

Tisbury Circular (via Dinton and Fovant) [Full Walk]			Shortcuts and Extension		
1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check	1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check
06 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	04 <sup>th</sup> June 2021		09 <sup>th</sup> June 2021		
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## Tisbury Circular (via Dinton and Fovant)

**Start & 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:** 24.1 km (15.0 mi), of which 5.0 km (3.1 mi) on tarmac or concrete.

**Cumulative ascent/descent:** 431m.

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

**Toughness:** 6 out of 10

**Time:** 5 hours 30 minutes walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 10 ¼ hours.

**Transport:** Tisbury Station is on the London Waterloo to Exeter St. Davids West of England Main Line. J-ourney times are 106 minutes Monday to Saturday (hourly) and 114 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), 130 (Salisbury & Stonehenge) and 143 (Warminster & Trowbridge).

### Walk Notes:

This walk explores the Nadder Valley east of Tisbury, part of the West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is spectacular walking country with some breathtaking open vistas in a varied landscape. Without scaling any ridges or steep ascents, the route meanders through the beautiful undulating and peaceful countryside with a few grassy U-shaped valleys, pretty views out to some distant coombes, and scenic Dinton Park with its grand mansion (Philipps House).

A couple of picturesque former corn mills on the Nadder River are walked past, while the afternoon route also offers views from a wood's fringe across a valley to the Fovant Badges, regimental badges cut into the chalk, and the largest group of hill side figures in Europe, before leading through a couple of quiet villages followed by a gentle descent across fields back into Tisbury, a remarkably unspoilt village.

The route features several good bluebell woods and wild garlic-lined paths, and it also goes through plenty of meadows and pastures rich in wildflowers, especially buttercups.

### Walk Options:

A **Shortcut** before lunch reduces the walk by 1.4 km (0.8 mi) and the ascent/descent by 25m.

**Bus Line 25** (Salisbury – Tisbury or Zeals), with 5 buses a day Mon-Fri and 4 on Sat, has convenient stops in Teffont Magna (after 7.9 km) and in Dinton (11.8 km, just after the lunch pub).

A **Shortcut** right after lunch reduces the walk by 1.9 km (1.2 mi) and the ascent/descent by 21m.

Taking both Shortcuts makes this a **5/10** walk.

An **Extension** to and through the Fovant Badges and up to Fovant Down and the Chiselbury Iron Age hill fort site adds 5.1 km and 150m ascent/descent (**8/10**).

### Lunch (details last updated 10/06/2021)

**The Wyndham Arms**, Hindon Road, Dinton, *Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 5EG* (01722 716 999).

The Wyndham Arms is located 11.7 km (7.3 mi) into the full walk. Opening Times: Tue-Fri 12.00-15.00 and Mon-Fri 17.30-23.00, Sat 12.00-23.00 and Sun 12.00-20.00. Food Service: Tue-Fri 12.00-14.00 and 18.00-20.00, Sat 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-20.30 and Sun 12.00-15.00.

### Tea (details last updated 31/03/2024)

**The Greater Good** Shaftesbury Road, *Fovant, Wiltshire, SP3 5JH*. (01722 785 253, <https://www.tgg.pub/>).

The Greater Good is located on the Extension via Fovant Downs, after 21.1 km/13.1 mi of walking. Open 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-23.00 Tue-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun.

**The Compasses Inn** Lower Chicksgrove, *Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6NB*. (01722 714 318, <http://thecompassesinn.com/>). Open 11.00-15.00 and 18.00-23.00 Mon-Fri, 11.00-23.00 Sat and 12.00-23.00 Sun. Food served 12.00-14.00 Mon-Sun, 18.30-21.00 Mon-Sat and 19.00-21.00 Sun. The Compasses is a 14<sup>th</sup> century thatched Freehouse, located 3.7 km (2.3 mi) from the end of the walk.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> century. References to the abbot of Tisbury suggest that there was an abbey on what is now the site of the village in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and the origin of Tisbury parish may be as the estate of such an abbey. Tisbury manor and, from the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, Tisbury church belonged to Shaftesbury Abbey until the Dissolution. The village's 13<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> century, with later additions and a small, apparently 18<sup>th</sup> century, farmhouse is nearby. It stands on the charming site of a much earlier water mill, certainly from the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> century and to a house after WWII.

