

**White Horse Trail Route directions (anti-clockwise) split into 10 sections with an alternative for the Cherhill to Alton Barnes section, and including the “short cut” between the Pewsey and Alton Barnes White Horses**

- S1 Westbury to Redhorn Hill**
- S2 Redhorn Hill to Pewsey**
- S3 Pewsey to Marlborough (Manton)**
- S4 Marlborough (Manton) to Hackpen Hill**
- S5 Hackpen Hill to Broad Town**
- S6 Broad Town to Cherhill**
- S7 (A) Cherhill to Alton Barnes White Horse via Avebury**
- S7 (B) Cherhill to Alton Barnes White Horse via the Wansdyke**
- S8 Alton Barnes White Horse to Devizes White Horse**
- S9 Devizes White Horse to Bulkington**
- S10 Bulkington to Westbury**
- S11 Alton Barnes White Horse to Pewsey White Horse “short cut”**

**S1 White Horse Trail directions – Westbury to Redhorn Hill**

[Updated in May 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 143, 130, OS Landranger 184, 173

**Distance:** 13.7 miles (21.9 km)

The car park above the Westbury White Horse can be reached either via a street named Newtown in Westbury, which also carries a brown sign pointing the way to Bratton Camp and the White Horse (turn left at the crossroads at the top of the hill), or via Castle Road in Bratton, both off the B3098.

Go through the gate by the two information boards, with the car park behind you. Go straight ahead to the top of the escarpment in the area which contains two benches, with the White Horse clearly visible to your right. There are fine views here over the vale below.

Go down steps and through the gate to the right and after approx. 10m, before you have reached the White Horse, turn right over a low bank between two tall ramparts. Climb up onto either of them and walk along it, parallel to the car park. This is the Iron Age hill fort of Bratton Camp/Castle. Turn left off it at the end and go over the stile or through the gate to your right, both of which give access to the tarmac road. Turn right onto this. Do not follow the tarmac road round to the right after 50m, where it gives access to the White Horse car park, but continue ahead on a broad track.

At the T junction, with the buildings of White Horse Farm – three barns, a large water tank and a skinny telecomms mast – on your left, turn left onto the Imber Range Perimeter path (IRPP). You are now at the start of a lengthy perambulation of the edge of the military firing range on Salisbury Plain. **Please ensure that you obey all signs to keep off this!**

Walk for 1.8 miles (2.9 km) to a T junction with the turn off to Reeves Farm (to left, signposted Bratton) at the bottom of a slope, ignoring two paths/bridleways to left on the way. Turn right to MOD vedette post 6, then left onto an unmade road which goes steadily uphill. (The Wessex Ridgeway (WR), which has been with us since the start of this section, now leaves us on a grassy track northwards towards Westdown Farm). Soon after the track flattens out, turn sharp left, then 200m later, sharp right along a tarmac road. Pass a green, corrugated metal barn on the right, at which point you leave the smooth tarmac for a stony track, and continue past Tottenham Wood on the left to reach a junction, where the Wessex Ridgeway (WR) rejoins us from the left.

Turn right here. Where a metalled road comes up from Coulston to the left 400m later, continue ahead. Pass a trig point to the right, then a large water tank to the left just before the turning to Stokehill farm. Here the tarmac road disappears off to the right, but we continue along the IRPP/WHT, now a stony track. This is still a byway, so expect to see cars and army vehicles using it from time to time.

Continue for a further 1.3 miles (2.1 km) to reach the buildings of the New Zealand army camp on your right. The WR once again leaves us here by turning left to make a detour into West Lavington, but we bear half left along the tarmac road, ignoring the camp turning, and continue for a further 2 ¼ miles (3.6 km) to arrive at the A360. On the way, pass a ruin on the right opposite Highland Cottages, with their bricked-up windows, after going gently downhill for quite a long way. At a T junction at the bottom, turn left to arrive at the A360 after 40m or so.

There are six flagpoles on this section from the A360 to Redhorn Hill, which may or may not be flying red flags, indicating that firing is in progress. Cross the A360 and continue on the tarmac road for almost 2 miles (3.6 km) to vedette post (VP) 11 (Lavington). Landmarks along the way include a sign to the right to COTEC, the re-arrival of the WR from the left, opposite the turning to Brazen Bottom Farm, a water tower to the right and a radio mast to left. Transition to an unmade road at VP11 and walk exactly 3 more miles (4.8 km) to VP12 at Redhorn Hill. On the way, ignore several paths coming up on the left from the villages of Market Lavington and Easterton, of which there are fine views on a clear day. Pass a memorial to a German soldier, Jager Dirk Knöffel, who “passed away by accident on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1993” (the inscription is now entirely in German) , on the right.

Almost a mile (1.6 km) after the memorial, fork left off the main track on another stony track to pass to the left of the Urchfont New Plantation, known locally as the Urchfont Clump.

Follow the track round the Clump (or you could go through it) and on a long loop on the other side, to rejoin the main track, where you turn left to arrive at the Redhorn Hill vedette post 12 just under one mile (1.6 km) later. The metalled road which goes off to the left beyond the car park at the vedette post leads down to the B3098 to Urchfont.

### **About the Westbury White Horse**

This is the oldest White Horse in Wiltshire and dates from 1778. The present figure was preceded by a much older version at the same site, but its date of construction and origin are unknown. Legend has it that it was cut as a memorial to one of King Alfred's victories over the Danes at the Battle of Ethandun in 878 AD.

## **S2 White Horse Trail directions – Redhorn Hill to Pewsey**

[Updated in May 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 130, OS Landranger 173, 184

**Distance:** 9.8 miles (15.7 km)

There is access by car to MOD vedette post 12 on Redhorn Hill from the B3098 road to Urchfont, where there is also a large car park.

Walk in the opposite direction from the car park (more or less due east), passing to the left of the vedette post, for almost 3 miles (4.8 km). The right of way is to the left of the stony military road, on tussocked grass, but the road is undoubtedly easier to walk on. The route skirts the military firing range on Salisbury Plain. **Please ensure that you obey all signs to keep off this!** There are extensive views of the Vale of Pewsey on this section, with the White Horses at Devizes and Alton Barnes both visible on clear days. Pass four flagpoles on the way, starting with the one at the vedette post. The other three coincide with bridleways coming in from the side. The flagpoles may or may not be flying a red flag indicating that firing is in progress. At the fourth flagpole the track goes down into a dip; shortly after rising back up out of the dip, turn sharp left (due north) along a deeply rutted track, the Charlton Drove. A trig point on the right soon after leaving the edge of the firing range will provide assurance that you are on the right track (as well as the waymarks!).

Continue in the same direction, passing a barn on the left. At a grass triangle soon after, the track becomes metalled. Pass another barn on the left, and some woodland on the right. Where the road veers to the right through a field gate, fork left on a stony track, which takes you downhill to the A345, opposite The Charlton tea room (which used to be a pub). Take the stile on the right on the other side of the road into the corner of a field; go half left, aiming at the stile (a step without the infrastructure) in the fence at the bottom.

Cross this and a second one soon after to the right of a barn. This is Charlton St Peter. Go down the track beyond to the metalled road. Proceed along this in the same direction, soon crossing a stream just before a large house (Charlton Manor) on the left. Veer right onto the public bridleway by some farm buildings. This section can be extremely muddy and churned up in wet weather. After 450m, arrive at a “Y” fork. Turn right along a broad bridleway, passing barns on the left and, on a clear day, enjoying the views of the Alton Barnes White Horse, also to the left. After approx. 7/8 mile (1.4 km) pass through Falkner’s Farm to arrive at a road.

