

Points of Interest on this route (see map overleaf for locations)

(A) Farmer Cluster. They work together for the benefit of specific wildlife species. Look out for their information signs. It's important to keep your dog on a short lead at certain times of year when instructed, to avoid disturbance.

(B) The Old Shaftesbury Drove was used as a route for droving livestock on foot from Shaftesbury to Salisbury to market or between summer and winter pastures. It was also the post road to Exeter known as **The Great Western Post Road**. Fovant Hut was part of the infrastructure as an inn.

The village plays host to the annual 'Chalke Valley History Festival'.

Notable residents of Broad Chalke include **Sir Anthony Eden** (1897-1977), who served as Prime Minister, **Sir Cecil Beaton** (1904-1980), photographer and designer and the author **Sir Terry Pratchett** (1948-2015).

(D) The 13th Century **St Martin's Church** in Fifield Bavant is a Grade II listed building and reputed to be the smallest church in Wiltshire.

(E) The **River Ebble** is one of the five rivers of Salisbury. It's a chalk stream and the focus of the **Chase & Chalke Crystal Clear Ebble project** which is helping to improve its condition. It's being run in partnership with the Wessex Rivers Trust and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Watercress has been grown here for six generations since 1880. The traditional dark green watercress is grown on the natural springs of the Chalke valley.

A gentle climb up to the ancient Shaftesbury to Salisbury Drove via rolling chalk downland with wide-ranging views. A return via a river valley walk along ancient water meadows by the River Ebble. A good morning or afternoon walk.

Start Point: Broad Chalke (map shows route from the church car park). W3W: rips.samplers.inventors | Grid Ref: SU 0406 2539.

Parking: All Saints Church, Broad Chalke (subject to services).

Terrain: Easy going with wide open paths and tracks, with one incline. There are some short sections of narrow paths. Some uneven sections along the River Ebble valley.

Length: Approximately 7.0 miles / 11.2km.

Approximate time: 3 hours.

Dogs: Must be on leads for most of the route.

Good to know: Bus route 29 runs between Salisbury and Shaftesbury stopping at Broad Chalke.

Refreshments: The Queens Head and Chalke Valley Stores in Broad Chalke.

The information is only intended as a general guide. Please check local arrangements.

Share your pictures with us on social media
#chaseandchalke #cranbornechaseaonb

Created by the Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership Scheme
cranbornechase.org.uk

Classic Chalke Valley Circular

Circular walk from Broad Chalke via an ancient Drove, Fifield Bavant and the sparkling River Ebble

WALK #
W19



CHASE &
CHALKE
LANDSCAPE
PARTNERSHIP

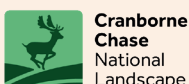
cranbornechase.org.uk



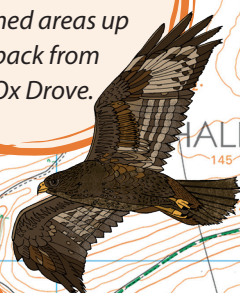
Illustrations by Sal Meddings



Respect everyone
Protect the environment
Enjoy the outdoors
Follow advice and local signs



Look out for **brown hares, buzzards and skylarks** in abundance at certain times of year on the farmed areas up and back from the Ox Drove.



The parish has two chalk streams, as the **River Chalke** flows into the **River Ebble** at Mount Sorrell in the parish.



Directions

1 On leaving the car park, turn left and walk into the village centre. Turn left on meeting the Queen's Head and follow the road round to the right. Where the road turns left, carry straight on up the lane to Chalk Pyt Farm.

2 Once into the farm, turn left at the brideway sign past farm buildings on your left. After the last large barn on your right, bear right on a well-signed path between two hedges.

3 When the hedges end keep straight ahead beside the fence on your right. On reaching the tarmac hardstanding which forms the turning space at the top of the Gurston Down Speed Hill Climb race track, bear slightly to the right, but to the left of the barn, onto the concrete surface of the signposted public brideway. After 75 metres, the surface changes to stone.

4 Keep straight ahead along the brideway to reach a metal gate that gives access onto the Old Shaftesbury Drove.

5 Turn left along the drove. After approximately 800 metres cross the road (beware of traffic) and continue along the drove for another 650 metres, passing the Fovant Hut (once a drivers' rest stop but now a private house) along the way until a track forks away to the left.

6 After about 50 metres, the track reaches a gate, where waymarks point to a brideway directly across the field and a restricted byway that bears to the left, past a narrow belt of trees on the left and along a grass track across the fields.

7 Continue along the byway, following the track for about 1.6km as it descends gently to reach the road at a gate beside which is a gap. Turn left along the road, to reach a sharp bend at Manor Farm in the hamlet of Fifield Bavant.

8 At the bend, you can head straight on into the farmyard and on to visit the 13th Century St Martin's Church.

9 To continue on the walk, retrace your steps out of the farmyard and before you reach the road, go through the small wooden gate on your left and head half right down the hill to a small wooden bridge over the Ebble.

10 Cross the field to the raised bank ahead and turn left to continue walking along the valley where you may be fortunate to see a heron fishing in the river, passing through two gates to reach a lane at Little London. Continue straight ahead along the lane then just after a passing place on the right, turn left onto the signposted public footpath through a metal gate.

11 Head down the slope to a gate and footbridge. Follow the fenced and hedged path beside the garden of a bungalow, turning right where a path to the left leads uphill to the road, and continue to and along a tarmac driveway, with the watercress beds to your right.

12 At the road, go straight ahead through a gate at Knapp Farmhouse. Pass the house and keep to the right along the footpath to go through a gate. Follow the path to a second gate then across the field, beside the river, then through another gate.

13 Follow the path ahead, bearing left to continue between gardens and then straight ahead along a stone road to return to Broad Chalke. Turn right onto the main village road to return to the church.

