

Salisbury to Amesbury (via Old Sarum and Stonehenge)			Salisbury to Amesbury (Shortcuts & Extensions)		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check	1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
13 th Jan. 2023			01 st August 2023		
Current status	Document last updated Thursday, 19 th September 2024				
<p>This document and information herein are copyrighted to Saturday Walkers’ Club. If you are interested in printing or displaying any of this material, Saturday Walkers’ Club grants permission to use, copy, and distribute this document delivered from this World Wide Web server with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The document will not be edited or abridged, and the material will be produced exactly as it appears. Modification of the material or use of it for any other purpose is a violation of our copyright and other proprietary rights.• Reproduction of this document is for free distribution and will not be sold.• This permission is granted for a one-time distribution.• All copies, links, or pages of the documents must carry the following copyright notice and this permission notice: <p>Saturday Walkers’ Club, Copyright © 2009-2024, used with permission. All rights reserved. www.walkingclub.org.uk</p>					
This walk has been checked as noted above, however the publisher cannot accept responsibility for any problems encountered by readers.					

Salisbury to Amesbury (via Old Sarum and Stonehenge)

Start: Salisbury Station

Finish: Amesbury, Library Bus Stop

Salisbury Station, map reference SU 136 301, is 125 km south west of Charing Cross and 51m above sea level. Amesbury, Library Bus Stop, map reference SU 155 414, is 11 km north east of Salisbury and 71m above sea level. Both are in **Wiltshire**.

Length: 26.0 km (16.1 mi)

Cumulative ascent/descent: 288/268m.

For a longer or shorter walk, see below **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 5 out of 10

Time: 6 hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 10 ½ hours.

Transport: Salisbury Station is on the London Waterloo to Exeter St. David's West of England Main Line. Journey times are 83 or 90 minutes Monday to Saturday (half-hourly) and 88 minutes on Sunday (hourly). Amesbury, Library Bus Stop is served by several lines going to Salisbury, Blue Boar Row: Activ8 (from Andover, hourly Mon-Sat and 8 buses on Sun), X4 (from Larkhill, half-hourly Mon-Sat and hourly Sun) and X5 (from Swindon, every 90 mins Mon-Sat). Journey time from 19 minutes.

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train closest to 9.20 hours.

OS Landranger Map: 184 (Salisbury & The Plain)

OS Explorer Map: 130 (Salisbury & Stonehenge)

Walk Notes:

This walk mostly follows the Avon Valley upstream from the quintessentially English Cathedral City of Salisbury with its many historic buildings, to Amesbury which claims to be the oldest occupied settlement in Great Britain, having been first settled around 8820 BCE. En route you rise out of the valley to the site of Salisbury's earlier incarnation: Old Sarum, with its impressive hilltop location, banks and ditches, ruined remains of an earlier cathedral and supreme views across the Avon Valley and to the modern town. A meandering route to the lunch pubs then crosses and recrosses the Avon while passing through several twee villages, dominated by mills, thatched walls and cottages and several impressive grand homes.

You then bear away from the Avon Valley to enter the very evocative Stonehenge World Heritage Site with its numerous pre-historic monuments: barrow cemeteries, large linear or non-linear earthworks and wooden and stone henges. All but two of the fifteen most prominent monuments in the Stonehenge area, as well as many more minor sites, are either passed on, or can at least be spotted from, the main walk or the various extensions and shortcuts.

The Amesbury to Salisbury return is covered by three bus lines, with a frequent daily service between them.

Walk Options:

Cut out the out-and-back to Salisbury Cathedral and the nearby historic buildings: cuts 600m.

Bus Lines Activ8, X4 and X5 stop at 'Old Sarum Estate, Old Castle', **enabling a start at Old Sarum**, 5.0 km into the walk: follow the walk directions as far as the Blue Boar Row bus stops in Salisbury and from the bus stop at Old Sarum, continue in the direction of travel for about 100m to the end of a layby, and *bear left* along a footpath, then pick up the directions in the text at the asterisk *).

At Old Sarum, an easier route along the flank of the hill avoids the steep descent off the far side of the outer slope of the hillfort site, but also cuts out the castle site itself and the old cathedral ruins.

Occasional Bus Line 201 (Salisbury – Figheldean, late lunch Tue and Fri and mid-afternoon Mon to Fri) travels up the Avon Valley to Amesbury, with a diversion into Netton hamlet. Several bus stops are on or close to the walk route. These are shown on the route map.

Morning Shortcut (cut 2.2 km and 12m ascent): this cuts out the Little Durnford Manor estate and the first of two lunch pubs, staying up on the downs to the east of the Avon Valley.

Loops of various length through the interesting Devenish Nature Reserve are possible after 900m of road walking from near Little Durnford Manor. A suggested 2.0 km loop with 75m ascent is described. You could then either walk back along the lane to commence the Main Walk route, or continue for 650m in the other direction to Salterton Farm and pick up the Main Walk there (cutting out the Little Durnford Manor estate and the first of two lunch pubs).

Afternoon Shortcut (cut 2.3 km and 14m ascent): avoid the perilous crossing of the A303 and the core of the Stonehenge World Heritage site, from Normanton Down where the stone henge first appears into view. Initially, you have extensive views of the Normanton Down Barrow Cemetery and of Stonehenge itself, and you see more of the historic centre of Amesbury on this route than on the Main Walk.

Three Extensions/Variations are described within the core of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site.

Between them, they are leading to all of the important outlying monuments that can sensibly be included.

- **Cursus Barrow Cemetery and Western Cursus** (adds 2.5 km);
- **Eastern Cursus** (adds 600m);
- **Woodhenge and Durrington Walls** (adds 3.5 km).

Lunch (details last updated 10/01/2023)

The Wheatsheaf Inn Lower Woodford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6NQ (01722 782 203, <https://www.wheatsheaflowerwoodford.co.uk/>). The Wheatsheaf is located 10.7 km (6.7 mi) into the walk. Open all day every day. Food served all day. A Hall & Woodhouse pub.

The Bridge Inn Upper Woodford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6NU (01722 783 203, <https://www.bridgeinn-woodfordvalley.co.uk/>). The Bridge is located 13.4 km (8.3 mi) into the full walk or 11.2 km (7.0 mi) if walking the Morning Shortcut. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.30 every day and 17.30-20.00 Mon-Sat.

Tea (details last updated 19/09/2024)

In Amesbury:

Spuntino Units 4 & 5, Stonehenge Walk, Amesbury, Salisbury SP4 7DB (01980 623 721, <https://spuntinoamesbury.co.uk/>). Open from 12.00-14.30 and 17.00 Mon-Sat and all day Sun.

The George Hotel and Pub High Street, Amesbury, SP4 7ET (01980 622 108, <https://george-amesbury.co.uk/>).

The New Inn 10 High Street, Amesbury, SP4 7DL (01980 258 070). Completely refurbished and under new management as of 05/22. Open all day every day.

Piazza Restaurant 11-14 Abbey Square, Stonehenge Walk, Amesbury, Salisbury SP4 7ES (01980 761 968, <https://piazzaamesbury.co.uk/>). Open from 17.00 Tue-Fri and all day Sat-Sun.

