

| Tisbury Circular (via Hindon) | | | Tisbury Circular (via East Knoyle & Hindon) | | |
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Tisbury Circular (via Hindon)

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: 22.0 km (13.7 mi), of which 3.9 km (2.5 mi) on tarmac or concrete.

Cumulative ascent/descent: 398m. For a shorter or longer walk, see below **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 5 out of 10

Time: 5 hours 10 minutes walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 10 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) and – only for the extension via East Knoyle – 183 (Yeovil & Frome)

OS Explorer Map: 118 (Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase) and 143 (Warminster & Trowbridge).

Walk Notes:

This walk leads mostly around the very large Fonthill Estate in the West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is spectacular walking country with some very fine views. You'll find picturesque villages and excellent pubs in the beautiful undulating countryside, as well as plenty of woodlands and some dry chalky U-shaped downland valleys. The morning route is a steady ascent out of Tisbury along the scenic Oddford Vale to the highest point of the walk.

The walk then leads through a grassy valley and across a wooded ridge to lunch in Hindon, where the two recommended pubs are right opposite each other. Most of the ascent lies before lunch, but there are still two climbs through woods in the afternoon. The final part of the walk is a scenic descent into the Nadder Valley and then passes one of Britain's largest thatched buildings, followed by a stretch along the river back into Tisbury, a remarkably unspoilt village.,

Longer and shorter options are described.

Walk Options:

A westerly extension via East Knoyle adds 5.7 km (3.6 mi), 2.1 km to the tarmac count and 92m ascent/descent (**7/10**).

Shortcut I just after lunch reduces the walk by 1.8 km (1.1 mi), but adds 0.4 km to the tarmac count.

Shortcut II at the end reduces the walk by 1.3 km (0.8 mi) but adds 0.4 km to the tarmac count.

Lunch (details last updated 12/08/24)

Pythouse Kitchen Garden Cafe West Hatch, *Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6PA (01747 870 444, <http://pythousekitchengarden.co.uk/>)*. The Pythouse is about 700m off-route and located 5.2 km (3.2 mi) into the walk. It is a fallback lunch destination for late starters or when you have missed the recommended train, as you would struggle to get to the other pubs in good time for food service. Pythouse Kitchen Garden Shop and Café, to give it its full name, is situated in a beautiful 18th century walled garden. Open every day 12.00-16.30 Wed-Sun. Lunch served 12.00-14.30 Wed-Sun.

The Fox & Hounds The Green, *East Knoyle, Wiltshire, SP3 6BN (01747 830 573, <http://www.foxandhounds-eastknoyle.co.uk/>)*. The Fox & Hounds is located 9.8 km (6.1 mi) into the extended walk. Open daily 11.30-15.00 Tue Sun and 17.30-22.00 Tue-Sat. Food served daily 12.00-14.00 Tue-Sat and 12.00-14.15 Sun as well as 18.00-20.30 Tue-Sat. It is a traditional, family-owned, thatched country pub, providing outdoor seating with stunning southerly views over Blackmore Vale.

The Grosvenor Arms High Street, *Hindon, Wiltshire, SP3 6DJ (01747 820 696, <http://www.grosvenorarmshindon.co.uk/>)*. The Grosvenor is located 10.4 km (6.4 mi) into the walk and 16.1 km into the extended walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-21.30 Mon-Fri and 12.00-21.00 Sat-Sun. It is a restored coaching inn, built in 1750, when it replaced a medieval inn. One of only two inns surviving from Hindon's heyday, when there were 14!

The Lamb High Street, *Hindon, Wiltshire, SP3 6DP (01747 820 573, <http://www.lambhindon.co.uk/>)*. The Lamb is located 10.4 km (6.4 mi) into the walk and 16.1 km into the extended walk. Open all day every day. Food served all day. It is a coaching inn, probably trading since as far back as the 12th century. One of only two inns surviving from Hindon's heyday, when there were 14!

The Beckford Arms Fonthill Gifford, *Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6PX (01747 870 385, <http://www.beckfordarms.com/>)*. The Beckford Arms is a late lunch option if taking Shortcut I and is then located 15.1 km (9.4 mi) into the walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-21.30. The Beckford Arms is a traditional yet stylish country pub located on the edge of the rolling parkland of the Fonthill Estate.

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.

Wessex Ridgeway

A waymarked linear 220 km (137 mi) long-distance footpath, part of The Great Ridgeway, a prehistoric trade route which once stretched right across England linking the Norfolk and Devon coasts. It extends the Ridgeway National Trail to the south-west, crosses the downlands of Wiltshire and Dorset and links the ancient stone circle at Avebury to the sea, following as near as possible the line of the ancient route. Passed on the way are the stone circles at Avebury, the Vale of Pewsey, the northern edge of Salisbury Plain, the Wylye Valley and Win Greene Hill in Wiltshire and Cranborne Chase, Cerne Abbas and Pilsden Pen in Dorset.

