

# Start and Finish at Fairlands Valley Park

## 1 Fairlands Valley Park

The 1966 New Town Master Plan outlined how the park would become the town's principal area of recreation, with artificially created lakes as well as green spaces and was created in 1971.

## 2 Polar Bear by Mark Harvey

The Polar Bear, made of Portland stone, is one of the best known sculptures in town. It was placed in the Glebe in 1964. Most of Harvey's sculptures have not survived because they were made of wood.

## 3 Three Geese by David Noble

This sculpture was made of reinforced concrete with a resin coating. Noble, who was also part of Digswell Arts Trust, also sculpted Seated Figures, which is at The Towers.

## 4 Shephall Green

Shephall Green comprises the original triangular village green and settlement directly around it. The area was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.

## 5 Broadwater Neighbourhood Centre

Broadwater Neighbourhood Centre also best illustrates a Stevenage New Town neighbourhood. This approach to community living included a shopping centre, pub, green spaces and other amenities.

## 6 Shephalbury Manor and Coptic Church

This manor had many uses over the years. In its early days, it was a family home for the lords of Shephalbury, until it was sold in 1939.

## 7 Roebuck Inn

This is 1 of only 10 Grade II listed buildings in Stevenage. This beautiful timber-framed building dates to the 15th century, with 16th and 17th century additions.

## 8 The Fossil Tree by John Mills

The Millennium Milepost was unveiled in 2000 as part of the millennium longest cycle ride event!

## 9 Underpass Number 1

This is very significant in cycling history. It was the first underpass built after cyclists blockaded the A1 to demand their right to access, which resulted in the planning and construction of Stevenage cycleways.

## 10 Six Hills

Six Hills are a collection of Roman barrows that date from about 100 AD and probably marked the cremated remains of a local wealthy family.

## 11 FIRA Building

The New Town's pioneering post-war ambitions attracted the Furniture Industry Research Association to build their headquarters here, designed by one of Britain's leading post-war practices: HKPA.

## 12 John Lewis Warehouse/Costco

Stevenage also attracted John Lewis, who built this building in 1963.

## 13 Robot Family by Simon Jones

Simon Jones has done a number of other sculptures in the Symonds Green area during his time with the Stevenage Development Corporation from 1974-1980, including Playing Cards, Wonky Clock, and others.

## 14 The Avenue

The gates to The Avenue were restored in 2015 by the Stevenage Society for Local History! Notice the panel at the entrance for more information on its history.

## 15 Town Centre Gardens and Women and Doves

The Town Centre Gardens are a fine example of the many green spaces provided through New Town planning. It combines both natural pre-existing features, such as trees and a natural spring, with landscape design.

## 16 Scenes from Everyday Life by William Mitchell

The cycleways' use of concrete, played with to create a variety of textures, must have intrigued the artist William Mitchell – a giant of post-war public art, who also worked extensively in concrete – because he was commissioned in 1973 to produce this relief about modernism and public life.

## 17,18 Joyride and Lewis Silkin

Located on the Clock Tower and Fountain is a bronze relief of Lewis Silkin, who was the driving force for the New Towns Act 1946 as Minister of Town and Country Planning.

Adjacent to the Clock Tower and on the raised platform is the bronze Joyride sculpture, symbolic of the New Town being carried by the Old Town.

The Clock Tower and Fountain, Joyride, and surrounding buildings are iconic symbols of Stevenage New Town. The spatial planning and architectural design that went into the Town Centre was all very cutting-edge for its time.

## 19,20 St Andrew & St George and An Urban Elephant

Stevenage's St Andrew & St George – the country's largest parish church built since the Second World War – was designed by the famous architects Seely and Paget and was both ceremonially started and consecrated by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

## 21 Totem Poles by Dennis Heath

These sculptures were made of Larch wood and carved with a chainsaw. Dennis Heath was a member of the Digswell Arts Trust at the adjacent Fairlands Farmhouse.

## Stevenage Cycleways History

Stevenage was designated in 1946 as Britain's first New Town, which was a movement centred on progressive social reforms to address inequality (particularly the impoverished and bombed-out living conditions for many people living in London). Stevenage New Town was a new vision of modern living in which all people have fair access to housing, employment, green spaces, shops, services, and art – all connected by easy transport links.

## Acknowledgements

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All photos are supplied by Stevenage Museum, unless stated otherwise.

## STEVENAGE Cycling FESTIVAL

# Stevenage Heritage Bike Ride





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