The King's Arms 7 Church Street, Amesbury, SP4 7EZ (01980 669 479, <https://kingsarmsonline.co.uk/>).

The Bell 13-15 Salisbury Street, Amesbury, SP4 7AW (01980 677 700, <https://www.jdwetherspoon.com/pubs/all-pubs/england/wiltshire/the-bell-amesbury>). A Wetherspoon's.

In Salisbury:

Plenty of options around the **Market Square/Blue Boar Row** bus terminus, 900m from the station, plus **SIPS** craft ale bar and three pubs **on Bridge Street**: **The Bishop's Mill** (<https://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/wiltshire/bishops-mill/>), **The King's Head** (Wetherspoon) and **The Bridge Tap**.

Close to the Railway Station: **Deacons** (<https://www.deaconssalisbury.com/>, best of the wet-led pubs and **CAMRA South Wilts POTY 2020**, on Fisherton Street just before the turning for the station);

The Shah Jahan (<https://www.sjsalisbury.co.uk/>, on South Western Road, an Indian Restaurant with

Take-Out option); **Caboose** (<https://www.caboosesalisbury.com/>, a 'parlour bar' next to The Shah Jahan);

Hettie Bells (the former Railway Tavern, now an all-day café, bar and pub, serving burgers and the likes).

Notes:

Salisbury

Known as 'the city in the countryside', Salisbury is surrounded by a landscape so quintessentially English it's almost too good to be true, with timbered buildings, an Early English Gothic Cathedral home to the famous Magna Carta, a thriving market, a buzzing arts scene, museums and some of England's finest historic houses. Within the celebrated Cathedral Close you'll find Arundells, Mompesson House, The Rifles Military Museum and the award-winning Salisbury Museum with its Wessex Gallery. The city is located in the southeast of Wiltshire, near the edge of Salisbury Plain. Its cathedral was formerly located to the north at Old Sarum; following its relocation, a settlement grew up around it, drawing residents from Old Sarum and Wilton. The new town received its city charter in 1227 under the name New Sarum, which continued to be its official name until 2009. It sits at the confluence of five rivers: the Nadder, Ebble, Wylye, and Bourne are tributary to the Hampshire Avon, which flows to the south coast and into the sea at Christchurch in Dorset.

The (Hampshire) Avon River

The Avon is 96 km (60 mi) long and begins as two separate rivers. The western Avon rises to the east of Devizes, draining the Vale of Pewsey, and the eastern Avon rises just east of Pewsey adjacent to the Kennet and Avon Canal. These two merge at Upavon, flowing southwards across Salisbury Plain through Durrington, Amesbury and Salisbury. To the south of Salisbury it enters the Hampshire Basin, flowing along the western edge of the New Forest before meeting up with the river Stour at Christchurch, to flow into Christchurch Harbour and the Channel at Mudeford.

All the significant direct and indirect tributaries of the Avon, including the Nadder, Wylye, Bourne and Ebble, converge within a short distance around Salisbury.

The Avon is thought to contain more species of fish than any other river in Britain.

Salisbury Cathedral

The first Salisbury Cathedral was completed at Old Sarum, to the North of present day Salisbury, in 1092 under Osmund, the first Bishop of Salisbury. The Domesday Book is thought to have been presented to William the Conqueror at Old Sarum a few years earlier, in 1086. Disputes with the military and scarce water supplies led to an alternative location being sought and in 1220 a new site for the Cathedral was consecrated at New Sarum on the banks of the River Avon. It is formally known as the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and one of the leading examples of Early English architecture. The main body of the cathedral was completed in only 38 years and is therefore the only English cathedral built in one go. It is one of England's finest Gothic cathedrals with Britain's tallest spire (123m).

The cathedral also has the largest cloister and the largest cathedral close in Britain (320,000 m²). It contains the world's oldest working clock (from AD 1386) and has the best surviving of the four original copies of Magna Carta.

Open 10.00-16.30 Mon-Sat (10.30-16.00 Sun). <http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/>

Mompesson House

Mompesson House, 'The House in The Close', is a perfect example of Queen Anne architecture and was built for Charles Mompesson in 1701. It is noted for its elegant and spacious interior, especially the magnificent plasterwork and fine oak staircase. In addition, the Turnbull collection of 18th-century drinking glasses is of national importance. The delightful walled garden has a pergola and traditionally planted herbaceous borders. Mompesson House featured in the 1995 award-winning film adaptation of 'Sense and Sensibility'.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mompesson-house/>

The Wardrobe

The Wardrobe, which contains traces of a substantial medieval hall, was once the Bishop's storehouse and so got its name. It has been a house since before 1600, mostly let by the Dean and Chapter to laymen, who formed in it some very handsome rooms. Nowadays used by The Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum.

Arundells

Arundells – the home of former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath KG MBE – reflects his time in public office and contains his collections of paintings, (including Wyllie, Singer Sargent, Piper, Churchill, Sickert, Augustus and Gwen John, John Nash, Lowry and many more), sailing and musical memorabilia, Oriental and European ceramics, cartoons, bronzes, Chinese and Japanese artworks, photographs and much more, just as they were when he lived there, along with access to the beautiful 8,000 m² garden.

<http://www.arundells.org/>

Pewsey Avon Trail (PAT)

The PAT is waymarked 45 km (28 mi) long-distance walking route that broadly follows the (Hampshire) River Avon along existing rights of way from Pewsey's King Alfred Statue to Salisbury's Cathedral. There the trail connects to the 55 km Avon Valley Path to Christchurch. The route was devised by Natural England's Living River Project for Pewsey Parish Council, in memory of Pat Beresford, a countryside campaigner.

Sarsen Way

The Sarsen Way is waymarked 80 km (50 mi) multi-day walking route across Wiltshire linking Barbury Castle with Salisbury Cathedral (although its start is a bus stop on the outskirts of Swindon). The route bypasses Avebury and Stonehenge but passes Alton Barnes White Horse, The Sanctuary, the Wansdyke, Adam's Grave, Casterley Camp and Old Sarum. En-route it meanders along the Avon Valley, passes through Amesbury and along Salisbury Plain. It is part of a family of routes under the Great Chalk Way umbrella.

Old Sarum

Old Sarum is the now ruined and deserted site of the earliest settlement of Salisbury. Situated on a hill about three kilometres north of modern Salisbury, the settlement appears in some of the earliest records in the country. A bi-vallate Iron Age hillfort was erected around 400 BCE, controlling the intersection of two trade routes and the Hampshire Avon. The Romans converted the routes into roads. The Saxons took the then British fort in the 6th century, but preferred settling in the plain near Wilton before later using it as a stronghold against marauding Vikings. The Normans constructed a motte and bailey castle, a stone curtain wall, and a great cathedral.

A royal palace was built within Old Sarum Castle for King Henry I and was subsequently used by Plantagenet monarchs. This heyday of the settlement lasted for around 300 years until disputes between the Sheriff of Wiltshire and the Bishop of Salisbury finally led to the removal of the church into the nearby plain. As New Sarum grew up around the construction site for the new cathedral in the early 13th century, the buildings of Old Sarum were dismantled for stone and the old town dwindled. Its long-neglected castle was abandoned by Edward II in 1322 and sold by Henry VIII in 1514.

