

Tisbury Circular (via Alvediston) [Full Walk]			Tisbury Circular (via Alvediston) [Shortcut]		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check	1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
11 th April 2015	12 th Sept. 2020	22 nd March 2025	4 th February 2017	23 rd June 2021	
Current status	Document last updated Monday, 24 th March 2025				
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Tisbury Circular (via Alvediston)

Start: Tisbury Station

Finish: Tisbury Station

Tisbury Station, map reference ST 945 290, is 20 km west of Salisbury, 145 km south west of Charing Cross, 94m above sea level and in **Wiltshire**.

Length: 26.0 km (16.2 mi), of which 3.5 km (2.2 mi) on tarmac or concrete.

Cumulative ascent/descent: 628m.

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

Toughness: 7 out of 10

Time: 6 hours 30 minutes walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 11 hours.

Transport: Tisbury Station is on the London Waterloo to Exeter St. Davids West of England Main Line. Journey times are 106 minutes Monday to Saturday (hourly) and 111 minutes on Sunday (hourly).

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

OS Landranger Map: 184 (Salisbury & The Plain)

OS Explorer Map: 118 (Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase)

Walk Notes:

This walk heads south from the Vale of Wardour through the southerly parts of the West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is spectacular walking country with some breathtaking views. The walk reaches the hilltop boundary with the Cranborne Chase AONB (with views all the way to the coast, around Bournemouth and Poole). You'll find picturesque villages and atmospheric pubs in the beautiful undulating countryside, as well as a wooded Iron Age hill fort site and plenty of dry chalky U-shaped downland valleys.

The middle part of the walk especially leads through – or around the rim of – several very pretty coombes. The walk starts ascending pretty much straight from the platform and features a few short and sharp ascents as well as three more prominent ascents, spread out through the day, followed by a gentle descent across fields back into Tisbury, a remarkably unspoilt village.

Walk Options:

A **Shortcut** around lunch reduces the walk by 5.0 km (3.1 mi) and the ascent/descent by 146m.

This reduces the effort to **6/10**.

The number 29 bus (Shaftesbury to Salisbury) stops outside the lunch pub in Ebbesbourne Wake and in Alvediston (Mon-Sat, approx. every 90 mins), it gets you to Salisbury Bus Station (a 10 minutes' walk from the train station) in just short of an hour.

Lunch (details last updated 24/03/25)

The Royal Oak Swallowcliffe, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 5PA (01747 870 211, <http://www.royaloakswallowcliffe.com/>). The Royal Oak is located 4.5 km (2.8 mi) into the walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-21.00 Mon-Sat and 12.00-18.00 Sun. The Royal Oak was closed from late 2007 until 5th September 2015, when a village consortium had completed a full restoration after buying the ruin from the banks. Read more about the campaign to save it here: <http://www.swallowcliffe.com/royaloak-campaign.htm> and on the pub's website. As of 2020, local resident James May of Top Gear fame is a large co-owner.

The Crown Inn The Street, Alvediston, Wiltshire, SP5 5JY (01722 780 203). The Crown Inn is located 9.7 km (6.0 mi) into the walk. Re-opened in 2018 after a long closure, it burned down in 2023. Currently being refurbished, but probably unlikely to come back as a pub.

The Horseshoe Inn, The Cross, Ebbesbourne Wake, Wiltshire, SP5 5JF (01722 780 474, <http://thehorseshoe-inn.co.uk/>). The Horseshoe Inn is located 16.3 km (10.1 mi) into the full walk and 11.1 km (6.9 mi) into the short walk. Open Wed-Thu 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-close, Fri-Sat 12.00-15.00 and 17.30-close, Sun 12.00-16.00. Food served 12.00-14.00 Wed-Sun (-15.00 Sat) and 18.00-20.30 Wed-Sat, but **only with a booking!** An unspoilt 17th century pub in a pretty village with well-kept real ales tapped straight from the cask, real farm cider and good, freshly prepared, traditional food. Multiple Salisbury & South Wiltshire CAMRA POTY winner.