Monarch's Way

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

Hindon

Hindon seems to be an example of a planned settlement (from the beginning of the 13th century), unlike most English villages which have evolved piecemeal over the millennia. If previous settlement in the area was present, no evidence has yet been discovered. Hindon became a parliamentary borough in the later Middle Ages, and continued to return two members until it was disenfranchised in 1832 (it was reckoned to be an exceptionally corrupt borough even by the standards of the time).

St. Leonards, Berwick St. Leonards

Of 12th century origin, an 1859 restoration by the owner of the Fonthill Estate saved it from complete decay. The font and a sculptured relief of the Lamb of God over the south doorway are Norman survivals. A handsome 1647 monument depicts George Howe and his wife caressing a skull, and another poignant monument is to the six children of George Howe, the oldest of which was three years of age. It has been designated as a Grade II*- listed building. The church was closed in 1966 and declared redundant in 1973 and is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Fonthill Estate/Fonthill Abbey/Fonthill Abbey Wood/Fonthill House/Fonthill Park/Fonthill Lake/Fonthill Brook/ Fonthill Bishop/ Fonthill Gifford

The Fonthill Estate was acquired in the 19th century by James Morrison, a Hampshire innkeeper's son who became the greatest textile wholesaler in England and a prominent merchant banker. He left circa £4

million in 1857, the second largest non-landed fortune in Britain up to that time after Nathan Mayer Rothschild's £5 million. It is still owned by his descendants (Baron Margdale of Islay).

Fonthill is most famous though for Fonthill Abbey– also known as Beckford's Folly – a large Gothic revival country house built between 1796 and 1813 at Fonthill Gifford. It was a brainchild of William Thomas Beckford, son of wealthy English plantation owner William Beckford and a student of architect Sir William Chambers, as well as of James Wyatt, England's foremost architect of the time. In 1771, when Beckford was ten years old, he inherited £1 million and an income which his contemporaries estimated at around £100,000 per annum, a colossal amount at the time. Newspapers of the period described him as "the richest commoner in England". However, he was bisexual and after 1784 chose self-exile from British society to the continent after allegations of sexual misconduct. Shunned by English society, he nevertheless decided to return to his native country; and – after enclosing the Fonthill estate in a six-mile long wall – he decided to have a Gothic cathedral built for his home.

The Abbey was filled with treasures: paintings by the great masters, of which twenty now hang in the National Gallery, as well as many contemporary artists; and the best examples of furniture, glass and design available to him. Beckford lived alone in his abbey and used only one of its bedrooms for his own use. His kitchens prepared food for 12 every day although he always dined alone and sent other meals away afterwards. Only once, in 1800, did he entertain guests:

Rear Admiral Lord Nelson and Emma, Lady Hamilton.

He was forced to sell it in 1822 when he lost two of his Jamaican sugar plantations in a legal action.

Only a gatehouse and a small remnant of the north wing (including a small tower) remain to this day.

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, 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/>

Place Farm

On the east bank of Fonthill Brook, a northern tributary of the Nadder, Shaftesbury abbey erected large and elaborate buildings for residence, worship, agriculture, and collecting tithes. The buildings were slightly apart from the village of Tisbury. They were called the 'manor place' in 1579 and Place Farm from 1717 or earlier. In the later 15th century the buildings incorporated two chapels, one adjoining the abbess's chamber. The medieval buildings to survive are an inner gatehouse and the outer gatehouse, the abbess's house, and the barn. The outer gatehouse and the house were built in the earlier 14th century, the inner gatehouse and the barn in the 15th. The gatehouse consists of a narrow passage and a lodge on the ground floor and a room on the first, and formerly extended further west. The outer gatehouse was reconstructed and extended in the 15th and 16th centuries to form a two-storeyed range with large and small entrances from the road. The centre of that range is all that survives.

The stone barn, 61m by over 9m, has one of the largest thatched roofs in Britain and has original central transeptal entrances and a roof of crucks with two tiers of collars, the lower of which are arch-braced.

It is now an arts centre and gallery, Messums Wiltshire (<https://messumswiltshire.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.

Clouds House

Clouds House, also known simply as Clouds, is a Grade II* listed building. Designed by Arts and Crafts architect Philip Webb for Percy Wyndham and his wife, it was first completed in 1886, but an 1889 fire necessitated its rebuilding, finished in 1891. Clouds' was Webb's grandest design. It became a centre of social activity for the intellectual group known as The Souls and was frequented by artists such as Edward Burne-Jones and politicians like Arthur Balfour. Since 1983 the house has been a treatment centre for drug and alcohol dependence, under the name Clouds House.

