

| Tisbury Circular (via Alvediston) [Full Walk] | | | Tisbury Circular (via Alvediston) [Shortcut] | | |
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| 1 st walk check | 2 nd walk check | 3 rd walk check | 1 st walk check | 2 nd walk check | 3 rd walk check |
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| This walk has been checked as noted above, however the publisher cannot accept responsibility for any problems encountered by readers. | | | | | |

Tisbury Circular (via Alvediston) [clockwise]

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 breath-taking views. The full 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 with a gentle ascent out of Tisbury across fields but features a few short and sharp ascents later on as well as three more prominent ascents, spread out through the day, before descending back into Tisbury, a remarkably unspoilt village.

Walk options:

A **Shortcut** after 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 only, 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 17/04/22)

The Horseshoe Inn, The Cross, Ebbesbourne Wake, Wiltshire, SP5 5JF (01722 780 474, <http://thehorseshoe-inn.co.uk/>). The Horseshoe Inn is located 9.7 km (6.1 mi) into the walk. Open Tue-Sat 12.00-15.00 and 18.30-23.00, Sun 12.00-16.00. Food served 12.00-14.00 Tue-Sun and 18.30-21.00 Tue-Sat. 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. Pre-Booking recommended for an inside table.

The Crown Inn, The Street, Alvediston, Wiltshire, SP5 5JY (01722 780 203, <http://www.thecrownalvediston.co.uk/>). The Crown Inn is located 16.3 km (10.1 mi) into the full walk and 11.3 km (7.0 mi) into the short walk. It has re-opened in 2018 after long closure. Open 12.00-14.30 Wed-Sat and 18.00-23.00 Tue-Sat and 12.00-15.00 Sun. Food served 12.00-14.30 Wed-Sun.

The Royal Oak, Swallowcliffe, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 5PA (01747 870 211, <http://www.royaloakswallowcliffe.com/>). The Royal Oak is located 21.5 km (13.4 mi) into the full walk and 16.5 km (10.3 mi) into the short walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-21.00 daily (-20.30 Sun). The Royal Oak was closed from late 2007 until 5th September 2015, when a village consortium purchased the building from the bank and completed a full restoration.

Read more about the campaign to save it here: <http://www.swallowcliffe.com/royaloak-campaign.htm>

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.

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.

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.

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/>

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.

The River Ebble

The River Ebble is one of the five rivers of Salisbury (the others being the Avon, Nadder, Bourne and the Wylde). Rising at Alvediston 19 km to the west, it joins the Avon at Bodenham, 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 (910ft).

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.

St. Mary, Alvediston

Set on the Northern slopes of the Ebble 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 **[!]** *turn left* along the river between hedges and in 30m continue through a wooden kissing gate along a narrow path, now with the river running close by on the left. In 80m emerge in a meadow and continue along a narrow grassy path along its right-hand side, while **The Nadder** meanders along the other side of the meadow. In 50m ignore a left fork and in 370m **[!]** *turn right* through a gap to cross a car wide lane that has been running parallel for a while and *turn left* with the path to continue in the previous direction along a fenced in narrow grassy path with the railway line on your right on a raised bank.

In 100m *turn left* along a tarmac lane (**Tisbury Row**) by a footpath signpost and in 30m *turn right* with another footpath signpost through a wooden gate to walk along a tarmac drive. In 120m you *turn right* with a low footpath signpost through an arched underpass [*worth a detour: continue along the tarmac lane for 35m and turn left through **Tisbury Mill** to a walkable weir over **The Nadder***]. Go through a metal gate on the other side to *turn left* with the path. In 40m the path *turns right* to ascend between trees and in 160m go over a stile and *veer left* along a clear path through a small grassy area. Leave it in 60m over a stile and cross a tarmac drive to cross an arable field along a usually well-trampled path, initially towards the left-hand end of a wooded area, then towards a field corner (100°) [*this is only visible from the brow*].

From the brow of this field in about 100m you can also see: on the right the wooded **Castle Ditches** hill top site and to the right of it **Swallowcliffe Down**, both walked along in the afternoon, and on the left the Nadder Valley. In another 350m – at the corner of the field fence on the left – *veer left* (75°) with the boundary along the fence. You descend with the field boundary and in 240m leave the field through a car wide gap in a wooded strip to continue downhill and in 40m enter a neighbouring arable field to initially continue along its right-hand boundary. In 50m, by a marker post, continue in the same direction away from the boundary (which turns right) to ascend through the field on a usually well-trampled path up towards a narrow boundary gap (not visible initially, 110°). In 175m go through the gap into the adjacent field and *veer right* across it on a usually well-cleared path in the direction of a transmission mast (120°).