Cross this and join the Pewsey Avon Trail by heading down the track opposite, which is a bridleway and a quiet lane, and signposted to St James' church in North Newnton. 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 veer left. Turn right along an enclosed path, which kinks right then left and brings you out onto a metalled drive. 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 broad 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 Pewsey Avon Trail, which makes a brief diversion to see the Manningford Bruce church. Instead go half left across the field and through a kissing gate in a wooden fence, then follow the path across the field to rejoin the Pewsey Avon Trail at a kissing gate. Pass through the narrow band of trees beyond via a sleeper bridge. Bear half left in the field after 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. Go over two sleeper bridges to arrive at another kissing gate into a field. Leave the Pewsey Avon Trail here by turning sharp right once in the field to walk towards a large walled house, passing to the right of a solitary conifer. Go through two field gates to the right of the house, and on reaching the end of farm buildings beyond, follow the path round to the left to reach a stile and sleeper bridge onto a road. Turn right down the road to arrive at the A345.

Go down the bridleway opposite. Pass a collection of barns on the right and go under power lines to reach open countryside. Proceed in the same direction, climbing steadily past a 100m stretch of trees to the left, to the brow of a slope, and go down

the other side. Go through the small wooden gate into the next field, turn left for 30m, then right onto a broad field divider. Pass through a metal field gate, which is often left open, and continue in the same direction on another field divider. On reaching the top of this field, turn left as indicated by the finger post. Near the field corner a wide, chalky track begins. At a second finger post, bear half left and pass through a field gate.

Continue along the cinder track. When the track passes through a field gate to the right of a wooden fence, keep to the left of the fence to reach a small metal gate into the farmyard of Pewsey Hill Farm. Go through the farmyard and along the metalled road beyond. When this bears right downhill, continue straight ahead through a field gate onto a bridleway down a gully to the road. Turn right for 15m then cross the road and the stile beyond into the corner of the field containing the Pewsey White Horse. Turn right and follow the path up the hill, at first close to the hedge and road to the right, but on reaching the same level as the top of the White Horse enclosure, veering away from it to the left, to arrive at the White Horse.

### **About the Pewsey White Horse**

The original horse was cut in 1785, and reputedly featured a rider. It was re-designed in 1937 by Mr George Marples and cut by the Pewsey Fire Brigade to celebrate the coronation of King George VI.

### **S3 White Horse Trail directions – Pewsey to Marlborough (Manton)**

[Updated in April/May 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 130, 157, OS Landranger 173

**Distance:** 11.3 miles (18.1 km)

The Pewsey White Horse is close to the Pewsey to Everleigh road. There is a layby just above it where a car can be parked.

Descend the hill below the White Horse to the broad, straight bridleway below, which is Green Drove. Follow this for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile (1.2 km), until you reach a tarmac road. Turn right, signposted Pewsey and, just after a large barn in a farmyard (Green Drove Farm), take a footpath to the left. On reaching a metalled road (Swan Meadow), turn right. Go past Woodlands Road and Tinkers Mead, both on the left, arriving at Hurley Lane at the end. Here cross the road onto a short tarmac path between houses 3 and 4, and cross a stream. Turn left (this is Southcott Road). Pass a footpath to the right, then a house on the left with a sign “Kings Corner” high up on its gable end. You are now on Ball Road. Go ahead past the Coopers Arms on the right, to a road junction.

Bear right (signposted Milton and Burbage) and then almost at once left into Hollybush Lane at a cross roads with a mini-roundabout in the middle. Fork right at a signpost to Knowle, pass under a footbridge, then a railway bridge, and continue onto a bridleway signposted as a quiet lane to Oare. Cross a bridge over a stream, then the Kennet and Avon Canal on Pains Bridge, just past the entrance to Jones' Mill Nature Reserve, and continue on a green lane which becomes a stony track. Soon after the turning to the left to Inlands Farm, look for a stile on the left. Cross the corner of the field to a second stile. Cross the next field in the same direction to a gap in the hedge. Veer slightly right across the next field to a road (Sunnyhill Lane). Cross the road to walk along the field-edge path opposite to a crossing bridleway (Pound Lane).

You join the Mid Wilts Way (MWW) at this point. Go through the gate opposite onto a footpath across a field. Just beyond where the path reaches the other side, go through a small metal gate into another field and follow the fence on the left. Thus begins the ascent of the Giants Grave; the gradient, gentle at first, gets steeper and steeper, but the views at the top are well worth the effort. Continue past the trig point along the spine of the hill and go over a stile next to a field a gate. When you pass through a second gate, dedicated to the memory of Mark Rendall of the Long Distance Walkers Association, you leave the MWW. Follow the left-hand field edge uphill until you reach a stile and field gate where a line of trees comes in from the right. Go through the gate and follow the fence on your left; when this veers left at a fence corner, continue ahead half right across the field to a gap in the hedge. (The landowner usually leaves a clear path through any crops, which deviates slightly from the right of way, but if he hasn't, you might need to follow the fence on your left round the top of the combe, then turn right to reach the gap in the hedge). Pass through the gap and turn left to emerge onto a lane, which exits the field you have just left through a locked field gate.

Turn right down the lane and follow it gently downhill to the A345 Marlborough to Pewsey road. Cross carefully and turn left along the bridleway, which is also the driveway of Huish Hill House and Huish Down Farm. Veer left after the entrance to Huish Down Farm (to right), at which point the MWW joins us from the left, and then bear right. At this point 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 MWW rejoins us at this point). Pass through this and walk round the edge of the large field beyond. The glorious views you would have had earlier on a nice day of the Pewsey Vale below now continue. Follow the fence round to the right, go through a bridle gate and immediately turn left through another one.

Walk gently downhill on a sunken track between earthworks until you reach a crossroad of paths beyond another bridle gate, just to the north of Gopher Wood. Here turn right towards West Woods, leaving the MWW for a final time.

On reaching the edge of the woods, turn right (joining the Wansdyke Path) and go uphill along the edge of the woods. At the second junction, where the Wansdyke Path veers off to the left, continue along the edge of the woods. After approx. 400m, take a path to the left which veers off to the right into the woods. At a crossroad of tracks the path becomes a broad track. Keep on this track for 2/3 mile (1.1km), ignoring all paths and tracks to either side. Soon after the track bears right after veering left uphill, turn right by a low, waymarked post. At the next such post, turn half right to arrive at the Clatford to Pewsey road by a W.C.C. footpath signpost.

Cross this and follow the Wansdyke earthwork, on your right, uphill to the end of Short Oak Copse. Turn left within the copse, and maintain direction to arrive at a wooden pedestrian gate into a pasture field which slopes down to the Pewsey to Clatford road. Turn right along the crest of the valley with a hedge on your right, going over one stile, then right over another and uphill through the hedge into a large field, which may be partially-ploughed or planted. Follow the edge of the field, with the hedge on your left, for some 30m. As the ground starts to go gently downhill, take a track half right across the field, keeping a small copse of trees and bushes to your left, to the end of the tall hedge on your right. Then turn right and immediately left to enter a path between hedges.

This comes out on a tarmac road, Manton Drove. Go left down this for approx. 100m, then turn right (no sign, but waymarked) onto an unploughed strip between two fields. On reaching the far edge, go left, with a hedge to right, and step over the logged stile in the fence into the next field. Go half left down this aiming for a double stile half way down the other side. This takes you into a long field at the top of Granham Hill. After passing through a small beech wood, go left alongside a sunken track (the post here showing the way is continuously removed, regrettably).

This descends on an embankment next to a sunken path, and then veers left off it near the bottom to pass through a gap into the field below. Keep the field edge to your left and go through a metal kissing gate at the end onto a path between fences.

Continue down the path beyond to the left of the tennis court to arrive at Preshute House, Marlborough College, near the car park for St George's church.

To see the Marlborough White Horse, take the wide, stony track between the car park of St George's church, Preshute, and the tennis courts, in the direction of Marlborough. On arriving at the second set of tennis courts, the white horse can be seen on the hill behind them.

### **About the Pewsey White Horse**

The original horse was cut in 1785, and reputedly featured a rider. It was re-designed in 1937 by Mr George Marples and cut by the Pewsey Fire Brigade to celebrate the coronation of King George VI.

### **About the Marlborough White Horse**

This is Wiltshire's smallest white horse and was designed in 1804 by William Canning, a boy at Mr Greasley's Academy in Marlborough, and cut into Granham hill above the River Kennet by the boys of the school.

