

Mid Wilts Way directions east to west, split into 13 stages

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M1 MWW directions east to west - Ham to Wilton

Maps: Landranger 174, OS Explorer 158 & 157

Distance: 7.9 miles (12.6 km)

The MWW starts outside the Crown and Anchor pub in Ham (which is now an Indian restaurant). With the pub on your left, walk up the main street, following it first right then left, past Manor Farm House on the right. Just past two houses on the left, the first of which is thatched, turn left into a field on a bridleway. Proceed along the wide, stony track for half a mile (0.8 km) into the second field, to reach a wooden post next to an information board about the Ham Estate.

Turn right across the field (the landowner leaves a broad path to follow through any crops) aiming for a gap in the hedge at the top of the field on your left. (This is not the official right of way as the landowner has shifted it to the west, presumably to minimise the space taken up by the path in the field to the east). Go through this gap, turn right to the corner of the field and then left along its edge. After approx 150m turn right through the line of trees and pass through a gate. Continue in the same direction diagonally up Ham Hill, and pass through a gate in an "empty" fence into another field. Maintain direction to reach another small metal gate at the top of the hill. The landowner has thoughtfully placed "No footpath" notices on the other side of this gate to left and right, indicating that you should continue gently upwards for 25m to arrive at a track which is hidden from the gate below.

Turn right along this track (which is deeply rutted and can be overgrown) and follow it along the top of Ham Hill for exactly one mile (1.6 km). There are fine views to the right along this stretch of the MWW. Join a tarmac road which after a few metres arrives at a junction with the road back to Ham. Cross over this road and continue along the track (also deeply rutted) onto Ashley Down, where the fine views persist (trees and hedges permitting), for just over a mile (1.6 km) to reach another tarmac road close to a junction with the main road to Shalbourne. Turn right down to the junction, and then right down the main road for a few metres, before turning left into a copse onto a signposted byway.

Follow the track along the top of Rivar Down, with more bucolic views to the right (and the first view of the Wilton windmill), for another 1.3 miles (2 km) to yet another tarmac road. Turn right down the road for 700m, ignoring a byway to left, then turn left into a field on a waymarked footpath. Proceed down a slope through a gap to the bottom of the field beyond, with hedge to left. At the corner of the field, go through double metal farm gates and turn right onto a track with open field to left and hedge to right. Follow the track into the village of Marten.

On reaching the main road, turn sharp right, with letter box and notice board outside Rose Cottage on right, and follow the road past Sir William Bentley Billiards on right to arrive at the A338. Turn left along it and immediately right, signposted Wilton and Windmill. Follow this Roman road for almost one mile (1.6 km), turning left and downhill at the T junction, signposted Grafton and Wilton. After approx. 150m, arrive at the Swan Inn in Wilton.

M2 MWW directions east to west - Wilton to Wootton Rivers

Maps: OS Landranger 174 & 173, OS Explorer 157

Distance: 5.4 miles (8.6 km)

Proceed down Wilton's main street with the Swan Inn to your L. On arriving at the duck pond to your left, enter the field opposite and immediately turn left with hedge to left. Follow the path round to the left on the edge of a verdant meadow, with a small lake (Wilton Water) on your left, to arrive at the Kennet & Avon canal, which is reached via a small footbridge. The Crofton Pumping Station and Beam Engines are on the other side of the canal, slightly to the left, and can be visited when open by crossing the nearest bridge to the left/west.

Turn left and walk along the canal towpath for approximately 4 ½ miles (7.2 km), passing four locks and a road bridge, before the canal disappears into a tunnel (Bruce Tunnel); follow the path up to cross a minor road (Savernake Road), with houses to left and right.

Continue along the path opposite, past what used to be the Forest Hotel, and an open field to left, to rejoin the towpath via steps and a low tunnel under the railway. Soon after this, pass under the A346 at Burbage Wharf. Continue ahead past four bridges over the canal, each accompanied by a lock. At the fourth bridge, number 108, leave the towpath and turn right across the bridge to join Wootton River's main street. Walk along this for 250m past the village hall on your left to arrive at the Royal Oak pub on your right.