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 left* through the car park (the long-closed and shuttered **South Western** is visible below on the right) and in 110m continue in the same direction along a main road. In 35m *turn right* along a narrow tarmac path between bollards towards a bridge over the **River Nadder**, which you cross in 55m (ignore a footpath turning left immediately beyond the bridge at a fence corner along a narrow grassy path). In 20m *fork left* along the left of two tarmac paths, with a wooden fence on the left. In 50m you have the **Oddford Brook** on your right, whose course you'll now broadly follow for the next 2.5 km. In 70m *turn left* at a T-junction with a road and in 35m *turn right* at a mini-roundabout along **St. John's Close**. In 70m *curve left* and in 60m *curve right* along **Brook Close** (where **Springfield Park** turns left). In 40m continue in the same direction on the left-hand side along a rising tarmac path, where the road curves right.

In 110m *turn right* downhill at a road T-junction and in 60m *turn left* at the bottom of a dip, just before crossing the brook, to the left of a distinct red brick building (a former chapel) and with a footpath signpost on the left. In 20m you walk through a metal kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate into a sloping grassy field. Continue without a clear path along the left flank of the **Oddford Vale**. In 275m ignore a footpath turning right down towards the brook and walk towards the top left corner of this field 120m away. In the corner ignore a stile on the left and *bear right* along a left-hand fence. In 200m go through a metal gate into an open, less steep grassy section where you follow a couple of marker posts to the left and continue along the upper part of this pasture, in 100m entering some trees. Beyond the trees, keep to the left of an electricity line and walk to the top left corner of this pasture. In 160m continue through a wide gap in the growth and along a narrow path through it. In 15m *turn right* with the path and in 30m cross a stile with footpath markers on a tree on the right.

Continue along a clear path through a grassy area. In 85m go under the electricity line and again in another 100m and keep to the left of the line about half way up the grassy slope, aiming to the right-hand end of a line of trees. In 140m walk past the trees and *veer right* with a marker post (and with **Lawn Farm** up on the left), aiming to the right of a larger clump of trees 100m away. From there, *veer right* to the bottom corner of this fenced in section and in 40m walk through a wooden gate into a picturesque section, with the brook now running just below. Continue to the right of the next electricity pole 75m away (300°). [Note: the route described through the following section differs from what is shown as the right-of-way on the OS map.] You follow a usually mown path through the steep rough pasture, in most places along a clear track or grassy shelf: in 190m *turn left uphill* with the path through some bushy growth and in 15m *turn right* with it, now running along a clear flat shelf through the slope. In 200m you walk to the left of a low red brick utility shed (**Lawn Pump House**).

Ignore a metal gate on the left into trees and continue along a wide track between fences, with the brook on the right. In 50m go through a metal field gate into a large brook-side meadow and follow the meandering brook to a metal field gate 160m away and walk through it. *Bear left* through a grassy area and in 25m cross a road. Continue along a narrow path through a wooded strip with a two-way footpath signpost. In 20m go through a metal kissing gate into a field corner and continue in the same direction along its right-hand boundary with a line of trees on the right. In 90m go through a metal kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate and **[!]** *veer left*, along a narrow, unmarked path into a wood (210°, bluebells in season). In 15m walk to the left of a large chestnut tree, before the path meanders through the wood for about a kilometre, generally uphill.

In more detail: in about 100m and depending on the time of year and the growth cycle, you can spot a moss covered low stone wall to the right across a field corner, it will run parallel for a few hundred meters and is a remaining part of the barrier, which ran all around the extensive grounds of the **Fonthill Abbey**; In 100m ignore a right turn and in 300m *fork right* (275°), ascending along a wide grassy path, ignoring the broad path left to the wood's fringes and with a footpath marker post on the left; in 35m the path veers left (230°); in 60m pass another marker post, while still going uphill; in 270m cross a car wide forest track and in 35m leave the wood through a metal kissing gate into a pasture.

Continue in the same direction across the field (late-on with views of distant Downs on the left) and in 100m go through a metal kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate to go through a wood. In 80m *turn left* along a road at a T-junction. In 20m *turn right* along a road between high hedges (signposted '**Semley**'). In 360m an unmarked left turning bridleway (the **Wessex Ridgeway**) leads to a trig point 40m away (at 214m above sea level), from where you get fine views across the **Nadder Valley** to some wooded hills. *This is the highest point of the walk. [!]* Return to the road and cross it (i.e. *turn right* from the previous direction) and in 15m walk through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate.

[**Unless you are struggling** to reach the lunch pubs in good time (on the main walk, **Angel Inn** and **Grosvenor Arms** are 5.9 km away; on the extension, the **Fox & Hounds** in **East Knoyle** is 5.3 km away), **in which case:** continue in the same direction along the road and in 600m *turn right* at a T-junction. In about 100m you find the **Pythouse Kitchen Garden Café** on your right.]