### Teffont Evias/Teffont Magna/Teffont Manor

Teffont Evias forms a combined parish with Teffont Magna, and has been described as "most delightfully situated" and been included in a list of the half dozen most beautiful villages in England. The name derives from "Teo", an old Germanic (Frisian) word meaning a boundary, and the Late Latin word "fontana", meaning a spring of water. The perennial stream rises at Spring Head at the north end of Teffont Magna, and flows some 2.5 km south to its debouchment into the River Nadder. Early Saxon remains have not been found to the west of the stream, and the original boundary may have separated the Romano-British from the Anglo-Saxons. The "Ewyas" element derives from Ewyas Harold, the main seat of Teffont's lord at the time of Domesday Book. From Saxon times the village has been generally on the valley bottom along the course of the stream; the Teffont Archaeology Project has found remains of a Roman settlement on higher ground.

Teffont Manor House was, until recently, the home of the Mayne family of Exeter and their descendants. It has since been converted into flats. This West Country branch of the Maynes traces its line back to Richard Mayne, a successful brewer and Freeman of the City of Exeter in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Dinton Park/Wick Ball Camp/Philipps House**

The Wyndham family came to Dinton in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, buying the house and park.

Philipps House, a Neo-Grecian house formerly called Dinton House, was built between 1814 and 1817 for William Wyndham (a leading late Georgian politician, 1769-1841) of local Chilmark stone from the same quarry that produced the stone for Salisbury Cathedral 600 years earlier. Designed by Sir Jeffry Wyattville (1766-1840), the house is strikingly simple, deliberately conservative and grand, making it clear that the Wyndhams of Dinton were an old family of some standing.

The house is one of the first in England to have a central heating system installed. This was achieved by pumping hot air from a boiler in the basement into the stairwell. It was renamed Philipps House by new owner Bertram Erasmus Philipps in 1916 who named it after himself, but then granted it to the National Trust in 1943. It is Grade II\* listed and currently closed for visitors.

Wick Ball Camp is an Iron Age hillfort, univallate on the north and west sides. The term 'Wick' often indicates the presence of a vicus – a Latin term for a settlement outside the walls of a Roman fort.

Additionally, the term 'ball' often denotes a boundary, and is a shortening of the word 'bailiwick'. Another variant is contained in the phrase 'beyond (outside) the pale', or bail (or in this case 'ball').

### **Little Clarendon**

Little Clarendon is a delightful 15<sup>th</sup> Century Tudor stone farmhouse once owned by George Engleheart, a famous horticulturist in the early 1900s who introduced many of the most popular daffodils grown today. The house is furnished as it was in their day. The Rev. Engelheart's wife, Mary, converted a bakery in the grounds of the house to create her own Roman Catholic chapel in 1921.

Edward Hyde, the grandfather of two Queens of England, was born at Little Clarendon.

It is now NT-owned, but not open for visitors.

### **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); 6<sup>th</sup> (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' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary); Wiltshire Regiment (added in 1950); 5<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade); 8<sup>th</sup> (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/>

### **RAF Chilmark**

Chilmark Quarries, which has been a stone quarry since the 9<sup>th</sup> century, its underground limestone mines and the surrounding land, were acquired by the Air Ministry in 1936 and served as a bomb store, RAF Chilmark (also known as No 11 Maintenance Unit), throughout WWII. The depot had a narrow gauge railway, with a spur from the main line at Dinton. The first consignment of war stores arrived in May 1937. There were also immense surface storage bomb and ammunition dumps in other locations in the area, particularly in Grovely Woods about 7 km to the north-east. Unlike most other RAF depots, Chilmark continued in use after the war. In 1994 supplies were transferred to the NATO depot at Glen Douglas in Scotland though, prior to the complete closure in April 1995 with the loss of 200 jobs.

### **Chiselbury**

Chiselbury is the site of an Iron Age univallate hillfort located in Wiltshire. The hillfort is sub-circular in plan, and encloses an area of approximately 10.5 acres. It is defined by an earthen rampart up to 3.6m in height and an external ditch, up to a maximum of 1.6m in depth. A gap in the south eastern side of the rampart, and a corresponding causeway across the ditch, is thought to be the original entrance and is associated with a small 'D' shaped embanked enclosure, which is visible on aerial photographs. Although the enclosure has subsequently been degraded by ploughing, it is still apparent as a series of low earthworks.

## 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* just past **Bridge House** along a tarmac lane. In 30m *turn left* along a narrow path along the river, in 30m *turn left* through a (missing) wooden kissing gate and in 70m continue through a riverside meadow along its right-hand side (ignore any left forks). **[!]** In 420m (and about 100m before the far field corner) *turn right* through a fence gap to cross a gravel drive that and *turn left* on the other side to continue in the previous direction. In 100m emerge from the fenced path onto a road at a T-junction (**Tisbury Row**) by a footpath signpost and *turn left* along it.