M3 MWW website directions east to west – Wootton Rivers to Oare

[Updated on 19/1/23]

Maps: OS Landranger 173, OS Explorer 157

Distance: 4.6 miles (7.4 km)

Mud Lane (see below) is well-named and can be very unpleasant at its worst, which tends to be in the winter. As an alternative to slipping and sliding along it, it is possible to reach the **small car park** mentioned below by taking quiet country roads, which also provide good views of Martinsell Hill. To do so, go up the metalled road opposite the Royal Oak pub, and after 50 metres or so turn right (signposted Clench Common and East Wick). Follow this road for 0.8 miles (1.3 km), passing East Wick Farm to right on the way, to arrive at a junction to left (signposted New Mill and Milton Lilbourne). Follow the road round to the right here (signposted Martinsell Hill and Marlborough) and after 0.6 miles (1 km) arrive at the **small car park** to left, with Mud Lane to your right.

If you wish to stick to the **official route**, with your back to the Royal Oak pub, turn right up the metalled road. After 150m, fork left by a house named Martinsell up a green bridleway. Follow this until it enters a field, where you turn left along its edge, then right at the field corner to reach the well-named Mud Lane at the top. Here it is worth making a small detour: if you turn right along Mud Lane for perhaps 15m you will see, carved onto the end of a tree stump at head height to your left, the lugubrious face of the Green Man. Now turn round and go west along Mud Lane, counting off three vast fields to your left, with a barn between the second and third, to reach a metalled road, on the other side of which is a **small car park**.

Go through the gate beyond the car park and walk to where the woods on your right end. Continue ahead, climbing to the top of the hill, with more woods on your left. Turn sharp left at the top, with a fence to right, and turn right at the corner. Continue ahead with fence to right and turn right through a gate after 300m. Here there is a bench where you can pause to admire the view of the Pewsey Downs at your leisure. Amble on through a small wooded area to arrive at a gate in the fence to your left in a large field.

Continue along the left-hand side of the field on the permissive path until you arrive at a metal kissing gate. (The official route took you through the gate on your left, as shown by the Ordnance Survey maps, but it has fallen into disuse and is no longer waymarked as being part of the MWW)

The kissing gate is dedicated to the memory of Mark Rendall of the Long Distance Walkers Association. You join the White Horse Trail at this point. Proceed along the gently undulating top of the hill, passing over a stile by a second gate, with fence to your right and more stunning views of the Pewsey Downs to both left and right. This is the Giant's Grave. Just beyond the trig point, plunge steeply downhill and follow the path round to the left to a gate in the corner. Go through this and the field beyond to reach Pound Lane. Turn right along this, leaving the White Horse Trail, to arrive at the A345 in the village of Oare after 350m. Turn right again to reach the White Hart pub in 25m. Sadly this is now permanently closed.

M4 MWW directions east to west – Oare to Knap Hill

Maps: OS Landranger 173, OS Explorer 157

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.6 km)

With your back to the White Hart pub, turn left up the A345 and take the first left turn after 30 metres, signposted Huish. Follow this until the houses on your right are replaced by a field, which you turn right into on a signposted footpath, walking up its right-hand side. The incline increases as you approach the fence on the far side, but this is as nothing compared with the steepness of the slope on the other side of the fence! Climb the well-trodden path as far as a bench, then continue upwards but less steeply, keeping as near to the fence on the right as the gorse bushes will allow. Go through a pedestrian gate in the top right-hand corner and continue down a narrow, enclosed path. On reaching the drive to Huish Hill House, where you join the White Horse Trail again, turn sharp left. Very shortly the drive sweeps to the left, and there is a track which goes straight on. The right of way departs from the drive 30m or so further down it to the right on a green bridleway, but this can get so overgrown as to be impassable, in which case taking the track instead is an option, although this is not a right of way. Regrettably the track can get extremely muddy in wet weather.

Pass through a bridle or field gate at the end, depending on your choice, into a field. Cross it, veering slightly right towards another bridle gate. The superb views of the Pewsey Downs enjoyed on the last section of the MWW are repeated here. Go through the gate, with a fence to the left, and walk along the edge of the large field beyond. Follow the fence round to the right, go through a gate and immediately turn left through another one. Walk gently downhill on a sunken track between earthworks until you reach a crossroads of paths beyond a gate, just to the north of Gopher Wood. (Here you leave the White Horse Trail again).

Pass through a wooden gate beyond the crossroads and continue slightly uphill to a stile. Here go left then right round two sides of the field next to Gopher Wood to cross the stile at the top. Go half left here, aiming for the signpost in front of the left-hand tree in the distance, then right on reaching it to go along a ridge of hills through several more fields, with the route being clearly waymarked. More fabulous views of the Pewsey Vale open up to the left along this ridge. As you start to go downhill, arrive at a gate into the last field before the Knap Hill car park, with Knap Hill itself prominent to your left. Follow the path through the centre of the field to a gate in the far fence, and turn right after this into the car park.