Continue along a grassy field boundary, with **Pythouse Plantation** on the left. You have **Beacon Hill** and **Fonthill Abbey Wood** and their grassy flanks on the right, as well as – with good visibility – **Alfred's Tower** 20 km away on a ridge, deep in **Dorset** (290°) and on the boundary to Somerset (SWC Walk Bruton Circular via Stourhead). Ignore a forest track on the left in 100m as well as a marked bridleway in another 230m. In 80m in the bottom left field corner continue in the same direction through a wooden gate into trees. The path *curves right*, then winds its way through the wood, which you leave through a metal gate into a large, sloping pasture. Continue downhill along the right-hand boundary fence with a **Wessex Ridgeway** marker on the back of a gatepost. In 200m pass the fenced in **Abbot's Pond** on the left. In 250m leave the field through a metal field gate 50m to the left of the far-right corner.

Turn left along a lane, in 100m pass **Cools House** on the right and in 65m *fork right* off the road through a metal gate. *Turn left* to in 10m go through a metal gate and turn right in a pasture along the right-hand fence. In 80m walk through a metal gate, cross a brook over an un-railed plank bridge and continue in the same direction along a grassy path. In 25m *turn left* through a metal field gate (by another field gate to the right) and continue in the previous direction along a right-hand boundary. In 110m leave the field through a wooden gate and through a wooded strip and walk through a metal gate into the next field to follow its right hand boundary. In 220m continue in the same direction at the opposite field boundary through a wooden gate. In 50m ignore a farm track turning right through a metal field gate and in 100m leave the field through a metal field gate along a car wide grassy track between trees. In 110m emerge on a grassy path running left-to-right at an unmarked junction of bridleways by a wooden gate in a fence around a pasture in front of you.

Here you have a choice:

For the extension via East Knoyle, continue in the same direction through the gate and along the right-hand pasture boundary and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Extension via East Knoyle**.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* along the path, cross a stream on it and follow a fenced path along a right-hand field boundary, uphill towards a forested hilltop. In 380m continue in the same direction in the top right corner of the field through a hedge gap and in 20m along a fenced in wide grassy path. In 290m ignore a car wide gravel track turning right and follow another car wide track further uphill into the wood (**Knoyle Corner**). The track continues as a **holloway** and 50m after the path has levelled out, you curve right with the track, now with a barbed wire fence on the left. In 240m **[!]** *fork left*, descending with the left of two wide forest tracks, to stay with the fence line and a field on the left behind trees (355°). In 650m continue along a fenced grassy path, in 100m cross a farm track up from a dairy farm away on the right and in another 420m **[!]** *turn right* at a four-way track junction along a car wide fenced in grassy path, with fields sloping off on both sides and the village of **Hindon** on the left ahead. In 940m *turn left* at a road T-junction downhill into the village. In 60m ignore a footpath joining from the left across a stile out of a field. In 60m a gravel lane (**The Down**) joins from the left. This is the **Extension**.

***)** In 130m a tarmac lane (**The Dene**) joins from the left. In 40m *turn left* at a road junction, uphill along the beautiful **High Street** between pollarded lime trees into the centre of **Hindon**. [The trees were planted in 1863 to mark the wedding of the future Edward VII.] In 280m arrive at a four-way road junction in the centre of the village, with one lunch stop (**The Grosvenor Arms**) on the left on the far side of the junction, **St. John the Baptist Church, Hindon** 50m further along, a **village store** and a **bus stop** opposite on the right and an alternative lunch stop (**The Lamb Inn**) on the right. After lunch re-trace your steps downhill, along the tree-lined road away from the main road and the church, with **The Lamb Inn** on your left.

In 230 m pass a bus stop on the right, with a playground behind it. In 25m the road crosses a brook and in 10m by the **village hall** *turn left* along a tarmac lane (**The Dene**), just before the road starts ascending. In 65m pass a **Road Used As Public Path**-signpost. In 80m *fork left* along a grassy path with trees on the left, where the gravel lane curves right towards a house. In 175m a gap in the trees on the left provides views into a grassy valley. In 75m emerge on a car wide grassy track and *turn left* along it. In 250m continue in the same direction along a road by a **Restricted Byway** signpost, initially without a verge to walk along. In 360m continue walking along the left hand grassy verge. In 40m a **Private Road** turns left, with signs for '**Fonthill Farms**', '**Berwick Farm**', '**Farm Traffic Only**'.

Here you have a choice:

For a Shortcut (cuts out 1.8 km), *continue in the same direction* along the grassy verge of the road and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut I**.

