

10



Walks



from

Village



Pubs near



Swindon

Third Edition

A selection of short country walks from village pubs near Swindon
compiled by the Swindon & NE Wilts Group of the Ramblers

It is perfectly possible to find good countryside for walking without travelling too far from Swindon. The locations for this book have been chosen because the combination of pub and walk worked well. The pubs have not paid to be included.

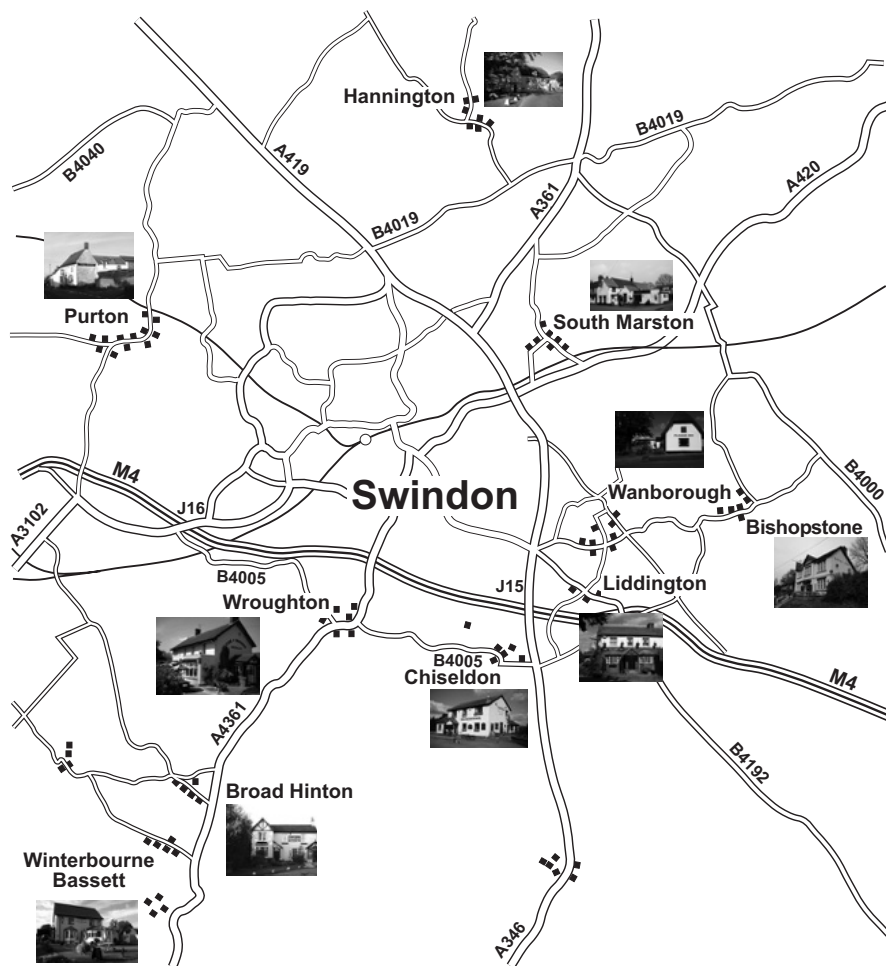
Walks Index

Walk	Distance	Page
1. Wroughton, Fox & Hounds	3 miles	1
2. Hodson, Chiseldon, Calley Arms	3 miles	3
3. South Marston, The Carriers Arms	2½ miles	5
4. Wnterbourne Bassett, The Winterbourne	4½ miles	7
5. Bishopstone, The Royal Oak	1¾ or 3½ miles	9
6. Wanborough, Plough Inn	2½ miles	11
7. Purton, The Angel	1¼ or 2 miles	13
8. Broad Hinton, The Crown Inn	3½ miles	15
9. Hannington, The Jolly Tar	5¼ miles	17
10. Liddington, The Village Inn	3½ miles	19

We all hope that you enjoy your walks and visits to these local pubs.