Although the settlement was effectively uninhabited, its landowners continued to have parliamentary representation into the 19th century, making it one of the most notorious of the rotten boroughs that existed before the Reform Act of 1832. It served as a pocket borough of the Pitt family.

The 'Sarum' name seems to be a corruption of the medieval Latin and Norman forms of the name Salisbury, with its first known appearance dating to 1239.

A reconstruction of Old Sarum in the 12th century is housed at Salisbury Cathedral.

It is now an English Heritage property and open to the public daily except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Monarch's Way

The Monarch's Way is a waymarked linear 990 km (615 mi) long-distance footpath in England that approximates the escape route taken by King Charles II in 1651 after being defeated in the Battle of Worcester. It runs from Worcester via Bristol and Yeovil to Brighton. The waymark is yellow and shows a picture of the ship The Surprise above the Prince of Wales's three-point feathered crown which is superimposed on a Royal Oak tree (which is at Boscobel House) in black.

Stonehenge World Heritage Site

Although about 25 km apart, Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites together form a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS), with dozens of large and well-known monuments, hundreds of smaller archaeological features and a total of 160 Scheduled Monuments between them. The Stonehenge area within the WHS covers an area of 26 km² and is centred on the prehistoric monument of Stonehenge.

Ownership is shared between English Heritage, the National Trust, the MOD, the RSPB, Wiltshire Council, private individuals and farmers.

There is proof that the area – then still wooded – was settled since the Mesolithic (or Middle Stone Age), from about 8000 BCE, and some postholes identified from that time may already have had a ritualistic significance, being aligned west to east. From about 4000 years later, in the early Neolithic, large linear earthworks or non-linear enclosures and ritualistic burial sites as well as wooden and stone henges started to be built, some of which can still be seen in a state close to their then appearance, although often much lessened by soil erosion, partial ploughing, stone pilfering and grave robberies. Others have even been completely plundered or ploughed under or have simply rotten away without a trace.

The highly complicated timeline of developments and details of the individual monuments as well as their known or perceived significance does not lend itself to a short summary in this context, especially as archaeological methods are still constantly and rapidly evolving and new finds, facts and theories change the narrative on a regular basis to this day.

A good starting point for understanding Stonehenge are the Wikipedia entrances for the World Heritage Site (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonehenge%2C_Avebury_and_Associated_Sites) and for Stonehenge itself (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonehenge>), with links to individual pages for all the other monuments passed on this walk, but there naturally are plenty of more detailed brochures and books available to buy. A very useful map for the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS in a 1:10,000 scale is published by English Heritage. Further details of individual pre-historic monuments, including interactive maps and some photos, can best be found on these two websites: The Megalithic Portal (<https://www.megalithic.co.uk>) and The Modern Antiquarian (<https://www.themodernantiquarian.com>).

Mesolithic and Neolithic sites (with or without visible remains) that are passed on, or can be seen from, the walk's routes and options are highlighted in the text in **dark green and bold** type.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train in **Salisbury Station** and leave it through the station building onto the large forecourt and car park. *Turn left* down **South Western Road** and in 160m *turn right* to cross **Dews Road** and go down **Fisherton Street** along its right-hand pavement. In 150m, just before crossing an arm of the **River Avon**, *turn right* along a narrow tarmac path (**Water Lane**), with the river arm on your left. In 160m, with **Salisbury Cathedral**'s spire visible ahead, you *turn left* along **Crane Bridge Road** at a T-junction and in 170m cross the main arm of the Avon. In another 130m you reach a four-way junction with **High Street**.

Here you have a choice:

For an 300m each way out-and-back to the Cathedral and the nearby historic buildings, *turn right* along **High Street**. In 40m walk through the ancient gate to the **Cathedral Precinct** and in 50m pass by **Choristers Green** on the right, with **Mompesson House** (NT), **The Wardrobe** and **Arundells** (former home of PM Sir Edward Heath) around the green and to the left of it. In 60m you walk through a gap to the left of a white wooden car gate and continue in the same direction to the right of the Cathedral and reach the entrance gate in 150m. Return to the four-way junction and continue in the same direction across Crane Bridge Road, along the pedestrianised part of High Street and pick up directions a few lines below ("In 130m...").

For the Direct Onwards Route, *turn left* along the pedestrianised part of High Street.

In 130m cross Fisherton Street/Silver Street, and continue in the same direction along a pedestrianised street. In 30m, at a **Côte Brasserie** branch by **St. Thomas Becket church** on the right, a wide path turns left, with a narrow path continuing ahead.

Here you have a choice:

To catch a bus to Old Sarum: Continue ahead along the narrow path to the left of the church and follow it around to the right. Cross **Minster Street** using pedestrian lights to go to **Blue Boar Row**, the road running to the left of the **Market Square** and *turn right* along it. Buses to Old Sarum depart **from the third bus stand along: N**.

For the Walk Route, *turn left* along the wide path (signed 'Riverside Walk') and re-cross the Avon River by **SIPS** craft ale bar (with **The Bishop's Mill** pub also on the left) to *turn right* along the riverside path (a shared cycleway) for 1.0 kilometres, crossing several minor roads and going under road and rail bridges in the process. Eventually you enter **Ashley Road Open Space** by a sign and info panel and continue along a tarmac path, still along the river. In 80m, by a two-railed footbridge over the river and where the path bears sharply left as a gravel path, **[!]** you *turn right* across the river over the footbridge with a **National Cycle Network Route 45** sign. Once over the bridge, **[!]** immediately *turn left* along a well-worn footpath with the river now on your left, and with **Five Rivers Leisure Centre** away to the right.

Follow this path for 800m through the **Avon Valley Nature Reserve**, ignoring all paths off to the right onto higher ground, until the path itself swings right. You then pass some allotments and after 240m *turn left* along a shared tarmac cycleway/footpath. In 200m, cross **Stratford Road** at a bend and *turn right* along the opposite pavement, signed 'Old Sarum ½'. In 100m pass a **bus stop for rare services to the Woodfords and to Amesbury** (Tue and Fri late lunch) and in 50m by a thatched cottage on your left, continue in the same direction up an ancient enclosed trackway (The Portway).

In 30m ignore a signposted public footpath turning left and in another 50m continue in the same direction with the signposted Restricted Byway, ignoring a right turn into a large grassy sports field. [**Note:** in high summer you may find the coming pathway overgrown and partially blocked by fallen bushes. In that case, walk parallel to the track in the large open grassy area to the right.] In 200m you pass the **William Pitt Stone**, with a plaque explaining the rotten nature of Old Sarum parliamentary constituency, with at times no resident voters at all! Immediately ignore a path to the left through a wooden kissing gate and continue uphill for another 260m. With a main road up ahead, *turn left* up some steps through bushes and *turn right* across a pasture diagonally to its upper-left corner 170m away. The **Pewsey Avon Trail** (PAT) joins from the left. In another 25m you *turn left* along a car wide track at a T-junction (NCN Route 45 again).

***)** In 70m go through a wooden gate with a PAT marker, now with the outer banks and ditches of **Old Sarum** in front of you. *Bear right* with the path and in 50m cross the outer ditch on the path and go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate onto a tarmac drive at a bend.