## **S4 White Horse Trail directions – Marlborough (Manton) to Hackpen Hill**

[Updated in April 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 157, OS Landranger 173

**Distance:** 6.5 miles (10.4 km)

To see the Marlborough White Horse, take the wide, stony track between the car park of St George's church, Preshute, and the tennis courts, in the direction of Marlborough. On arriving at the second set of tennis courts, the white horse can be seen on the hill behind them.

With your back to St George's church car park, walk along the metalled road to Manton to a T junction. Turn right here, going past the car park for the Oddfellows pub, and cross the River Kennet. Very soon after this, bear right onto a tarmac footpath which passes beside a green in front of some houses to climb an incline to the A4.

Cross the A4 at the pedestrian lights and take the bridleway a few metres to the left. Continue on the bridleway after the tarmac runs out, bearing right then left soon after, with the hedge on your right and fence on your left. Follow this path until it comes to a meeting of three tracks where the fence to the left comes to an end. Turn half left here onto a broad farm track to reach a telegraph pole after approx. 30m. Turn sharp left here and follow the path round to the right, aiming for a copse on the other side of the field, to arrive at a tarmac road with a passing place on the opposite side. Turn right here, passing the entrance to Manton House Farm and Barton Yard on the right after approx. 80m. There is a well-trodden path on the left-hand verge for most of the way, and just before the car park there is a path in the field to the left.

After approx ½ mile (0.8 km) turn left then immediately right into a car parking area. Continue through the car park, and turn right onto a potholed byway. After a lengthy straight, this bends right then left and passes the entrance to Manton House (to the right) before emerging into open country with a railed gallops track on the right.



Almost 1½ miles (2.4 km) after leaving the car park, turn left at a T junction in front of an underground reservoir onto Herepath/Green Street. After 100m, turn right through a metal gate and follow the path, which can be very muddy here, keeping the fence and a conifer plantation on your right. Continue across an open grassy area, which is part of the Fyfield Down Nature Reserve, through a metal field gate to arrive at a metal gate into Totterdown Wood.

Go through the wood and on reaching the other side go straight on along a wide grassy path (muddy in winter!) with hedges on both sides. This path crosses a track, and continues. A few metres later another path comes in from the right. On arriving at a junction of paths, fork left past a metal field gate (to left). A few metres further on, ignore a gap and path into the field ahead and follow the path as it curves right then continues in the original direction to the Ridgeway beyond, almost exactly a mile (1.6 km) after leaving Totterdown Wood.

Turn right onto the Ridgeway opposite the fenced in Berwick Bassett Dew Pond, and walk along it for 1¼ miles (2 km) to arrive at a metalled road. On the other side of this is the Hackpen Hill car park, your destination.

To see the Hackpen Hill White Horse, before crossing the road to the car park go left through the metal kissing gate to the left of the White Horse Trail information board. The White Horse is about 30m beyond the clump of trees.

### **About the Marlborough White Horse**

This is Wiltshire's smallest white horse and was designed in 1804 by William Canning, a boy at Mr Greasley's Academy in Marlborough, and cut into Granham hill above the River Kennet by the boys of the school.

### **About the Hackpen Hill White Horse**

The horse was cut in 1837 by the Parish Clerk of Broad Hinton to commemorate the coronation of Queen Victoria.

## **S5 White Horse Trail directions – Hackpen Hill to Broad Town**

**Please note that there is a temporary path closure on this section of the route with effect from 3 November 2023 due to another landslip near the location of the previous one in 2014, see amended directions below**

[Updated in November 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 157, OS Landranger 173

**Distance:** 6.3 miles (10.1 km)

The route begins at the car park on Hackpen Hill. Walk along the Ridgeway in the direction of Barbury Castle, away from the car park. Approximately 100m beyond a clump of trees, turn left through a gate onto a bridleway. This takes you across a small field, through a bridle gate, and down the slope of Winterbourne Down. Continue through another bridle gate at the bottom onto an unfenced farm track between two fields. When this meets a hedge, walk on its right-hand side along the edge of two fields, the first one very large, to arrive at the busy A4361 to the left of what used to be the Barbury Inn, and is now the Strada restaurant.

Cross over, with care, and walk along Post Office Lane opposite. Turn right at the fingerpost onto the gravel driveway beside Sarsen Cottage. Take the tarmac footpath to the right at the end, outside the house called Cotsmoor. Just after this swings left, go over a stile on the right into a field, and turn immediately left. Go down to and across the stile by a field gate about 25m along the hedge, then turn half right across the next field, aiming at the left-hand end of the line of trees on the opposite side. Go over two stiles here on either side of a track and continue, veering gradually to the left, to reach another stile and footbridge near the far corner of the field. Emerge onto the tarmac road opposite a house (Weir Farm), and take the track into a field to the left of the house.

Go straight up the grassy track through the field to the farm gate at the end.

[NB If the way ahead across two large fields is blocked by maize, turn left along the concrete track. At the T junction, turn right onto a farm track and follow it for approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, with woodland on your left. At the end of the field it bends right and soon arrives at the stile where you would have exited the field if you had been able to follow the official route at the point where the track bends sharp left.]

The official route, if available, takes you across the next field, aiming to the left of a small wood. Go through a bridle gate. Continue through a third field in the same direction, with the wood to your right. Arrive at a bend in a fenced farm track at the end of the field and continue ahead along the track. This takes you along the left-hand edge of another field to a field gate into the field containing the Iron Age Hill Fort of Bincknoll Castle.

Go through the ramparts ahead and down the fairly steep rutted earthen track through Bincknoll Wood. At the bottom, turn sharp left through the metal field gate on the left (as the stile lacks a step) into a field.

Follow the path, which is not always obvious, initially along a faint vehicular track to the left of a solitary tree, then roughly across the middle of the field, to arrive at a gate and stile. [NB If the path beyond the gate and stile is blocked by tall maize, if you are feeling energetic it is possible to fight your way through it. Otherwise you will need to turn right to the bottom of the field and cross a low stile over the fence. Turn right along the fence towards a high fence round an enclosure used to rear pheasants. Turn left down this fence, then take the rough grassy track leading off to the left towards a gravel farm track. Turn left up this track to arrive at the point on the other side of the maize where you would have exited the field had the path not been blocked].

The official route turns right down a track for a few paces, then turns left and passes through a narrow field beyond through a gap at the end into a large field, in which Bincknoll Wood can be seen over to the left. The path on the ground here diverges from the one shown on the OS map. Aim for a hillock at the far end of the field, behind which is a stile into the next field. This is scrubby and can get very overgrown and muddy. Take the path through it and pass through a small metal gate into the next field.

[The original official route has been changed to avoid the possibility of further landslips beneath the White Horse after the one which occurred there in 2014.] Ignore the identical small metal gate on the left and proceed along the top of the field. Continue in the same direction when you join a hedge on the right, then pass a stile by a metal gate on the right. Follow the fence round the rear of Little Town Farmhouse. Cross a stile by a wooden farm gate and go straight ahead past a whitewashed cottage on your left. **Soon after this, the temporary path diversion begins: on arriving at a stile on your right, cross it and walk diagonally left across the field to a field gate onto a track. Turn left along the track to reach Chapel Lane and rejoin the official route.** Continue ahead along it to Broadtown Lane, Broad Town's main road, with Pye Lane opposite, where this section ends.

### **About the Hackpen Hill White Horse**

The horse was cut in 1837 by the Parish Clerk of Broad Hinton to commemorate the coronation of Queen Victoria.

### **About the Broad Town White Horse**

This is a small white horse which was cut in 1863 but was lost until the 1990s. The horse is regularly scoured by the Broad Town White Horse Restoration Society, which was formed in 1991.