Tea (details last updated 31/03/2024)

Star Grill Tisbury Sports and Social Club, Jobbers Lane, Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6JP (07467 248 636). A van selling Kebabs, burger, chips for takeaway, but with some outside seating. Open from 16.00 Mon-Sat.

Tisbury Fish & Chips The Square, Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6JP (01747 870 273).

Beatons Tearooms and Bookshop The Square, Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6JP (01747 871 819, <http://beatonstearooms.co.uk/>). Open 9.00-16.30 daily.

Coffee Angels London House, High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6LD (07851 701 020).

Tisbury Delicatessen High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6DP (01747 871 771, <http://www.tisburydeli.co.uk/>). Open 09.00-17.00 Mon-Sat.

Gardner & Beedle High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6LD (01747 870 947, <https://www.gardnerandbeedle.com/>). Open 10.00-18.00 Tue-Thu and 10.00-19.00 Fri-Sat.

The Benett Arms High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6HD (01747 870 428). Open 12.00-late daily. Run by the local Keystone Brewery. Selected bar food is available upon request.

The Boot Inn High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6PS (01747 870 363). Open 17.30-21.00 Mon, 17.30-22.00 Tue, 12.00-15.00 and 17.30-22.00 Wed-Sat and 12.00-15.00 Sun. Food served. Atmospheric pub with authentic meals freshly prepared.

Notes:

Tisbury

A village on the River Nadder, where it is joined by three other streams, Tisbury parish was the largest in south-west Wiltshire until the 19th century. References to the abbot of Tisbury suggest that there was an abbey on what is now the site of the village in the 8th century and the origin of Tisbury parish may be as the estate of such an abbey. Tisbury manor and, from the late 14th century, Tisbury church belonged to Shaftesbury Abbey until the Dissolution. The village's 13th century prosperity came from the quarries that produced stone for the building of Salisbury Cathedral, and from the wool that supported a local cloth industry. Unusually for so large a parish no main road crossed Tisbury, and no road in it was turnpiked.

The Salisbury & Yeovil Railway opened a railway across the parish in 1859, it closely followed the Nadder and the Sem. Tisbury is not rich in archaeological discoveries, the last three upright stones of what may have been a henge monument were removed from a site near Place Farm ca. 1792, although the name of the field from which they were taken, Lost Stone field, is a corruption of the earlier Low Stone field. Sir Matthew Arundell of Wardour Castle, a great landowner and a cousin of Queen Elizabeth, was entombed in the Tisbury church, St John's, in 1598. The churchyard also holds the graves of Rudyard Kipling's parents, and contains one of the oldest trees in Britain, a large yew tree believed to be ca. 4,000 years old.

River Nadder/Vale of Wardour

The River Nadder is one of the chalk streams of southern England, much sought after by fly fishermen because of its clear waters and abundance of brown trout. It is one of the main tributaries of the River Avon, rising from a number of springs and small streams at Donhead St. Mary in south Wiltshire. During the course of its 32 kilometre journey the Nadder meanders and widens gradually until it flows through the park of Wilton House after which the river joins the River Wylye, another tributary of the Avon. For its last few kilometres it passes through the unspoilt water meadows at Harnham on the outskirts of Salisbury, and finally into the River Avon beneath a backdrop of Salisbury Cathedral.

The origin of the name is from Ancient British *nootr*, "flowing water". Folk etymology derives it from the perceived likeness of its meanderings to an adder, the original Middle English name for which was "nadder". The western end of the Nadder valley is called the Vale of Wardour, and is distinguished by outcrops of oolites (limestone formed during the Jurassic period, found predominantly in the Cotswold Hills and on the Isle of Portland). Outcrops of Portland and Purbeck rocks form the high ground north and south of the Nadder and are extensive, especially those of Upper Portland limestone which have been extensively quarried. Outcrops of Lower Greensand, Gault, and Upper Greensand form even higher ground to the north and south. The underlying clay has been exposed by the Sem and the Nadder as far east as Tisbury village.

Castle Ditches

Castle Ditches is the site of an Iron Age trivallate defensive hillfort and its shape is roughly triangular, and follows the contours of the small hill upon which it sits. Archaeology has revealed that Castle Ditches contained over 50 roundhouses.