In 320m, at the end of the boundary trees, *turn right* through a car wide gap and *turn down left* along a gravel farm track. In 180m ignore a footpath turning left through a metal kissing gate into an arable field and **[!]** in 15m *turn right* through a metal kissing gate into a pasture to *veer left* through it towards a metal field gate in a fence line to the left-hand end of a tree line 165m away (95°). Past the tree line, *veer right* (105°) towards the right-hand corner of the field and in 200m leave it through a wooded strip and a metal kissing gate and then cross an un-railed wooden plank bridge over a ditch and go over a stile into another pasture. Head for the far-right upper field corner (85°) and in 150m leave it over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and *turn right* along a tarmac lane with the fringes of **Chicksgrove** away to the left. Ignore all ways and footpaths off to ascend through **Sutton Row** hamlet.

At the top of the rise in 720m, where the lane turns sharply left, continue in the same direction between trees with a footpath and bridleway signpost along **Hut Lane**, a poplar avenue, later with fine views of some downs ahead. Ignore all ways off and in 930m cross the **A30** to continue in the same direction along a bridleway (**Buxbury Hollow**) between trees, at times with glimpses on the left of the restored **Royal Warwickshire Badge** and of three of the other **Fovant Badges**, regimental badges cut into the chalky ground [SWC Walk Tisbury Circular (via Dinton and Fovant)].

After a while the path rises up a wooded hillside (**Buxbury Hill**) and in 830m you emerge from the wood at a bend of a track by a Bridleway/Restricted Byway-signpost to *turn up left* along it. In 180m *fork left*, ignoring a car wide gravel track to the right as well as a permissive footpath (marker missing at time of writing) up an earth bank between the forking tracks, and in 40m continue in the same direction through a metal field gate and along a sunken track, which continues as a car wide grassy track. In 150m *fork right* and in another 150m cross a car wide bridleway by a wooden post with a bridleway marker on the reverse and continue slightly to the left (140°) along a grassy track to continue contouring along the rim of the valley on the left.

In 300m walk through a metal field gate and continue in the same direction close to the right-hand fence line, ignoring all paths and tracks leading down the flank of **Sutton Down** with views down into the valley back towards the village of **Fovant**. Continue along the right-hand fence line (110°), past a metal field gate on the right, and in 320m go through an unmarked metal gate and *turn left* along the **Ox Drove** (on the OS map), a car wide track. In 50m [!] *turn right* through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate and *veer left* to continue along a farm track (120°). In 200m *veer left* with a Restricted Byway-sign along a left-hand arable field boundary (due E), where the farm track turns right. In 230m, in the field corner with a metal gate on the left, [!] *turn hard right* back on yourself through the arable field. Cross it on a bearing of 210° to leave it across a gravel track and continue with a bridleway marker post through a wooded strip along a grassy path. *Veer left* with the path and in 80m go through a metal gate to emerge on the upper rim at the top end of a very pretty U-shaped valley.

This is a side valley of the **Prescombe Down National Nature Reserve**. Descend the valley flank towards a wooden pole about 30m to the left of a metal trough 70m away (250°) and *turn left* there to descend in a southerly direction down the bottom of the U-shaped side-valley (**Church Bottom**), towards the left-hand edge of a wooded area. In 730m go through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate and *veer right* (225°) through the bottom of another steep chalk down (**Long Bottom**) towards a gate at the rim of the valley in a fence line (230°) and in 200m start the very steep ascent up the valley flank. Go through the metal gate and through a narrow strip of a field with some plants left in it most of the year (shelter for birds reared for a nearby shooting estate). In 25m emerge from this and continue in the same direction across a small corner of an arable field. In 60m cross a farm track and continue in the same direction through an adjacent, large arable field on a usually obvious path (225°). You get scenic views up the **Ebble Valley** to some of the downs walked along later, and also of **Ebbesbourne Wake** village on the left below.

