

THE SARUM WAY

Introduction.

"A corner was turned and suddenly on a grassy slope sheltered by a small wood a wonderful display of snowdrops came into view. It was a glorious sight full of promise for finer days ahead"

Alan Mattingly (1997)

The quotation above expresses the joy experienced by a walker. This joy can be found on every walk - it may be associated with a flower, a view, an animal, bird or building and it is there for all to observe and enjoy.

'The Sarum Way' passes through some delightful countryside including river valleys, woodland and downland around Salisbury and Wilton. To the west of Wilton and south west of Salisbury the path passes through an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'. It is a circular Path which has been way-marked by the 'Spire' sign. The Spire logo was chosen as it can be seen from numerous points on the walk.

The path is some 31.5 miles in length and access to it may be gained using the radiating paths from the centre of Salisbury and Wilton. The radiating paths start at public car parks. These car parks are designated on the main map as follows:-

Car park No. 2 - the Central Car Park, Salisbury.

Car park No. 3 - the St Edmund's (Arts' Centre) Car Park, Salisbury.

Car park No. 4 – Crane Bridge Road Car Park, Salisbury.

Car park No. 5 - South Street Car Park, Wilton.

The main map gives the mileages between the various lettered points and each section of path is described and has an accompanying sketch map. The circular path is described in a clockwise direction and the descriptions for the radiating paths start at the car parks.

There are a number of combinations of walks which may be either circular or linear. By studying the main map you can decide which walk most suits your needs. It is also very helpful to have the Explorer Ordnance Map 130.

The main map indicates the numbers of the bus routes, and if a bus ride is taken you should consult a bus timetable or enquire at the bus

station of the Wilts and Dorset bus company in Endless Street (Tel No. 01722 336855).

If a car is used there is restricted parking in some villages on the route of the Sarum Way. There is also restricted parking at Point 1 in the lay-by, off the A 345, opposite the 'Old Castle Inn'. Drivers should be careful in parking in the countryside that they do not inconvenience farmers and householders.

Having planned your walk, put on the right garb and comfortable footwear, start out and enjoy it. I am especially glad that the Sarum Way is being used as a sponsored walk for the Salisbury Hospice. (Graham Carter)

*Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
Leave gates and property as you find them
Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
Keep dogs under close control.
Consider other people.*

The South Wilts Group of the Ramblers' Association wish to thank Salisbury District Council for its generosity in sponsoring the Sarum Way.

The Group would also like to express its thanks to the New Forest Group of the R.A. for its expression of help.

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Point 'A' (Lower Woodford) to Point 'B'. (GRs 126353 - 131354)

At the northern end of the village of Lower Woodford note the fingerpost, signed 'Footpath', on the right hand side of the road and commence the walk by entering the drive between the large white - painted gate posts. Pass along the drive in front of the house and continue along the metalled path to the River Avon.

Cross the Avon by the footbridges and follow the path up to the road at Salterton Farm. Turn left on to the road and then right into the wide concrete entrance of Salterton Farm. Cross over the concrete yard, keeping to the right, and turn right onto concrete paving between two fences.

Continue the walk by the metal fence and thence between two hedges going uphill. Bear left between the trees with the River Avon behind you. Stop at summit of path in wood at Point 'B' and admire the view.

(Insert notes A-B)

Point 'B' to Point 'C'. (GRs 131354 - 163328).

Carry on along bridleway parallel and between two wire fences for a distance of approximately 1 mile until the A 345 is reached. Cross this road, taking great care, and continue on the track until you come to the Salisbury to Cholderton road. Here also cross the road, with great care, and continue on the trackway, passing a sewage disposal works on your right. 100 metres further on turn right onto another bridleway. Follow this, meandering to the gate by the Ford road. Turn left onto the road and cross the stone bridge over the River Bourne. Please take care and be aware of traffic at this point. Continue to the road junction which is Point 'C'.