For the Main Walk, *turn left* downhill **along the Private Road** between stone walls into **Berwick St. Leonards** hamlet. In 50m the road crosses a stream, in 70m walk through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate with an '**Access to Church Only**'-marker on the gate and continue along the grassy verge. In 35m *veer right* opposite some petrol pumps at a small green along a gravel lane past a house on the right and in 40m *turn right* between stone walls along a grassy path. In 20m walk through a metal gate into the churchyard of **St. Leonards, Berwick St. Leonards**. This is a church

without a congregation and is maintained by the **Redundant Churches Fund**. A visit is recommended, the door is on the other side (donations are welcome).

The walk continues through a metal gate in a low stone wall at the north easterly corner of the small churchyard, i.e.: *turning left* from where you entered the churchyard. Walk through a lower lying grassy area and through a metal kissing gate in a fence line to then cross a grassy area in much the same direction and in 60m *turn right* along a lane at a bend. In 90m walk across a cattle grid (or through a gate to the left of it) and *turn left* in an easterly direction at a four-way junction of tarmac lanes (signed on the left: 10-18 Berwick St. Leonards, **Fonthill Estate**). In 230m go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate into a grassy area and continue in the same direction. In 100m go over another stile and continue in the same direction in the next grassy field.

In 300m pass an often-boggy part of this long and narrow brookside meadow and **[!]** *veer left* up a slope to a metal gate 50m away, sometimes hidden from view behind a bush. Once through the gate, continue along a right-hand grassy field boundary, in 100m going through a metal gate and in another 40m walk through a hedge gap into a walled outlying part of a churchyard. Follow a gravel path to the main churchyard and past **All Saints, Fonthill Bishop** (usually locked). In 130m leave the churchyard through a metal gate. Continue in the same direction past a green and cross a road to the left of a bus shelter (but find, on the right along the road in 350m, the enormously elaborate **entrance arch to the Fonthill Estate**, with **Fonthill Lake** behind it, a truly beautiful sight, worth the out-and-back diversion).

[!] *Turn right* along a tarmac lane towards **The Old Dairy & The Fonthill Estate Offices** and in 30m *turn left* at the corner of a building on the left with a low bridleway signpost and a marker (120°). In 40m the lane turns to concrete-and-gravel and *turns right*, then in 40m it *turns left* and uphill, soon through a wood. Follow this lane for 1.4 km ignoring all ways off until it starts descending again. **In more detail:** the lane curves right and in 210m you ignore a track into trees on the right (**Fonthill Clump**). In 40m you have a field on the left. In 90m the lane levels out temporarily and in 100m it *turns left* with the field boundary on the left. Continue in the same direction for 740m, gently rising all the time. Where the trees discontinue on the right, views open up into the **U-shaped grassy valley** whose flank you have been climbing up along.

In 240m *fork right* with a bridleway signpost (and with **Pinchpenny Clump** on the left) and descend the sloping valley wall (good views back to the end of the valley, **Fonthill Lake** and **Fonthill Abbey Wood** behind it on a dominant hill). In 240m you reach the bottom of the valley and re-ascend the other side into **Little Ridge Wood**. In 120m *turn left* (130°) inside the wood by a bridleway signpost pointing backwards and in 280m *turn left* at a T-junction with a forest track further up **Ridge Hill**. In 165m walk through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate and in 30m *turn right* at a T-junction along a lane in **Ridge** hamlet by a bridleway signpost pointing backwards (but note the interesting former chapel a little further along the road to the left). The lane descends steeply past **Knap Farm** on the right and in 240m re-ascends.

In 100m *fork right* off the lane along a tarmac lane signposted 'Private Road – Fonthill House'. Walk through a white wooden gate to the right of the car entrance gate and continue along the drive to **Fonthill House**. In 350m *turn left* with a footpath signpost along a car wide gravel lane between wooden fences. You get glimpses of the house on the right and in 240m walk through a wooden field gate. In 20m *turn right* with a signpost on the left, along a grassy path with **Ashley Wood** on the left and grassy fields down towards the house on the right. In 280m *turn left* through a metal gate to the left of a horse-jump fence and a metal field gate into a large grassy slope. The church spire on the opposite side of the **Fonthill Brook Valley** belongs to **Holy Trinity Church, Fonthill Gifford**, which is passed on the Shortcut.

Continue with the wood boundary on the left, in 140m passing another horse-jump fence leading into the wood, and in 120m *turn right* with a signpost in the often overgrown field corner and continue along the left-hand boundary. Stay high up on the left boundary of this steeply sloping field and in 330m walk through a wooden gate into a wood, with footpath signpost and marker. Follow a meandering path through this narrow wood, ignore a track into a field on the left en route and eventually descend with the path. In 230m you emerge on a forest track at a T-junction, with remnants of a footpath marker at knee-height on a tree on the right, and the large grassy field 10m to the right. *Turn left* downhill along the path (220° initially). In 100m emerge on a flat path at a T-junction. On the right this comes from the bottom end of **Fonthill Lake** (the serene view from the lakehead dam is considered by many locally to be one of the finest in England but judge it for yourself). This is the Shortcut. *Turn left* along the path.