In 240m you *turn left* at the opposite field boundary, downhill along its right-hand side and in 130m *turn left* in the bottom field corner. In 15m *turn right* down an earth bank and cross a road to go over a stile by a footpath signpost to *turn left* down the slope with an intermittent path (110°) towards the bottom-left corner of the field. In 275m you go over a stile and *turn right* along a grassy path. In 25m cross **The Ebble River** on a two-railed concrete bridge and in 30m emerge on a road at a bend by a footpath signpost. *Turn left* along the lane into **Ebbesbourne Wake**. In 190m a tarmac lane turns right up to a church. [For the lunch pub continue in the same direction and in 20m *turn right* at a T-junction, pass a bus stop for services to Salisbury to reach the recommended lunch stop **The Horseshoe Inn** in another 20m. After lunch return to this point.]

To continue the walk you *turn right* up the tarmac lane (or left if coming from the pub) and in 30m *turn right* up a gravel lane. In 15m you reach the lychgate of **St. John the Baptist, Ebbesbourne Wake**.

Here you have a choice:

For the Shortcut, continue in the same direction along a grassy path (a signposted public footpath) and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut**.

For the Main Walk *turn left* through the lychgate into the churchyard and in 15m continue past the church entrance and leave it to continue along a fenced-in path, which – after turning left – leads through a grassy area to a tarmac lane. Cross the lane a little to the left and go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate by a footpath signpost. *Turn right* along the right-hand field boundary, with splendid views ahead up the **Ebble Valley**. You walk along a car-wide grassy path which slowly bears left, above the houses in **West End** hamlet below. In the field corner ignore a decrepit stile on the right and *bear left* with the field edge and after a total of 1 km leave the field through a rusty metal field gate (with a stile with a footpath marker on the reverse to the right), onto a tarmac lane. *Turn left* up the lane and in 170m *turn right* with it.

The lane continues as a gravel farm track and you walk through a slight dip and in 260m start a very gradual descent. In 510m go through a metal field gate at the lowest point of this track, and start to re-ascend, towards the hills ahead (**South Down** and **Elcombe Down**). In 860m go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate to then *turn right* along a path (a marked bridleway) with a grassy bank on the left and a fence on the right. In 60m follow the track round to the left, which then twists and turns between grassy banks while ascending for another 340m (walk along the top of the banks for better views). The path continues as a wide grassy path up the right-hand slope of the valley and in 180m you go through a metal gate with a bridleway marker on a gate post into a pasture. Continue uphill (160°) along the right-hand side of a fence and in 200m, in the top far left corner of this pasture, go through a metal gate and emerge on the **Salisbury Ox Drove**. The plain on the other side of the down is the **Cranborne Chase**. *Turn right* along the Ox Drove.

You have views on the right of the latter part of the morning route as well as the early part of the return route. In 270m at a corner of a grassy field on the right – and at the end of a wood on the left – ignore a metal field gate on the right. In about 175m the large conurbation with several high rises in the distance on the left on a 165°-bearing is **Bournemouth/Poole**, with – on a very clear day – the **Isle of Wight** visible to the left of it, and the **Purbeck Hills** to the right. In a further 150m, at a track junction with a farm yard with some barns on the left, **[!]** *turn right* along a gravel lane and follow it down from **Elcombe Down** for 1.3 km to the bottom of the drop, ignoring all ways off to **Elcombe Coombe** and **Elcombe Copse**. The lane continues as a tarmac drive and in 465m you pass **Little Elcombe House** on the right, and in another 60m **Elcombe House**. In 90m *turn right* along a lane at a T-junction into **Alvediston**.

In 60m, by a **bus stop for services to Salisbury**, you pass **The Crown Inn** on your right-hand side and *turn left* along a tarmac lane. In 290m *turn right* with the lane, ignore a footpath turning right, and follow the lane around to the left across the **Ebble River**. In 40m the Shortcut joins from the right along a car-wide lane through a double wooden field gate (signposted 'To the church'). The walk will continue in the same direction along the tarmac lane, **but first a visit to the church** 100m away on the right **is re-commended: St. Mary, Alvediston**, burial place of **Sir Anthony Eden, Prime Minister 1955-57** (a memorial plaque is located in the church, his grave is on the right hand side as you enter the church yard).