(Insert notes B-C)

Point 'C' (Ford) to point 'D'. (GRs 163328 - 166306)

At the road junction bear left and continue along the road with the river on your left until you meet the next road junction just before the railway bridge. This area is known as 'Broken Cross'.

At the road junction bear right and cross over the railway bridge, taking great care. Immediately after crossing the bridge turn left into Old Malthouse Lane. Proceed along this road until the finger post is reached and turn right through the five-barred gate (remembering to close the gate).

Pass the barn of Ford Farm on your left and walk on the right-hand side of the hedge to arrive at the A 30, (Salisbury to Stockbridge

road). Take great care and ensure that the road is clear before crossing.

The track continues up the Down until the top of the field is reached. Turn right here and follow the hedge line, on your left, to the stile in the opposite field corner. Follow the path over the stile onto Cockey Down. Go through kissing gate and keep near to the fence of the WWT Reserve until you reach another kissing gate. Continue towards the clump of trees on the top of Cockey Down. Now head uphill, half left across the top of a gully to pass through the summit clump with the hedge on your left. Descend, following this hedge and then bearing left uphill to the field corner. Go through five-bar gate onto a narrow track at Point 'D'.

(Insert Notes C-D)

Point 'D' to Point 'E' (Alderbury Church) (GRs 166306 - 182269)

From Point 'D' proceed down the track, half left between hedges for 700 metres and turn right onto a drive and then immediately left onto the access road to Rangers Lodge Farm. Follow the access road through the gate and past the farm buildings. Continue along this road for a distance of approximately 800 metres and then turn right, off the road, up a trackway or hollow way. Ascend the slope and pass a thatched cottage in the trees on your left. Pass the ruins of Clarendon Palace also on your left. At the fork in the path take the right-hand track and carry straight on for a distance of 700 metres. Turn right and continue on the grass track for 400 metres until the next fork is reached. The track then bends to the left. Take this path and carry on along the grass track until a metalled road is reached. This is an estate road.

Turn right onto the road. At this point the permissive footpath begins and you are requested not to deviate from the path. Keep to the road and pass Clarendon House on your left. Follow the road until it reaches Clarendon Road, the public highway. Turn right onto Clarendon Road and proceed along the road, where possible, keeping to the verge. Cross over the railway and the Southampton road and continue uphill to the crossroads in Alderbury.

Cross over and continue into Folly Lane. At the bend enter the field by the stile on the right-hand side of the road. Head towards the church,

crossing over a small brook, usually dry and enter the cemetery, beside the church, by means of the stile. Go through the cemetery to its entrance where Point 'E' is reached.

(Insert notes D-E)

Point 'E' (Alderbury Church) to Point 'F' (Odstock) (GRs 182269 - 146261)

From the cemetery entrance turn left on to the road. Proceed up the road for about 100 metres and turn right along bridleway. Proceed to right hand bend in bridleway, turning left onto footpath signposted 'Rectory Road', through a kissing gate. Follow the path across the field and over three stiles, bearing right into a lane, keeping straight on at junction, with Rectory Farm on the right.

Follow the lane to stile on left, some 30 metres short of 'Grassfields House'. Take the footpath around the house and continue straight on over a stile into the field. Head for Matrons College Farm. Do not go through the gate but bear right on bridleway, marked 'permissive path'. Continue straight on past farm on the left and through a field to a bridge over the dismantled railway.

Cross over bridge and follow the bridleway through the fields until it meets another bridleway. At this junction turn right to the far side of the dismantled railway track. Turn immediately left and continue along bridleway with railway track on left. Cross over track and continue on to 'Four Gates' at the public road.

Turn right and proceed along the public road to 'Standlynch Lodge' at the road junction. Turn right down the road to Standlynch Farm.

Opposite the farm turn diagonally left up the footpath through the wood. At the top of the rise bear right and continue through the wood to the field. On the left may be seen a fine view of Trafalgar House. Cross field to stile and thence into the wood. Follow the path around to a farm track. Turn sharp right towards the River Avon.