****)** In 5m **[!]** *fork left* with a footpath marker post on the right along a steep narrow path between trees (160° initially), **[!]** ignoring the more prominent wide and level gravel path continuing ahead. In 50m *turn left* with the path (80°), still uphill, where an even fainter path joins from the right below. In 50m emerge from the trees into a large field. *Veer right* (100°) along a grassy strip between field sections and in 175m *turn right* with the grassy strip at a now overgrown pile of stones (and by a tree-lined quarry away on the left; although the right of way on the map continues in a straight line across the arable field). In 55m *turn left* along the field boundary with a hedge on your right. In 250m, *turn right* through the hedge past remnants of a stile with a footpath marker on it into the adjacent field and cross it on a usually well-cleared path (150°). As you cross the field you get views on the right back to **Holy Trinity Church, Fonthill Gifford** as well as to the higher parts of **Tisbury** on the other side of the **Fonthill Brook Valley**, and ahead across the **Nadder Valley/Vale of Wardour** to more hills [SWC Walks Tisbury Circular (via Dinton and Fovant) and Tisbury Circular (via Alvediston)]. In 220m you reach the opposite field boundary.

Here you have a choice:

For a Shortcut (cuts out 1.3 km), continue in the same direction through a hedge gap and a usually open wooden field gate into the neighbouring field and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut II**.

For the Main Walk, *turn left* uphill along the wide grassy field boundary. In 185m in the top right field corner continue in the same direction along a gravel farm track with a hedge on the left and an arable field on the right, still uphill. Half right ahead you can see some large chalk figures cut into a hillside: the **Fovant Badges** [SWC Walk Tisbury Circular via Dinton and Fovant]. In 420m an unmarked footpath joins from the right across the field. In 145m **[!]** *turn right* at a fence corner, where the gravel lane turns left towards **Vicarage Barn**. In 20m *fork left at a hedge corner* and go through a metal field gate into a large descending pasture with a yellow marker on the right-hand gate post. The buildings of **Place Farm** are prominent at the bottom of the valley, now site of **Messums Wiltshire** Art Gallery.

In 450m go through a metal field gate and continue downhill through another pasture. 300m cross a stile to the right of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction along the right-hand side of another grassy field and in 150m leave the field through a metal gate onto a lane and *turn right* along it. In 50m *turn left* at the corner of the very large thatched and arch-braced **Tithe Barn** (in fact it has **one of the largest thatched roofs in Britain**). In 75m walk through wooden bollards and *turn right* along a road with a footpath signpost pointing backwards past more buildings of **Place Farm**. In 70m *turn left* at a three-way road junction (signposted **Chicksgrove, Fovant, Salisbury**) with the impressive **Gate House** on the right.

In 40m *turn right* off the road with a signpost on the left along a gravel lane, soon turning to narrow grassy path, with a stone wall on the left. In 130m you pass the **River Nadder** on the right, by an overflow into a ditch on the left. In 50m *turn left* to cross the river in 15m on a two-railed bridge over a weir and in 25m *turn right* over another bridge (single-railed) with a footpath marker on it over a millstream, just in front of **Tisbury Mill**. Continue across a courtyard and leave it through a wooden gate. *Turn right* along a tarmac lane (another footpath joins from the left) with the railway line now on your left on an embankment. In 35m another footpath joins from the left through an arch from the other side of the tracks.

In 120m walk through a wooden gate and *turn left* along a road (**Tisbury Row**) at a T-junction towards a railway bridge. In 30m just before the railway bridge *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 70m continue through a wooden gate along a narrow path between hedges and in 30m *turn right* at a T-junction with a tarmac lane. In 30m you reach the main road through **Tisbury** at a T-junction.

Shortcut II joins from the right across a bridge. All tea stops are along this 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 Arms** pub on the left;
- In 205m reach the recommended **Boot Inn** on the right.

For the station *turn left* along the road. *Fork left* immediately up through the station car park to access the platform at the far end of **Tisbury Station** building in 100m.

Extension via East Knoyle

(add 5.7 km distance, 2.1 km tarmac and 92m ascent/descent around lunch)

In 120m [!] continue in the same direction across the arable field, where the boundary veers right (the stately home in the distance on a hillside is **Clouds House**) and in 180m *veer right* along the opposite field boundary. In 340m *turn left* with a bridleway sign through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate onto **Millbrook Lane** and *turn right* along it. Ignore all ways off for 600m until you get to the **A350**. [!] *Turn right* just before the A road along a narrow tarmac path parallel to it. In 80m *turn left* through a gap to the side of a fence and cross the road carefully. Walk through a wooden gate on the other side and in 10m *turn right* along (the continuation of) **Millbrook Lane** into the village of **East Knoyle**.