M5 MWW directions east to west – Knap Hill to A361 Shepherd's Shore

Maps: OS Landranger 173, OS Explorer 157

[Updated in May 2023]

Distance: 5 ½ miles (8.8 km)

Cross the Alton Barnes to Lockeridge road from the car parking area at Knap Hill. Go through a metal gate, then a metal kissing gate immediately to the left. Follow the well beaten track through two more metal kissing gates. Turn half right, with Adams Grave and Walkers Hill to your left, to join an obvious path beside, or on top of, a low earthwork. The White Horse Trail comes in from the left just beyond Walkers Hill. Continue on this path along the contour line for 700m to arrive at the top of the Alton Barnes White Horse.

Continue through the gate beyond and follow the contour of the hillside. There are tremendous views of the Pewsey Vale to the left on this section, and to the right is Milk Hill, the highest point in Wiltshire at 295m (968ft). Go right in a tight semi-circle round the stunted trees and bushes on the shoulder of Milk Hill to pass through a gate beyond. Follow the ridge in a broad semi-circle to the left, passing through a second gate, then turn right through a third one. Shortly after this, arrive at a wide track, where the Wansdyke Path comes in from the right but the Pewsey Downs Nature Reserve is left behind. Turn left; you can either walk on the track or on the embankment on the other side of the track, which is the Iron Age fortification known as the Wansdyke. This tends to get badly overgrown in the summer. The Wansdyke will be your companion for several miles.

Go through a small wooden gate on the right onto the Wansdyke some 10m after a broad, stony track cuts across the Wansdyke from the right. After approx. a mile (1.6 km) walking along the Wansdyke, enjoying the superb views on both sides, and passing through two gates in the process, arrive at a third gate on the right in the corner of a field. Go through this. The official route continues immediately to your left beside the Wansdyke, but is often too overgrown to follow.

If this is the case, go down the track beyond for 20m and through a field gate to join a stony track parallel to the Wansdyke. Go left down this to arrive at a T junction after 100m or so. Turn left towards a gate leading to Manor Farm, then almost immediately right through another gate to return to the top of the Wansdyke.

Descend and continue, to arrive at two barns after just over 1 mile (1.6 km), going through two gates and a stile in the process. As you pass the first barn, go over a stile, then turn right over the track leading to it, then left past the second barn to rejoin the Wansdyke after yet another gate. Continue along the Wansdyke, crossing several farm tracks along the way, at all of which you have to negotiate a stile or metal kissing gate on each side of the track. After 1.2 miles (1.9 km) and a final metal gate, arrive at the A361 via the driveway of a house, Shepherd's Shore farmhouse.

M6 MWW directions east to west – A361 Shepherd's Shore to Devizes Wharf Centre

[Updated on 14/6 and 13/7/20]

Maps: OS Landranger 173, OS Explorer 157

Distance: 6.3 miles (10.1 km)

Cross the A361 to the left of a line of trees opposite. Go through a bridle gate and walk beside the Wansdyke, an ancient fortification which stretches for 50 miles through Wiltshire (you will already know this if you have walked the previous stage!), for the length of two fields. Go through another bridle gate onto a byway. Turn right for a few paces, then go left on a path through a small copse across tree roots. Go through another bridle gate and follow the path beyond as it winds right, then left and right again, in harmony with the Wansdyke. Soon two communications masts on Morgan's Hill come into view (and indeed have been visible since joining the Wansdyke, or even before), and are a constant landmark on this part of the MWW.

Pass through yet another bridle gate and go up a rise to arrive at a fence corner in the field which hosts these masts. Turn half right and walk diagonally across and then up the side of the field, with fence to right and the masts to left. then descend to a gate in the corner. Go down the slope on the other side for some 20m, then turn left on a well-defined path, with communications masts still to left (this is not as indicated on the map, Ordnance Survey have been advised of this error). Follow the contour of the hill through another gate to rejoin the Wansdyke beyond the communications masts. Walk beside it until you arrive at a break in it to left, beyond which is a **gate** giving access to the North Wilts Golf Club. Go through it. (There is an information board next to the gate, which at the time of writing was devoid of any information!)

Alternatively, on arriving in the field with the communications masts, you can take a shortcut by continuing to follow the Wansdyke, with the masts to right, exiting the field which hosts them via a gate nestling between the ramparts of the Wansdyke. Walk along the top of it beyond to arrive at the **gate** into the North Wilts Golf Club mentioned above. This route takes walkers directly along the Wansdyke and to the left of the communications masts rather than in an extended arc to their right.

