



1. Entrance from car park at Strouds Hill
2. Steps to Church St
3. Path from Church St
4. Daniel's Garden
5. Stream
6. Wildlife Pond
7. Orchard
8. Cuckoo Bridge, leading to Hodson Rd
9. Path to Mill Bottom
10. Wildflower area
11. Ephemeral Pond
12. The Island
13. Paths to Mill Bottom
14. Butts Road Business Park (Private)
15. Sheep Huts



Finding us

The grid reference for Washpool is:
SU 18718 79806

If using What3Words the reference is:
thick.closet.number

Parking

Visitors can park in the Strouds Hill Car Park (SN4 0NH), at the junction of High Street and Station Road, Chiseldon.

Access

From the Strouds Hill Car Park - cross Strouds Hill and turn left, following the footpath past the row of cottages and down the steep slope into Washpool.

From Butts Road - follow the track signed 'Church Car Park and Butts Road Business Centre'. Ignore the lefthand fork and continue down the track to the Butts Road Business Centre. Cross the car park and continue to a T junction. Turn right then left, following the steep track down into Washpool.

From Hodson Road - At the bend at the edge of the village (near the 30mph sign), pick up the bridleway and follow it downhill under the old railway bridge into Washpool.

Chiseldon Washpool



A hidden haven for people and wildlife
at the heart of a North Wiltshire village



History

Washpool sits at the heart of Chiseldon and the valley in which it is situated gave the village its name – which is taken from the Saxon 'Ceoseldene' meaning 'stoney valley'.

The stream that flows through the site is a tributary of the River Cole, which flows into the Thames near Lechlade. In medieval times it was open common land and after the Enclosure Act of 1780 it became part of the Burderop Estate.

Flocks of sheep were brought down from the surrounding hillsides to be washed - hence the name – and the village pound for stray livestock was situated here. The site has also hosted more exotic animals, such as elephants from a travelling menagerie which were brought down to the stream to drink!



Restoration

Although the valley has always been an important area for recreation, it has little commercial value so, over time, it became overgrown, neglected and prone to flooding. In 2006 a group of residents approached the Parish Council to request that something be done and the Washpool Area Restoration Project (WARP) was born! Since then the site has been lovingly restored and now includes a network of paths, native hedges, a pond, a bog garden and a small orchard underplanted with wildflowers.



Our sheep

A small flock of rare breed sheep lives on the steep hillside, helping us to keep it clear. They also go on 'holiday' from time to time - when we move them to a flat area known as 'The Island'.

Brynn and Brock are Badgerfaced Welsh Mountain Sheep, Eric and Ernie are Herdwicks, and Ross and Cromarty are Soays.

Things you might see

Washpool is home to lots of native wildlife. See how many of these you can spot!

Mammals - Muntjac Deer, Grey Squirrels

Birds - Red Kite, Buzzards, Greater Spotted Woodpeckers, Robins, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Marsh Tits, Long Tailed Tits, Cole Tits, Grey Wagtails, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Chiff Chaff, White Throated Willow Warbler, Dunnock, Flycatchers, Nuthatch, Wrens, Jays, Raven, Heron

Butterflies - Brimstone, Orange Tip, Gatekeeper, Peacock, Red Admiral, Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Comma Common Blue, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Tiger Moth

Insects- Honey Bees, Hornets, Bumble Bees
Emperor Dragonflies, Broad Bodied Chasers

Amphibians- Smooth Newt Common Toad Common Frog

Wildflowers- Snowdrop, Red Campion, Primrose, Cowslip, Purple Loosestrife, Golden Saxifrage, Coltsfoot, Oxeye Daisy, Salad Burnet, Comfrey, Soapwort, Yellow Flag, Water Forget-me-knot, King Cup, Brooklime, Ragged Robin, Marsh Woundwort

Help out

If you live locally and would like to help Washpool, we run regular volunteer days throughout the year – usually on a Sunday. You can join us for as little as half an hour and all tools and equipment are provided, as is tea and cake!

There is also an option to become a friend of Washpool. For a small annual donation you can support our work and access special 'friends' events.

Find out more on our Facebook page, or via the village magazine – The Ridgeway Bell.

Contact us

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07946 729174

www.facebook.com/WashpoolARP