## **S6 White Horse Trail directions – Broad Town to Cherhill**

[Updated in April 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 157, OS Landranger 173

**Distance:** 7.8 miles (12.5 km)

Turn south-west off Broadtown Lane, Broad Town's main road, along Pye Lane, opposite Chapel Lane. Continue past the houses and look back at the White Horse on top of the hillside behind you. When the road bends right, continue straight ahead along a gravel/grassy track. Go through a kissing gate by a field gate into a field and walk along its left-hand edge. Walk along the left-hand edge of the next long field. Pass over a footbridge and through a kissing gate into the next field, where you go half right to a final kissing gate into the fourth field. Cross this, aiming for the church tower, and enter an enclosed path with a wooden fence to right. Follow this round to the right and go through the church yard, soon joining a cobbled path between two yew trees. The architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner and his wife are buried here, and the wrought iron gates at the entrance to the graveyard are in their memory. Exit the churchyard through said gates and turn left along Wood Street in Clyffe Pypard

Walk past the Goddard Arms, to left, which is sadly now closed. At the T junction with the main road through Clyffe Pypard, go right (straight on), signposted to Bushton, Lyneham and the village hall, then left up an unmarked road after 60m or so. Pass a driveway to a house on the left, then a double metal field gate to right soon after. As the road bends slightly right [left??], fork right through a pedestrian gate by a metal field gate. Proceed down the tarmac track beyond, with grass growing up its centre, to another metal pedestrian gate next to a metal field gate.

Go straight ahead on a level area with a steep slope up to left and a gentler one down to right. This soon goes gently downhill past a redundant stile into a section of the field where a circuit for motor bike scrambling has been created, which is apparently no longer in use. Go straight across this in roughly the same direction, keeping to the left of a hillock in the middle. Cross a double gate and footbridge at the other side of the circuit into the next field and continue in the same direction. At a low embankment in the middle of the field, veer slightly right towards two trees by a brick pyramid, but veer left well before reaching them. Aim for a gap in the trees/hedge ahead where there is another double gate and footbridge. Head slightly downhill (right) across the field to pass through a field gate, which is often left tied open. Then head slightly left towards a muddy gap in a dip between trees into the next field. Go up the rutted tractor track to the left after this and veer right uphill passing to the left of a fenced off pond. Go up a small rise and through the metal field gate beyond by a wooden fence.

Go ahead to a log jump by a chalk embankment, to left. Do not take the farm track diagonally right downhill but continue ahead to a wooden post. Here veer diagonally right downhill, passing to the left of three cherry trees, aiming for two metal cattle troughs near a fence, with Corton Manor Farm visible down to the right. Go over the double gates separated by a metal footbridge to the left of these. Aim half right to a gap by the fence in the corner of the field, then proceed past a double metal cattle trough in roughly the same direction to the corner of the next field. Pass through two more gates separated by a metal footbridge. Aim to the right of a red brick cottage between two large trees at the end of the next field, where there is a kissing gate down into the hamlet of Clevancy, with Clevancy House to the right.

Go slightly right, then through another kissing gate into the field on the other side of the road. Cross this, veering gradually right towards a point some 25m to the right of the telegraph pole ahead, and continue to the corner of the field. Go through another gate/bridge/gate combination. Go half right across the next field to a rusty gate, which is often left open, half way along the hedge. Turn left after going through this and walk along the field edge to a tarmac road. Continue ahead down this to enter the hamlet of Highway, then turn left, with Highway House to the right, to pass to the left of a large metal barn, on a signposted bridleway. Follow this uphill, but where it bends right, continue on an overgrown and often muddy concrete track, which bears a 'Private Farm Road' sign. This meanders uphill and passes a rusty water tank to right at the top. At a junction of tracks at the end of the field, turn right. When the track turns right just after a rusty barn, go straight ahead through a gap where a gate used to be, into a field.

Follow the unfenced, grassy track towards the distant trees. At the trees, turn left for 80m, then go right through a gap in the hedge at the bridleway signpost. Here you get your first sighting of the Lansdowne Monument in Cherhill slightly to your left on the horizon. Walk down the right-hand side of the field with hedgerow and trees to right. When the hedgerow eventually turns right by another bridleway signpost, go straight on across the middle of a field, often through crops. Continue along the hedged path at the other end past another bridleway signpost. This section can be very muddy in winter and overgrown in summer. The path eventually bends right, then left, with the Monument directly in front. Go straight ahead at a crossroads of tracks. The track curves slightly left and comes out at a T junction with a byway opposite the derelict wartime buildings of RAF Yatesbury. Turn right here.

The byway curves left and goes steadily downhill. At a junction with another byway, fork right, passing farm buildings behind the trees to left. On reaching a tarmac road, go left (this is Park Lane), along the eastern edge the village of Cherhill, passing The Street to right en route, to arrive at the A4 opposite the path to the Cherhill White Horse.

If you wish to continue to the White Horse, cross the road and go up the path by the White Horse information board. This starts as a narrow, badly grooved path but gradually broadens out to become a well-maintained, chalky track.

Go through the gate to left at the top and follow the path up past the Lansdowne Monument to the White Horse just beyond the end of an earthwork.

### **About the Cherhill White Horse**

This horse was cut under the direction of Dr Alsop of Calne, also known as the “mad doctor”, who shouted instructions over a megaphone from the main road in 1780! Situated under an ancient earthwork called Oldbury Castle, it is not linked to any previous hill figures. Its eye (four feet across) was once filled with upturned bottles which sparkled in the sunlight.

### **S7 (A) White Horse Trail directions – Cherhill to Alton Barnes White Horse via Avebury** **See below for alternative route via the Wandsdyke**

[Updated in May 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 157, OS Landranger 173

**Distance:** 12.1 miles (19.4 km)

Take the path at the eastern end of the village of Cherhill by the White Horse information board. This starts as a narrow, badly grooved path but gradually broadens out to become a well-maintained, chalky track with a series of shallow steps. (An alternative is to climb over the stile on your left half way up the path onto National Trust land and walk up the right-hand side of the field, parallel to the path on the other side of the fence, passing to the left of the bridle gate by the information board). Go through the bridle gate to left at the top, where there is a National Trust information board about Calstone and the Cherhill Downs, and follow the path up towards the Lansdowne Monument.

To see the White Horse close up, pass to the left of the monument and follow the path along the top of the escarpment. When you get to the White Horse, continue past the end of the earthwork on your right and take the wide path round to the right, parallel to the earthwork. You rejoin the official route as you arrive at the gap in the earthworks, which gives access to the monument, on your right. Turn left here.

To stick to the official route without seeing the White Horse, pass to the right of the monument and take the chalky track going eastwards from the Monument through the gap in the earthwork.

Follow this as it descends left downhill after passing through the earthwork. Pass through two gates next to stiles, the first with a National Trust sign by it. Pass to the left of a decrepit barn next to the Yatesbury reservoir. Continue down the chalky track, turning right after passing a tumulus in the field to the right.

Where this forks after 100m or so, bear right. Proceed along this grassy track, which is the old Bath road and is roughly parallel with the A4, for one mile (1.6 km). There are fine views here on a good day of Yatesbury and its environs to the left, and, occasionally, of Cherhill Down stretching down to the A361 to the right. Not very far after going through a bridle gate, with trees ahead, turn left down another grassy track to a clump of trees on the A4. (If you do not want to take the fairly lengthy deviation to Windmill Hill but would prefer a more direct route to Avebury, do not go left here but continue ahead and follow the Wessex Ridgeway waymarks).

Go down the track opposite. Pass a clay pigeon shooting club on the left. At a junction of tracks soon after a sign warning of clay pigeon shooting, continue ahead along a track which sometimes has hedges on both sides, sometimes only on one. Another track comes in from the right as you pass to the left of a shady wood. As the trees thin out, go through the bridle gate on your right into the Windmill Hill site. Climb the hill and walk through the site, going round tumuli en route (going over them is discouraged to help prevent erosion). Go through the gate by the National Trust sign and walk along the left-hand edge of two fields. A few metres beyond the second one, cross a stile on the right into another field. This takes you onto a path which is roughly parallel to the A4361 far off to the left.