The River Ebble

The River Ebble is one of the five rivers of Salisbury (the others being the Avon, Nadder, Bourne and the Wylye). Rising at Alvediston 19 km to the west, it joins the Avon at Bodenheim, after flowing through – amongst others – Ebbesbourne Wake, Little London, Mount Sorrel and Broad Chalke. It is also known under the name The Chalkebourne, lending its name to the Chalke Valley.

Cranborne Chase

A chalk plateau, straddling the counties Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire, the plateau is part of the English Chalk Formation and is adjacent to Salisbury Plain and the West Wiltshire Downs in the north, and the Dorset Downs to the south west. The scarp slope of the hills faces the Blackmore Vale to the west, and to some extent the Vale of Wardour to the north. The chalk gently slopes south and dips under clays and gravels. An area of 981 km² (379 mi²) of the Cranborne Chase and the West Wiltshire Downs has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the sixth largest in the country. The highest point is Win Green, in Wiltshire, at 277m.

The downs are named after the village Cranborne, founded by the Saxons, which had a manor house and a small monastery. The word "chase" comes from the hunts, frequented by royalty, which took place on the downs. Much of the Chase is still owned by large estates such as Kingston Lacy.

The downland has a long history with many earthworks and archaeology from the Neolithic age onwards. The dense woodland originally covering the downs would have gradually been cleared by the first farmers, but would have grown back repeatedly over the centuries as soils became exhausted and the agricultural carrying capacity of the land was exceeded several times over the course of six millennia.

Prescombe Down National Nature Reserve

Prescombe Down NNR is a botanically rich downland site consisting of a deep forking coombe (valley) system eroded into the chalk. Prescombe Down has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the species-rich chalk grassland and resident population of adonis blue, the iconic Wiltshire chalk downland butterfly. More recently it was also recognised as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), for its grassland but also for its populations of European Protected Species. These are early gentian, a rare annual plant and marsh fritillary butterfly. The reserve is also home to rare butterflies like grizzled skipper and birds such as skylark.

Fovant Badges

The Fovant Badges are a set of regimental badges cut into a chalk hill, Fovant Down. They were created by soldiers garrisoned nearby, and waiting to go to France, during WW I. The first was cut in 1916. Eight of the original twenty remain, and are scheduled ancient monuments and recognised by the Imperial War Museum as war memorials. A Centenary Badge was unveiled for the 100 Year Anniversary in 2016. The Fovant Badge Society holds an annual Drumhead Service which is attended by the Australian High Commissioner, local mayors and members of parliament. These services fund the upkeep of the badges.

To construct the badges, the outlines were cut into the grass-covered hillsides, and were refilled with chalk brought from a nearby slope, up to 50 tons per badge. The badges took an average fifty men six months to complete.

The current badges, from left to right, are: Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry (only central part remaining); 6th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (City of London Rifles) (claimed to be the first of the badges cut); Australian Commonwealth Military Forces (the largest, 51m×32m); Royal Corps of Signals (cut in 1970 to commemorate the Corps' 50th anniversary); Wiltshire Regiment (added in 1950); 5th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade); 8th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles); Centenary Badge (a poppy of 25m diameter with "1916" and "2016" legends); Devonshire Regiment. <http://fovantbadges.com/>

Tisbury Mill

The surviving mill is mostly 18th century, with later additions and a small, apparently 18th century, farmhouse is nearby. It stands on the charming site of a much earlier water mill, certainly from the 14th century or even earlier. The stone part of the house to the north was once the Miller's Cottage, formerly two flats, but has now been incorporated into the main house accommodation. It ceased to be a working mill in the 1920's. The interior of the mill retains no original machinery, having been converted to the Tisbury electricity generating station in the 20th century and to a house after WWII.

St. Mary, Alvediston

Set on the Northern slopes of the Ebbel River, St Mary's overlooks the small valley of Alvediston. The font and nave are originally 12th century the chancel was added in the 13th century and the transepts in the 14th century. Extensive rebuilding in the 17th century was followed by 'restoration' in the 19th century.

The 'crusader tomb' of John Gawen lies in the South transept together with memorials to the Wyndham family. Also noteworthy are the Quaker brass tablets and an attractive stained glass window in the Baptistry.