Go over a bridge and by the 'Mill House' turn right. Follow the path over a series of bridges until an ornate carved stile is reached. Cross the meadows on the path to a hedge corner there bearing right along the clear footpath via a turnstile into Charlton-all-Saints, passing the Old Rectory on the left. Cross over Lower Road and over the stile, walking close to the hedge by the drive of a house on the left. Beyond

the house, turn right at junction of the paths and follow the footpath going round behind the gardens of houses and finally through the churchyard to a public road.

Turn left up the road for about 50 metres and turn right over a stile into the field. Cross the field (no clear path) heading for Charlton Manor Dairy. At corner of the field go through kissing gate and then along a broad farm track for 60 metres, keeping to the left to avoid the worst of the mud. Turn half left over stile, through enclosed path, and in 50 metres over another stile. Turn diagonally right going just left of the first water trough, aiming for the distant pylon, to the stile. Go over stile and follow path, keeping hedge on right, to an angle of a public road. Turn half right along the road and continue on, passing Matrimony Farm on the left. Immediately after a right-hand bend in the road, about 100 metres past the farm, turn left onto footpath through the field. Head towards a house at the top right hand corner of the field where two stiles lead to A 338, (Salisbury to Ringwood road). Take great care in crossing the A 338. When safely across head towards the left and enter a fenced recess. Go through the gate in the recess and keep on path to left of hedge for about 200 metres. Here cross over stile in hedge and proceed on path with hedge on the left. Go over stile in corner of the field and carry on down bridleway until the public road is reached. Turn left on to road and at the next bend turn right by 'Fairhaven' and then sharp left and right through gates. Follow the hedge line which is on the right to corner of the field. Cross over stile and head across arable field to gate adjoining Odstock Farm. Go through gate and cross track known as 'The Avenue' to gate almost opposite. Follow path with capped wall on right-hand side. Cross over stile and proceed across field diagonally to stile. Continue along path between fences to public road. Here Point 'F' is reached.

(Insert notes E-F)

Point 'F'(Odstock) to Point 'G'. (GRs 146261-137279)

Cross public road and proceed up Shepherd's Close to the end of the cul-de-sac. Go through field gate and cross the field. Cross over stile and follow fence line, turning right, and cross over stile onto bend in public highway. This is the road from Odstock to Coombe Bissett.

Turn right onto road and proceed to the next bend and cross over stile at the signpost, marked 'Avon Valley Path'. Keep near to fence line and on path to reach gates. Go through both gates and head straight over field, passing under pylon cables, following ditch course in field until the River Ebbles is reached. Cross over stile and follow path along river bank. This area can be muddy during the winter. Cross over footbridge and turn immediately left to cross a second smaller footbridge. Bear left and cross field to stile. This path is very boggy, especially during the winter.

Cross over stile onto a wide track turning right and then left to cross over a further stile. Proceed up grassy track to Dogdean Farm. Skirt farm buildings on your left. Turn left at top of track and carry on along the farm road. Turn right at gap in the fence and follow path down into a gentle valley. Then go up slope, crossing stile and continuing to the next stile. Cross over stile and you are at Point 'G'.

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Point 'G' to Point 'H' (GRs 137279-129282)

At Point 'G' turn left onto track until the Blandford road (A 354) is reached. Cross this main road, taking great care, and follow track signposted 'Old Shaston Drove' for about 150 metres to reach Point 'H' at track junction.

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Point 'H' to Point 'J' (GRs 129282-104282)

On reaching track junction turn left and go uphill past a house on the right. The path changes to a narrow rutted grass track as the entrance to 'Little Acre' is passed. Continue along the track, known as the Old Shaftesbury Drove, until the white railings of Salisbury Racecourse, on the right, appear. With these railings on the right, follow the track to Point 'J' where the radial path crosses the racecourse and meets the Sarum Way.