In 30m *turn right* with a footpath signpost through a double wooden gate and walk along a tarmac drive, in 120m ignore a marked footpath turning right through railway arches (the return route) and in 35m continue in the same direction along a rising gravel car wide track (where another signed footpath turns left into the grounds of **Tisbury Mill**). In 40m go through a metal field gate and continue in the same direction through a couple of sloping pastures with the river down on the left. In 460m – in the far right corner of the second field – you go over a stile in the fence line on the right and cross the railway. Go over a stile on the other side and *turn left*, initially through young trees, later through a mature wood, parallel to the railway. In 490m the path starts to rise and in 50m it continues as a gravel drive past a house on the right. In 100m *turn left* at a T-junction with a tarmac lane through a level crossing and continue along the lane downhill. In 60m you cross the **Nadder** on a bridge (with an old mill on the left) and follow the lane past houses and farm buildings in **Upper Chicksgrove** hamlet.

**In 160m** – at a road by a two-way signpost on the right – **you have a choice:**

**For a Shortcut**, *turn right* with a public footpath along the grassy road verge and pick up the directions at the end of the text under **Shortcut I**.

**For the main walk** you cross **Chicksgrove Road** and continue in the same direction with a bridleway along a farm track, steadily uphill between trees. In 90m, where the track veers left, you continue in the same direction along a sunken path between hedges. In 500m you emerge into an arable field's corner at a two-way bridleway marker post, with fine views back across the **Nadder Valley** and cross it towards the middle of the wood over the brow of this large field (345°), often without a ploughed path. In about 130m you might be able to see a wooden gate at the opposite field boundary, aim for this. In 360m continue through an overgrown field corner along the boundary and in 40m walk through the wooden gate onto a road where you *turn right*. In 130m, by a bridleway signpost on the left, *turn right* through a gap to the left of a double metal field gate along a car wide forest track into **Pits Wood**.

In 100m *fork left* to stay to the left of a row of trees. You now get occasional glances on the right through the trees to the distant **Fovant Down**, with some of the **Fovant Badges**, which have been cut into the chalk (the afternoon route will pass by them much closer). In 330m continue into trees at the end of the field on the right and in 250m walk through a metal field gate into a large pasture (**Chilmark Common**, used by a pheasant farm) to continue along its right-hand boundary. In 200m leave the field in the far-right corner through a wooden gate in the wire fence and *turn left* (due N) along a grassy fenced path. In 280m you walk through a metal gate into a pasture and continue in the same direction with trees on the right and through a dip. In 190m keep to the left of a fence around farm buildings and in 80m at the top of a rise *veer slightly right* towards the bottom right corner of the field. In 100m walk through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and *turn left* along a road towards **Chilmark**.



In 340m, at a four-way road junction, you *turn down to the right* (with **Ellan Thie** on the left, its front garden is well worth a look) and in 130m cross a stream (with more pheasant farm buildings on the left). The stream now runs parallel to the road but in 70m you *fork right* off the road, where road and stream turn left and then *turn right* with a signposted bridleway along a tarmac drive past some cottages. In 40m walk through a gap to the right of a metal field gate and continue along a grassy track with a steep wood on the left (**Cleeve Copse**, bluebells in season) and a sloping field on the right behind a fence. In 140m walk through a metal field gate (a car wide gravel track descends from the left). In 300m go through a wooden gate into the pasture on the right and follow its left-hand boundary (with wonderful views back along this U-shaped valley towards **Ridge** hamlet (SWC Walk 248 Tisbury Circular via Hindon)).

In 270m you walk through a wooden gate and continue in the same direction towards trees, but in 10m **[!]** *fork right* with a bridleway marker post and in 10m you continue along a fenced path. In 150m continue in the same direction through a metal gate into a wood at a four-way bridleway/footpath junction and in 60m go through a metal gate into a sloping pasture and follow its left-hand side, curving left along the edge of the hanging wood on the left (**Upper Holt**, bluebells in season). You continue with views down this valley and towards **Compton Down** rising behind it in the middle distance and in 150m can see the top of the buildings in **Teffont Evias** village, including **Teffont Manor** and Church. In 290m pass a corrugated iron shed on the left and in another 40m go over a stile in the upper-left corner of the field and cross a car wide track to continue – a little to the left – through a metal gate into another pasture. Aim for a stile in the opposite fence line 200m away (85°, to the left of some houses) and – once over the stile – continue along a wire fence with a paddock behind it on the right. In 15m Shortcut I joins from the right through a metal field gate.