Here you have a choice:

To avoid Old Sarum and the steep descent off the high bank on the far side, continue in the same direction, in 15m ignoring a gate on your left and a path leading onto the outer bank. Continue down the tarmac drive and in 40m where it turns sharply right you follow a bridleway and NCN 45 signpost to your left to go through a couple of wooden gates (with PAT and **Sarsen Way** markers) and continue down an enclosed path for 400m, gently descending to the right of the castle site to a road. Cross the road to a car wide farm track opposite and go through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate. Pick up the directions three paragraphs below ("You continue ahead...").

For the Main Walk, *turn left* up the tarmac drive and in 80m reach the car park of Old Sarum (with public toilets). Continue towards the ditch around the (ticketed) **Norman Castle** area, in 40m and in another 30m passing some info panels, and *turn left* along it, with very **fine views** from this elevated position into and across the Avon Valley and to Salisbury with the Cathedral's spire sticking out. In 250m *veer left* (340°) away from the inner ditch towards an info panel 70m away. **The route will continue** 70m away to the left down a descending track through the outer bank. **But first,** *turn right* from the info panel towards the large ruins of the old Cathedral, with several additional info panels. Afterwards, *bear left* from the initial info panel to the causeway running in a dip and *turn right* along it (285°) to go through the outer bank of the site. At a T-junction with a public footpath along the top of the outer slope of the site, *turn right* and in 80m go through a wooden kissing gate. You can see a road below and a car wide farm track between large arable fields on the other side of it. That is **the onward route**.

In 230m in a dip, **[!]** *turn sharp left* steeply down the grassy bank and in 30m *turn left* along a clear grass path at a lesser gradient towards a stile visible by the road. Go over the stile and *turn right* along the road. In 140m, the PAT and NCN 45 cross and you *turn left* with them across the road to continue along the car wide farm track through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate. You continue ahead on this track for the next 1.7 kilometres to a four-way track junction just before the thatched **Keeper's Cottage**. **In more detail:** In 500m you pass a water treatment plant on the right and then a cottage at **Shepherd's Corner**. The track starts a steady but gentle ascent, providing for **fine views back to Old Sarum**. In 600m the track levels out and in about 200m you start to descend. In 270m you reach the signposted four-way track junction, where a public footpath crosses the bridleway.

Here you have a choice:

For the Morning Shortcut, continue in the same direction to in 30m pass Keepers Cottage and in 20m *fork right* to in 60m emerge into a large arable field and continue gently uphill on a wide track through the field, with the wood on the left harbouring **The Devenish Nature Reserve** (access from the valley road only). In 380m the track curves to the right and in 300m you pass a (mis-marked) footpath marker post. In 75m *veer right* with a bridleway marker post between hedge towards a belt of trees. In 60m at a signposted four-way bridleway junction, you cross the **Monarch's Way** and continue in the same direction along an arable field boundary. You have fine views on the left into the **Avon Valley** and on the right towards a part-wooded ridge beyond the **Bourne Valley**. In 480m *turn left* at a T-junction with a gravel car wide farm track and a public footpath marker. In 140m you reach a bench-with-views at a left turn of the track. The Main Walk joins up the track out of the valley. *Turn right* over a stile or through a fence gap, this side of the bench. Pick up the directions below at the double asterisk **).

For the Main Walk, *turn left* down **The Avenue**, a wide tree-lined lane, with **Little Durnford Hill** on the right, harbouring **The Devenish Nature Reserve**. Eventually you pass **Woodland House** and the drive to **Woodlands Cottage** and reach a junction with a minor road (Beech Walk).

Here you have a choice:

For a loop through the Devenish Nature Reserve, *turn right* along the road and pick up the directions below under **Devenish Nature Reserve Loop**).

For the Main Walk, cross the road and go through a white wooden gate (operated by a green button) to follow a tarmac drive through the grounds of **Little Durnford Manor** (late 17th century, remodelled 1720-1740, Grade I listed, seat of John Pelham, 9th Earl of Chichester). The house is away to the right but shielded from view and anyhow, attention is often distracted by paddocks on the left with an array of **alpacas, camels and dromedaries**. 'Private' and 'Keep Out' signs leave little doubt about the route, and in 230m you *fork right* with the drive, ignoring a route ahead into **Home Farm**. In 150m cross **Little Durnford Bridge** and continue past a metal car barrier. In a further 170m, and just before a small stone bridge, *turn right* down a bank to go through a wooden gate into a field beside a stream and follow the stream along a permissive path.

[**Note:** this meadow is a **flood plain** and should it be impassable, continue a little further along the drive and *turn right* through a wooden field gate into the next, higher field and commence for 90m to the metal gate mentioned in the next sentence.] In 90m *turn left* over a stile into a higher field and in 25m *turn right* through a metal gate and follow a left-hand meadow boundary. In 220m *turn left* over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and *turn right* along a fenced track under trees (i.e.: walk in the previous direction). In 140m you meet a road, which on the right in 850m leads to **Lower Woodford** village and **The Wheatsheaf Inn**. There is usually some fast traffic on the road and it also goes through some bends.

Therefore, here you have a choice:

To avoid the road walking (this adds 140m, more if you go to The Wheatsheaf Inn), cross the road a little to the right and walk through a hedge gap with a footpath signpost into an arable field, where you *turn right* along its boundary. In 140m walk through a boundary gap into the next field and *veer left* along a usually well-cleared path through it towards the corner of a wood (20°). In 170m cross a grassy car wide track and continue in the same direction through a smaller field. In 70m leave it through remnants of tree trunks and continue along the left-hand wood boundary and with fenced paddocks on the left. Continue in the same direction for 570m, through a couple

of gates and electric fences, to a four-way footpath junction by a large farm on your left. *Turn right* down a tarmac lane and in 260m *turn right* at a road T-junction. In 30m *turn left* through a wooden gate to the right of a cattle grid along a signposted footpath. [The Wheatsheaf is a further 300m along the road.]

Pick up the directions half-way through the next paragraph ("The Monarch's Way..."). **For the direct route**, *turn right* along the road. Continue along the road for 850m to **The Wheatsheaf**. Continue in the same direction, in 40m passing a **bus stop for rare services to Upper Woodford and Amesbury** (Tue and Fri late lunch and Mon-Fri late afternoon) and in 200m pass a phone box and another bus stop. In 60m *turn right* through a wooden gate to the right of a cattle grid along a signposted footpath, along a gravel driveway. The **Monarch's Way** comes down the path as you pass **The Court House** and in 70m, another 40m and again another 30m, you cross footbridges over various arms of the Avon. You then gradually ascend to a road 280m away. *Turn briefly left* along the road and in 30m *turn up to the right* past **Salterton Farm** buildings along a car wide chalky track. In 280m, by a memorial bench and where the track turns to the right, the **Morning Shortcut** joins from down the track, and you *turn left* over a stile or through a fence gap, on the far side of the bench.

******) You walk along a left-hand field margin with views on the left across the Avon Valley and in 140m continue in the same direction into a wood through a gap, where the field boundary turns right. Descend gently through the wood and in 400m you emerge onto the minor lane crossed earlier and *turn right* along it through **Netton** hamlet. You follow this lane for 1.0 kilometre past some lovely thatched cottages, ignoring three tarmac lanes off to the right, until you re-cross the Avon on **Woodford Bridge** and meet the main valley road at a T-junction in Upper Woodford. *Turn right* along the road, immediately passing **The Bridge Inn** and a **bus stop for rare services on to Lake and Amesbury** (Tue and Fri late lunch and Mon-Fri late afternoon).