St. Mary is the burial place of Sir Anthony Eden, Conservative Prime Minister 1955-57, a memorial plaque – financed by his widow – is located in the church and his grave is the prominent table tomb on the right hand side as you enter the church yard.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train in **Tisbury Station** on the single platform and leave through the station building or to the left of it into the station car park. *Turn right* through the car park and in 100m, after joining a road, and just before crossing the **River Nadder**, *turn right* at **Bridge House** along a tarmac lane. In 30m ignore a path turning left along the river and in 20m walk through a set of white wooden gates to cross the railway line. *Turn left* on the other side of the track through an industrial yard (**Parmiter's Yard**) and in 40m walk up some steps and then along a narrow earthen path parallel to the railway line. In 35m *turn right* through a metal kissing gate into a steeply rising pasture and cross it diagonally uphill onto **Chantry Hill** along a clear path (80°). In 90m walk through a metal gate into an arable field and *turn left* along its grassy boundary.

You have a barbed wire fence on the left and some views across the **Vale of Wardour** and to **Tisbury**. In 150m continue through a gap in the boundary hedge and then a metal gate into another field and continue diagonally (125°) across this field on a usually well-cleared path (if overgrown, skirt the field along the left-hand edge), with views of a wooded hilltop, the site of the **Castle Ditches** Iron Age hill fort, and **Swallowcliffe Down** to the right of it. In 370m go through a hedge gap and continue in the same direction cutting across the next field's near corner to then in 70m *veer left* towards its far bottom corner on a usually clear path. Leave the field through a metal gate and down some steps onto a road (**Tisbury Row**) and *turn right* along it. In 120m *turn left*, cross a stream on a bridge and continue along a lane leading to **Haredene Farm**. Stay to the left of an impressive buttressed wall and just before the metal gate of the farm, *fork right* with yellow markers on a gate post along a narrow and bumpy sunken track between trees, which turns into a stream bed after heavy rain.

More than 2,000 years ago this holloway would have been a thorough-fare to the hill fort. Head uphill and in 470m continue in the same direction at a four-way path junction. The path continues uphill, now as a wider holloway through **Haredene Wood**, and soon curves to the right. In 120m you have a wire fence on the left, and in another 25m a field behind it. In 170m ignore a private path turning right and continue into a wood. In 50m you *turn right* (230°) with a marker post at a junction of forest paths. In 20m go over the brow of this rise and in 50m emerge from the wood through a metal gate into a fenced grassy strip. Views on the right are back to **Tisbury** and up the **Vale of Wardour**, half-left to the wooded hilltop of **High Wood** and on the left to **Swallowcliffe Down**. *Veer left* along the path (200°) and in 240m go through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate and *turn left* along a farm track at a T-junction, with **Withyslade Farm** ahead and below in the valley.

In 100m walk through an often-open metal field gate and in 5m [!] *turn left* uphill at a three-way farm track junction with markers on the left-hand gate post, and then immediately through a usually open metal field gate after which you *turn right* with the track. In 140m [!] *turn right* and downhill – just after passing a metal field gate on the right and before another metal field gate – through a metal gate along a fenced-in narrow path, following yellow and blue markers. In 100m *turn left* uphill at a three-way footpath/bridleway junction along a path at the fringe of **Swallowcliffe Wood** (bluebells in season). In 420m, at the top of this rise and now level with the **Castle Ditches** Iron Age hill fort site on the left across a field, *fork left* out of the trees and continue in the same direction along a grassy field boundary. In 170m [!] *turn right* at a corner of a short fence, by a redundant stile. In 25m the path emerges in a grassy field corner and you continue in the same direction, now with the wood on your right and **Swallowcliffe Down** visible ahead.