\*) In 70m go over a double stile and continue through another pasture in the same direction towards a metal field gate to the left of houses 170m away. Walk through the field gate or over a stile to the right, in 25m go through another field gate and in 15m cross the **Teff Stream** to then **[!]** *turn right* along a road on the opposite pavement. [There is a bus stop to the left though, for services to Salisbury (on the right) or Tisbury (on the left)]. In 40m *turn left* with a bridleway signpost up a narrow earthen path (lined with wild garlic in spring) with a garden fence on the left. In 150m ignore a path turning right over a stile into a pasture and follow the earthen path further uphill. In 90m pass a wooden gate in the fence line on the left, just before you *bear right* with the path (bluebells in season here) and in 60m *turn right* at a three-way path junction at the top of the rise. In 135m leave the wood through a metal field gate to continue in the same direction along a fenced path between pastures and with fishing ponds down on the right. This route across **The Common** is the old '**Coffin Path**' from **Teffont Magna** to **Dinton Church**, and remained in use as such until 1925.

In 220m cross a farm track and continue in the same direction into a small wood (with rhododendron undergrowth), which you leave in 310m to continue a little to the right along a fenced path through a sloping pasture. In 240m the path bears left, now with a wood on the right and in 150m you go into a belt of trees through a wooden gate and enter the NT-owned **Dinton Park**. In 50m emerge through a wooden kissing gate into the open parkland, a stunning setting any time of the year, and continue in the same direction over a brow towards the right of a clump of trees without a clear path (100°). [A detour up to the top of the rise on the left would give you a chance to spot the spire of **Salisbury Cathedral**]. After about 100m at a grass path T-junction and with a bench away on the left, the view opens up, with **Wick Ball Camp** (an Iron Age hillfort site) up over the shoulder on the left, **Philipps House** on the left and the sloping park (a sea of buttercups in spring), **Hyde's House** and **Dinton Church** ahead (due E).

*Turn left*, soon passing the bench to the left, and in 150m from the left turn you *curve to the right* with the path to pass **Phillips House** along its front in 130m. In 70m *turn right* with the path and in 150m *fork left* to aim to the right-hand side of a wood 100m away. You continue along the wood and in 180m pass a fence corner on the left around the grounds of **Hyde's House** (a former rectory named after Edward Hyde, future Lord Chancellor under Charles II, and first Earl of Clarendon), and in 90m *turn left* towards a wooden kissing gate and through it into the churchyard of **St. Mary's, Dinton**. Walk around the left-hand side of the church (usually open) and leave the churchyard up some steps (note the base of a **Preaching Cross** and an info panel on the right) and along a gravel path on the other side.

In 25m *turn right* along a lane and in 20m cross a road to continue – a little to the left – along a narrow path to the right of '**The Small House**' with a footpath signpost. In 55m walk through a wooden kissing gate into a grassy field and follow its left-hand boundary fence. In 100m pass a large solitary oak tree on the right and in 30m *turn left* through the second of two wooden gates to continue along a fenced path. Ignore all ways off and in 410m walk through a wooden kissing gate into an arable field. Continue along its right-hand boundary hedge, in 125m ignore a metal gate on the right, and in 30m leave the field in the far-right corner through a metal kissing gate. Continue between houses, in 30m *turn right* along a tarmac cul-de-sac (**Spracklands**) and in 190m cross **Hindon Road** at a T-junction by a bus stop for services to Salisbury on the left and *turn left* along its pavement. In 230m find the lunch stop **The Wyndham Arms** on the left.

### **After lunch you have a choice:**

**For a Shortcut** *turn right* along the road (i.e.: re-trace your steps from pre-lunch) and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut II**.

**For the main walk** *turn left* out of the pub, i.e.: continue in the pre-lunch direction. In 150m you pass another **bus stop for services to Salisbury** and *turn right* along a tarmac lane just before a thatched stone bus shelter. In 50m this continues as a wide grassy path. In 230m go through wooden kissing gates either side of the railway and in 350m *turn right* around the mill house of **Dinton Mill** (refurbished and run as a commercial fishery with seven beats on **The Nadder**). In 50m cross the river on a two-railed wide wooden bridge with the mill pond outflow on the right and continue in the same direction along a car wide gravel track. In 470m *turn right* at a bend in a road and start ascending, with the fine parkland and landscaped lakes of **Compton Park** occasionally visible on the left through trees. In 750m, where the road levels out, the onwards route *turns up right* with a footpath signpost along a track, but a short detour to the 14<sup>th</sup> century church of **St. Michael, Compton Chamberlayne** is recommended: *turn left* through a wooden gate, signposted 'To the Church', walk along a gravel path with a private garden on the right and in 90m reach the church.

