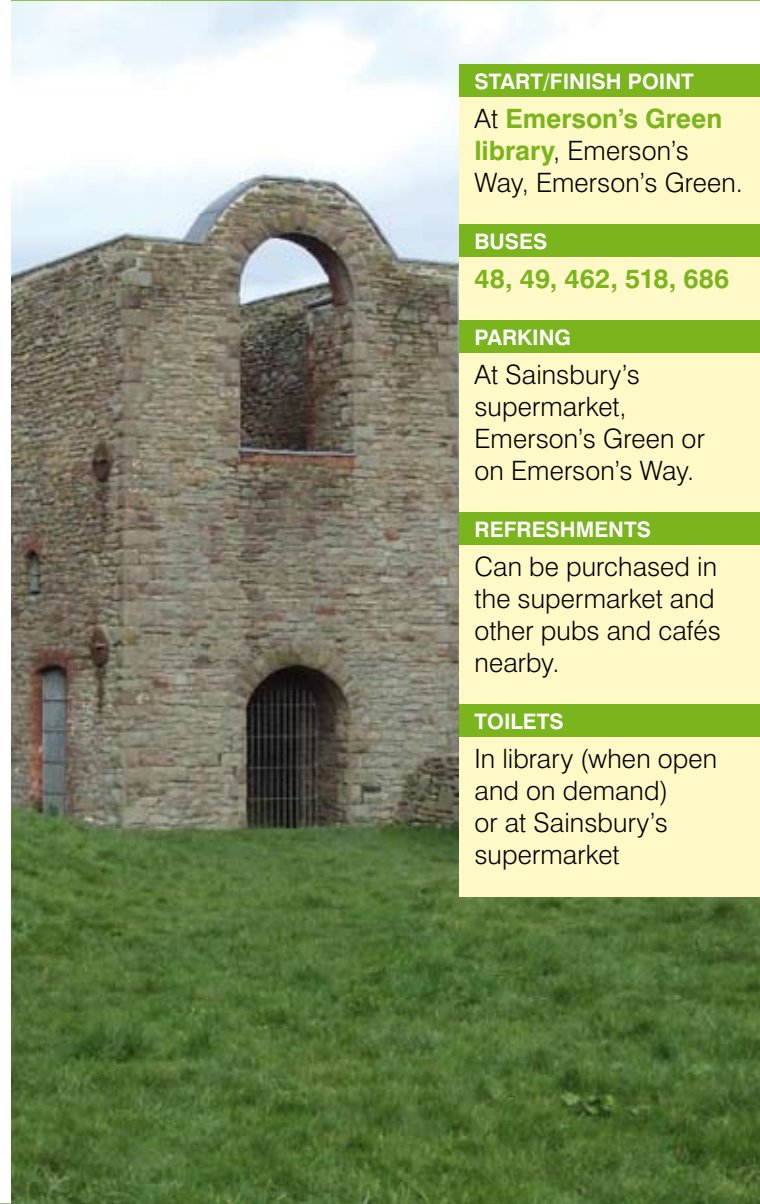
This information can be made available in other languages, in large print, Braille or on audio tape. Please phone 01454 868004 if you need any of these or any other help to access Council services.



WALKING TO HEALTH

Emerson's Green

WALKS



START/FINISH POINT

At Emerson's Green library, Emerson's Way, Emerson's Green.

BUSES

48, 49, 462, 518, 686

PARKING

At Sainsbury's supermarket, Emerson's Green or on Emerson's Way.

REFRESHMENTS

Can be purchased in the supermarket and other pubs and cafés nearby.