Cross the field, then three stiles within 15m. Cross three fields beyond, then a footbridge into a fourth field. Turn left at the end of this to arrive at a tarmac path. Turn left on this, then left again at a fork a few metres further on, where you rejoin the Wessex Ridgeway, and go over a stone bridge. Pass a small pumping station, then the path widens to a road. Where the road bends right, go straight on down the side of a white cottage past the remains of a kissing gate into Avebury churchyard. Cross this diagonally right to the main entrance, and turn left down the High Street for 50 metres. Turn right down the tarmac path to the right of the sarsen stones, which leads to the National Trust car park for Avebury. Go through the car park to the A4361. Go right along this for a few metres, then cross over and take the path opposite, with a small stream (the River Kennett) sometimes visible to the right,

When the path arrives at a bridge over the river, continue ahead by either taking the right of way along the edge of the field to the left, which is much easier to walk in during the winter, or the (often extremely muddy) permissive path beside the river. Both paths unite in the next field and arrive at the busy A4. The magnificent iron-age structure of Silbury Hill rears up to the right as you walk along either of these paths. Cross the A4, go left for 20m, then pass through the metal kissing gate to the right signposted "West Kennett Long Barrow" onto a gravel track. Cross over the infant River Kellet. Turn left after the next metal kissing gate. To see the long barrow, turn right a few metres after the gravel track runs out. Otherwise continue along the left-hand edge of the field to a stile by a field gate. After a short track beyond, cross over a tarmac road to a kissing gate. Go along the right-hand edge of a long field and through another kissing gate to a path enclosed by hedges and vegetation.

This soon reaches a T junction with a track; go left past a metal gate, then immediately right up another path, which goes steadily uphill and has bushes and trees on both sides. Soon after this widens into a track, arrive at another T junction. Turn right then immediately left onto a wide grassy track.

Follow this for almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile (1.2 km) as it bends right, then sweeps left uphill and straightens out. At a junction of tracks, turn right downhill towards farm buildings. After 30m, by a No Entry sign which is now almost illegible, turn left onto another wide, grassy track. Follow this generally uphill for almost  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles (1.6km), ignoring all cross tracks. The fence and occasional gate to the left are eventually replaced by a fence to the right. Finally go through a small gate in the fence and down into the ditch to climb up the steep bank of the Iron Age fortification known as the Wansdyke (there is a path on the ground). Turn left once on it, joining the Mid Wilts Way, to arrive at a wooden gate after 80m or so. Go through this and turn left up the track beyond. After 10m, when a broad, stony track cuts across the Wansdyke, you can either rejoin the Wansdyke, which can get badly overgrown in the summer, via a stile, or take the track beside it. On reaching a gate on the right into the Pewsey Downs Nature Reserve after 120m, turn right through it.

Turn left through a gate at the end of the first field. Pass through two more fields, with Milk Hill, the highest point in Wiltshire at 295m (968ft) to your left. Go left in a tight semi-circle round the stunted trees and bushes on the shoulder of Milk Hill, then follow the contour on the other side to a gate. The Alton Barnes White Horse is 200m or so beyond this gate, but is not visible until the last moment due to folds in the hills.

To access the Knap Hill car park on the Alton Barnes to Lockeridge road from the Alton Barnes White Horse, continue along the contour path, going east. Ignore the fork to the right approximately 130m from Adam's Grave, a Neolithic long barrow, at the top of Walkers Hill, and instead continue on the main path beside a low earthwork, with the whale-like shape of Knap Hill directly in front of you. After around 150m, veer left towards a metal kissing gate, with the car parking area at Knap Hill in your line of sight. Follow the well-beaten path through two more metal kissing gates to arrive at a final metal gate. The car parking area is on the other side of the road.

### **About the Cherhill White Horse**

This horse was cut under the direction of Dr Alsop of Calne, also known as the "mad doctor", who shouted instructions over a megaphone from the main road in 1780! Situated under an ancient earthwork called Oldbury Castle, it is not linked to any previous hill figures. Its eye (four feet across) was once filled with upturned bottles which sparkled in the sunlight.



## **About the Alton Barnes White Horse**

It was cut in 1812 at the expense of the landowner, Mr Robert Pile of Manor Farm. His first contractor fled with an advance payment of £20 after drawing a sketch of the horse. This contractor was eventually found and hung for a list of crimes! In 2010 the horse underwent a major renovation, overseen by landowner Tim Carson and the Alton Barnes Parish Council, when 150 tons of fresh chalk were delivered to the site by helicopter, which volunteers then used to replenish the surface of the figure.

## **Alternative S7 (B) Via the Wansdyke**

### **White Horse Trail directions – Cherhill to Alton Barnes White Horse via the Wansdyke**

[Updated in May 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 157, OS Landranger 173

**Distance:** 9.6 miles (15.4 km)

Take the path at the eastern end of the village of Cherhill by the White Horse information board. This starts as a narrow, badly grooved path but gradually broadens out to become a well-maintained, chalky path with a series of shallow steps. (An alternative is to climb over the stile on your left half way up the path onto National Trust land and walk up the right-hand side of the field, parallel to the path on the other side of the fence, passing to the left of the bridle gate by the information board). Go through the bridle gate to left at the top, where there is a National Trust information board about Calstone and the Cherhill Downs, and follow the path up towards the Lansdowne Monument.

To see the White Horse close up, pass to the left of the monument and follow the path along the top of the escarpment. When you get to the White Horse, continue past the end of the earthwork on your right and take the wide path round to the right, parallel to the earthwork. You rejoin the official route as you arrive at the gap in the earthworks, which gives access to the monument, on your right. Turn left here.

To stick to the official route without seeing the White Horse, pass to the right of the monument and take the chalky track going eastwards from the monument through the gap in the earthwork.

Turn right here, slightly uphill, and follow the wide, grassy track to a gate. Go downhill on the other side and pass through another gate by a National Trust sign. Continue in the same direction on a track beside a wide field and go through a gap by a redundant bridle gate to reach a junction of bridleways by a line of trees. Turn right onto a wide track (NOT the farm track on the north side of the fence),

which is an ancient Roman road. Walk along this for 1.2 miles (1.9 km); the track gradually goes uphill after a while and levels out. It then descends, at which point look for a bridle gate on the left, with the tops of the twin communications masts of Morgan's Hill, which is a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust reserve, peeping over the hill above. Go through the bridle gate, up the hill, through another bridle gate (just before which you are joined by the Mid Wilts Way) and continue in the same direction with the communications masts to right and fence to left to the left-hand corner of the field.

On arriving at the fence corner here, you are joined by the Wansdyke Path, which comes in from the right along the Wansdyke (not surprisingly!). Turn left onto a path downhill to another bridle gate, then follow this path as it winds right, then left and right again in harmony with the Wansdyke. Enter a small copse via another bridle gate and follow a path across tree roots onto a byway. Turn right for a few paces, then go through another bridle gate on your left. Walk beside the Wansdyke for the length of two fields to arrive at the A361.

The White Horse Trail crosses the A361 at Shepherd's Shore, where there is also a shot blasting and powder coating business. Go up the driveway of the house on the eastern side of the road, but almost at once branch right onto grass. Go through a metal gate and begin/continue a lengthy perambulation along the Wansdyke. In the course of doing so, cross several farm tracks, at each of which you drop down from the Wansdyke and negotiate a stile or metal kissing gate on each side of the track. After 1.2 miles (1.9 km) arrive at two barns; pass to the left of the first one, then go right and left over the (often extremely muddy) track leading to it to resume the path along the Wansdyke beside the second one.

Just over a mile (1.6 km) from the barn, having passed through two more gates en route and after a moderate ascent, arrive at a stony track leading to Manor Farm (per notice on gate on right). The official route continues beside the Wansdyke and is accessed via a bridle gate opposite, but is often too overgrown to follow. If this is the case, turn left and almost immediately right along another stony track parallel to the Wansdyke for 100m, then branch right through a field gate along a track for 20m to arrive at another gate. Turn left on the other side and continue your progress along the Wansdyke. There are superb views on both sides along this stretch, which lasts for approx. one mile (1.6 km)

Finally, leave the Wansdyke by going through a gate and turning left up the track beyond. After 10m, when a broad, stony track cuts across the Wansdyke, you can either rejoin the Wansdyke, which can get badly overgrown in the summer, via a stile, or take the track beside it. On reaching a gate on the right into the Pewsey Downs Nature Reserve after 120m, turn right through it. (You leave the Wansdyke Path behind at this point). Turn left through a gate at the end of the first field. Go in a broad semi-circle to the right along the crest of a ridge, passing through another gate as you go. Milk Hill, the highest point in Wiltshire at 295m (968ft) is to your left.