The track continues uphill with **Compton Wood** on the right and in 260m the path levels out. In 15m you get some views on the left of the **Fovant Badges**, regimental badges cut into **Fovant Down** to commemorate Military Units that were encamped in the area during WWI. In 320m by **Home Farm** (on the OS map), *turn right* at a farm track T-junction and in 30m *turn left* with the track. In 60m *fork right*, ignoring a left turn into the farmyard, and continue with a large arable field on the right. In 680m you have a wood on the right and in 180m in the field corner you *turn right* into the wood. In 15m *turn left* along a narrow path just inside **Fovant Wood**. In about 100m the wood is dropping off steeply on the right and in another 100m you can see – back over the shoulder on the right and foliage permitting – some large beige storage sheds down in the valley in **Dinton**, these were formerly used by **RAF Chilmark** (they are also on the OS map). In about 1 km (bluebells in season), by the **Fir Hill Fovant Reservoir** on the left, drop down to a gravel track and *turn up to the left*.

**In 20m**, at the brow, **you have a choice:**

**For an Extension to** – and through – **the Fovant Badges** and up onto **Fovant Down** continue in the same direction along the track, gently descending, and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Extension**.

**For the main walk** *turn right* and up over a stile in a hedge and *turn right* along an arable field boundary. In 150m you pass a trig point in the field on the left (159m above sea) and keep following the field boundary with **Fir Hill Plantation** on the right through a couple of turns. In 620m you *turn right* through a metal kissing gate at the end of the wood. The **Extension** joins along the field boundary out of the valley.

**\*\*)** In 60m *turn right* through a kissing gate, keeping to the edge of the wood, with **Fovant Village** below on the left. In 120m *turn left* down the slope with the path and in 70m walk through a metal kissing gate onto a lane by a footpath signpost (Compton Chamberlayne 1 ½). *Veer right* to cross the lane and in 10m bear left to continue along an easy-to-miss narrow path between trees. In 15m *turn left* along a fenced path with a yellow marker and in 40m continue in the same direction to the right of a fenced in paddock. In 150m Shortcut II joins from the right along a path out of trees.

**\*\*\*)** In 10m cross the **Fovant Brook** on a concrete bridge and in 45m *fork left* for 25m to a tarmac lane (but for a **recommended diversion** *fork right* and then *turn right* along **Church Lane** past Fovant Cattery and Fovant House and in 170m reach **Fovant Church** [usually open] with its many WWI graves and a war memorial). Else *turn left* along Church Lane and in 140m *turn right* at a four-way junction of lanes along **Moor Hill** (signposted Tisbury). In 230m you *fork ever so slightly left* along a gravel lane with a byway signpost, where the tarmac lane turns up to the right (and with **Moor Hill Cottage** on the left). In 50m this continues as a narrow path between trees. Ignore all ways off and all stiles over fences into fields or gardens and in 430m continue along a tarmac lane by **Glebe Cottage** on the left.

In 260m *turn right* along a road towards **Sutton Mandeville** village, in 100m ignore a right turning road (signposted Chilmark and Teffont) and in another 110m *turn right* up a tarmac lane by a very small triangular green (signposted **The Church**). In 15m *turn right* along a tarmac lane and in 20m *fork left* along a raised concrete path with a wooden railing on the left to reach the churchyard of **All Saints, Sutton Mandeville** (usually open) in another 30m. Walk to the left of the church (on the way note the Grade II listed sundial, believed to be dating from 1685) and leave the churchyard in the far-left corner through a metal gate. *Turn right* with a wall on the right (and the **Nadder Valley** below to the right) and curve left through a pasture on an incline with a wood on the left (initially 295°).

In 170m go through a metal field gate and in 50m go through a kissing gate into an arable field corner, and *turn half right* to cross this field diagonally towards a red-roofed white house on a usually well-cleared path (335°) and in 270m continue down a tarmac lane at a bend (i.e.: do not turn right). In 110m *turn left* at a small car park belonging to **Sutton Mandeville Mill** (below behind a hedge, one of seven former corn mills on a 15 km stretch of The Nadder), and **[!]** in 12m *fork left* with a yellow marker and a handwritten 'Footpath' sign on a fence, where the driveway turns right down to the mill. The path *turns right* and in 60m it *turns left* over a stream on a slab bridge. In 15m go up some steps and over a stile into a large pasture and ascend it along a faint path (290°) and in 230m pass to the right of a clump of oak trees. Later ignore several stiles in the fence line on the right (turn around here for a last glimpse of some of the **Fovant Badges**) and head broadly for the far-right field corner, en route ignoring a left turning public footpath at a marker post.



