Pewsey Avon Trail directions south to north in six stages

Salisbury to Old Sarum

These directions complement the original directions given by Chris Cole in his excellent guide book for the Pewsey Avon Trail in 2010 when it was first established, but which go from north to south. This guide book is still available from the White Horse bookshop in Marlborough, or online at www.whitehorsebooks.co.uk/pewsey-avon-trail.

Maps: OS Explorer 130, OS Landranger 184

Distance: 3 miles (4.8 km)

(updated in November 2026)

The Trail starts outside the west door of the cathedral. Facing the entrance, turn left. Cross North Walk and go past The Green and through the Cathedral Close. Pass under the archway into the High Street, and continue ahead to the traffic lights/crossroads.

Turn left along Crane Street. Just before the bridge turn right onto a tarmac path next to the river. On reaching the road (Bridge Street), with a distinctive clock tower to your left and the King's Head Inn to your right, cross the road, then the river via the pedestrian bridge to the right of the Bishop's Mill pub. Go through the archway and continue ahead on the tiled path, which has The Maltings shops on the left, soon replaced by a park. The path is shared with National Cycle Route 45 and the Golden Way circular cycle route.

Keep the river close to your right. Pass a Tesco supermarket on the right. On arriving at a road (Avon Approach) turn left down it and across a bridge.
Go right on either of the two self-binding gravel (SBG) surfaced paths on the other side, with the large Central car park now on your left. Pass a pedestrian bridge, then a vehicular bridge signposted Castle Street, then another pedestrian bridge, all on the right. Just after the last bridge the SBG surface is replaced by tarmac shared with cyclists.

Pass under the railway, then cross a road with a bridge on the right known as Scammell's Bridge which has plaques on both sides relating its history.
Pass under the railway and continue to another road (Ashley Road). Cross it and continue, now on SBG, past another bridge on the right. This bridge leads to the Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre and takes National Cycle Route 45 and the Golden Way circular cycle route across the river.
Keep ahead and after a short distance, you have two options, with some possibilities of switching between them:

1) For the official route, continue ahead past the River Park Play Area on your left (still enclosed by Harris fencing). Cross a wide bridge over the Avon and then turn right. When the SBG forks, bear left. The surface is soon replaced by a rural footpath. Go past allotments, and when these come to an end, kink left then right onto an enclosed path, which you follow all the way to a crossing of tracks. Turn right here and after 100m cross the river on a footbridge.

2) For the riverside option, a short distance after passing the bridge to the Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre, turn right onto a path which hugs the riverside. Just before the SBG ends there are exits to join to the official route on the left. Ignoring these, continue ahead on a lengthy boardwalk

   When it comes to an end, continue ahead on an obvious path which veers gradually away from the river but returns to its side just before the footbridge across the river mentioned in 1) above. This is accessed via a small, stony beach. Turn right across the bridge.

Continue on the tarmac path on the other side and pass through staggered railings at its end to pass the entrance to Avonside House on the left. Turn right onto Mill Lane to a junction with Stratford Road. Turn right here, cross the road, then turn left onto a byway beside a thatched cottage, just before St Lawrence Close, signed Old Sarum ½ mile. Proceed up a narrow path enclosed by hedges and fences.

Where this bends sharp left, go through a gate on the right into a field and follow the hedge on the left to another gate in its corner. Keep the hedge on your left in the next field to arrive at a T-junction with a tarmac path, with the A345 only a few metres to the right. Turn left up the path and bear right up to a gate which gives access to the yellow box markings on the entrance drive to the interior of Old Sarum. Bear left if you wish to visit the English Heritage site, where you will find a car park and toilets.

Old Sarum to Amesbury

Maps: OS Explorer 130, OS Landranger 184

Distance: 7 Miles (11.2 km)

Walk down from the car park towards the A345, but before reaching it turn left through two small gates next to a farm into a fence-lined path round the base of the hillfort. Cross the minor road (which, if you turn right along it, leads to the Beehive Park & Ride) and follow the broad track downhill past a cottage, then gradually uphill and down again to pass Keeper's Cottage on your left. Here you cross a footpath known as The Avenue. Climb up out of the dip, ignoring a left fork immediately after Keeper's Cottage, and continue across the centre of a large field. Go through a copse, where you cross the Monarch's Way, and continue along the bridleway on the left-hand side of a field to arrive at a T-junction with a wide, stony farm track.