In 220m, by a fenced large tree and a right turn, *turn right* with a footpath signpost past **Shepherd's Close House**. Follow the track around to the left in 100m and in another 180m ignore a track off to the right to a house and *bear left* with the track. In 60m, where the track turns to the left and by another house away to the right, you continue in the same direction with a footpath signpost along a grassy track with a hedge on the left and a barbed wire fence on the right. The hills on the right across The Avon contain the **Little Down Barrow Group**. In 730m you enter a wood and in 20m come to a path junction. The route will continue ahead, **but first** *turn right* for 100m to a very scenic spot, the bridge over **The Avon by Durnford Mill**, with an avenue of poplars commencing on the far side of the bridge. Return to the path junction and *turn right*, gently uphill. You cross a tarmac drive (entering the **Stonehenge World Heritage Site**) and in 660m reach the valley road by **Lake Hill Cottage** on the right.

Cross the road a little to the left to a two-armed footpath signpost by a metal field gate and go over a stile to the right of the gate. You continue in the indicated direction ('Normanton Down Barrows 2 ¼ miles, Stonehenge 3 ¼ miles'), along the top of a sloping field alongside **Staircase Plantation**. The path traverses the wooded hillside with the **Wilsford-cum-Lake Bowl Barrow** immediately on the right and a **deserted medieval village and a field system** on the slopes below, with **three other bowl barrows** located the other side of the lane running up the valley. You can see a large lake away to your right below (which gave Lake hamlet its name), as well as **Lake House** (1578, Grade I listed with Grade II listed gardens; built from Chilmark stone, same as Salisbury Cathedral, it was bought by the musician **Sting and Trudie Styler** in 1990, who have a recording studio on site and run an organic farm on the estate).

In 250m you go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and in 110m *turn right* downhill with a marker post. In another 110m you reach the valley bottom at a four-

way junction with three gravel tracks. *Turn left* along **Hungerford Lane**, a restricted byway. In 200m you *bear right* with the track, as you pass **Lake Wellhouse** on the left, and continue along the fenced grassy track through **Lake Bottom**. The hillside on the left (Lake Down) contains **numerous barrows**, the **Lake Down Barrow Cemetery**, as well as large **linear earthworks**. In 1.3 kilometres you reach **Springbottom Farm**, where a public footpath joins from the right along its drive.

Turn left with a marker post, immediately passing a barn on your right. The hill on the left contains the **Wilsford Barrow Cemetery**. After 150m *fork right* along a very broad grassy track between barbed wire fences (300° initially). The hill on the left contains the **Lake Barrow Cemetery** as well as **linear earthworks** along its wooded ridge. The track gently rises out of the valley bottom, with first signs of a line of barrows perpendicular to the track on the horizon. This is the **Normanton Down Round Barrow Cemetery**. After 1.3 kilometres from the fork in the track, you are level with the line of barrows at the top of the rise and **Stonehenge** suddenly becomes visible on the horizon, with the **Stonehenge Barrow** on **Stonehenge Down** visible to the right of it and the **Cursus Round Barrow Cemetery** somewhat to the left of and beyond it. In 100m go through a wooden field gate by a 'National Trust – Stonehenge Down'-sign and a signpost pointing backwards ('Wilsford-cum-Lake 2 ¼ miles'). On the right, there is a grassy track between fences as well as a wooden gate into a field and on the left a wooden kissing gate into a field.

Here you have a choice:

For a Shortcut to Amesbury, *turn right* through the wooden gate into a pasture and follow its right-hand boundary along an unmarked (at this end) **National Trust Permissive Path** (i.e.: ignore the wide fenced track between two pastures). Pick up the directions below under **Afternoon Shortcut**.

For the Main Walk, *turn left* through a wooden kissing gate into **Permissive Open Access Land** and follow the left-hand field boundary. In 350m you walk through another wooden kissing gate to reach a T-junction with a byway and *turn right* along it. In 400m cross the very busy **A303**, which usually requires care and patience. Continue ahead along the wide byway, with the **Round Barrow Cemetery of Stonehenge Down** on your right and **the stone henge** beyond, and the **Cursus Round Barrow Cemetery** visible to the left ahead. In 550m you cross **the former A344**, now the access road to the drop-off area for shuttle buses to the Stonehenge site, which is 230m to your right. Continue ahead along the gravel track. Just afterwards, a wooden gate on the right leads in 25m to the first of four star-shaped plates in the ground over 40m or so, marking **Mesolithic Postholes**, the oldest proven sign of settlement in the Stonehenge area (**at least 8000 BCE**). Return to the restricted Byway and *turn right* in the previous direction. In 50m you pass a wooden gate on the left.

Here you have a choice:

For the Cursus Round Barrow Cemetery and Western Cursus Extension, *turn left* through the gate and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Cursus Barrow Cemetery and Western Cursus Extension**.

For the Main Walk, continue in the same direction and in 20m *turn right* through another wooden gate into **Access Land** and follow a fence 30m away to the right. Behind the fence are the tarmacked drop-off area for the shuttle buses from the car park and then some subterranean staff quarters. **[!]** In 130m, level with a fence corner on the right, *veer right* towards Stonehenge and head for a single standing stone 150m away. This is the **Heel Stone**. At the stone (which is almost in touching distance, just beyond a fenced permissive path without access from this Access Land) you *turn sharp*

left (50°), away from the Heel Stone and Stonehenge, along **The Avenue**, a faint wide track in a shallow depression, the remnants of a bank and ditch structure either side of it. It is the route the Druids took when approaching Stonehenge.

Head gently downhill into a shallow grassy valley (**Stonehenge Bottom**). In 360m cross a clear grassy track (**an 18th century turnpike road**) and continue ahead. The Cursus Barrow Cemetery Extension has joined from the left.

***) You have a field boundary fence in view 200m ahead and away to your right. In 170m, there is an info panel on your left, and the track curves to the right (105°).

Here you have a choice:

For the Eastern Cursus Extension, continue in the same direction a little to the left of the info panel along a faint path gently uphill over a small rise and pick up the directions below under **Eastern Cursus Extension**.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* with the track and in 90m go through a wooden gate in the fence line with a National Trust marker. *Veer a little to the right* (110°) gently uphill on a clear path, still on the course of **The Avenue**, aiming for the left-hand end of a wood up on **King Barrows Ridge**. In 130m you are parallel with the raised bank of the turnpike road crossing the valley away on the right and soon the path continues in a depression between raised ground. In 120m you have **a fenced barrow** up on the rise to the right. In 150m pass a cattle trough 50m away to your right and *veer a little to the left*. You can see a gate in a fence line ahead in the middle of a gap between two ridgetop woods 275m away. Head for that and go through the gate with an info panel on the far side ('**Stonehenge Avenue**') to look back to Stonehenge and the landscape around it. [The continuation of The Avenue in the field ahead is not discernible.]