***)** Continue along the tarmac lane and in 10m **[!]** *turn left* over a stile to the right of a metal field gate into a pasture and continue along its right-hand field boundary. In 150m leave the field through a metal gate and continue along a gravel path with the river away on your left and a barbed wire fence on the right. In 430m emerge on a

concrete farm track at a four-way bridleway junction by an overgrown tree trunk with overgrown markers and with a wooden kissing gate opposite. *Turn right* along the farm track bridleway. In 40m pass a couple of houses and start a gradual ascent between trees. Ignore a couple of left turns (after the second of those your path narrows to footpath width), with views opening eventually on the left across **some U-shaped valleys**. In about 1.0 km from the houses, you pass a footpath/bridleway signpost to cross a tarmac lane and continue over a stile to the right of a metal field gate.

Veer left through a pasture towards a stile to the right of a metal field gate and in 90m go over the stile and continue in the same direction around the rim of the spectacular steep U-shaped **Middle Down** curving away to the right. In 350m, where a path joins from the left at a wooded corner, *veer right* with the valley rim, in 80m pass a cattle trough and in 90m *turn left* and go across a stile in the fence line onto a farm track immediately behind it to *turn right* along it (this is the **Old Shaftesbury Drive**, an 18th century coach road). In 30m you *turn left* to cross another farm track that runs parallel with it and enter a (fallow) field through a metal field gate. *Bear right* (355°) through it and in 130m cross a stile in a new barbed wire fence and *bear further right* through a very large arable field on a bearing of 50°. In 100m the field starts to gently descend and you aim for a metal field gate ahead. You have far views of (parts of) **Tisbury**.

In about 100m go over a stepless stile with a yellow marker to the right of the metal field gate to go down a bank and *turn left* through a wide fence gap (a rusty metal field gate lies on the ground to the right) and immediately *turn right* into the top corner of **Swallowcliffe Down (Access Land)**. The target now is the bottom right-hand corner of the fenced part of the steep down, so *turn right*, broadly along the right-hand fence, but without a clear path through the grassy slope which gets ever more steeply while descending towards a former chalk pit. At the pit, pick up a path turning left along the rim of it, away from the fence line. Once past the chalk pit, *turn down steeply to the right* along one of several chalky paths (60°), heading towards a (currently dilapidated and overgrown) stile in the bottom-right corner of the fenced slope, by some remnants of a wire fence line on the right (there is also a metal gate 20m before the corner).

Go over the stile/through the gate (**leaving the Access Land**) and *turn right* into a wood along a **Permissive Access (Natural England)**-footpath. In 10m *turn left* at a junction of forest paths and in 250m emerge from the wood and go through a metal gate in a fence line. Continue in the same direction along a left-hand field boundary on a car wide grassy track between a hedge on the left and a barbed wire fence on the right. In 320m *turn right* this side of a double metal field gate to continue along the car wide grassy boundary. In 165m **[!]** *turn left* through an easy-to-miss gap in the field boundary and cross the **A30** carefully to go through a metal gate in a hedge gap on the other side into a large arable field. Cross the field on a bearing of 340° and in 190m you reach the brow of the field to continue in the same direction. In 75m leave the field in its corner to continue along the right hand grassy edge of the adjacent field.

In 75m **[!]** *turn right* along an easy-to-miss path through a wooded strip to in 20m go through a metal gate into a steep grassy field. *Turn left* down the steep slope (on a bearing of 300°), soon passing the first of several footpath marker posts. In 160m go through a metal gate and emerge at a three-way tarmac lane junction. Continue in the same direction into **Swallowcliffe** village. Ignore a few footpaths turning left off the road and in 250m – by a triangular green and a bus stop – *turn right* to pass the very recommended **The Royal Oak** and in 30m cross a stream. You pass a green on the right with a large yew tree and a memorial stone for the 10th century **St. Peter's Church** (abandoned due to frequent flooding) and in 30m *turn left* at a small triangular green (signed 'Village Hall'). In 50m pass the **Village Hall** by a three-way signpost to follow the lane to the right and in 75m walk through a wooden field gate.

Turn half left up a steep-sided, lightly wooded slope along a clear path (a restricted byway, i.e.: ignore the hard left turning footpath) and in 150m – at the top – go through a wooden gate (usually open) and *turn left* along a grassy path with some trees on the left. In 50m ignore a track going down to the left and in 150m **[!]** ignore a farm track turning left and steeply downhill into the trees to continue in the same direction along a grassy path with a fence and an arable field on the right. *Veer left* with **Swallowcliffe Wood** on your left, where a car-wide fenced-off grassy farm track joins from the right, and in 250m go through a couple of metal field gates 30m apart and continue in the same direction. In 250m in a field corner you go along a narrow path through a small wood. In 25m, by a redundant stile at a corner of a short fence, *turn left* with bridleway and footpath markers along a grassy field boundary (the wooded top on the opposite side of the field is the **Castle Ditches Iron Age Hillfort Site**).