(Insert notes H-J)

Point 'J' (Racecourse) to Point 'K' (GRs 104282-093285)

Continue along the Drove, past the Grandstand, until the public road going left to Stratford Tony is reached. Cross the road and proceed along the track for 10 metres and you will see a track on your right with a sign marked 'Forestry Commission-Hare Warren'. At this junction is Point 'K'.

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Point 'K' to Point 'L' (GRs 093285-076291)

Carry on along the Drove until the next public road is reached (Portfield Road). Turn right at this road and walk about 100 metres, then turn left on to a track going through woodland, marked Bishopstone Down on the Ordnance map. When you have reached the track crossing with signboard reading "Wilton Estate Woodlands" you are at Point 'L'.

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Point 'L' to Point 'M' (GRs 076291-077326)

At the track crossing 'L' continue over and follow the track through Netton Clump until a gate (broken) is reached on the edge of the clump. Pass through the gate and turn right on to a firm track. Proceed down the track veering right near the bottom and pass buildings with a shop on the left where the public road is reached (Wilton to Burcombe). Cross over the road; now, walking on the road and over the River Nadder to the A 30 (Salisbury to Shaftesbury). Opposite is Burcombe Church. Turn right and go along the footpath for about 200 metres and then turn left to cross the A 30. Take great care in crossing this main road. Proceed up the track, crossing the railway, and continue going uphill past the pig farm, until a track crossing is reached. You are now at Point 'M' and there are some fine views from this area.

(Insert notes L-M)

Point 'M' to Point 'A' (Lower Woodford) (GRs 077326-126353)

Continue over the crossing at Point 'M' and head for the wood. Bear left at end of field and then turn right into Heath Wood. Note the public footpath sign (gold on a blue background) and follow these signs through the wood. Cross over track at right angles and also the line of Grim's Ditch. Follow track and cross over 'First Broad Drive'. Continue to the fork in the track taking the left track. Proceed along this and then turn right off main path. Pass over earthwork, probably an Iron-Age animal enclosure, which is not easy to locate. Proceed to stile at edge of the wood. Cross over stile and turn left for stile in field near edge of the wood. Cross over this stile and follow fence line on left and enter tree area. When almost through the tree area turn right and cross field (about 100 metres) to an opening in the field fence which also has a stile adjacent. Pass through the opening and turn right again to follow the fence line which is on the right. There is now a well-defined track. Keep on the track until near the end of an access road. Here, cross over a stile into field and head diagonally across field. Cross over a further stile and continue to a stile in the corner of the field near the railway bridge. Turn right onto road leading to Dairy Cottages and go under bridge to public highway (road from Great Wishford to Wilton). Turn right along road for about 50 metres to footpath through left-hand hedge and along the River Wyllye to the footbridge.

Cross bridge taking the footpath to the main Road (A 36) in South Newton. Turn right along this road to the Post Office and cross the road at this point, taking great care. This is a busy road and no risks should be taken. Proceed up St Andrews Road, opposite the Post Office, for about 150 metres and turn right along Elm Grove beside a collection of waste disposal skips. Continue along footpath by the hedge of house gardens. The path joins a track at a junction. Turn left uphill towards Swanton's Covert. Skirt the end of the covert and continue uphill. Head directly for the masts. After passing masts continue to the A 360 (Salisbury to Devizes road). Cross this road, taking great care as the traffic here is very fast. Enter field through gap in fence. On the right is a small concrete reservoir, which is a grassy mound. From here proceed across field, there is no defined path, to the southern end of Woodford Clump.

At the clump turn towards the right onto a track. Follow the track downhill past another clump on the right and a dutch barn on the left. Pass through the farmyard to the end of the public lane. Follow the lane down to the Woodford road. Turn right onto the road for about 80 metres and then turn left to reach Point 'A'.