Here you have a choice:

For a short out-and-back to the imposing row of the New King Barrows, *turn right* from the previous direction along the track to an info panel 90m away by the first of the **six large barrows** (unusually, they are made of turf and soil rather than chalk), stretching out for 320m. A **seventh, much smaller barrow**, is located in the garden of the house just beyond the sixth barrow.

For the immediate continuation of the route, *turn left* from the previous direction along the track and in 130m pass **the first of the Old King Barrows** on the left in a lightly wooded strip and in 100m **a second similar barrow**. In another 80m *turn right* with the track, which passes through **some more of the Old King Barrows** (some are more prominent than others) and in 160m you go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate to in 20m reach a T-junction of car wide tracks.

Here you have a choice:

For an Extension to Woodhenge and Durrington Walls, *turn left* along the car wide gravel track and pick up the directions below under **Woodhenge and Durrington Walls Extension**.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* along the stoney farm track for 1.7 km to a main road. **In more detail:** in 90m *turn left* with the track, **leaving the Permissive Open Access Land** of the immediate Stonehenge area. You have views ahead to the right of the track towards **Amesbury**, some business parks and military settlements beyond it and to the left to a far part-wooded ridge stretching away. This is the **Beacon Hill Ridge**, on the far side of Bulford Camp. The fields to the left and right contain **several**

levelled barrows but without any visual evidence of them, as well as (on the right) an assortment of seemingly random clumps of trees: these were planted to resemble **the formation of ships in The Battle of the Nile**. The track goes through a shallow dip before descending into the Avon Valley and in 1.1 km you pass the semi-circular **Halfmoon Clump** to the right of the track. In 230m from its far end, *bear right* with the track by a two-way signpost, where the Woodhenge and Durrington Walls Extension joins from the left along the dismantled military railway from Amesbury to Larkhill.

****) In 80m you pass a metal field gate by a signpost pointing backwards ('Stonehenge 3 ½ miles, King Barrows 1 ¼ miles, Cursus 1 mile...'), cross **Countess Road** and *turn right* downhill through **Countess** linear village. You have **left the Stonehenge World Heritage Site**. In 180m you pass the Countess Roundabout **bus stop for services to Salisbury**. Only one of the lines, and the least frequent of them, stops here, so unless a bus is imminent, continue ahead. In 90m cross a road from the left and 75m *fork left* along a descending path to follow the pedestrian underpass under the **Countess Roundabout** on the **A303**. In 40m from the far side of the underpass, you cross the first of two arms of the **River Avon** and commence the short ascent into **Amesbury**. In 40m you pass the rear gateway into the grounds of **Amesbury Abbey** (an 1830s Grade I-listed country house, now a nursing home).

In 50m go over the brow of the rise. In 150m you reach a four-way junction with **London Road** on the left (the bus stop along it is also not served by all lines), **Spuntino** Italian Restaurant across the junction and **High Street** on the right. The **Amesbury, Library bus stop for services to Salisbury** is 200m ahead on your left. For the recommended route past **all other tea options** though, *turn right* across the road and go down **High Street**. In 140m you pass **The George Hotel and Pub** on the right, 20m before **The New Inn** on the left. In 40m at the subsequent three-way road junction (the Shortcut joins from ahead), you find **Piazza Restaurant** (Italian) and **The King's Head** pub just 40m ahead. *Turn left* along **Salisbury Street**.

*****) In 50m you pass **The Bell** (Wetherspoon) and continue in the same direction for 150m, passing a **supermarket** and a **convenience store**, to a junction with the **A345** at a mini-roundabout. *Turn left and left again* at a second mini-roundabout and cross over to the right-hand side of the road to the **Amesbury, Library bus stop for services to Salisbury** 25m away.

In Salisbury alight at the final stop, **Blue Boar Row**, by the **Market Square**, which is surrounded by **plentiful food and drink options**, and walk to the railway station 900m away: *turn right* (facing the square) and cross two sets of pedestrian lights towards the River Avon and the **St. Thomas Becket Church** and *turn right* by **Côte Brasserie** to pass **SIPS** craft ale bar to then *turn left* past **The Bishop's Mill** public house across The Avon to **Bridge Street** by **The King's Head** (Wetherspoon) and *turn right* along it, past **The Bridge Tap**. There are **several other food and drink outlets** along **Fisherton Street** (including the recommended wet-led pub, **Deacons**) and then up along **South Western Road** (including the **Hettie Bells** all-day café and pub).

Devenish Nature Reserve Loop (add 2.0 km and 75m ascent for the loop itself)

Follow the road for 900m to a small car park on the right and *turn right* into it. There is an info panel with a map of the paths through the Nature Reserve in the near left corner. *Turn left* from the previous direction past the panel and in 10m go through a fence gap into trees. In 10m pass a metal field gate on the left and in 10m ignore a left fork and gently curve to the right with the path. In 25m a path joins from the left and you start to ascend gently. In 25m go through a wooden field gate into a sloping meadow and *bear left* through it (i.e.: ignore a field gate on the right). In 60m *turn right* through a wooden gate and follow a fenced stepped path uphill between trees. At the top of the steps, you emerge in a steep grassy hillside and follow trampled steps further uphill. In 40m you *turn right* along a grassy path at a T-junction and in 20m *turn up to the left* to a bench just above for some very **fine views up the Avon Valley**.

From the bench, continue in the previous direction to and through a wooden gate 15m away. Follow a clear path under mature trees and in 110m go through a wooden gate in a fence line and continue in the same direction through somewhat younger trees. In 80m you reach a three-way junction. **For a Shortcut**, *bear right*, in 20m pass a marker post with yellow (backwards) and blue (onwards) arrows and in 90m go through a gate to a subsequent three-way signpost, from where the descent route back to the car park starts (signed 'STEPS'). **Else**, *turn left* and in 75m *turn right* through a wooden field gate near the upper end of the wood and follow a car wide forest track. In 100m continue in the same direction where a forest track joins from the right and in 115m, 15m before reaching a (padlocked) wooden field gate at the far end of the wood, *turn right* back on yourself along another earthen forest track.

In 15m a linking path joins from the track you just left and in 160m you ignore a right turning uphill path by a marker post on the left. The path continues as a grassy track and in 160m a broad grass track joins from the right as you continue ahead along a narrow path. In 140m by a marker post on the left and with some sheds visible ahead, follow the path to the right gently uphill. In 100m ignore the first of a couple of faint paths on the right and in 15m *bear right* with the path. In 30m ignore another faint path on the right and *curve to the right* with the path. In 50m, at a three-way junction by a marker post on the right, *turn left*. In 40m *turn right* with the path and in 75m *bear right* with it. In 160m you ignore a right turn by the **Devenish Family Stone** and in 60m you reach a three-way signpost this side of a wooden field gate. *Turn left* (signed 'STEPS') and in 10m go down some steep roped steps to descend from **Little Durnford Hill**. In 30m from the bottom of the steps, the path forks.