In 250m walk through a set of metal field gates 30m apart and continue in the same direction with the wood on the right, ignoring a farm track forking left. In a further

250m *veer right* along a grassy path with a hedge on the left and trees on the right, [!] ignoring a farm track turning right and steeply downhill into the trees on a dog leg. In 150m a track joins from the right, and in another 50m you *turn right* through a wooden gate (usually open) and immediately *turn left* down a steep-sided wooded slope towards the village of **Swallowcliffe**. In 150m at the bottom-left corner exit through a wooden field gate onto a tarmac lane at a bend. *Turn left* along the lane and in 75m follow the lane left, past the **Village Hall**. In 50m *turn right* at a triangular green and in 30m pass a green on the left with a large yew tree and a memorial stone for the 10th century **St. Peter's Church** (abandoned due to frequent flooding).

In 30m cross a stream, pass the (very) early lunch stop **The Royal Oak** and in 80m from the stream *turn left* at a triangular green to continue along a road. Ignore a few footpaths turning right off the road and – where a road joins from the right and 250m from the triangular green – [!] continue in the same direction with a footpath signpost through a metal gate into a grassy field. The aim now is to get to the *upper far end of the steep slope on the right*, and there are several marker posts along the line of the right-of-way to get you there (120°). In 160m go through a metal gate and then a wooded strip to emerge in a large arable field in another 20m. *Turn left* along the grassy field boundary with a marker post. In 75m enter the adjacent, larger arable field and continue along its boundary (the marked route here differs from the right-of way). In 75m, by a marker post at a hedge corner, *veer right* across the field along a usually well-cleared path towards a metal gate in a hedge. In 90m go through the gate to cross the **A30**, go through a metal gate opposite and *turn right* along a grassy field boundary.

In 20m go through a metal field gate in a fence line and in 140m through another, and *turn left* along a field boundary hedge with a fence on the left. In 320m continue in the same direction through a metal gate and along a narrow path into a wood. In 250m you reach a junction of forest paths and have two options to get into the grassy area ahead at the bottom of **Swallowcliffe Down (Access Land)**. **Either** walk through a metal gate ahead and *turn right* through the remnants of a wire fence line, **or** *turn right* and in 20m *turn left* through a metal field gate. Your aim now is the *top left end of the left-hand fence line*, out of sight up on the steep down (175°). The best approach is to initially follow a clear path right (240°) around a chalk pit, up the flank of the down, then to *turn left* and steeply up around the pit and turning further left along the rim to the fence line. There *turn right* further up the flank. Keep ascending without a clear path to the top-left corner, from where a look back reveals the higher parts of **Tisbury**.

You *turn left* through a wide fence gap (a rusty metal field gate rests against the fence) **out of the Access Land** and *turn right* immediately up a bank and through a metal field gate (with a stepless stile to the left) into a large field, which is gently rising further. Cross this field pathless *half-right* on a bearing of 230° and in about 100m you can see a fence line ahead. Continue in the same direction, aiming for a stile in the fence. Go over the stile and *bear left* through a smaller field (175°) and in 130m leave it through a metal field gate, cross a farm track and *turn right* along another farm track immediately behind it and parallel with it (this is the **Old Shaftesbury Drove**, an 18th century coach road). In 30m *turn left* across a stile in the fence line into a large grassy area at the top of the delightful steep U-shaped **Middle Down** curving away to the left. *Turn right* past a cattle trough to curve around the right hand rim of the down. In 170m, where a path joins from the right at a wooded corner, *veer left* with the valley rim.

In 350m go over a stile to the left of a rusty metal field gate and continue in the same direction through a pasture. In 90m go over another stile to the left of a metal field gate and cross a tarmac lane. Continue a little to the right along a fenced-in grassy lane with a bridleway signpost (due S). In 160m views open on the right across **some more U-shaped valleys** as well as **Win Green, the highest point in Wiltshire** (with a notable round clump of trees, SWC Walk 251). Soon you are gradually descending with trees on

the left and bushes on the right. In 880m pass a couple of houses and in another 40m **[!]** *turn left* at a four-way bridleway junction by an overgrown tree trunk with overgrown markers, 30m before the concrete track turns left and by a wooden kissing gate on the right. Continue for 430m with a barbed wire fence on the left and a stream away on the right (the **River Ebble**) and then go through a metal gate into a pasture and continue along the left-hand field boundary. In 150m leave the field over a stile to the left of a metal field gate onto a tarmac lane and *turn right* along it.