In another 70m leave the field through a metal field gate *20m before the far field corner* to continue in the same direction into **Chicksgrove** hamlet along a tarmac drive. In 40m *turn left* at a T-junction with a road and in 15m pass the early tea option **The Compasses Inn**. In 120m *turn right* along a farm track (a public bridleway) where the road levels out (signposted **The Brambles**), in 270m pass large farm sheds and in 300m a footpath joins from the left through a metal kissing gate out of a large pasture. In 15m ignore a footpath turning right through a metal kissing gate into an arable field. **[!]** In 180m, by a 'Private Woods – Keep Out'-sign, *turn right* at the corner of a wooded strip on the right through a car wide un-marked gap in the trees and *turn left* by a footpath marker post across an arable field on an often-well-cleared path (300°), still uphill. [At time of writing this is not the case, so follow the tree line initially, then *veer right* where the trees bear left, and at the top of the field *turn right* to the gap mentioned in the next sentence.]

In 320m walk through a boundary gap into the adjacent field and descend through it in the same direction towards a wood. 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 a fence corner on the right – cross this arable field's corner veering right (280°) along a usually well-trampled path towards **Haredene Farm** 450m away. From the brow of this field you can see: on the left and slightly behind the wooded **Castle Ditches** hill top site (SWC Walk Tisbury Circular via Alvediston), while the wooded hill half left ahead is **High Wood** [SWC Walk Tisbury Circular via Donhead St. Andrews). In between and behind these two hills runs **Swallowcliffe Down**. Ahead is **Tisbury** across 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 go over a stile into a small grassy area and *veer right* along a clear path through the grass. In 60m go over a stile to the left of a rusty metal field gate to continue to the left of the thatched farm house along a grassy path with trees on the left, which soon narrows and descends between trees. In 160m the path *turns left* just before reaching the 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 drive (**Tisbury Mill** – 35m to the right – is well worth a look: a footpath turns left through its grounds and to a walkable weir over **The Nadder**). *Turn left* along the lane with the railway line now on your left on an embankment. In 120m walk through a double wooden gate and *turn right* along a road at a T-junction with **Tisbury Row**.

In 50m cross **The Nadder** on a road bridge and *turn left* immediately beyond it through a metal kissing gate with a footpath signpost into a floodplain. Walk to the left of houses protected by a levee and in 170m walk through a gap in a fence line and *bear right* towards a metal kissing gate on the upper boundary of the grassy area 80m away. Walk through the gate and up some steps and across **The Avenue** and *turn left* along it. In 570m you reach the main road through **Tisbury** at a T-junction: you have **Tisbury Fish & Chips** on your left and **Beatons Tearoom and Bookshop** and **Coffee Angels** and a **Co-Op** opposite; **Tisbury Delicatessen** up along the road on the left and the **Gardner & Beedle** wine shop on the right; **The Bennett Arms** pub a further 90m up along the left and the recommended **Boot Inn** another 200m up along the right.

**For the station** *turn left* along the road and in 110m find the **Star Grill** van on the left in the grounds of **Tisbury Football Club**. In 60m cross a bridge over **The Nadder**. *Fork left* up through the station car park to access the platform at the far end of the station building in 100m.

## Shortcut I

(cut 1.4 km, 25m of ascent/descent and 100m from the tarmac count)

In 50m, where the grassy verge ends, you continue along the road and in 20m *turn right* through a a metal gate in a hedge gap into a large riverside meadow, where you *turn left* along its left-hand edge. Continue through a few pastures and metal gates or field gates and in 550m *turn left* through a metal gate in the far corner of a field back onto the road, where you *turn right* into **Lower Chicksgrove**. In 260m you ignore a road turning off to the right (signposted **Sutton Row**) but in another 60m [!] *turn left* uphill off the road with a footpath signpost along a narrow holloway between trees. In 300m the path levels out and enters a wood, in 70m you pass remnants of a walled enclosure and then a pond it on the left and in 100m a metal field gate on the right provides for views out to the **Fovant Badges**, before the path continues between trees.