After a third gate, go left in a tight semi-circle round the stunted trees and bushes on the shoulder of Milk Hill, then follow the contour on the other side to a gate. The Alton Barnes White Horse is 200m or so beyond this gate, but is not visible until the last moment due to folds in the hills.

There is easy access to the Alton Barnes White Horse from the car parking area at Knap Hill on the Alton Barnes to Lockeridge road. To reach it from the top of the White Horse, continue along the contour path, going east. Ignore the fork to the right approximately 130m from Adams Grave at the top of Walkers Hill, and instead continue on the main path beside a low earthwork, with the whale-like shape of Knap Hill directly in front of you. After around 150m, veer left towards a metal kissing gate, with the car parking area at Knap Hill in your line of sight. Follow the well-beaten path through two more metal kissing gates to arrive at a final metal gate onto the Lockeridge to Alton Barnes road. The car parking area is on the other side.

### **About the Cherhill White Horse**

This horse was cut under the direction of Dr Alsop of Calne, also known as the “mad doctor”, who shouted instructions over a megaphone from the main road in 1780! Situated under an ancient earthwork called Oldbury Castle, it is not linked to any previous hill figures. Its eye (four feet across) was once filled with upturned bottles which sparkled in the sunlight.

### **About the Alton Barnes White Horse**

It was cut in 1812 at the expense of the landowner, Mr Robert Pile of Manor Farm. His first contractor fled with an advance payment of £20 after drawing a sketch of the horse. This contractor was eventually found and hung for a list of crimes! In 2010 the horse underwent a major renovation, overseen by landowner Tim Carson and the Alton Barnes Parish Council, when 150 tons of fresh chalk were delivered to the site by helicopter, which volunteers then used to replenish the surface of the figure.

## **S8 White Horse Trail directions – Alton Barnes White Horse to Devizes White Horse**

[Updated in June 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 157, OS Landranger 173

**Distance:** 12 miles (19 km)

There is easy access to the Alton Barnes White Horse from the car parking area at Knap Hill on the Alton Barnes to Lockeridge road. Cross the road and follow the waymarks for the Mid Wilts Way: 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 a low bank. The White Horse Trail comes in from the left just beyond Walkers Hill. If you wish to start the walk from the White Horse itself, continue on this path along the contour line for 700m to arrive at the top of the White Horse, then retrace your steps.

Approximately 130m before the Neolithic long barrow known as Adam's Grave at the summit of Walkers Hill (if coming from the White Horse) fork right off the main path (if coming from the car parking area, fork left) to arrive at a multiple junction of paths after 50m or so. Here take the obvious path half right which skirts Walkers Hill, then descends beyond it in two stages to reach a kissing gate.

The original route went through this gate and down to a tarmac road, however the route has been changed to avoid having to walk on this road, which you would join at a bend which obscures oncoming traffic, more than is necessary. So **do not** go through the kissing gate, but turn left along any of the obvious paths just before it (this is an open access area, hence the variation in paths). After 375m, arrive at a large, square metal gate in a wooden fence. Go through this (unfortunately it is quite heavy) and turn right to arrive at the road after another (field) gate. Walk carefully down this for approx. 75m, then turn left into a chalky field entrance. Head down an enclosed bridleway, which can get very overgrown. This becomes tarmac for the last few metres before arriving at the road through Alton Priors.

Go slightly left to continue down a tarmac road past an old thatched barn (on right) and Priory Cottages (to left). At the end of the road, go right through an old-fashioned wooden turnstile and pass to the right of All Saints church to join a cobbled path which connects the church with Alton Barnes. Follow this over two small footbridges with wooden turnstiles at both ends. At a crossroads of cobbled paths, continue ahead to arrive at a fourth wooden turnstile onto a tarmac road. Turn right along this to the main road. Turn left and after 20m, just past house no. 6, go right up the bank and across the sizeable field beyond, which is dissected by a grassy track; a path is usually left through crops, which varies between tolerable and excellent. After 0.6m (1 km) on arriving at the edge of the field walk down a few metres onto a grassy, often overgrown path between two hedges.

[If, however, a path has not been left, there is an alternative route: continue down the main road through Alton Barnes and just before the humped back bridge over the canal, turn right down a tarmac road. This eventually narrows to a path. When you are opposite the Bridge Inn at Honey Street, turn right and go up the right-hand edge of a field. At the corner, turn left and walk along a broad, grassy track with the hedge to your right. This is the footpath to the south of the correct route shown on the OS Explorer map. At the far corner, take the short path down to the tarmac road mentioned below]

Turn left along this, and after 150m or so arrive at a tarmac road. Turn right along this, soon arriving at a T junction with another tarmac road.

Go right along this and after 40m cross a stile set back a few metres from the road into a field. Walk between a tall hedge to left, which is later replaced by a fence, and an electric fence to right. Cross the stile at the other end. Turn left along the lane to arrive at a bridge over the Kennet & Avon Canal after some 80m. Turn right through a kissing gate on the far side of the bridge.

Walk along the canal towpath for 7 miles (11.2 km). Landmarks along the way include the village of All Cannings, to the left, the Bridge Inn at Horton and the Devizes Marina by the Hourglass pub. On reaching bridge 139, turn right across it and go through the gap next to the large iron gates in front of you into Quakers Walk, a pleasant tree-lined avenue. When this reaches a tarmac road, with the entrance to Roundway House to your left, cross it and continue on a stony path between hedges. Pass a gap in the hedge to the left, beyond which lies Folly House (no. 48), to arrive at a tarmac road (Folly Road). Turn left along this, with Southdown House on the left. At the fork soon after, go right along a road signposted as a dead end, with telephone and letter boxes to left. (There is a Natural England permissive path, accessed through a gate just after the last house on the right, and which avoids walking on the road. Turn left on this and walk along the field edge, separated from the road by the hedge. Exit the field back onto the road through a gap near a field gate, and turn right). When the road forks as it begins to go uphill, take the right-hand fork. This brings you to a wooden kissing gate at the top of the hill which gives access to Wiltshire's most recent White Horse, the Devizes Millennium White Horse

### **About the Alton Barnes White Horse**

It was cut in 1812 at the expense of the landowner, Mr Robert Pile of Manor Farm. His first contractor fled with an advance payment of £20 after drawing a sketch of the horse. This contractor was eventually found and hung for a list of crimes! In 2010 the horse underwent a major renovation, overseen by landowner Tim Carson and the Alton Barnes Parish Council, when 150 tons of fresh chalk were delivered to the site by helicopter, which volunteers then used to replenish the surface of the figure.

### **About the Devizes White Horse**

This was a new white horse for the millennium. The Devizes White Horse faces east towards the Vale of Pewsey, as if going from Devizes to meet the Alton Barnes White Horse. It was designed by Peter Greed, a former pupil of Devizes Grammar School and cut in 1999 by some 200 local people with the assistance of heavy machinery supplied by Pearce Civil Engineering.

## **S9 White Horse Trail directions – Devizes White Horse to Bulkington**

[Updated in May 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 157 & 156, OS Landranger 173

**Distance:** 8 miles (12.8 km)

**Warning:** this section from the A361 onwards is very agricultural, with many, often hard to climb and/or broken stiles, and paths not left through crops in the summer

Emerging from the wooden kissing gate which gives access to the Devizes White Horse, go straight ahead into a car parking area which is at right angles (to the west) of the gate. Negotiate the wooden V stile beyond and walk through the woods on a broad, well-used path. Continue through another V stile on the other side. Almost at once, fork left, away from the deeply rutted farm track. When you come abreast of the pylon down the hill to the left, turn left onto the deeply rutted, chalky farm track downhill towards the pylon and a tarmac road. Cross the road and go through another V stile to the right of galvanised gates. Walk downhill with a hedge to the right, passing said pylon en route. At the bottom of the field, go through a kissing gate, a copse then another kissing gate, onto another road.