In 170m **[!]** *fork left* into the trees and start to descend along a path at the fringe of the wood (bluebells in season). In 420m *turn right* uphill at a three-way footpath/bridleway junction along a fenced grassy path. In 100m you go through a metal gate to *turn left* with a metal field gate on the right, along a farm track with **Withyslade Farm** below in the valley. In 140m you *turn left* with the track and in 15m go through a usually open metal field gate, and then immediately **[!]** *turn right* at a three-way farm track junction with markers on the right-hand gate post. In 5m walk through an often-open metal field gate and in 100m *turn right* at a three-way farm track junction and through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate to continue along a fenced path (20°). You have views on the left to **Tisbury** and up the **Vale of Wardour** and back over the shoulder on the left to the wooded hilltop of **High Wood**.

In 240m *veer right* through a metal gate into a wood and in 50m descend to a three-way path junction of forest paths 20m away. *Turn left* and in 50m you exit the wood and continue in the same direction, now with a wire fence and a field behind it on the right, and the wood on the left. In 170m you *turn left* with path and fence and re-enter the wood and in another 25m the fence veers away to the right. The path curves to the left to continue its descent through **Haredene Wood**, now as a wider holloway. At a four-way junction continue in the same direction downhill along a narrow and bumpy sunken track between trees, which turns into a stream bed after heavy rain. More than 2000 years ago this holloway would have been a thoroughfare to the hill fort passed earlier. In 470m you emerge on a drive to a farm on the right (**Haredene Farm**) by a footpath marker post and continue in the same direction to the right of an impressive buttressed wall and in 60m cross a stream on a bridge (the stream was crossed earlier, in Swallowcliffe). *Turn right* along a road (**Tisbury Row**).

In 120m *turn left* up a few steps with a footpath signpost and through a metal gate into a sloping field. *Veer up right* on a usually clear path towards a field corner and in 130m continue in the same direction (280°) across a small field corner to in 70m go through a hedge gap and *veer right* across the next field (305°) towards its far-left corner on a usually well-cleared path (if overgrown, skirt the field along the right-hand edge). In 370m leave the field through a metal gate and then a gap in the boundary hedge into another field and continue along its right-hand grassy boundary with a barbed wire fence on the right and with views across the **Vale of Wardour** and across the railway line to **Tisbury**. In 150m *turn right* through a metal gate and *veer left* down **Chantry Hill** along a clear path (260°) diagonally downhill through a steep grassy field. In 90m walk through a metal kissing gate and *turn left* along a narrow earthen path through an overgrown area parallel to the railway line, finally down some steps. Continue through an industrial yard (**Parmiter's Yard**) and in 40m *turn right* through a set of white wooden gates to cross the railway line.

On the other side of the track continue down a tarmac lane and in 20m ignore a right turning path (the morning outwards route). In 35m reach the road through Tisbury at a T-junction. 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, or first continue along the road for 130m to the (pub) tea stop **The South Western (currently closed)**.

Shortcut

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

In 70m walk through high brick gate posts and in 20m ignore a footpath joining from the left over a stile in the hedge to continue in the same direction along the path, with a wooden railing on the right. In 30m *fork left* and in 60m *turn left* along **Duck Street** by a footpath signpost. In 100m continue in the same direction where **May Lane** joins from the left above. The road follows the **Ebble River** on the right below, with a steep grassy hillside on the left through **West End** hamlet.

In 530m, by a bus stop, *turn right* along a minor lane across a bridge over the Ebble River to *turn left* immediately along a gravel drive between hedges. In 140m continue through a metal field gate into a pasture and follow a clear grassy track through the sloping meadow with the river on the left. In 425m walk through a metal field gate and continue in the same direction through another grassy slope. In 260m go through a metal field gate and *turn right* for 50m to visit **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). Afterwards return to this gate and continue to a tarmac lane 50m away.

The route from the left along the lane across the Ebble is the main walk. *Turn right* along the lane and pick up the directions in the main walk text at the single asterisk *).