In 10m you have a choice:

For a Shortcut, *turn left* along a car-wide lane (signposted 'To the church') and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut**.

For the main walk *continue along the lane* [but do first visit the church 100m away to the left: **St. Mary, Alvediston**, burial place of **Sir Anthony Eden, Prime Minister 1955-57** (a memorial plaque is located in the church, his grave is the large one on the right hand side as you enter the church yard)], cross the Ebble and follow the lane around to the right, ignore a footpath on the left and in 100m *turn left* with the lane into **Alvediston**. In 290m, at a T-junction with the drive to **The Crown Inn** opposite, *turn right* along a main road past a **bus stop for services to Salisbury**. In 60m *turn left* along a lane, in 90m passing **Elcombe House** on the left, and in another 60m **Little Elcombe House**. In 465m the lane continues as a gravel track and continues its slow, but steadily steeper, ascent up **Elcombe Down**. Follow the lane for 1.3 km, ignoring all ways off to **Elcombe Coombe** and **Elcombe Copse**. At a track junction at the top of the rise, by a farm yard ahead, *turn left* along the **Salisbury Ox Drove**. The plain on the other side of the down is the **Cranborne Chase**. You have views on the left of the latter part of the morning route as well as the early part of the return route.

In about 150m the large conurbation marked out by several high rises in the distance on the right on a 165°-bearing is **Bournemouth/Poole**, with – on a very clear day – the **Isle of Wight** to the left of it and the **Purbeck Hills** to the right. In 175m at a corner of a pasture on the left – and with the beginning of a wood on the right – ignore a metal field gate on the left. **[!]** In another 270m **[!]** *turn left* through a metal gate with a bridleway marker into a grassy sloping coombe. Continue downhill (340°) along the left hand side of a fence with views out along a horseshoe-shaped valley. In 200m in the bottom far-right corner of this pasture go through a metal gate with a bridleway marker on a gate post and continue along a wide grassy path down the left-hand slope of the valley. In 180m this continues as a sunken path between grassy banks (walk along the top of the banks for better views). Follow the sunken path twisting and turning while descending down the slope for 400m and then *turn left* through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate to continue along a farm track.

In 860m you reach the lowest point of the dip, go through a metal field gate and start a very slow re-ascent, in 510m reaching a brow and then walking through a slight dip. In 260m *turn left* with the – now tarmac – track. In 170m *turn right* over a stile with a footpath marker to the left of a rusty metal field gate, *just before the tarmac lane turns right*. With an arable field on the right behind a barbed wire fence, and with trees and bushes on the left, you walk along a car-wide grassy path which slowly bears right, always keeping above the houses in **West End** hamlet below in the Ebble Valley. Eventually the top of a church spire comes into view ahead, and after a total of 1 km leave the field by a footpath signpost through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate on to a tarmac lane. Go over a stile in a hedge gap opposite into a grassy field and in 30m go through a gap (a missing gate) and continue along a fenced-in grassy path, which – after turning right – emerges in the church yard of **St John the Baptist, Ebbesbourne Wake**. Continue past the church and through the lychgate onto a gravel lane. The Shortcut joins from the left along a narrow grassy path. *Turn right*.

***)** In 15m *turn left* downhill along tarmac and in 30m you reach **Duck Street**.

Here you have a choice:

For The Horseshoe Inn, *turn right* and in 20m *turn right* again, pass a **bus stop for services to Salisbury** and in 20m you reach the pub. After lunch return to this point.

To continue the walk, *turn left* (i.e.: continue in the same direction if coming from the pub). In 190m – where the road bends to the left – *turn right* along a grassy path at a footpath signpost. In 30m cross **The Ebble River** and in 25m go over a stile in a fence on the left to continue up the slope along a clear path (290°) towards the furthest left of several trees along the upper boundary. In 275m you go over a stile and cross a road to go up a bank into an arable field. Follow its left hand boundary around a field corner and then uphill. In 130m (by a bridlemay marker post in a gap in the low boundary growth on the left) you *turn right* across the field on a usually obvious path (40°). From the middle of the field, you get scenic views back up the valley to some of the downs walked along earlier. In 240m leave the field to cross a farm track and continue in the same direction across a small corner of an adjacent arable field. In 60m leave this field and continue through a narrow strip of a field with some plants left in it most of the year (shelter for the birds reared for a nearby shooting estate).