In 160m *turn right* at a road T-junction and in 150m continue in the same direction along **Wise Lane** at a four-way road junction in the centre of the village by **Wren's Shop** on the left (open 08.00-18.00 Weekdays, 08.00-16.00 Saturdays and 09.00-12.00 Sundays). [**Sir Christopher Wren** was born in a long-demolished house on this street corner and a stone plaque commemorating him can be found on the right-hand side]. Ignore all ways off for 960m, as the lane ascends. But in more detail: the lane *turns left* in 100m and *forks right* in another 110m. In 330m a signposted footpath crosses (follow the path on the right for 50m for a close view of **Clouds House**). In 410m reach a four-way road junction, where the left turn descends steeply. Continue in the same direction, signposted **The Green**, **Upton** and **The Fox & Hounds**.

In 110m you have **East Knoyle Windmill** (without its vanes, lost to fire long ago) away to the right and some stunning views on the left from **Windmill Hill** south westerly over **Blackmore Vale** (which is mostly in **Dorset**) towards the **Purbeck Hills**. In 60m *veer left* off the road and continue in the same direction along a grassy path and in 100m pass a white-topped wooden pole and enter a wooded area. Ignore a right turning bridleway and in 220m *turn right* to pass a four-way signpost where a stepped path joins from the left below. In 150m you emerge from the trees on a green opposite the lunch stop **The Fox & Hounds** in a hamlet called **The Green**, now with westerly views into Blackmore Vale on the left.

After lunch *turn left* (with the pub behind you) along a road and in 45m *turn left* at a three-way road junction. In 170m the road starts to dip and at the bottom of the drop, you *turn left up* some steps with a footpath signpost and through a wooden kissing gate into a rising pasture. Follow a grass path to the top-right field corner and in 180m leave the field over a stile to the left of a metal field gate, cross a car wide lane and continue in the same direction into a wood with a three-way signpost. In 25m ignore a track turning right and continue along the left hand edge of the wood. In 150m [!] *fork left* (335°) along a narrow bridleway and ignore a more prominent path curving right.

Follow this path downhill for 450m and then *turn right* with the path between rows of trees, now more steeply downhill towards a road. In 110m *turn left* at T-junction with a road and in 150m *turn right* at a road T-junction (signposted '**Mere 4 3/4**'). You pass **Chapel Farm** in 35m and in another 65m the **Monarch's Way** joins unmarked from the left, where you start to ascend with the road. In 240m go over the brow and in a further 20m *turn right* along a car wide grassy lane between hedges with a Monarch's Way signpost. Follow this way along a whaleback shaped ridge for 2.6 km, ignoring all ways off, sometimes with views into the U-shaped valleys on either side (while crossing the **A350** half-way through).

[!] At a fence corner on the left, where the wide grassy track turns left, with a large rounded arable field on the right and ahead, and with the church spire and some buildings in the village of **Hindon** visible beyond the field, *continue in much the same*

direction across the field (unless there is a cleared path, then follow that). In 250m the field starts to descend and you *veer right* towards the bottom-right corner by a road. Leave the field through a narrow hedge gap onto the road and continue opposite, following a signposted Restricted Byway along a grass path that immediately turns left between a hedge and a barbed wire fence. [This is **the left of two** signposted restricted byways, 30m apart!] The path continues parallel to the road and in 40m *turns right*, now with trees on the left and still the barbed wire fence on the right. In 500m *turn left* along a gravel lane past some houses and ignore a stile in the same direction into a field. In 200m *turn left* at a T-junction with a road. This is the main route.

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

Shortcut I

(cut 1.8 km but add 0.4 km to the tarmac count after lunch)

Lunch is in Hindon or Fonthill Gifford.

In 80m the grassy verge discontinues and you have to walk along the tarmac again. In 60m **[!]** *turn right* by a telegraph pole on the right along an unmarked car wide grassy track up towards an arable field (about 50m before passing a **bus stop** on the left and a house behind it) through the dense road side growth. In 10m **[!]** *turn left* through an easy-to-miss narrow gap in the dense hedge and through a metal gate with a bridlemay marker on a gate post into the adjacent arable field. *Turn right* uphill along its wide grassy margin (185°). In 190m and in another 150m pass wide gaps in the hedge on the right, the second of which offering views back to **Hindon**, while on the left you can see the continuation of the main walk, first along the valley floor through **Fonthill Bishop**, then ascending the wooded flank of a U-shaped valley.