Turn left onto this, and after 120m arrive at a track to the right, beside a seat dedicated to Eddie, a pleasant spot for a rest. Go down the track, with a fence to your left. At the field corner go straight on into the wood rather than following it round to the right. There is a well-used path through the wood, which descends quite steeply at first, then more gradually, to a road. Turn right here and walk through the village of Netton, then on to the bridge across the Avon, ignoring three turnings to the right on your way. On the other side of the bridge is the Bridge Inn in Upper Woodford.

Turn right for 200m to a signed footpath to the right down a gravel drive in front of metal railings. The drive becomes a track between paddocks, then hedges. Bear left (effectively straight on) at a Y intersection, then cross a track at Woodford Green. Continue along the track, now enclosed by hedges, into an open field, with the Avon on your right. When the field comes to an end, go down the slope and turn right round a tree to turn left across a bridge over the river. Follow the path over a second bridge in front of Durnford Mill, then continue down its driveway onto the road through Great Durnford.

Turn left and walk through the village, passing a turning to the right, and St James' Church on the left just before a bend to the right. Continue on the road uphill, then down again past the imposing entrance to Great Durnford Manor. Soon after this, take the bridleway to the left by a house called Fairwood House, with Beech Wood to your right. Ascend through Ham Wood on a wide, clear track, with open countryside to your right. Fork right downhill away from the wood, still on a wide track, and soon cross an intermediate track.

Continue between fence and hedge to a double field gate with a bridle gate beside it. Pass through the gate. On the other side there is a path which forks left downhill to the river. Ignore this and instead continue ahead along the edge of the field with a fence to your left. Pass a fenced plantation on your right and go gently downhill to another double field gate (one side of which is usually left open) and bridle gate, where the track becomes wide and stony. Continue ahead steadily uphill, then down again across another track. Go ahead down the narrower, grassy track, to arrive at yet another crossing of tracks near a house.

Go straight on and follow the path across three bridges over the Avon (this is Ham Hatches), then down the side of the children's play area in Bonnymead Park. Leave the park on Recreation Road, and walk down to a bend on a minor road. Continue ahead over yet another bridge over the Avon, Queensbury Bridge, and down Church Street in Amesbury. Pass the church, which is set well back from the road, on the left. Continue across Salisbury Street, which goes off to the right, and along the High Street to the A345, where this section ends. Amesbury's Central Car Park is a few metres to the right.

Amesbury to Figheldean

Maps: OS Explorer 130, OS Landranger 184

Distance: 4 ½ miles (7.2 km)

Parking is available, at a price, in Amesbury's Central Car Park, which is off the A345 (Salisbury Road). Alternatively you can park for free in Bonnymead Park, which is on the PAT route from Great Durnford.

At the crossroads with traffic lights and a petrol station on the A345, turn left out of the High Street down the A345. You now have two choices: the easiest, quietest, and most straightforward route is to turn right into Lord's Walk at the first entrance you come to, then proceed ahead on the wide grass strip between trees to the gate at the end. Seats are provided but the trees obstruct distant views. A more interesting alternative is to follow the river, but this is noisier due to its closer proximity to the A303. To take this route, go through the second entrance to Lord's Walk. Follow the river to the A303 river bridge, then turn right up steps on a purpose-built path through the trees. Bear left past an electricity sub-station at the top to arrive at the gate mentioned in the first option.

Turn left down Ratfyn Road for 200m, then turn left down a tarmac path. This crosses over the A303, then bends to the right, parallel to the A303, through a tunnel of trees to arrive at a tarmac road. Turn left and follow the road round to the right, going gently uphill. At the crossroads by another electricity

sub-station, with wires radiating in various directions, turn right onto a gravel track. As you walk along this, over to the right you can see telecoms masts and various related buildings. After passing a pylon (on the left) the track starts to go downhill. As it bends left, fork right onto a narrow bridleway, still going downhill, to emerge beside the entrance to the Watergate Farm coarse fishing lake.

Bear right along the concrete track. When this arrives at a tarmac road, turn left for 50m, then cross a stile on your right just before the entrance to the Dovecote (a property). Follow the path along the edge of the field, then turn left over another stile and a footbridge. Continue ahead across the grass to arrive at the A3028 in Bulford.

Cross it carefully and go down the narrow tarmac track opposite (Church Lane), with Bulford church on your left. When the tarmac peters out, continue along the edge of the field to a kissing gate. Go through this and follow the path through two more kissing gates into a wood. The path meanders back and forth, getting ever nearer to the river down to the left. Emerge onto a road and turn left past some cottages. Soon after this, the road ends; turn left on a surfaced path, follow this round to the right and cross the Avon. Soon after this, cross it again by turning right over another footbridge with a road just beyond. Turn left. When the road bends right after 200m you will find Milston church on your left. Continue on this minor road, which again turns sharp right after a while. Some 50m before arriving at a T-junction with another road, at The Croft, turn left down a narrow fence-lined path by a notice board and post box.