For a Shortcut back to the Main Route where you left it, *fork left* and in 30m go down some steps onto Beech Walk (road) and *turn left* along it for 800m. **Else**, *fork right* and in 10m go down some steps, in 10m ignore a path from the left and *turn right* with the path, parallel to the road below. In 75m you pass a metal car barrier and in 15m emerge back in the car park. **To rejoin the Main Walk at Salterton Farm** (i.e.: cutting out the Little Durnford Manor estate and The Wheatsheaf pub), continue through the car park past the info panel and in 10m go through a fence gap into trees. In 10m pass a metal field gate on the left and in 10m **[!]** *fork left* and follow an earthen path through a wood. In 220m go through a rusty metal kissing gate and down some steps onto Beech Walk (road) and *turn right* along it. In 400m a track joins from the left, the Main Walk joins from there. In 30m *turn up to the right* past **Salterton Farm** buildings along a car wide chalky track. In 280m, by a memorial bench and where the track turns to the right, the **Morning Shortcut** joins from down the track, and you *turn left* over a stile or through a fence gap, on the far side of the bench.

Pick up the directions above in the main text at the double asterisk **).

Afternoon Shortcut (cut 2.3 km and 14m ascent)

You have fine views on the left to Stonehenge and the surrounding monuments and beyond the barbed wire fence and track on the right, several more barrows of the **Normanton Down Round Barrow Cemetery** stretch along. In 370m the last (relatively low) barrow is passed and the terrain descends gently into a scenic bottom. In 150m you pass a small fenced area on the left, with the fence broken down in places. This is an **unnamed barrow**, only just noticeably as a light hump, having been ploughed down over centuries. In 100m, at the corner of a wooded strip, *turn left* with the field boundary away from the barbed wire fence and in 40m *turn right* along the wooded strip at a corner, more steeply into the bottom.

In 100m, by a wide gap in the field boundary fence and a decrepit stile right in front of a tree, with a **NT Permissive Path** on it, you *turn left* inside the pasture [**Note:** the marker points ahead into the neighbouring arable field but there is no walkable margin.] In 110m turn right through a wide gap in the fence into the neighbouring arable field and **[!]** *turn left* immediately through a wooden gate into a steep pasture. *Turn right* steeply along the right-hand fence, continuing in the previous direction. In 50m, where the gradient of the ascent eases a little, *bear left* along a clear grassy ledge. You follow the ledge slowly curving to the right towards the left-hand corner of **Luxenborough Plantation** ahead.

In 180m at the corner, *turn right* along the fenced wood with the permissive path (another permissive path continues ahead towards the circular plantation visible, which contains **three bowl barrows**). You pass a **levelled barrow** in the field (ploughed down too much to have visible remains) and there is another **levelled barrow** inside the plantation, and in 125m you walk through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate and continue along a clear wide grass track in the large arable field, still along the wood. In 40m the wood discontinues and you continue in the same direction along a grassy farm track at the top of the arable field along the flank of **Coneybury Hill** for 500m, initially going through a shallow dip. There are several NT markers on some of the fence posts on the left along this stretch and you have **fine views back** to Normanton Down and to Stonehenge.

At a fence corner, with views ahead into and across the **Avon Valley**, *turn left* along the fence with a marker. In 160m you pass the fenced **King Barrow**, with **another levelled barrow** located just after it. You start a gentle descent and in 170m pass a double metal field gate at the end of the pasture on the left and continue in the same direction downhill into the valley along the track. The large arable field on the left contains the levelled **Coneybury Henge** and the **Coneybury Anomaly** (an **Early Neolithic pit** containing a large amount of animal and other refuse, i.e.: pottery, blades, bones etc, believed to be the remains of a feast or gathering). In 50m cross under an HV pylon line and in 270m, where the track turns left to pass a large open cowshed, you **[!]** *turn right* through a hedge gap and go over a stile into a pasture.

Follow a clear grassy path to the bottom of the field, with the houses of **West Amesbury** beyond it. The far-left part of the field is where **The Avenue**, all the way from Stonehenge, used to run, down to a henge at the riverbank on the Avon. In 120m go over a stile and in 15m, at a T-junction with a gravel drive, *turn right* along it, soon curving to the left between some large thatched houses. In 80m, by a Stonehenge WHS signpost pointing backwards ('Normanton Down Barrows 1 ½ miles, Stonehenge 2 ¾ miles'), *turn left* along the valley road (NCN Route 45 runs along it) through the linear village, with **large thatched houses and thatched walls** dominating the scenery.

In 130m you pass the imposing **West Amesbury House** on the left, by a high metal gate on the right into a pasture leading down to the Avon. This is the approximate point,

where **The Avenue** would have come up from the Avon by the **West Amesbury Henge** and proceeded up to the **King Barrows Ridge**, through Stonehenge Bottom and on to the **Heel Stone** by **the stone henge**. In 200m the road turns up to the left and you can see a high grassy bank in the field ahead. That is **the outer bank of Vespasian's Camp** [a very large Iron Age hillfort site with finds in its centre showing much earlier occupation from 6250 to 4700 BCE, i.e.: it may have been part of the Stonehenge ritual landscape during the latter part of that period. There is no evidence that the Romans, and more precisely their general Vespasian have used the site.]

In 80m at a three-way road junction, *turn up to the right* ('Amesbury') along the right-hand pavement of **Stonehenge Road**, which cuts through the southerly part of the Camp. In 165m you go over the brow and in 60m pass a **bus stop for rare services to Amesbury** (Tue and Fri late lunch and Mon-Fri late afternoon). In another 80m you pass a wooden field gate on the left, leading into Vespasian's Camp ('Private Land', 'No Trespassing'), and in 280m *turn left* with the road, ignoring tarmac and gravel lanes to the right and ahead. The **Pewsey Avon Trail** has joined from the right and you have **left the Stonehenge World Heritage Site**. In 80m *fork right* with the tarmac path to cross the Avon River on the modern two-railed **Church Street Footbridge** to the right of the five-arched **Queensberry Bridge** (1775).

In 60m cross a water meadow feeder channel off the Avon and start the short and gentle ascent along Church Street into **Amesbury**. On the left you pass the gateway to **Amesbury Abbey** (an 1830s Grade I-listed country house, now a nursing home) and then the **Abbey Church of St. Mary and St. Melor**. You pass a (military) social club, a run-down hotel and a Thai restaurant, then **The King's Arms** pub (all on the right), opposite **Piazza Restaurant** (Italian) on the left. In another 40m you reach a three-way junction, with **The New Inn** and **The George Hotel and Pub** visible ahead and **Spuntino** (Italian) at the end of that road (High Street). *Turn right* along **Salisbury Street** and pick up the directions above at the quintuple asterisk *****).

Cursus Barrow Cemetery and Western Cursus Extension (adds 2.5 km)

Fork left (300°) along a clear broad grass track parallel to the approach road on the left, towards a wide wood in the distance (**Fargo Plantation**). You have the row of barrows in the **Cursus Round Barrows Cemetery** some distance away to the right (passed on the return of this extension) and in 220m the track *veers to the right*, away from the tarmac approach road. In 400m you pass a barrow on the left and immediately after that, *turn left* at a four-way grass track junction, towards the left of two wooden gates leading into the wood. In 160m enter the wood and *turn right* towards a row of info panels with some very useful information as well as six impressive **aerial photos of the whole area**. Go back through the gate out of the wood into the grassy area.