Location of Walks



Printed in England by

Corsham Print

4 Leafield Way, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 9SW
01225 812930 www.corshamprint.co.uk

Printed on paper produced
from sustainable forests

Parking:

Landlords are usually happy for you to park in their pub car parks on the understanding that you will go in for refreshment before or after your walk (clean shoes, please). Telephone numbers / websites have been given in case you want to check opening hours and when food is served.

Maps:

It is a good idea to have with you an Ordnance Survey map of the area you are walking in, so the number of the relevant Explorer map has been given for each walk. The maps provided could be sufficient, but you never know when you may need extra detail.

Be prepared:

Strong shoes or walking boots are recommended for the walks, plus weatherproof clothing. In warm weather it is advisable to take a drink, particularly on the longer walks.

Keeping paths clear:

Blackthorn, brambles and wild roses grow very quickly in summer and can soon make a path difficult to use. **Please take secateurs with you** so that you can cut back the growth which is being a nuisance.

Reporting problems:

If you come across a problem you can't deal with, such as a crop, a broken stile or a fallen tree, please report the details and exact location to Ramblers by following the **Report a path problem** link on our website <https://ramblers.org.uk/> and either downloading the app or reporting it online.

Stiles and kissing gates:

You may find places where a stile has been replaced by a kissing gate since the route instructions in this book were last checked.

Bus Services

Many rural bus services are financially supported by local authorities. Routes, bus operators and timetables can change frequently. If you intend to use the bus, please check current services and times before setting out on your walk.

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this booklet but the Ramblers cannot accept any responsibility for changes which affect the routes described or for the consequences.

Ordnance Survey Maps

Occasionally there will be a discrepancy between the OS map and the ones in this book because of changes that have occurred on the ground and are not yet shown on the OS maps. The sketch maps attempt to show a route that is correct at the time of publication.

Ordnance Survey maps can be bought at local bookshops or borrowed from Swindon Library.

The following OS Explorer (1:25000) maps are recommended for the walks :

Explorer No. 157 Marlborough & Savernake Forest

Explorer No. 169 Cirencester & Swindon

Explorer No. 170 Vale of White Horse

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Acknowledgements

The routes were originally researched and described by Pat Crabb; subsequently approved or improved by other members of the Swindon & NE Wilts Group of Ramblers.

Maps were produced by Rob Dawson based on Ordnance Survey maps.

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Production by Rob Dawson.

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1st edition 2003

Revised in 2007

2nd edition 2013

3rd edition 2022

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Walk 1 Wroughton

3 miles / allow 2 hours

Fox & Hounds

Markham Road, SN4 9JT

Tel: 01793 815415

<https://foxandhoundswroughton.co.uk/>

Bus 9 to High Street stop

Explorer map 169

grid ref: SU141804

What3words:

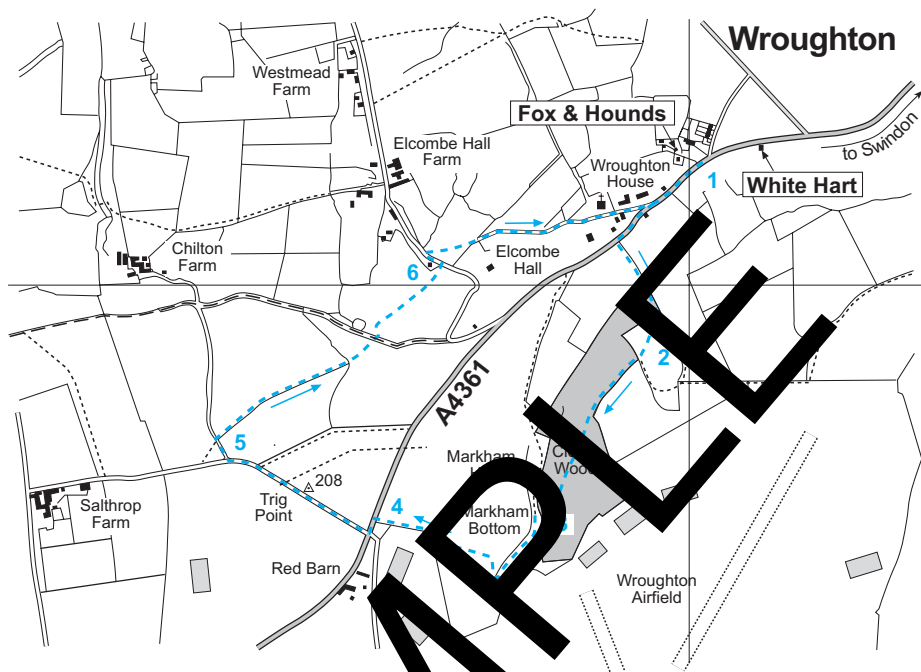
pin.es.press.yard

Bus 4 to White Hart stop

A delightful and varied hilly walk with hills and views plus wild flowers in summer. Some steep slopes up and down. Because of cattle, dogs should be kept on leads. Route finding not easy.

1. Carefully cross the road. Walk up the hill and when footway ends continue on the soft verge, passing Glebe Cottage, to a kissing gate. Pass through and along to a second gate, then turn down hill (signposted Clouts Wood). Cross the footbridge into the wood and a plank bridge over a second stream. Do not cross the next plank bridge on your right but continue ahead to a kissing gate, then turn right and go up the steps. Continue straight ahead up the meadow on the clear grass path which bears right near the top of the hill to re-enter the wood by a kissing gate. *The spikes of 6-petalled creamy flowers in June/July are Bath Asparagus and Clouts Wood is one of the few places where it is found.*
2. Follow the well-worn path through the wood, past the notice board, at first near the edge of the wood then deeper into the wood. Ignore the waymark post indicating a path to the right. At a crossroad of tracks, continue ahead. Soon





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after, join another path coming on from the left. The path eventually bends right down a long flight of steps. Descend with care. At the bottom of the steps turn sharp left, coming to a kissing gate close to the valley bottom.

3. Head up the valley bottom then climb up the other side behind the tall tree. Turn right to a kissing gate in the fence. *Enjoy the views back over Clouts Wood and beyond to Old Town and Christ Church spire.* Go through the gate, walk ahead to the redundant kissing gate at the corner of the tall wire fence and continue beside the fence to the road.
4. Turn left for a few metres then take the minor road on the right. *At the old trig point, 208 m above sea level, there are good views all round.* Take the next road on the right and after about 60 yards look for steps and a kissing gate on the right.
5. Your route is straight ahead on the left of the fence, soon descending with good views, steeply towards the bottom. Cross the bridleway and bear slightly right across a large uneven field. Aim for the electricity post in the trees to the right of the house and emerge through a kissing gate on to a road.
6. Turn left and look for the signpost and footpath on the right, climbing to Wroughton Church. Continue to the main road and turn left to your starting point.

Alternative starting points: Other pubs in the village.

WALKERS WANTED

FOR BEAUTIFUL JOURNEYS ON FOOT

Walking is even more wonderful when shared with others. Choose any of our holidays and we'll contribute funds through The Walking Partnership to your group. Just tell us their name when you book.

Visit ramblersholidays.co.uk



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The Ramblers was founded in 1935 to encourage walking and mountaineering, to foster a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside, to work for the preservation of natural beauty, protection of footpaths and the provision of access to open country.

It has played a major role in gaining and improving legislation that protects and improves our countryside today, yet every year brings further need to represent the ramblers' case to Ministers, MPs and government departments. Specialist staff are employed to do this work and a headquarters office has to be maintained. Please give your support to the work they, and all the volunteers, do on your behalf by becoming a member of The Ramblers.

Membership will bring you a **quarterly colour magazine** and **local newsletters** and **local walks programmes**.

For further details please visit www.ramblers.org.uk/join
or write to:-

The Ramblers
1 Clink Street
3rd Floor
LONDON
SE1 9DG
Telephone: 020 3961 3300
E-mail: ramblers@ramblers.org.uk
Web Page: www.ramblers.org.uk

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