Turn left on this, then sharp right, to reach a set of shallow steps with a handrail very soon after the bend. This goes up into a field on the right. 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, thus rejoining the route you took to reach the White Horse in the previous stage, but in the opposite direction. The track soon becomes a narrower stony path between hedges. Cross over a tarmac road which gives access to Roundway House to the right. Continue along Quakers Walk. Pass through the gap to the left of 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

Turn right to cross the next bridge over the canal (number 140). Once on the other side, turn left down onto the towpath. On the other side of the canal is the Canal Museum and Shop of the Wharf Centre. 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 again (bridge 142). Shortly after this the famous series of 16 locks on Caen Hill appears before you, a wondrous sight! These take the narrow boat user (and walker) downhill and away from Devizes. Continue along the towpath with the locks on your right. Approximately 0.5 miles (0.8 km) after going under the road at the bottom of the 16 locks, at lock 23, turn left through a gate into a small paddock. Pass through a small mobile home site, going to the right of “Maple”.

Go through the gap in the fence ahead (the gate has been removed) into the field and turn right along the fence. After a few metres, at the two pillars, turn left onto a tarmac road (the access road to Lower Foxhangers Farm and Marina). Soon after the road bends sharp left, cross the sturdy stile over the wooden fence to the right and bear half left, with great care, over the A361.

Proceed down the bridleway on the other side. This is at first not difficult, but it soon becomes very overgrown. (If it becomes impassable, it is possible to progress as follows, but this is not a right of way: go through a gap in the hedge on the left after 100m or so and turn right along the field edge. At the pylon in the corner, turn left to the end of the hedge, then turn right back on yourself to walk round the perimeter of the field. Exit right through a gap to rejoin the correct route). When the bridleway turns sharp right it is transformed into a clear farm track (which may nevertheless be very muddy/waterlogged/overgrown). This kinks left and right. About 30m after passing a group of tall trees on the right, turn left over a plank bridge and stile into a field. Go half right over this to a double stile in the corner into the next field. Keep the hedge to your left to arrive at another stile, which brings you out behind a house. Follow the earth embankment down the side of the house, beyond which a large plant nursery comes into view to the right. Continue down the drive of the house, exiting through ornate iron gates between two off-white pillars onto a gravel track. After approx. 150m turn left onto a tarmac road (which goes into Poulshot), then 20m later turn right onto a wide grassy lane. This is Broadway Lane.

Continue along the lane as it narrows and is then joined by a farm track for approx. 50m, which comes in from the left and then peters out to the right in front of a large, open-sided barn. Continue to the left of the barn along what is now a path flanked by bushes. This starts innocuously but towards the end becomes very rough and churned up, and after heavy rain is not for the faint-hearted. Eventually cross a stony lane and bear left through another farm gate (usually left open). After 20m, turn right onto a tarmac road. Continue along this for about 1/3 mile (½ km), then, just after crossing a bridge over a stream, take the stile to your right into a field. Cross three fields, climbing stiles into each, to arrive at another tarmac road (from Seend to Worton). Turn right along this for 100m (there are grass verges but they are not very wide), then take a stile to the left.

Bear half right to a hidden stile in the hedge. Unfortunately this used to be a double stile and footbridge, but at the time of writing has been reduced to a single stile with a damaged footstep, and a large puddle of water. An easier way to get into the next field is to continue along the hedge line on your right to the field corner, where there is a large gap into the next field, but this of course is not a right of way. Cross the corner of the next field, then go through two more, using stiles to access them all. Emerge on the tarmac road into Bulkington and turn left down this. Pass Mill Lane to the left, with its sign for the village hall, and soon after arrive at Bulkington's pub, The Well.

## About the Devizes White Horse

This was a new white horse for the millennium. It faces east towards the Vale of Pewsey, as if going from Devizes to meet the Alton Barnes White Horse. It was designed by Peter Greed, a former pupil of Devizes Grammar School and cut in 1999 by some 200 local people with the assistance of heavy machinery supplied by Pearce Civil Engineering.

## S10 White Horse Trail directions – Bulkington to Westbury

[Updated in November 2023]

**Maps:** OS Explorer 143, OS Landranger 173, 184

**Distance:** 8.4 miles (13.4 km)

With your back to The Well pub in Bulkington, turn right. After approximately 200m, turn left down The Close, a small cul-de-sac of modern houses. Turn right down a narrow path after house no. 6 and go into a field through a wooden kissing gate. Walk along the left-hand edge of two fields, with a metal kissing gate between them, and Semington Brook to your left. Take the footbridge over the brook, then immediately cross the stile to its right. Go half left across the field to a stile in the middle of the hedge. Cross two more fields; the second one can be filled with rapeseed, through which the farmer does leave a path, but it is not wide enough. Arrive at a road after going through a heavy metal field gate. Go ahead on this for 25m and continue on the byway, passing to the left of Mere House. The surface of the track soon changes from grass to compacted gravel.

Arrive at another metalled road, where we are joined by the Mid Wilts Way (MWW); go left (effectively straight on) and walk ½ mile (0.8 km) into the heart of the village of Keevil, passing Longleaze Farm, Martins Lane and Pyatts Corner/Butts Lane, all to the 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 another 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 pass through the small metal gate 30m in front of you, and a field gate just beyond it. Continue down the field edge, ignoring the 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 small gate at the end (the fencing has been removed), and immediately right through another one onto a rough track. Soon bear left to walk alongside the graveyard wall. 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 Bartlett's Mead. If refreshments are required, the Longs Arms pub is only 200m or so to the left.

Turn left down the main street for 50m, then leave the Mid Wilts Way by turning right, past One The Butts, and taking the narrow path to left just beyond it.

Go through the rusty metal gate at the end, dogleg left and right, and continue in the same direction down a broad track (Butts Lane). After 120m, turn sharp left through a gap in the hedge to the right of a signpost; the actual right of way is as indicated by the signpost, leading to a stile on the right after 15m, but regrettably this stile is not fit for purpose at the time of writing. Cross the field aiming for a plank bridge near the left-hand corner, then continue along the left-hand edge of the next field to arrive at a substantial footbridge to left. Cross this and turn right. Proceed along the edge of three fields (although the path departs from the field edge in the third one for 100m), all connected by plank bridges, alongside a stream, and take the footbridge to the right half way along the third one. You rejoin the MWW here. Go right up a track which goes gently uphill and has hedges on both sides with occasional gaps.

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 track. When the track sweeps to the left, continue ahead with hedge on right. When you arrive at an open field, proceed slightly 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. 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 a sign here stating "Capps Lane  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Go through the kissing gate and follow the hedge on the 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 giving access to a large cultivated field. You may have to forge a route through crops in both this field and the next, although someone has usually done so before you. Continue in the same direction, aiming to the right of the four trees in the middle of the field, and go through a gap in the opposite hedge.

Maintain direction over the next field, 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, turn right alongside the hedge, then turn left along a fenced green corridor to get to a very primitive stile and footbridge on the other side of the field. In the next field, aim half way along the hedge on the right-hand side, where there is a footbridge and stile. About two thirds of the way down the next long, thin field, in the hedge on the left, 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 the far side of the field. (If it has been raining it would be advisable to follow the 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, passing a stately thatched dwelling called Court House to the right, to arrive at the junction with Lower Woodford Road.

Turn right along this 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 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. To access the car park, go past the White Horse beneath and to the right, and through a gate and up steps into an open area containing two benches. The car park is up to your left. From here there are fine views over the vale below.

The car park above the Westbury White Horse can be reached either via a street named Newtown in Westbury, which also carries a brown sign pointing the way to Bratton Camp and White Horse (turn left at the crossroads at the top of the hill), or via Castle Road in Bratton, both off the B3098.