In 100m the path levels out and in 160m in the far right field corner continue in the same direction across a farm track into a wood where – in 10m – you *fork right*. In 10m cross a forest track and continue in the same direction, soon downhill. In 115m cross another forest track at the corner of a stone wall on the left and continue along the wall, to the left of a bridlemay marker on a wooden post. The path now descends very steeply with a wooden handrail on the left into the courtyard of a house on the right. Continue along the wall on the left and in 30m *turn right* at a fence corner along a gravel lane past the houses of **Greenwich** hamlet. In 100m *turn left* at a three-way lane junction. In 170m *turn left* and downhill at a T-junction with a road and with **Stop Farm Cottage** on the left and a raised sloping wood on the right (**Fonthill Abbey Wood**). In 90m *turn right* along **Stop Street** and in 35m ignore a footpath turning left across a stile into a field to continue uphill along the road into **Fonthill Gifford** village.

In 250m pass a long wooden cottage raised on brick columns on the right, where the path levels out. In 300m the gradient of the road increases again. In 250m the road passes the last house on the right (**Hill Cottage**) and turns to gravel. In 40m **[!]** *turn left* with a footpath sign on a **Road Used As Public Path**-signpost through a wooden gate into a large grassy field in this funnel-shaped valley, with a copse in the middle of the grassy slopes. *Veer right* through a dip on a clear path towards a protruding corner of a wood (85°). Pass the corner and *veer right* through a larger dip to the far right corner of the field. In 200m walk through a hedge gap into the adjacent grassy field and continue along its right hand side hedge, ignoring a double metal field gate on the right. In 110m you reach the brow of this field and can now see the spire of **Holy Trinity Church, Fonthill Gifford** ahead. In 180m (and 60m before the far-right field corner) leave the field on the right over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and with a footpath marker post to continue in the same direction along a grassy car wide track.

In 450m *turn right* at a T-junction with a road (the entrance to the church is 100m on the left, open on weekends only). In 30m pass the recommended late lunch/early tea option **The Beckford Arms** on the right. In 30m *turn left* at a four-way road junction, signposted **Fonthill Bishop** and **Salisbury**. In 25m *turn right* through an unlocked metal field gate and through a small wooded strip into an arable field corner. Cross the field diagonally on a well-trodden path (110°). In 250m continue in the same direction through the grassy triangular field corner and in 35m *turn left* along a gravel farm track with a footpath marker. Another footpath joins from the right. Ignore all ways off this gravel lane as it curves right and downhill until in 300m you are reaching **Fonthill Lake**. In 60m *turn left* with the lane across the lakehead weir. In 25m pass an information board about the **Fonthill Hydropower Scheme** on the right and in 25m cross the lake outflow. [The serene view left across the lake is considered by many locally to be one of the finest in England, judge it for yourself...] In 50m *turn right* with multiple footpath markers and signposts, at the corner of a small car park. In 60m a footpath joins from the left out of trees. This is the main route.

Continue in the same direction and pick up directions in the main walk text at the double asterisk ******).

Shortcut II

(cut 1.3 km but add 0.4 km to the tarmac count at the end)

Cut out a scenic descent through a U-shaped valley, one of Britain's largest thatched buildings and some lovely stretches along the Nadder River. Take a route through the village instead, directly past most tea options.

Walk downhill along the left hand field boundary and in 525m leave it in the far left corner over a stile into an adjacent sloping grassy field. Keep to the left hand boundary of the meadow towards the bottom of the **Fonthill Brook Valley** and in 190m cross a stile in a fence and then *turn right* to cross the brook over an arched bridge. Ignore a brookside path on the left and walk through a wooden kissing gate to then continue uphill in another meadow along its right-hand boundary (220°). In 135m continue in the same direction through a wooden kissing gate and in 15m *turn right* at a T-junction with a tarmac lane, further uphill. In 150m continue in the same direction at a four-way road/lane-junction into **Tisbury**.

Follow the road (**High Street**) for 640m **all the way through the village** past all tea stops until you cross the **Nadder River** on a bridge. In more detail:

- In 50m reach the brow of this rise and start descending;
- In 75m pass the **Boot Inn** on the left;
- In 130m pass **Tisbury Methodist Church** on the right;
- In 75m pass **The Bennett Arms** pub on the right;
- pass **Tisbury Delicatessen**, a **Co-Op** and **Coffee Angels** on the right and **Gardner & Beedle** wine shop on the left;
- In 50m pass **Beatons Tearoom Bookshop** on the right and **Tisbury Fish & Chips** on the left;
- In 120m cross **The Nadder River** on a road bridge.

On the far side of the bridge ignore a footpath joining from the left along a tarmac lane (the main walk) and *veer up left* through the station car park to access the platform at the far end of **Tisbury Station** building in 100m.