Turn sharp left onto a footpath (which is also a bridleway) once on the golf course and follow the clear cut (literally!) path downhill with fence to left and clumps of trees and the golf course to right. Fork right through a small copse. On arriving at open ground, continue slightly right, in the direction of the club house, past two waymarked wooden posts, keeping a wary eye out for flying golf balls, to arrive at a metalled road.

Cross this and go down the byway opposite. Turn right at the crossroad of tracks after approx. ½ mile (0.8 km). The surface of the track improves marginally when it becomes a badly degraded metalled road soon after reaching a large, open-sided barn to left. Continue past more farm buildings and a house (Hill Cottage) to left, taking the left-hand fork just beyond the latter. When the road bends to left at a turning/parking area, go right up a track to right of a metal farm gate. After 500m take the bridleway to left with fences on both sides. On reaching the second metal gate on right, go through this into the corner of the field. (If the bridleway is badly churned up, there is the option to go through the first metal gate to right and along the field edge on the other side). Follow the fence on the left to a metal kissing gate into the next field. Turn left parallel to the fence. This is the site of Oliver's Castle hill-fort, which is on Roundway Down.

After passing an English Nature information board about the Down, and a pointed wooden post with "R5" carved into it, follow the ramparts of the fort in a wide semi-circle to the right, with wide-ranging views to right, to arrive back at the fence you left earlier. (There used to be an information board here about the Battle of Roundway, which was fought near this spot, but it has been removed). Continue past the fence corner, with fence to left, and either take the metal kissing gate to left soon after and continue in the same direction with fences on both sides, or continue past it with fence left and (soon) a wood to right. Both paths are parallel and come out in a parking area next to the copse, but it is debatable which one is muddier in wet weather. Turn left out of the parking area (i.e. away from the wood) and immediately right down a stony track. The track becomes a tarmac road after a while, somewhat degraded at first, and starts to go downhill, soon reaching a double metal farm gate to right with a gap next to it.

Go through the gap and down the right-hand side of the field beyond, passing to left of a pylon. Go through the kissing gate at the bottom, a copse and another kissing gate, to arrive at another road.

Turn left along this, and at the sharp bend to right immediately after, look to your left to get a good view of the Devizes Millennium White Horse. A few metres after the bend, go up shallow steps to right into a field. Turn left along the edge of the field, with a hedge to the left, then pass between fields to a gap in the hedge next to a house. Turn right onto a broad gravel path (ignore the track which forks off to the right), which soon becomes a narrower stony path between hedges. Cross a metalled road, with the entrance to Roundway House to right, to enter Quakers Walk, a pleasant tree-lined avenue popular with the local population. Pass through the gap beside the large iron gates at its end and cross the bridge over the Kennet and Avon canal in front of you. Turn right on the other side and walk along the towpath, passing under the first bridge (no. 140). Just beyond it is the Wharf Centre, which has a museum and cafe, where this stage ends. There is a (paying) car park next to the Wharf Centre.

M7 MWW directions east to west – Devizes Wharf Centre to The Barge Inn at Seend Cleeve

[Updated on 13/6/20]

Maps: OS Landranger 173, OS Explorer 157 & 156

Distance: 4 ½ miles (7.2 km)

Walk to the right of, then behind, the museum and cafe in the Wharf Centre, then turn left to cross the bridge (no. 140) over the canal. Once on the other side, descend onto the towpath. On reaching the A361, turn left over the canal bridge. Take the ramp on the left on the other side signposted National Cycle Network Route 4, and pass under the A361 to rejoin the towpath. Pass three more locks, and go under the A361 (bridge no. 142). After two further locks the famous series of 16 continuous locks stretching away down Caen Hill appears before you, a wondrous sight! These take the narrow boat user (and walker) downhill and away from Devizes. Pass under a road bridge at the bottom. After another six locks, the White Horse Trail disappears to the left, at Lower Foxhanger's Farm. The next lock brings you to the end of the Caen Hill flight of 29 locks, at which point you cross over to the other side of the canal. On the side you have just left can be seen the Caen Hill Marina for narrow boats, which incorporates a swing bridge.