Car Park No2 (Central Car Park, Salisbury) to Point 'B' (GRs 143304-131354)

From the Central Car Park follow the path by the river bank, going upstream. Go under railway and road bridges. Cross Ashley Road and follow path round open space to a small bridge. Do NOT cross bridge to Leisure Centre.

After crossing over small bridge bear right onto a grassy area with the river bank on the right. Follow the bank when a raised timber walkway is reached. Continue along the walkway and off walkway still following bank of the River Avon. Bear left and follow defined path to join the public footpath which is bounded by two hedges. Cross over stile and turn right onto a macadam path. Cross over stone bridge and follow path into Mill Lane, when Stratford-sub-Castle is reached.

Turn right on to public road and proceed for about 200 metres. Turn left and cross road by Russell House. Continue up track to Old Sarum. At top of the track turn right, and cross field to a kissing gate. At kissing gate turn left onto a grassy path to meet path to Old Sarum. Old Sarum is a massive earthwork of an Iron Age hill-fort but it has a long history developing to a medieval City with Cathedral and Norman Castle.

Follow the path through two gates and onwards to deserted farm buildings. Here go through two small gates and follow path with hedge on your right. At public road, from Beehive Corner, cross and pass through side gate onto a wide track. Continue along track, past Shepherd's Corner, where there is a pair of cottages on the left and then pass the Keepers Cottage at the end of the Avenue. Follow the track uphill and across field to the end of a small copse. Pass through gate into the copse and proceed for a short distance to meet a crosspath, at the edge of the copse, which is Point 'B' on the Sarum Way.

Car Park No2 (Central Car Park, Salisbury) to Point '1' (Layby near Old Sarum)

(GRs 143304-141326)

From the Central Car Park follow the path by the river bank, going upstream. Go under railway and road bridges. On reaching Ashley Road turn right into Butts Road and cross Castle Road taking great care. Turn left and go up Castle Road. Turn right into Victoria Road then left into Moberly Road - go up and turn left into Dorset Road and then right into Cambridge Road. Follow the road (Somerset Road) round to the left and then right, past the school and into Bishopdown Road. Turn left and after a short distance take the footpath on the left which skirts the school boundary. Cross the grassy area, following the bridleway along the ridge. When the path descends to Old Castle Road turn left to meet the A 345 (Salisbury to Amesbury road). Cross this busy road at the pedestrian crossing and turn right. Follow the road for a short distance to the lay-by at Point 1. At the top end of the lay-by turn left and join the path to Point 'B' on the Sarum Way. If in need of refreshment you can always call in at the 'Old Castle Inn'.

Car Park No3 (St Edmund's Church (Arts' Centre)) to Point 'C'

(GRs 146304-163328)

Leave the car park by the access road and turn right into College Street then turn left into Estcourt Road. Pass along Estcourt Road to the roundabout. Use pedestrian underpass to St Marks Avenue. Proceed up St Mark's Avenue into Bishopdown Road. Proceed down Bishopdown Road passing the green on the right. Do NOT take the first turning into Bingham Road but take the second turning and turn left into the road. At the turn in the road turn off onto footpath signposted 'Ford'. Follow the path across car park keeping to left and thence along passageway to Woodvill Road. Cross road and follow path to St Clement's Way. Cross road and enter St James' Close. Continue to St Thomas' Way and follow path to Appleshaw Way. Cross road at pedestrian island and enter field. Continue along path to kissing gate. Turn left onto track, Green Lane, and then turn right

through kissing gate into wild area. Cross over footbridge on the River Bourne, following path into wooded area. Go through kissing gate into field. Cross diagonally over field and through kissing gate onto public road. Turn left and go to road junction to join the Sarum Way at Point 'C'.