In 25m you walk through a metal gate to emerge at the rim of a steep chalk down (**Long Bottom**). This is **Prescombe Down National Nature Reserve**. *Veer right* (35°) down the steep valley flank towards the right-hand edge of a wooded area at the bottom of the valley. In 200m *veer left* through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate, and then continue along the bottom of another steep sided U-shaped side-valley (**Church Bottom**), ascending in a northerly direction towards the valley end. In 730m – 30m before a metal trough – *turn right* (70°) up the valley flank and in 70m walk through a metal gate. Continue through some growth, in 20m briefly *turning left*, but in 10m *turning right*, to continue along a narrow path between trees. In 50m emerge from the growth, cross a car wide gravel track and continue in the same direction (30°) across an arable field towards an indistinct gap in the opposite tree line.

In 220m leave the field through a metal gate in the gap and in 10m, **[!]** *turn left* into another arable field on the left. *Turn hard left* along this field's left hand boundary (due W). In 230m continue in the same direction along a farm track which joins from the left and in 200m *turn right* through a metal gate onto the **Ox Drove**. *Turn left* along it with views from **Sutton Down** into the valley towards **Fovant** village, but in 50m **[!]** *turn right* with a footpath marker through a metal gate. On the right further along the down you get a glimpse of the restored **Royal Warwickshire** badge and of some of the other **Fovant Badges**, regimental badges cut into the chalky ground [SWC Walk Tisbury Circular (via Dinton and Fovant)]. Continue along the left-hand fence line (290°), past a metal field gate on the left, following the rim of this semi-circular down.

In 320m walk through a metal field gate and continue in the same direction close to the left hand fence line, ignoring all paths and tracks leading down the flank. In 100m pass a stile in the fence on the left and *veer away* from the fence line, to stay level along the rim. In 190m cross a car wide bridlemay by a wooden post with a blue marker and continue slightly to the right (350°), along a car wide grassy track (soon continuing as a sunken track) in the general direction of a **transmission mast**. In 300m you go through a metal field gate. In 40m a car wide gravel farm track joins from the left behind, as you continue descending from **Buxbury Hill** into a wood. In 180m, immediately after the track curves left you **[!]** *turn right* off the track along the narrow **Buxbury Hollow** between trees at a Bridlemay/ Restricted Byway-signpost.

In 830m you cross the **A30** and continue in the same direction between trees along **Hut Lane**, which later continues as a poplar avenue, ignoring all ways off. In 930m you continue in the same direction at a bend in a road (with the transmitter seen earlier now high above on the right behind trees). Follow this initially sunken road down through **Sutton Row** hamlet and almost to the fringes of **Chicksgrove**, ignoring all ways and paths off. In 720m, and 60m after passing the entrance of **Whitmarsh House** on the right, two footpaths are signposted turning left, the first across a stile to the left of a metal field gate and then past a wooden barn is to be ignored. **10m further along turn left along the second of the two footpaths** over a stile to the left of a metal field gate into a grassy field. Continue close to, but not along, the left hand boundary, due W towards a stile in the boundary fence in front of a wooded strip, about 100m to the right of the far left field corner. In 150m go over the stile and then cross an un-railed wooden plank bridge over a ditch and go through a metal kissing gate into another grassy field.

Veer right through this field heading for a metal field gate in a fence line to the right-hand end of a line of trees 200m away (285°), just beyond the brow. Past the gate, you *veer left* towards the right-hand corner of the field and in 165m leave it through a metal kissing gate onto a gravel farm track. *Turn left* along it uphill. In 15m ignore a footpath turning right through a metal kissing gate into an arable field. In 180m, at the corner of a wooded strip on the right, you *turn right* with a public footpath sign on the left through a car wide gap and then *turn left* across an arable field on a usually well-cleared path (300°), still uphill (or skirt the field along its left hand boundary). In 320m walk through a narrow boundary gap with a marker post into the adjacent field and descend through it. In 225m *turn left* in the field corner through a car wide gap into trees. In 40m enter a neighbouring arable field and continue in the same direction, uphill along its right-hand boundary. In 240m – at the corner of the fence on the right – cross this arable field's corner, *veering right* (280°) with a marker post along a usually well-trampled path towards **Haredene Farm** about 450m away.