Continue ahead across a field of long grass and cross a military road. Go straight on through a narrow uncultivated area into a wood. Join a track coming in from the right, but turn right off it almost at once. Cross the access road to Syrencot House. Keep going on a wide, rutted track, which can often be muddy and overgrown, to reach a stile on the other side of a farm track. [There is an alternative permissive route here devised by the landowner for those who would like to avoid the livestock in the fields ahead: turn left down the farm track to the road, then turn right for 20m to the kissing gate* below.] To continue on the standard route, cross the stile and continue ahead to another stile which has been extensively chewed by horses! Follow the wall on the other side to a small gate* onto a road, with Ablington Farm to your right.

Continue on the path which is a few paces to the right on the other side of the road, with a wall to the right and a school on the left, to emerge beside a post box and parish council notice board. Maintain direction across the field beyond, keeping the fence on your left, and pass through a gap at the end of the field to arrive at Figheldean’s (pronounced Filedean!) magnificent village hall, where this stage ends.

Figheldean to Enford

Maps: OS Explorer 130, OS Landranger 184

Distance: 4.3 miles (6.9 km)

Take the footpath opposite Figheldean village hall. This passes houses to the left and allotments to the right. At the crossing of tracks, follow the path round to the right, and shortly afterwards bear left down to the road through trees. Come out opposite the church. Turn right along the road, and at a junction with another road some 450m later, bear left. After 175m, go through a gap on your left next to a redundant kissing gate into a field. Follow the path past a small copse on the left, then a sewage works on the right, going through two more redundant kissing gates in the process Bear half right across a field to arrive at a third kissing gate by the entrance to Choulston Farm.

Turn left down the road for 50m, then take the footpath on your right (**before** reaching the river). This goes through woods and is soon accompanied by the river, which later veers off to the left. It is soon replaced by a small lake. After passing a telegraph pole, turn sharp right, then left after a short distance, along a fence-lined footpath. This comes out at a road in Haxton, opposite the Old Post House Cottage. Turn left here and follow the road round to the left (signed Netheravon) to cross the river on Haxton bridge (which dates only from 2011). There is a junction very soon after this; if you are in need of sustenance, continue ahead for 50m, where there is a shop. Otherwise, turn right. This is Mill Road, in Netheravon.

About 75m after passing the Stonehenge Ales brewery on your right, fork right off the road onto a track beside the river. Follow this past a secure private fishing area. It soon becomes a path across fields and goes through two metal kissing gates. After the second one, aim to the right of two L-shaped barns to arrive at a military road. Cross straight over this and go down the track opposite to come out on a bend in a road. This is Fifield. Go right (effectively straight on), then follow the road round to the right. The road narrows to become a metalled path in front of houses.

Continue ahead on an enclosed path which has a concrete surface for almost its whole length. This crosses the river again on an old metal bridge, then passes a sewage pumping station (on the right). Ignore the signposted turning to Fittleton. Don’t miss the blue plaque on the wall on your left not long after, placed there in memory of two policemen who lost their lives on this spot in 1913. Arrive at another road, in Coombe, opposite a turning to Coombe Lane. Turn left along the road through the village. Follow this through Longstreet, then Enford, passing under the gantry outside the Swan Inn. At the junction, turn left, signed Amesbury and Pewsey, to arrive at the church car park on your right after 120m.

Enford to Upavon

Maps: OS Explorer 130, OS Landranger 184

Distance: 4.8 miles (7.7 km)

From Enford church, walk up to the main road (A345). Cross with care and walk up the steps inside the small wood opposite (which may well be hidden by a parked vehicle) to a kissing gate at the top. Cross the field beyond, bearing slightly left and aiming to the left of a wooden pylon, to go through another kissing gate onto a bend in a lane. Go immediately right on a track (a bridleway), which goes downhill to pass an electricity sub-station. Continue ahead past a barn to a kissing gate in the fence on your right (which may be hard to see due to vegetation). Turn left after this to go through a kissing gate. Proceed downhill on a wide, grass path between low banks, parallel to the A345. Bear left behind a white thatched cottage and follow the fence on your right to a kissing gate.