Car Park No3 (St Edmund's Church (Arts' Centre)) to Point 'D'

(GRs 146304-166306)

Leave car park through gap in top corner and pass east end of St Edmund's Church, now an Arts Centre. Cross over Bourne Hill and take path at corner of The Greencroft (open space). Follow path over The Greencroft to underpass (Churchill Way). Leave underpass and turn right up slope to Kelsey Road. Follow Kelsey Road, uphill, then down to mini-roundabout and railway bridge. Pass under bridge and continue along Laverstock Road leading to Riverside Road. When The Avenue junction is reached cross Riverside Road and proceed up The Avenue. Turn right at end of The Avenue to the 'Duck Inn', a convenient stopping place if in need of food or drink. Turn left along path immediately before the Duck Inn car park and follow path with woodland on your right. Bear to the right before the gate and pass uphill until the Sarum Way is reached at Point 'D'.

Car Park No4 (Crane Bridge Road) to Point 'F'

(GRs 142298-146261)

From the car park turn right into Crane Bridge Road which, at bridge over the Avon, becomes Crane Street. At traffic lights turn right into High Street and through gateway to the Cathedral. Pass in front of west end of Cathedral and out of The Close through De Vaux gate to just before the roundabout; here cross over St Nicholas Road and take path leading to the bridge. Proceed down sloping path to River Avon and under bridge. About 20 metres after bridge turn left up slope and onto pavement of New Bridge Road. Cross the bridge and turn left into Britford Lane. Continue along lane with playing field on the left and go on to a footpath. At the end of path turn right into a lane leading to the A 338 (Salisbury to Ringwood road). Cross this road

with great care and proceed uphill along a rough farm track. When track reaches paved road at Salisbury District Hospital carry straight on with car parks on left. Proceed straight on until the Odstock Road is reached. Turn left down the road over the River Ebble into Odstock. Go straight over the crossroads, passing 'Yew Tree' pub and reach the Sarum Way at Shepherd's Close junction which is Point 'F'.

Car Park No4 (Crane Bridge Road) to Point 'G'
(GRs 142298-137279)

From the car park as above. At traffic lights turn right into High Street and through gateway to the Cathedral. Pass in front of west end of Cathedral and out of The Close through De Vaux gate. This time, turn right along St Nicholas Road over River Avon, then right along Harnham Road to main road junction; turn right and then left to cross this busy road. Continue into Old Blandford Road. After a short way take the steps leading off to left. At top of steps carry straight on along Bouverie Avenue South. Where road turns right, go straight on along footpath and down steps. Cross the A 354 with great care and proceed up steps leading to footpath. Follow path and cross over stile into field to reach the Sarum Way at Point 'G'.

Car Park No4 (Crane Bridge Road) to Point 'H'
(GRs 142298-129282)

Turn left out of car park into Crane Bridge Road. Follow road past Elizabeth Gardens on left. At the end of the Gardens take the path on the left and cross river at the well-known Long Bridge. Follow the path, known as Town Path, passing the Old Mill to the road junction and turn left into Lower Street. Turn left at Harnham Road and carry on on this road until the Old Blandford Road is reached. Cross Harnham Road, taking great care, and proceed up the Old Blandford Road until just past Grasmere Close a footpath is reached. Turn right onto this path and take the left fork uphill. Follow the path, and where the path is cranked, take the path on the left. Carry on uphill on this path and then downhill. Turn right onto a track and

proceed along this track to the next junction which is Point 'H' on the Sarum Way.

Car Park No4 (Crane Bridge Road) to Point 'J'
(GRs 142298-104282)

Turn left out of car park into Crane Bridge Road. Follow road past Elizabeth Gardens on left. At the end of the Gardens take the path, on the left, and cross the river at the Long Bridge. Follow the path again passing the Old Mill to the road junction. This time turn right into Middle Street; after about 400 metres, at the bend in Middle Street where it becomes Upper Street, turn off right and follow the track or path (they run parallel to each other).