From the brow of this field, you can see: on the left and slightly behind the wooded **Castle Ditches** hill top site passed in the morning, while the wooded hill half left ahead is **High Wood** [SWC Walks Tisbury Circular (via Donhead St. Andrews)]. In-between and behind these two hills runs **Swallowcliffe Down**, climbed in the morning. Ahead is **Tisbury** on the other side of the **Nadder Valley**, with the wooded hills of the **Fonthill Estate** behind it [SWC Walk Tisbury Circular (via Dinton)]. In 440m you cross a farm track and then a stile into a small grassy area and *veer right* along a clear path through the grass. Walk to the left of the thatched farm house and in 60m go over a stile to continue along a path, which soon descends between trees. In 160m the path *turns left* just before reaching a railway line and in 40m it *turns right* through a metal gate and an arched underpass to emerge on the other side of the tracks on a tarmac lane (**Tisbury Mill** – 35m to the right – is well worth a look: a footpath turns left through its grounds to a walkable weir over **The Nadder**).

Turn left along the lane with the railway line now on your left on a raised bank. In 120m walk through a wooden gate and *turn left* along a road at a T-junction with **Tisbury Row** towards the railway line. In 30m just before the railway line *turn right* along a fenced in narrow grassy path with a footpath signpost. In 100m *turn right* with the path to cross a car wide lane that has been running parallel with the path for a while and *turn left* in the adjacent riverside meadow to continue in the previous direction, while **The Nadder** meanders along the other side of the meadow. In 420m leave the meadow in its far left corner along a narrow grassy path, now with the river running close by on the right. In 80m continue through a wooden kissing gate along a narrow path between hedges and in 30m *turn right* at a junction with a tarmac lane. In 30m you reach the main road through **Tisbury** at a T-junction.

Most of the recommended tea stops are along the road to the right across the bridge over **The River Nadder** and up into the village:

- In 50m you find the **Star Grill** in a van in the grounds of Tisbury Football Club on the right;
- In 70m pass **Tisbury Fish & Chips** on the right and **Beatons Tearoom Bookshop, Coffee Angels**, a **Co-op** and **Tisbury Delicatessen** on the left;
- In 50m pass the **Gardner & Beedle** wine shop on the right;
- In 90m pass **The Benett** pub on the left;
- In 205m reach the recommended **Boot Inn** on the right.

For the station *turn left* along the road. *Fork up left* through the station car park to access the platform at the far end of the station building in 100m, with the long closed **The South Western** visible below on the road.

Shortcut

(cut 5.0 km, 146m of ascent/descent and 430m from the tarmac count)

In 50m *turn right* with a bridleway marker through a metal field gate into a pasture with the river on the right [but do visit the church 50m away: **St. Mary, Alvediston**, burial place of **Sir Anthony Eden, Prime Minister 1955-57** (a memorial plaque is located in the church, his grave is the large one on the right-hand side as you enter the church yard)]. Follow a clear grassy track through the sloping meadow and in 260m continue through a metal field gate in the same direction through another grassy slope. In 425m walk through a metal field gate in its far-right corner and continue along an initially narrow path between hedges. In 140m *turn right* at a T-junction with a lane across a bridge over the **Ebble River**.

Turn left at a T-junction with the road through **West End** hamlet, by a bus stop. The road follows the river with a steep grassy hillside on the right. In 530m continue in the same direction along **Duck Street**, where **May Lane** forks up to the right. [!] In 100m *turn right* up a narrow path by a footpath signpost with a wooden railing on the left. In 100m a footpath joins from the right over a stile in the hedge. In 20m walk through high brick gate posts into the churchyard of **St. John the Baptist, Ebbesbourne Wake**. In 70m, at the lychgate, the main walk joins from the right through it.

Continue past the gate and pick up the directions in the main text at the asterisk *).