

TERESA DOLAN

Sometimes, paths cross and make a powerful node.¹

That's certainly the case at the Swan Island, the 1960's roundabout and underpass which stands at the intersection of the A45 (Coventry Road) and the A4040 (Outer Circle route).

The Roundabout (and adjoining shopping centre) was named after the Swan Public House, which stood on the corner of Yardley Road and Coventry Road. However, like the road itself, the original pub was demolished and rebuilt in a 1960s style, only to meet its own demise in the 1990s when it was replaced by an office block. Thankfully the underpass remains intact. The Island provides three, multi-layered paths. The first is at ground level, and is the roundabout for motorists seeking to join or leave the A45 and connect with the A4040. The second is the underpass, which allows motorists to continue on the A45 below ground, without the inconvenience of traffic lights or queues.

There is then a footbridge for pedestrians, sandwiched between the road and the underpass. The central footbridge is connected at each end to two smaller footbridges, each of which snake round into short subway tunnels, that in turn have slopes up to ground level. The footbridge even has benches for pedestrians to use.

The intertwining curves of the island and footbridge are striking at all times of the day. However, they are even more appealing after dark, when the road and traffic lights illuminate their design and show off the layered paths at their best.

On the evening I visited, there was a vivid winter sunset that created an extra red glow. The effect on the paths was dramatic.

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1] This was first submitted as a path.