In 180m start descending as you enter **Chicksgrove Wood** and in 200m you *turn left* on a road. In 40m *turn right* with a bridgeway signpost through an open, barbed-wire topped, metal field gate and walk through a concreted yard abandoned by **RAF Chilmark**. In 40m continue in the same direction along a car wide farm track, soon crossing a stream on the track and then ascending with the track. In about 250m the track levels out and the trees on the right discontinue and in 20m you continue in the same direction at a junction with a farm track at a bend. In 350m ignore a path turning right between trees (towards **Ley Farm**) and in 500m pass the entrance gate to **Home Farm** on the left (the track continues as tarmac). In 50m the track *turns right* between high banks (**Teffont Manor** is visible ahead) and in 25m you [!] *turn left* up a narrow path in the side of the earth bank along a footpath crossing from the right.

At the top of the bank go over a stile and continue broadly along the left-hand side of a pasture, with some sheds to your left, while veering away from the sheds. In 70m pass a redundant stile by a fence corner and continue along the fence on your left. In 50m *turn left* through a wooden gate in the field's corner into the aptly named **Long Meadow** and *turn right* along its right-hand edge. In 40m go over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate and in 70m go over a stile and walk across a single-railed plank bridge over a ditch to then *turn left* through a private garden along its wooden fence. In 40m *turn right* in a tarmac cul-de-sac and in 30m *turn left* at a T-junction with a tarmac lane. In 50m *turn right* with a footpath signpost where a car wide bridgeway continues ahead in the same direction. In 70m go over a stile into a paddock and then into another paddock, and in 140m walk through a metal field gate into a large pasture. The main walk joins from the left over a stile 15m away.

*Turn right* and pick up the directions in the main text at the asterisk \*).

## Shortcut II

(cut 1.9 km and 21m of ascent/descent)

In 400m pass the NT-owned **Little Clarendon** on the right (the small building on the road is a **Catholic Chapel**). In 50m *fork right* along **Snowhill**. In 440m *fork left* at a small green in front of **Dinton Church** and in 25m cross a road into a **National Trust** car park a little to the left and walk along its right-hand side, in 25m entering a small wood. In 60m you go through a wooden kissing gate into **Dinton Park** and *bear left* across the grass, staying to the right of a lake on the left (230°). Past the lake, ignore a stile into a fenced wooded strip and then a wooden field gate onto a road on the left, as well as a right forking path later on, and after 400m (from entry into the park) leave the park over a stile in the boundary hedge, cross the **B 3089** and go over a stile on the other side into a pasture with a footpath signpost.

*Veer right* on a bearing of 220°, in 100m walk under an electricity line and in 120m go over a stile in the boundary growth and *veer right* in the neighbouring field towards the left of some large grey barns. In 150m go over a stile in a fence, to continue in the same direction through a grassy area and in 100m enter **Edwards Copse** through a gap (a missing stile). In 50m leave the wood and *bear left* across an arable field corner (or skirt along the left-hand boundary if without a ploughed path). In 80m by a marker post ('This path has been diverted') *turn right* along the field boundary and in **[!]** 30m *turn left* on a dog leg by another marker post down a narrow **Permissive Path** and in 25m through a narrow and low underpass under the railway line. Enter a riverside meadow through a metal kissing gate and *turn right* through it (230°), towards the left-hand corner of the buildings of **Teffont Mill Farm**.

In 200m go over a stile in the far field corner and then across a two-railed plank-bridge over a mill stream. Walk along a wooden fence on the right and in 30m *turn right* with the fence, and *right again* in another 50m at another fence corner. Follow the obvious and well-marked route around to the other side of **The Nadder River**, as it disgorges from the mill weir into the mill pond, and on the far side of the river **[!]** *turn left* immediately with the river on your left, ignoring a wooden gate ahead ('Private – No right of way'). In 70m go over a stile and in 35m over another one, emerging into a pasture. Continue ahead and in 50m walk through a kissing gate and then cross a wooden bridge over the **Fovant Brook** and continue uphill through a few trees. In 25m you walk through a metal gate and cross a narrow arable field on a usually obvious path (170°). In 50m *turn right* along the opposite boundary with a **dismantled railway line** behind a fence on the left (used during WWI for supply of the camps in **Fovant**).

In 220m, close to the end of the field, *veer right* and in 30m go through a metal kissing gate and continue along the left-hand side of a neighbouring field. In 140m *turn left* through a metal kissing gate and *turn right* through an overgrown grassy field (the wood on the left behind barbed wire fences is **Fovant Wood**, it was used until the 1990s by **RAF Chilmark** for explosives' storage). In 60m leave through a metal kissing gate into a wooded strip, in 10m cross a car wide farm track, and in 10m go past a footpath marker post into an arable field. *Continue in the same direction* across this field along a usually well-cleared path and in 200m go through a gap in the boundary trees into a small wood near a bend in a road (**Catherine Ford Lane**). Immediately *turn right* and go through a gap in the trees into an arable field. Cross it towards its far-right corner 400m away (210°). *Turn right* 10m before the far-right corner by a redundant stile and descend along a path through trees. In 100m you reach a T-junction of paths.