Go under the A365 at Sells Green (bridge no. 148), then under a minor road (Spout Lane) at bridge no. 149, from which there is easy access to the Three Magpies pub. Finally, just under 3 miles (4.8 km) from the last lock on Caen Hill, and after passing three more locks, the Barge Inn at Seend Cleeve will appear on your left on the opposite side of the canal. Go under the bridge (no. 153) just before it and turn sharp right up and over the bridge. Follow the road for a few metres to the entrance to the pub.

M8 MWW directions east to west – The Barge Inn at Seend Cleeve to Steeple Ashton

[Updated in May 2023]

Maps: OS Landranger 173, OS Explorer 156

Distance: Option 1, 4.1 miles (6.6 km), option 2, 5.2 miles (8.3 km)

Having crossed the Kennet and Avon Canal via the road bridge (no. 153), pass the Barge Inn on the right, and walk for approx. 0.6 miles (1 km) along Seend Cleeve's main street. Pass the Brewery Inn on the left (or go in if thirsty!). Just before reaching the A361, turn right down Row Lane. After $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.35 km), after a downhill section, and as the road turns sharp left, continue ahead on a track past Seend Head Mill on right, to reach a quiet lane via a bridge over Semington Brook. Continue up the quiet lane for approximately 80m to reach the busy A361.

Cross over the A361 with great care, turn left, and after a few metres take the road right signposted Bulkington and Keevil. Take the first lane to right, which soon bends left and passes The Old Dairy (on right) and Elmleaze Farm (on left). On arriving at a junction on a bend, turn right (effectively straight on) and rejoin the White Horse Trail when the road bends right soon afterwards at a junction with a byway. Walk $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (0.8 km) into the heart of the village of Keevil, passing Longleaze Farm, Martins Road and Pyatts Corner/Butts Lane, all to left. Take the next left into Church Lane, and walk through the graveyard, keeping the church on the left.

Go through the gate out of the graveyard and cross a field to a sturdy footbridge between two metal gates. Go half left diagonally across the field to another kissing gate into a third field. Here turn right along the edge of the field to a metal kissing gate in the corner. There is then a brief, often very muddy, section between hedges before a wooden kissing gate into the next field. Walk through this with hedge to right, then go through double metal field gates (**Warning:** these are hard to manoeuvre due to the heavy metal bar which joins them at the top, it may be easier to climb over the gate) onto a broad track, with fence left and hedge right. Go through a metal field gate at the end into another field and follow the right-hand hedge, passing another metal field gate, to take a stile on the right by a third one about 30m from the end of the field.

Walk through a small wooded, enclosed area. Go through a metal kissing gate, turn left and go through the small metal gate 30m in front of you, and a field gate just beyond it. Continue down the field edge, ignoring the farm gate to the left, with hedge to left. At the bottom, cross a stile and go through what can be a swampy area to negotiate a kissing gate/footbridge/gate in the corner of a field. Follow the tractor track ahead and to the right to go through a field gate into the next field. Steeple Ashton's unusual castellated church is now directly in front of you.

Go past a gate in the top right-hand corner of the field (the fencing has been removed), then immediately right through another one onto a rough track. Soon bear left to walk alongside the graveyard wall. Follow the path in a wide sweep to the left beside the graveyard. At a kissing gate beside the entrance to the graveyard, turn sharp right along a path between hedge and fence to come out past a rusty kissing gate opposite a house at the end of a narrow track. Turn left down the track to reach Steeple Ashton's main street, opposite Bartletts Mead. Turn left down this, leaving the White Horse Trail on the way, to arrive at the Longs Arms pub on the right.

M9 MWW directions east to west – Steeple Ashton to Lower Westbury Road, Bratton

[Updated on 26/5 and 27/5/20]

Maps: OS Landranger 173 & 183, OS Explorer 143

Distance: 4 miles

Facing the Longs Arms pub, turn left along the main road, shortly arriving at Acreshort Lane/Acre Close on the right. Go down this lane, and when the metalled surface ends turn right down a bridleway, with a bench on the right. At the T junction at the bottom of the slope, turn right then immediately left (where the White Horse Trail rejoins our route), along a path which goes gently uphill between hedges. This is East Town Lane. Soon join a track coming in from the right. Turn left at East Town Farm, keeping the farm buildings on the left, along a wide track. When the track sweeps to the left, continue ahead with hedge on right. When you arrive at an open field, proceed half left across it (or go round the right-hand edge of the field if crops are in the way, which they invariably are in the summer) to a gap in the hedge onto a metalled road.