## About the Westbury White Horse

This is the oldest White Horse in Wiltshire and dates from 1778. The present figure was preceded by a much older version at the same site, but its date of construction and origin are unknown. Legend has it that it was cut as a memorial to one of King Alfred's victories over the Danes at the Battle of Ethandun in 878 AD.

## S11 Alton Barnes White Horse to Pewsey White Horse "short cut"

[Updated in June 2023]

This "short cut" walk has the benefit of splitting the whole White Horse Trail into two long circular walks, if desired. One can go from Westbury to Redhorn Hill to Pewsey, then to Alton Barnes rather than Marlborough and the more northerly White Horses, completing the circle by going on to Devizes before returning to Westbury. Equally one can use the short cut to go from Broad Hinton to Cherhill to Alton Barnes, then to Pewsey rather than continuing to Devizes and the more southerly white horses, completing the circuit by going on to Marlborough and Hackpen Hill before returning to Broad Hinton. Or vice versa! It is also a very pleasant walk just done on its own.

**Maps:** Explorer 157 & 130 (north sheet), Landranger 173

**Distance:** 8.1 miles (13 km)

There is easy access to the Alton Barnes White Horse from the car parking area at Knap Hill on the Alton Barnes to Lockeridge road. Cross the road and follow the waymarks for the Mid Wilts Way: 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 a low bank. The White Horse Trail comes in from the left just beyond Walkers Hill. If you wish to start the walk from the White Horse itself, continue on this path along the contour line for 700m to arrive at the top of the White Horse, then retrace your steps.

Approximately 130m before the Neolithic long barrow known as Adam's Grave at the summit of Walkers Hill (if coming from the White Horse) fork right off the main path (if coming from the car parking area, fork left) to arrive at a multiple junction of paths after 50m or so. Here take the obvious path half right which skirts Walkers Hill, then descends beyond it in two stages to reach a kissing gate.

The original route went through this gate and down to a tarmac road, however the route has been changed to avoid having to walk on this road more than is necessary. So **do not** go through the kissing gate, but turn left along any of the obvious paths just before it (this is an open access area, hence the variation in paths).

After 375m, arrive at a large, square metal gate in a wooden fence. Go through this (unfortunately it is quite heavy) and turn right to arrive at the road after another (field) gate. Walk carefully down this for approx. 75m, then turn left into a chalky field entrance. Head down an enclosed bridleway, which can get very overgrown. This becomes tarmac for the last few metres before arriving at the road through Alton Priors.

Go slightly left to continue down a tarmac road (look out for the white horse carved on the sarsen stone on the small green on your left) past an old thatched barn (on right) and Priory Cottages (to left). At the end of the road, go right through an old-fashioned wooden turnstile and pass to the right of All Saints church. Just beyond it, join a cobbled path which connects the church with Alton Barnes. Follow this over two small footbridges with wooden turnstiles at both ends. At a crossroads of cobbled paths, continue ahead to arrive at a fourth wooden turnstile onto a tarmac road. Turn right along this to the main road. Turn left (the WHT route to Devizes turns right through a field after 20m) and walk down the road to the bridge over the Kennet & Avon canal.

Approximately 130m before the bridge, you pass the memorial to RAF Alton Barnes. A few metres to the right of the road is a sign on a blue background marked "R.A.F. Alton Barnes Memorial" indicating a kissing stile to its left which gives permissive access to the memorial some 20m beyond the gate. It is sited on the only remaining air raid shelter from the war time base, above a padlocked steel gate. Sadly it is now completely hidden by overgrown vegetation, and is inaccessible.

Return to the road and turn right along it towards the bridge over the canal. Cross this, then turn immediately right and go under the bridge to join the towpath going east. You now have the option of visiting another WWII memorial: after 300m, and after passing three flights of steps down the canal bank to a field, which are quite close together, on your right you will see a sign by a stile marked simply "To Memorial". It is to two airmen who lost their lives when their Albemarle bomber crashed nearby in 1944. If you wish to see it, do **not** follow the direction of the sign but cross the rather awkward stile and continue parallel to the canal, passing bridge 123 on the way, for 50m, where you will find the memorial on your left.

You can now either return to where you entered the field, turn right along the towpath and pass under bridge 123, or continue past the memorial to the stile in the corner of the field and return to the towpath. At bridge 122 cross over the canal and continue on the towpath on the other side. At bridge 120 (there is no bridge 121), which is Ladies Bridge, cross over the canal again and walk down the track southwards to join the long drive to Cocklebury Farm. At the end, cross the road to the memorial stone at Swanborough Tump.

This commemorates the meeting between the future King Alfred the Great and his elder brother King Aethelred I in 871 on their way to fight the invading Danes, when each of them swore that if the other died in battle, the dead man's children would inherit the lands of their father, King Aethelwulf. It was erected by families who bear the Swanborough name.

Cross the stile next to this (although access to the field can also be gained by forking right on a clear semi-circular path to the right of the monument, which has been kindly provided by the landowner). Walk down the right-hand edge of a large field, which can get very muddy, keeping Frith Copse to your right. Cross the Paddington to Exeter railway line at the end of this, with care. Continue south along a footpath with woodland to right and open farmland to left. At the end of the woodland, go straight on down a track, with a large white house to right. This is Dragon Lane, the surface of which gradually improves to become a metalled road. Go along this until a T junction is reached. Here turn left and walk along the road for some 60m to a signpost in the hedge on the right. Turn right through the gap.

Follow the footpath down the left-hand side of the field, then go through an enclosed section, ignoring a kissing gate on the left, past a thatched barn to right. Go through a wooden kissing gate and across a small paddock, then through another wooden kissing gate by a corrugated iron barn. Continue ahead to the Mill (on the left). Walk along a section of boardwalk, then two footbridges in quick succession, followed by a potentially muddy path, to arrive at a wooden field gate into a field. Manningford Abbots church is clearly visible at the other end of the field. (It is in this field that the Redhorn Hill to Pewsey section of the WHT joins you by means of a kissing gate in the right-hand side of the field). Go half right across the field, well to the right of the church, to a field gate in its right-hand corner at the end of a long wall attached to the house. Pass through this, and another metal field gate some 15m further on. On reaching the end of farm buildings beyond, bear left to reach a stile and sleeper bridge onto a road. Turn right down the road to arrive at the A345.

Go down the bridleway opposite. Soon after passing several barns on the right, open countryside is reached. Proceed in the same direction under power lines and up, past a 100m stretch of trees to the left, to the brow of a slope, and down the other side. Go through the small wooden gate into the next field, turn left for 30m, then right onto a broad track down the middle of the field. Pass through a metal field gate, which is often left open, and continue in the same direction across the middle of another field. On reaching the top of this field, turn left as indicated by the finger post. Near the field corner a very wide, chalky track begins. At a second finger post, bear half left and pass through a hard-to-shift field gate.

Continue along the cinder track. When the track passes through a field gate to the right of a wooden fence, keep to the left of the fence to reach a small metal gate into the farmyard of Pewsey Hill Farm. Go through the farmyard and along the metalled road beyond.

Where this bears right downhill, continue straight ahead through a field gate onto a bridleway down a gulley to the road. Turn right for 15m then cross the road and the stile beyond into the corner of the field containing the Pewsey White Horse.

Turn right and follow the path up the hill, at first close to the hedge and road to the right, but on reaching the same level as the top of the White Horse enclosure, veering away from it to the left, to arrive at the White Horse.

### **About the Alton Barnes White Horse**

It was cut in 1812 at the expense of the landowner, Mr Robert Pile of Manor Farm. His first contractor fled with an advance payment of £20 after drawing a sketch of the horse. This contractor was eventually found and hung for a list of crimes! In 2010 the horse underwent a major renovation, overseen by landowner Tim Carson and the Alton Barnes Parish Council, when 150 tons of fresh chalk were delivered to the site by helicopter, which volunteers then used to replenish the surface of the figure.

### **About the Pewsey White Horse**

The original horse was cut in 1785, and reputedly featured a rider. It was re-designed in 1937 by Mr George Marples and cut by the Pewsey Fire Brigade to celebrate the coronation of King George VI.