The main walk joins from the left. *Turn right* and pick up the directions in the main text at the triple asterisk \*\*\*).

### Extension

(add 5.1 km, 154m of ascent/descent and 560m to the tarmac count)

**Walk to the bottom of Fovant Down, up the scarp through the Fovant Badges, around the rim of the Chiselbury Iron Age hill fort site, along the ridge and back down further along Fovant Down through Fovant village**

You have far views on the right to the west along the down's escarpment and across a largely wooded valley, as well as occasional views on the left through gaps in the hedge towards the **Fovant Badges** on the flanks of **Fovant Down**. This whole area was a huge army camp during WWI. In 1 km you cross the **A30** and continue in the same direction along a tarmac lane with a bridleway signpost. In 280m you have a last chance to avoid the climb up the down by turning right at a farm track junction at the corner of

a brick garden wall on the right (follow the farm track for 470m, *turn right* with the track and pick up the directions at the quadruple asterisk \*\*\*\*) below).

Continue through a metal field gate along a fenced car wide track towards the foot of the escarpment. In 260m walk through a metal field gate and in 20m *turn left* with the fence on the left. In 40m walk past a footpath marker post and continue along a narrow path between trees up the steep chalky down. There are several deep, rutted, stepped paths on this steep stretch, try to take the furthest right ones where there is a fork. In 150m you are level with the fenced off bottom-left edge of one of the badges (the 4<sup>th</sup> from the left: **Royal Corps of Signals**) and keep ascending. In 80m you are level with the top-right fence corner around another of the badges (the 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left: **Australian Commonwealth Military Forces**) and keep ascending, past a couple of footpath marker posts.

In 130m, near the top of the rise, *veer right* towards an embankment running left-to-right on the top of **Fovant Down**. These, the earth banks and the ditch in front of it, are the remnants of **Chiselbury** Iron Age hillfort. In 40m *turn left* along the ramparts (on top of them or to the left of them), enjoying the splendid far views from this ancient defensive position. In 240m step off and away to the left from the ramparts towards a stile to the left of a metal field gate in the boundary fence 80m away (due S). Over the stile (and with wonderful vistas ahead into **Knapp Down** and into the **Ebble Valley**) *turn right* along a car wide track on top of the ridge (**Old Shaftesbury Drove**, in the medieval and post-medieval periods this track was the main route from Wilton to Shaftesbury, and a turnpike road by the 18<sup>th</sup> century).

In 850m (mostly between trees) ignore a wide gap in the right-hand hedge by a wood's corner. In 120m *turn right* at a four-way junction of tracks with a backwards pointing bridleway signpost on the right past a metal field gate (a sign on it prohibits motorised vehicles – 'except agricultural vehicles'). Follow a narrow path through the wood (310°), ignore a few tracks to the right into small clearings and in 250m (after the path has left the trees and started a steep descent between raised banks down the down), **[!]** *turn right* along a narrow path along the flank of the down (50°). In 320m walk through a metal gate and into an arable field corner at the bottom of the down and follow its right-hand grassy boundary. In 250m continue in the same direction where the hedge on the right discontinues, and in another 250m walk through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate to continue along a grassy field boundary. In 65m walk through a metal gate left of a metal field gate and *turn left* along a gravel track at a bend.

\*\*\*\*) In 150m there is a spring-fed pond on the left behind trees and in 25m you continue along a residential lane (Brook Street), ignoring a left turn towards the 'Main Road'. In 170m cross the **A30** and *turn right* along the opposite pavement. Ignore **High Street** turning off left, pass **The Greater Good** pub and in 50m *turn left* up some steps with a signpost (Compton Chamberlayne 1 ¾). Walk through a metal kissing gate into a pasture and continue along its left-hand side. In 110m walk through a metal kissing gate and continue in the same direction uphill along a few field boundaries, ignoring all stiles, gates and one metal kissing gate with yellow markers on it, until – in 780m – you reach a corner of a wood near the top of the rise. The main walk joins from the right. *Turn left* through a metal kissing gate.

Continue along the wood's edge and pick up the directions in the main walk text at the double asterisk \*\*).