The Hewetson Memorial Cross and Plaque, commemorating the death in a flying accident of Major Alexander Hewetson in 1913, are 80m away to the right by the corner of the wood on the roadside just outside the fenced area. [!] But *bear left* to continue along a clear grass track parallel to the wood boundary. In 70m you pass **a medium height barrow** on the left, with **another barrow** visible beyond, surrounded by the wood. Ignore all wooden gates into the wood and in 140m, at the corner of the wood, *turn left* along the fenced-in wood. You are walking along the southern boundary of the western end of **The Cursus** away to the right, as you go through a cursus-wide gap between two parts of the **Fargo Plantation**. Ignore all gates into the wood, and in 65m you pass **a barrow** on the left, just inside the wood. In 120m, at the far end of the wood and with **a barrow** on the right, you continue in the same direction towards an

info panel on The Cursus, just inside the fenced area. The very large **Monarch of the Plain barrow** is visible to the left on the wood's fringe.

A path from the Stonehenge car park enters the fenced area near the info panel ('Stonehenge Cursus'), which also has an aerial photo of the immediate area. There is also a sketch of **The Lesser Cursus**, which is to the left behind, near a farm up a gentle incline, where **some more barrows** are visible. *Turn around to the right* from the previous direction to a linear **Long Barrow** 30m away. This marks the westerly end of **The Cursus** and there is a matching one at the easterly end, 2.8 kilometres away (this is passed on the Woodhenge and Durrington Walls Extension). Continue down the middle of The Cursus for 80m to the barrow passed earlier and in 20m cross **a notable linear depression** in the ground. From there, continue straight down The Cursus but eventually *veer right* to join the fine grass path along its right-hand boundary along the wood, as the ground is uneven and does not make for easy walking.

At the corner of the fenced wood, *veer right* along a clear grass path (100°) ever so gently downhill towards the left-hand corner of the fence around the Cursus Round Barrow Cemetery (i.e.: do not *bear right* along another grass path toward its right-hand fence corner). There are **a couple more barrows** visible to the right of the path. The approach road to the Stonehenge site is out of view from here, beyond a low brow, but Stonehenge itself and the valley to the left of it (Stonehenge Bottom) are in clear view.

At the fence corner, continue to the left of the fence past the first of the **six barrows in the Cursus Round Barrow Cemetery**. They are of increasing height and all have clearly visible ditches around them. In 250m *turn right* through a wooden gate into the fenced area and *turn left* towards an info panel 80m away ('**Cursus Barrows**'). At time of writing, there is a haphazard rope barrier set up, indicating that walkers are not supposed to walk any closer to the barrows, so **[!]** return to the wooden gate and leave the fenced area and *turn right* along the fence. In 150m, at the far corner of the fenced area by a wooden field gate in the fence, *bear right* along an indistinct path (135°) towards a wooden gate in a fence line, i.e.: **not** towards the more obvious metal field gate dead ahead (this is usually padlocked).

In 180m you go through a set of wooden gates either side of a restricted byway and either *veer left* from the previous direction along a clear grass path along the course of **an 18th century turnpike road** (55°) to gently descend into the shallow grassy valley ahead (**Stonehenge Bottom**). [Note: you could also *veer right* towards Stonehenge from the gate and pick up the directions in the main text at the Heel Stone.] In 400m you cross a faint wide track in a shallow depression, the remnants of a bank and ditch structure either side of **The Avenue**, the route the Druids took when approaching Stonehenge. *Turn left* along The Avenue and pick up the directions in the main text at the triple asterisk ***).

Eastern Cursus Extension (add 600m)

You follow a grassy path due N through the sloping grassland and in about 100m the terrain levels out, allowing for fine views back across the Neolithic Landscape just walked through. The land slopes down to the right to a fence line in the bottom of the drop and in 50m you pass a fence corner away to the right. In 120m you start a gentle descent while the fence on the right converges with the walk route, still due N. in 90m pass a fence corner on the right and continue in the same direction along the fence. In 50m, with the southern bank of **The Cursus** 20m ahead, there is a metal field gate on the right. This is the first of **two routes into the Cursus area. So,**

- **Either** *turn right* through the gate and in 80m go through another metal field gate and follow any route through the fenced area to its far-left corner exit 900m away, ignoring all gates to the right other pastures.
- **Or** continue across the bank of the Cursus to its northerly edge and turn right there to in 100m go through a gate and follow any route through the fenced area to its far-left corner exit 900m away, in 270m with some trees on the left.

Leave the area through a field gate, a gate or over a stile to an info panel on The Cursus and the Stonehenge Landscape. This panel is also on the route of the Woodhenge and Durrington Walls Extension (see below). In another 40m, at a four-way track junction, you can **either** *turn right* to pick up the Main Walk in 360m at a three-way junction (pick up the directions at the last paragraph on Page 10) **or** continue ahead to pick up the Extension below in its second paragraph.

Woodhenge and Durrington Walls Extension (adds 3.5 km)

In 100m you pass another one of the **Old King Barrows** on the left, at the start of a wooded strip. In 190m the wooded strip discontinues and you will notice that the track itself and a strip to its left are now on slightly raised ground: these are the remains of the 60m long **Cursus Long Barrow** (also known as '**Amesbury 42**'), which overlooked **The Cursus**, itself stretching away to the left into the shallow valley and back out at the far end of it. In 70m you reach a four-way junction of tracks by a wooden field gate ahead. *Turn left* to an info panel for the **Stonehenge Cursus and Long Barrow** 40m away, with the easterly boundary of the **Cursus** just a few metres beyond it. The **Eastern Cursus Extension** joins through the gates or over the stile out of the Cursus. There is a corresponding **Long Barrow** on the far end of The Cursus, 2.8 km away (this is passed on the Cursus Barrow Cemetery and Western Cursus Extension).

Return to the four-way junction and continue in the same direction (i.e.: *turn right* from the previous direction) along a fenced path. In 550m the path *veers left then right* to continue in the same direction, now on the course of a dismantled military railway from Amesbury to Larkhill. In 350m *turn up left* through an earth bank to a wooden gate 10m away. Walk through the gate (with a National Trust sign) into a large grassy area and cross it diagonally on a clear path (55°). In 560m leave the grassy area by an information board and a fenced area on the right, through a wooden gate and *turn right* along a road. In 50m *turn right* through a wooden gate into the **Woodhenge** site. Re-trace your steps to the tarmac lane and *turn right* along it to a car park and some more information boards 70m away. From the car park, turn around and *turn right* along a tarmac lane (i.e.: away from Woodhenge) and in 25m *fork left* up a clear path through grass and in 25m walk through a wooden gate into a large grassy area, the National Trust-owned **Durrington Walls** site.

Continue towards the middle of the walled area about 200m away and there, curve left to leave the area through a gap in the higher lying bank. Pass another information panel and continue in the same direction along a clear path through a grassy field, close to a wood on the right. In 170m leave the field through a wooden gate to cross a road and enter another grassy field through a wooden gate. Continue in the same direction, in 135m pass the **Cuckoo Stone** (one of very few in the area made from Sarsen, most local rock is chalk or flint), and in 250m leave the field through the wooden gate taken earlier. Descend to the dismantled railway and *turn left* along its course. In 700m *veer right* by a two-way signpost onto a car wide track and continue in the previous direction along it. You are back on the Main Walk.

Pick up the directions in the main text at the quadruple asterisk ****).