

Wildlife Safari Walk in South Abingdon



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This walk starts off just by the traffic lights for the first pedestrian crossing on Drayton road as you approach from the town centre. It is a longer walk so we suggest allowing 45 minutes to an hour to really make time to look out for the birds and wildlife. There is also a road to cross and the walk ends by the Thames so it's a walk for children accompanied by adults.

<p>Start of the walk</p>  <p>Nature changes quickly in spring, so enjoy spotting the signs of new life on your way. There is a lot to see (and hear) on this walk!</p>	<p>1. Celandine</p>  <p>You can find this bright yellow star-shaped flowers on path edges in early spring. They are mentioned in C. S. Lewis' <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> to show spring arriving when Aslan returns.</p>	<p>2. Hawthorn</p>  <p>In spring, the Hawthorn tree has lots of lovely smelling, white flowers that birds and insects love! When the flowers are pollinated, they turn into deep-red fruits known as 'haws'.</p>	<p>3. Lords and Ladies</p>  <p>Some of its flowers have tiny hairs that trap insects as they come to smell them. The plant covers the insects in pollen and then lets them fly away! (This plant is poisonous so please don't touch it)</p>
<p>4. Cherry Trees</p>  <p>Cherry trees generally tend to bloom for only a week or two each spring. So, check out the blossom while you can because it won't be around for long.</p>	<p>5. Logs</p>  <p>Lots of plants and insects can make their home in dead wood like this. Can you spot any beetles, hoverflies, moths, fungi, moss or lichen?</p>	<p>6. Rosemary in bloom</p>  <p>This is a well-known herb used in cooking. The purple nectar rich flowers in spring are a huge attraction for the bees. Can you smell the strong scent as you brush past?</p>	<p>7. Entrance to next part of the walk</p>  <p>Cross the road here, please look carefully in all directions for traffic. On the next part of the walk, you might see or hear different birds in the trees.</p>
<p>8. Horse Chestnut Trees</p>  <p>These trees have white/pink blossom and by May the large palmate (hand like) leaves will have grown. In autumn they will have conkers!</p>	<p>9. Birds to spot</p>    <p>You might see some birds now flying in and out of the trees. Spring is a busy time for birds as they make their nests and have their young. Look out for blackbirds and robins. Can you hear them singing?</p> <p>Or, can you see a red kite swooping and soaring in the sky? These birds of prey have a reddish-brown body, wings with a black tip, a forked tail and a high-pitched whistle sound.</p>		
<p>10. Purple or Red Dead Nettle</p>  <p>These nettles don't have a sting and bees love them!</p>	<p>11. River birds</p>    <p>There are lots of river birds to see and maybe some spring babies, but stay back from the edge! Canada geese build their nests on the ground near water and just a few hours after the eggs hatch the goslings will leave the nest and learn how to swim. Swans will have built their nests by now so you might spot some cygnets (young swans) and keep an eye out for fluffy ducklings.</p>		