Follow the path almost to an arched bridge but, before reaching it, turn left and follow path through the wilderness or alternatively just inside the field. At end of wilderness bear left and follow path towards road. On the left-hand side there is a ditch course. Keep on path until the farm is reached but bear right beforehand and continue on path until it meets a track on edge of the field. Turn left here along track (course of old Roman road) and go through gate with a Garden Centre on the opposite side of the road. Take great care in crossing the A 3094. Enter tarmac drive to the Golf Club and continue up drive. Before the clubhouse is reached there is a sharp right bend in the drive. At this point turn left up through the trees (still on the Roman road). On reaching the top (about a mile) you MUST take the clearly signed way for walkers across the golf course green, up to the crossing of the racecourse. Cross the racecourse to enter onto the Old Shaftesbury Drove at Point 'J' on the Sarum Way.

Car Park No5 (South Street, Wilton) to Point 'K'
(GRs 095311-093285)

Turn right out of car park and walk along South Street, away from the town centre, and continue up Bishopstone Hill with the wall of the Wilton Estate on your left. Turn left into the unmade road to Home Farm. Proceed along this road for about 50 metres and turn right onto a grass path between fence and hedge. At end of the fence turn left

and follow fence line. When a stile is reached turn right across field to an opening at the edge of the wood known as Bruce's Hangings. Pass into wood by kissing gate and follow the track straight through the wood, crossing another track, to the edge of the wood. Pass through a second kissing gate and follow the path, now narrower, across the field to the middle of a small clump of trees. Cross over wire fence, half metre high, and pass through the clump. Continue on the path until Hare Warren is reached. Cross over stile at the edge of this wood and follow path which opens onto a track. Continue along track passing a notice which states 'Private Shooting - Dogs under Control'. Next pass barrier and sign marked 'Forestry Commission - Hare Warren' and thence to a track 'Old Shaftesbury Drove'. Here is Point 'K' on the Sarum Way.

Car Park No5 (South Street, Wilton) to Point 'L'
(GRs 095311-076291)

Turn right out of the car park and walk along South Street away from the town centre. Cross the River Nadder and turn right into Burcombe Lane. Proceed along this road, past housing and school. After 150 metres from the housing estate turn left up track at Bulbridge Farm. The track is flanked by hedges. Continue up track until you reach a cross track and then enter the wood known as 'New Covert'. Follow avenue of beech trees for about 450 metres until a crossing is reached on the track. You are now on the Sarum Way at Point 'L'.

Car Park No5 (South Street, Wilton) to Point 'M'
(GRs 095311-077326)

Turn left out of car park towards Wilton town centre. At the traffic lights turn left into West Street. Pass the church of St Mary and St Nicholas, in the Italian Romanesque style, and well worth a visit. Here cross road and continue to St John's Square on the road bend. Here you may cross the river bridge and visit the Flouse Hole, which is a Nature Trust Area. From the square go into Waterditchampton on the right, and under the railway bridge. Cross the road and walk up the

track marked bridleway. Do NOT go up the road known as 'The Hollows'.

Follow the track uphill through an avenue of beeches until Ugford Red Buildings are reached. Here take the left-hand fork (lower one) and continue through the beech avenue. Do NOT take the first path on the left but carry on to the crossing of two tracks. Here is Point 'M' on the Sarum Way.

(NOTES TO BE INSERTED WHERE STATED)

A - B

The text for the 'Sarum Way' commences at the northern end of the village of Lower Woodford at Point 'A'.

The village lies on the west bank of a beautiful and quiet stretch of the River Avon. It contains a number of stone and brick built cottages with thatched roofs including the 'Wheatsheaf' inn which has excellent dining facilities. This pub is situated at the southern end of the village and it also has a garden which is ideal for children.

B - C

After crossing the Roman road, known as the Portway, Old Sarum airfield can be seen on the right. This airfield was one of the first military airfields in the country but is now used for private flying. The sporadic development of Ford abuts Old Sarum airfield and also straddles the River Bourne, a picturesque, gurgling brook. Please note that there are no pubs or other places of refreshment in this village. There is a small lay-by for limited parking near the river bridge. As the Sarum Way turns southwards near the hamlet of Hurdcott, sustenance may be had at the 'Black Horse' pub.