Cross the small field on the other side, passing to the right of a pond, to arrive at another kissing gate. This is a permissive route which cuts out the dogleg required to follow the right of way; this would take the walker to the far end of the field to cross a stile and return on the road. Take the road beyond the kissing gate, which bends right through the yard of Compton Farm (which contains several unusual items!). Ignore the tarmac road and a track, both off to the right, and turn left to join the byway in front of you which goes uphill. This can get very overgrown in the summer. At the top, continue ahead on a narrow tarmac road to the large barns of West Chisenbury Farm.

Turn left here onto another byway, which arrives at a T-junction of byways after ¾ mile (1.2 km). Turn right onto a wide gravel track alongside the edge of the impact area. This is a military road, so be aware of the occasional light vehicle (tanks use the parallel dirt track to the left). After about 0.8 miles (1.3 km), arrive at the vedette at Casterley Camp by an open parking area. Turn right here and walk for some 1.3 miles (2.1 km) back down to the A345; the road goes steadily downhill after passing a pair of tall masts above a reservoir.

Cross the road with care onto the grass verge, where there is a seat and wooden carving that commemorates the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Cross the road into Upavon at the island and walk down the pavement on the other side past the Antelope Inn into the centre of the village.

Upavon to Pewsey

Maps: OS Explorer 130, OS Landranger 173

Distance: 5.9 miles (9.5 km)

Take the A342 towards Everleigh from Upavon village centre, cross the river and turn left into Vicarage Lane. Soon after the houses end, this becomes a gravel track, then a grassy path. When the path appears to fork a couple of times, bear right. On reaching a Y-shaped intersection, where the gate has been removed, fork left onto a wide, well-maintained path, and after about 550m arrive at the A345. Turn left along the path on the verge, cross the river and arrive at a roundabout in front of the Woodbridge Inn. Cross the A345 and take the road past the side of the inn. After 625m, take the quiet lane to the right opposite Falkner's Farm, signposted to St James' Church in North Newnton. You join the White Horse Trail here.

Pass to the right of the church and take the footbridge across the stream. Follow the path on the other side, with the stream to your left. About 20m after it joins a stony track, with Manningford Trout Fishery to your right, take the concrete bridge across another stream and turn left. Veer right along an enclosed path, which kinks right then left and brings you out onto a road. To the left is a pair of imposing pillars between metal railings. Go right down the road for a few metres, then left across a strip of grass to the Manningford Business Units. Cross its tarmac forecourt or the grass beside it and take the short, narrow fenced path leading off the grass once past the units, which brings you out into a road (Wick Lane). The property on your left is Pheasant Cottage.

Cross the stile a few paces to the left on the other side and leave the White Horse Trail for a brief diversion to see the Manningford Bruce church. Follow the right-hand fence past a corner to cross a stile on your right. Go left along this enclosed path to reach a minor road. Cross this to enter the churchyard, and follow the path to the left round to the back of the church. In the left-hand corner, turn left through a metal gate and along the wall round a large house. Pass through a kissing gate and walk along the right-hand side of the field beyond to a kissing gate on the right. Pass through the narrow band of trees beyond via a sleeper bridge.

Bear half left in the field beyond another kissing gate, aiming for the left-hand corner of the field. Go through another kissing gate and down an enclosed tarmac path to a minor road, where The White House is on the left.
Cross the road and take a boggy path through a small wood into the field ahead. You are now leaving Manningford Bruce and entering Manningford Abbots. Towards the top right-hand end of the field, enter what used to be a small wood,

but which has all now been cut down (which can also get extremely boggy) via a kissing gate.

Leave the White Horse Trail here by going half right (diagonally) across the field towards the left-hand end of a group of buildings, in direct line of sight of a pylon beyond. On getting closer to these buildings, the tiny isolated church of Manningford Abbots comes into view. Go through the rusty kissing gate in front of the church to pass it and exit via another rusty kissing gate. Cross the field behind and exit via a kissing gate onto a minor road. Turn left along this, crossing the Avon, to reach a junction beside a white thatched cottage, which is appropriately named Corner Cottage, just beyond Manor Field Farm.

Turn right here. Ignore the unsigned turning on the right as you follow the road round to the left. Turn left at the T-junction for a short distance, then take the footpath to the right of a brick-built thatched cottage. This takes you along the edge of Pewsey sports field, with views to the left of Knap Hill, Golden Ball Hill and Martinsell Hill, which are all components of the Pewsey Downs, then along the back of several private gardens, with views on the right towards Pewsey Hill and its White Horse, to arrive at The Crescent in Pewsey.
Keep straight on along Church Street, past St John the Baptist Church, and turn left along River Street at the end to arrive at the statue of King Alfred, which marks the end of the Pewsey Avon Trail.