At this point, there is a choice of routes: either the official route, which shares the White Horse Trail's route across fields and the railway, or the alternative route, which is a lengthy road section. The official route is slightly longer and can get boggy/very muddy when wet. It can also be quite difficult to follow if hedges are overgrown and stiles hidden in undergrowth, even though both sets of waymarks all point the right way, so detailed directions are given. The alternative route can be used if there has been a spate of bad weather and/or in late summer when the vegetation has become unmanageable.

If taking the **alternative route**, turn left along the road for exactly a mile (1.6 km). On reaching a crossroads, turn right and not long after crossing a railway pass a sewage pumping building on right in the village of Bratton.

If following the **official route**, turn right along the metalled road for 500m until you reach a metal kissing gate on the left just before the drive to Lower Dunge Farm. There is also a sign stating “Capps Lane $\frac{3}{4}$ ”. Go through this and follow the hedge on left to a gap into the next field (there is a metal gate and footbridge hidden in the far left corner of the field, but this is now redundant). Continue along the edge of the next field, with hedge to left, to a metal kissing gate and footbridge which give access to a cultivated field. Continue in the same direction (although you may have to forge a route through crops to do so), aiming to the right of the four trees in the middle of the field. Maintain direction over the next field, which is also often cultivated, aiming a few metres to the right of the second tree in the middle. Go through the metal kissing gate on the far side to emerge onto a narrow, metalled road (Capps Lane).

(The occupant of the house opposite has unilaterally diverted the right of way at this point, and it looks as though the diversion is here to stay). Turn left along the road for 30m, then go right down a narrow, fenced path beside the house. Cross the stile at the end, then veer half right in the next field to get to a stile and footbridge on the other side. In the next field, head for a double stile sandwiching a footbridge half way along the hedge on the right-hand side. About two thirds of the way down the next long, thin field, in the hedge on left (do not go through the gap in the hedge some 30m before this), is yet another stile and footbridge, leading to a rusty metal gate. Once again the landowner has created an unofficial diversion of the legal route by erecting a fence along two sides of the next field, to ensure that walkers do not follow the right of way, which goes half right across it, to arrive at a metal kissing gate onto a railway crossing.

Having crossed safely, pass through another metal kissing gate and go half right for 10m to cross another stile and footbridge to the left. Cross the field diagonally to the left, aiming for a telegraph pole at the far end of an elevated, rampart-like section to left on far side of the field. (If it has been raining it would be advisable to follow hedge to left, then turn right across the field on the elevated section, to avoid swampy areas in the middle). Cross two stiles hidden behind the telegraph pole at the other end into a final field. Cross this diagonally, aiming for a small brick building (the sewage pumping building). Cross a stile over a wooden fence at the far side, then a second one a few metres further on, to arrive at the metalled road into Bratton. Turn right along this. It is at this point that the official and alternative routes unite.

If continuing to next stage, soon after passing a stately thatched dwelling called Court House (on right), turn right into Lower Westbury Road.

If terminating in Bratton, walk past Lower Westbury Road uphill to arrive at the B3098. The Duke pub is to the left on the B3098.

M10 MWW directions east to west – Lower Westbury Road, Bratton to Upton Scudamore

[Updated in November 2023]

Maps: OS Landranger 183, OS Explorer 143

Distance: 4.9 miles (7.8 km)

If starting in Bratton, turn down road (Court Lane) off B3098 signposted Steeple Ashton, West Ashton and Trowbridge. Take the first road on the left, which is Lower Westbury Road, passing a stately thatched dwelling called Court House to the left.

If continuing from last stage Turn right along Lower Westbury Road for 650m, then, at a dead end sign, turn sharp left uphill (signposted Westbury) to arrive at the B3098. Cross this and walk up the left-hand edge of the field beyond. The path bears right after the field and becomes enclosed. At a fork, bear right for a few metres to a stile. This is a permissive route. Cross it and walk up a grassy field, staying close to the fence on the right. Stray slightly from the fence by ascending a short slope. Go through the gate ahead and walk along the northern ramparts of Bratton Hill, which is an Iron-Age hill fort. Go past the White Horse beneath and to the right, and through a gate and up steps into an open area containing two benches in front of the car park. From here there are fine views over the vale below.