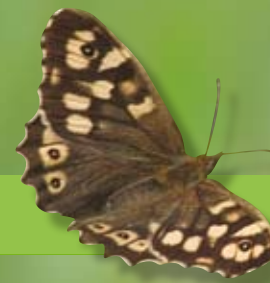
TOILETS

In library (when open and on demand) or at Sainsbury's supermarket



Emerson's Green

WALKING TO HEALTH

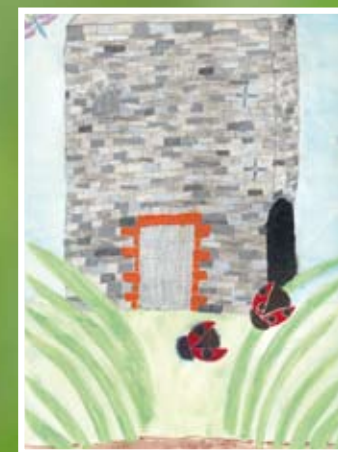


Sites en route

A	The Village Park	This very popular area of greenery benefits from a number of ponds and streams, which were created to reduce the risk of flooding and provide a haven for wildlife. Creatures such as mallards, moorhens and dragonflies can be seen moving amongst the reeds and other vegetation. The park has been designed to be 'all access', enabling wheelchairs and pushchairs to move easily around the site.
B	Langley Arms Pub	The Langley Arms was converted from its previous use as a barn in 1999. The barn was once part of the outbuildings of Dibden Farm which dates from the 1600s and was owned by the Langley family for several generations.
C	Green Lane	This thin strip of vegetation acts as a 'wildlife corridor' for animals travelling through the area and has been walked for generations. Its hedgerows and trees create a quiet refuge from the hustle and bustle of the nearby residential streets.
D	Emerson's Green Common	The open space of Emerson's Green common has a preservation order and is registered common land. It is cut once or twice a year to allow flowers to grow.
E	Vinney Green House	Built in 1897 for Alfred Scott, a mining engineer, this house was used as an isolation hospital until 1948. It is now used by South Gloucestershire Council as a centre for young people. Adjacent to the house and at the corner of Emerson's Green Lane and Richmond Road is the site of the long abandoned Wallsend Colliery. The coal here was mined for over 30 years, but was of a poor quality and as a consequence the mine was closed in 1907.
F	Church Farm Colliery Engine House	The Engine House is a striking visual reminder that this area was once home to a number of collieries. Church Farm Colliery operated successfully until 1891, when it was forced to close due to a lack of capital.
G	Stone Stile on Cossham Street	A number of preserved stone stiles remain around the Emerson's Green area. Others to look out for include a similar stile at the southern end of Johnson Road and stone steps leading up to The Common at the end of Homefield Close.
H	The Chain and Wheel Earthbank sculpture	This remarkable sculpture created by artist Lorna Green was built from the spoils of the new Emerson's Green development. It is one of the largest earthwork sculptures in the world, at over half a mile long. The shape relates to the chains of past industry in the area, and the split coal wheel of Pucklechurch, a reminder of past mining locally. At the northern end of the sculpture is a large earth mound which contains a time capsule created by children at Mangotsfield CE Primary School in 2001. The capsule will be re-opened in 2026.
I	'Now and Then' Sculpture	This steel sculpture commissioned by the developers was created by artist Steve Joyce with help from local people and Mangotsfield CE Primary School. It depicts the history of the local area and features castings of local residents' hands.



Illustrations by pupils from Emerson's Green School





Emersons Green

WALKING TO HEALTH



Longer Walk ▶ 2.75 miles

T A very varied route which takes in both the modern and historic aspects of Emerson's Green. The walk is mostly flat, but there is one steep climb up steps to reach the Earthbank, however this is optional.

- 1 Upon exiting the library, turn right to enter the **Village Park (A)** area. Go straight on until you reach the circle of hedges, where you should turn right.
- 2 Turn right at the T junction a few metres on and continue. At the path 'crossroads' turn left to walk in between play areas.
- 3 Turn right at the T junction beyond the play area and follow path as it twists its way through the greenery.
- 4 Upon reaching a gate that marks the exit of the Village Park turn left. **The Langley Arms (B)** pub is now on your right.
- 5 At the road, turn left, then left again down Berkeley Way. At T junction turn left down Cave Grove and head straight on to reach a path. Here you will see a sign for the '**Green Lane (C)**'. Turn right upon entering to go through wooden kissing gate and continue.
- 6 You will exit this sometimes muddy path onto **Emerson's Green Common (D)**. Here, turn right to walk along road. At the top of the common, turn left to walk along the upper edge of the common. **Vinney Green House (E)** can be accessed by going straight on at the top of the common.
- 7 Keep going straight on, then turn right at the first path leading off (opposite House number 8). At road, cross and continue in the same direction on another path skirting to the right of Mangotsfield Primary School.
- 8 At the end of this path you will see the **Church Farm Colliery Engine House (F)** ahead of you. Veer to the right of the Engine House and continue straight on.
- 9 Cross another road and keep straight on. Veer left at junction to join a more gravelled path and keep going.
- 10 Upon reaching Elmleigh Road, turn left to reach Cossham Street. In front of you is an **old stile (G)**. Turn left to walk along Cossham Street which becomes Pomphrey Hill.
- 11 Keep going (crossing Wadham Grove after a few hundred metres) until you are just before the bridge over the Ring Road. Here, turn left at blue sign for the 'Avon Cycleway'.
- 12 After a few metres you will see a set of steep steps off to your left up onto the **Chain and Wheel Earthbank Sculpture (H)**.



Dibden Farm (new Langley Arms pub) in 1984



Here, there are two options:

Option 1:

Climb the steps and walk along the top of the earthbank. At the end descend the slope, then follow instruction 13.

Option 2:

Continue straight on to join the Ring Road Cycle Path. Here turn left and continue with the earthbank on your left. At a 'crossroads', veer left up a slope following a blue signpost for 'Emersons Green', then follow instruction 13.

- 13 Ascend the tarmac path ahead. In front of you will see another **sculpture (I)** which was commissioned by the developers during the 1990s.

- 14 Here, turn right to walk down Johnson Road. Just before crossing Hallen Close, look to your right to see another old stile and gateposts.
- 15 Keep going, then turn right down Pinkers Mead to reach the dropped kerbs. Cross the road and go along a path marked by 2 green barriers.
- 16 Keep going straight on, eventually veering right, then left to return to the Village Park. Turn right here to return to the library.

Shorter Walk

▶ 1.25 miles

This shorter route is 'all access' and takes in a number of the historic sites in and around the central Village Park area.

Follow instructions 1-4 then

- 1 At the road, turn left and then veer right to continue along Guest Avenue.
- 2 Follow this as it veers left, crossing Denton Patch and Cave Grove. Just after crossing Cave Grove, turn off left on a cycle/pathway marked by two grey barriers.
- 3 Follow this path to reach Emerson's **Green Common (D)**, turn left and then straight on to return to Village Park.
- 4 Beyond the second set of barriers, turn right then left to return to the library.