C - D

The Sarum Way passes through the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust site which is of special botanical interest and on Cockey Down extensive views may be had of the surrounding countryside.

If in need of food or drink one can divert down the path from Point 'D' to Laverstock where the 'Duck Inn' is situated on the left-hand side of the footpath.

D - E

In the Clarendon Forest, just to the north of the Sarum Way, lie the remains of the royal palace of Clarendon. This important site was used by the kings from 1100 to 1500 A.D. It was never fortified and therefore was not a castle.

The owner of Clarendon Park has designated part of the road on the route of the Sarum Way as a permissive path. This part of the walk is not a public right of way, and walkers should not stray from the path in this area.

The schizogenetic village of Alderbury comprises a development sited on a tree clad hillside with views across the Avon whilst the other part has evolved in a piecemeal way at Whaddon. The village Church is a splendid example of Samuel Teulon (1812-73), and its spire can be seen from the other side of the River Avon. Opposite the church is Alderbury House, built of grey stone from the demolished bell-tower of Salisbury Cathedral. There are two pubs in this area, the 'Green Dragon' at Alderbury and the 'Three Crowns' at Whaddon which both do a range of meals. Near the railway bridge there is limited parking in a lay-by which could accommodate up to three cars.

E - F

Witherington Ring, which is probably the site of an Iron-Age settlement, lies just off the Sarum Way and can be visited using a public footpath.

Next, comes Trafalgar House, pronounced Traf-al-gar by the locals. This grand edifice overlooks the River Avon and was built in 1733. It was given by the Nation to the heirs of Lord Nelson in 1814.

Below the house and close to the river lies the sad, old church of St Mary. It was founded in 1147; rebuilt in 1677 and restored in 1859. In the burial ground are the graves of the Nelson family.

Charlton-all-Saints, across the river, is nicely situated close to the water meadows which are full of flora and fauna. Its Church, All-Saints, is of Victorian origin by T H Wyatt. The village of Nunton is situated to the north of the Sarum Way and its church was heavily restored by Wyatt.

The neighbouring village of Odstock lies just south of the attractive River Ebble. Its church lies well out of the village and although dating back to the thirteenth century, was rebuilt in 1870. It is also dedicated to St Mary.

Clearbury Ring, to the south of the Sarum Way, stands on a knoll prominently marked by a beech clump and contains a univalate Iron-Age hillfort.

Just south of the crossing of the A 338 there is a largish lay-by which sometimes has a mobile refreshment kiosk in the summer. Further south there is the 'Stag Inn' for other refreshment.

H - J

To the right of the Old Shaftesbury Drove lies the Salisbury racecourse. The racecourse is intersected by the previously mentioned Roman road which ran from Sorviodunum (Old Sarum) to Vindocladia (Badbury Rings).

L - M

The Church of St John the Baptist is set apart from the village of Burcombe which nestles on the south bank of the River Nadder. The church is very ancient for its chancel bears signs of Anglo-Saxon architecture.

The 'Ship Inn' in the village is a good place for refreshment and it has a small garden.

M - A

In Heath Wood the line of Grim's Ditch may be seen. This is part of a prehistoric linear ditch system which indicated tribal boundaries.

Next, the Roman Road is crossed; this road running from Sorviodunum to the Severn estuary.

The Sarum Way intersects a small prehistoric enclosure ring which is difficult to discern on the ground.

At South Newton there is the church of St Andrew, another of Wyatt's heavy restorations.

In the area there is the 'Royal Oak' at Great Wishford, the 'Swan' at Stoford and the 'Bell Inn' at South Newton.

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THE COUNTRY CODE

Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs

Leave gates and property as you find them

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home

Keep your dog under close control

Consider other people

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Whilst every possible care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this booklet the Publishers will not accept any liability whatsoever regarding the information or its interpretation by readers.