Facing the view, turn left and walk along the path at the top of the escarpment. Pass several benches, the first beside an information board about the White Horse, and a stone plinth with a toposcope on top. It tells you that White Horse Hill is 754 feet above sea level. The plinth was erected by pupils of the Aldcroft School of Building in Trowbridge in 1968. Drop down to a metal kissing gate hiding in the bushes. Follow the fence to right through the field and into the next one, to arrive at a rusty square water tank 700m from the White Horse. Go 90 degrees left uphill to another metal kissing gate onto a tarmac road. (Turn right here downhill for access to Westbury). Turn left uphill. At the junction at the top, by the entrance to a now defunct quarry, turn right onto a wide degraded road. This is the Imber Range Perimeter Path (IRPP).

Follow this road for a little over 2 miles along the IRPP, initially with the quarry to left, then firing ranges/restricted areas. Towards the end, it goes quite steeply downhill from Upton Cow Down, then emerges onto the slip road from the A350 to the village of Upton Scudamore. Follow this road as it sweeps up to and over the A350, soon arriving at the Angel Inn in the village.

M11 MWW directions east to west – Upton Scudamore to Heaven's Gate car park, Longleat

[amended in August 2022 to avoid walking along the A36, as well as a dangerous crossing of, and walking along, the A362]

Maps: OS Landranger 183, OS Explorer 143

Distance: 6.4 miles (10.2 km)

Pass to the right of the Angel Inn and turn right at the T junction beyond. Where the road bends to the right, go through the gateless kissing gate behind the 'sharp bend' road sign on the left and go straight ahead across the field to a railway bridge. Turn left 10m after crossing it. Pass over three fields connected by two small bridges to arrive at a roundabout on the A350 via a stile. Take the first exit off the roundabout, signposted Warminster, B3414, and after 300 metres turn right onto the lane to Croft House Farm. (It may be more expedient if the grass verges have not been cut to go down the service road opposite the stile past the garage, then turn right to cut between the Burger King and Travelodge. If you do this, turn left on arriving at the B3414 to arrive at the lane to Croft House Farm).

Go over a squeeze stile at the end of this lane, and follow the path to left through trees, with the farm to your left. Go over a stile and across two fields separated by a stile to reach a gap in the hedge towards the right-hand corner of the second field. Continue ahead down the path through a wood. Cross the field beyond this and continue to the left of the wood on the other side for approx. 40m before turning 90 degrees left across the field towards a hedge corner. Continue with hedge left and when it ends, turn left through a gap. Follow the path as it bends round to the right and crosses a concrete bridge to reach a road. This is Grovelands Way.

Turn right past various side roads to arrive at a junction, with the Co-op on the left. Turn right here along Victoria Road, and after 0.6 miles (1 km) take the track leading off it to the right by means of a stile next to field gates. Pass under the A350. Immediately after this turn left, and soon arrive at a stile on the r. Go over this (although the fence leading up to it has been removed, giving an easier way to access the field) and proceed along the edge of a field. Go through a gap into the next one. Roughly one third along its edge, turn left at a prominent metal signpost and go up a small slope into a field. (Go straight ahead instead to access Cley Hill, if desired, then return to the same place) Turn left along its edge for 30m, then strike out right across it, passing two telegraph poles. Bear left on the other side and follow the path and hedge line up to the A362.

Cross a stile and go a few paces to the left, then cross over with great care and walk down Folly Lane opposite. This bends left, then right to become another road, Tascroft.

Go right along this, past the Pine Lawns cemetery, then the road bends sharp left. When it bends sharp right soon after, continue ahead along a track, which becomes an enclosed path. When this forks, bear left (straight on) to descend into a wood. Arrive at a T junction at the bottom and turn right onto a wide bridleway. Follow this for 1 km (0.6 miles), ignoring two turnings to the left and going straight on at a crossing of tracks to reach a white metal barrier at a road. Turn right along this to the T junction with the Horningsham road.

Turn left and walk 1.2 miles (1.9 km) along this road past Center Parcs (to left), Batsford Timber (both sides), the Main Entrance to Longleat for paying visitors (to right) and the entrance to the Aqua Sana Spa (to left). Immediately after this is Heaven's Gate car park (to left). This is shown on the Explorer map as being in Nockatt Coppice, but is only the usual blue P in the Landranger map.

M12 MWW directions east to west – Heaven's Gate car park to Kingston Deverill

[Updated On 25/6/20]

Maps: OS Landranger 183, OS Explorer 143

Distance: 4.4 miles (7 km)

Turn left out of Heaven's Gate car park onto the road to Horningsham. At the end of the wood on the right turn right on a bridleway heading downhill. When this joins a road, continue in the same direction. Follow the road round to the left past a phone box to arrive at a T junction. Turn right here to reach another T junction only a few metres up the road.

(If it is desired to visit Horningsham, turn right here. This is Horningsham's lengthy main street and will eventually lead you, past church on right, to the Bath Arms pub.)

Turn left here, signposted to Longbridge Deverill, Shearwater and Shaftesbury. Shortly, as the road bends left, turn right onto a bridleway just past the Horningsham place name. On reaching a quiet country road, cross it and continue on another bridleway slightly to the left, which is accessed via a farm gate. Here trees briefly line the route, but after going through a gate it continues along the side of a field with a fence and occasional trees to the right, ascending gradually. Just before going through another gate to enter woods, there is a large memorial stone to Bernard and Joan Russell about 40 metres to the left.

Follow the path steadily, and then quite steeply, uphill through Bidcombe Wood, passing through two field gates en route. It levels out at the top and then descends a little to reach a gate. Keep going in the same direction, initially along a farm track, then across a field towards a fence along the ridge top in front of you.

On reaching this, turn left and follow the fence south-east for approx. 1½ miles (2.4 km). There are fine views on this section in all directions, with Whitecliff Down to the left and Bidcombe Down to the right. As you follow the fence, descend then ascend to a beacon on the hill top. Shortly after this, ignore a track veering off to the left towards a trig point on top of Cold Kitchen Hill.

Eventually arrive at a gate in the fence on your right, just past a lonely tree (OS Explorer map reference 849 380). Strike out across the field on the other side at 90 degrees to the path you have been on, going gently downhill at first. As you pass approx. 40m to the right of a metal water trough, veer slowly to the right and follow a discernible, chalky track more steeply downhill. On arriving at a fence corner, go left down the field edge with fence to right to reach a gate in the corner. Go through this onto a narrow, metalled road. Turn right and, on reaching a junction, turn left to enter Kingston Deverill.

If finishing in Kingston Deverill, walk to the B3095 at the T junction ahead.

If continuing on next stage, turn right just before reaching the B3095, immediately after Bell Cottage.

M13 MWW directions east to west – Kingston Deverill to Mere

Maps: OS Landranger 183, OS Explorer 143

Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

If starting in Kingston Deverill, take the turning off the B3095 past the front of the church signposted to the local gliding club, with a 15 m.p.h. speeding limit specified. In 175 metres, when the lane bends sharp right, maintain direction down the no through road.

If continuing from last stage, turn right after Bell Cottage. At the next junction, turn left (effectively straight on) with a small stream (River Wylfe) on your right. When the road bends sharp left, turn right down a no through road.

Soon after, take the metalled bridleway to the left, which has a sign aimed at the gliding club members entitled “Important notice” fixed onto the fence where it leaves the road. At once turn right through a metal gate into a small field. (If there is a bull in this field, you can continue along the road to the end of the field, then turn left up a track to rejoin the correct route beyond the field). Aim for the gate on the far side, cross over a track and go through another gate on the other side. Continue on a gentle uphill gradient with fence to left.

Keep going in the same direction for approx. 1¼ miles (2 km) after crossing the track, following the contour of the hill, even when the fence veers left in the first field, and passing below two copses before going through open country. There are some fine views to the right (north) on this section on a good day, including that of Little Knoll which has a wood running up its middle, giving it the appearance of a Mohican haircut!

On reaching a cross fence, turn left through a gate going slightly uphill. The grass runway for the gliding club, the notices for which you passed earlier, soon appears to your left. On reaching a sign warning you of the presence of gliders, go through the gate to right opposite the sign. Go half left, in a south-westerly direction, across a field, then down a track on the edge of the next field with fence to right. Continue in the same direction across a third field with a fence still to right, but half way through it go through a gap to find the fence now on your left. This is open farming country with vast fields and lovely views to both sides. Eventually almost 1 ½ miles (2.4 km) after leaving the gliding club runway, arrive at a wide track going towards two low, flat hills (tumuli and the remains of White Sheet castle) topped by a mast on White Sheet Hill to your right. Cross the track, go through a gate and veer right towards the fence. Follow the fence on a well-defined farm track, but after an initial descent follow a green farm track which forks off at a narrow angle to the left. It soon becomes apparent that we are descending the western arm of a large semi-circle of hills, with the houses of Mere directly below us. Stay on this track to go through two metal gates, then along a farm track followed by a metalled road. This brings you to a T junction with another metalled road by a house. Turn left and follow the road over the A303 into the centre of Mere. The route ends at the war memorial and clock tower or, if preferred, The George Inn next to them.