

Walk: Bishopstone and the Oxdrove

Length of Walk

5 miles (9km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 130

Walk Start: SU 068 258

Key

- Walk route with waypoint
- Parking
- Pub
- Place to eat
- Historic Site
- Nature Reserve
- Point of Interest

Distance: 5 miles (9km)

Time: Allow 3 hrs

Terrain: A mix of quiet lanes, bridleways and byways. There are some muddy fields in winter. There are a number of long slow ascents and long gradual descents

Difficulty: Moderate

Suitable for: All

Start: White Hart Inn or Village Hall Car Park on Butt Lane, SP5 4AA

Start Grid Reference:

X : 406800

Y : 125800

Latitude : 51.031525

Longitude : -1.904404

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)

Salisbury and Stonehenge No. 130

Notes & Refreshments:

White Hart Inn is open all day.

Experience a bracing walk south from Bishopstone across Croucheston Down. Enjoy the many chalk downs, stunning scenery and big wide open-spaces. You will follow the route of an old Roman Road and there are fabulous views of the spire of Salisbury Cathedral.

1. Walk down Butt Lane. Take the first turning left, into Netton Street and at the end, continue round to the left into Harvest Lane (ie, don't turn into Faulston). Ignore the bridlepath and take the second turning on the right into The Stiles, a cul-de-sac. At the far end the footpath continues, emerging into the driveway of a private house. Continue out onto a lane past other cottages onto a road.

2. At a left-hand bend, leave the road and go straight on through a kissing-gate into a grassy meadow. Cross this diagonally on the trodden path (or, more correctly, the right of way goes round the hedge) to the kissing gate in the opposite corner. Cross the bridge over the River Ebble.

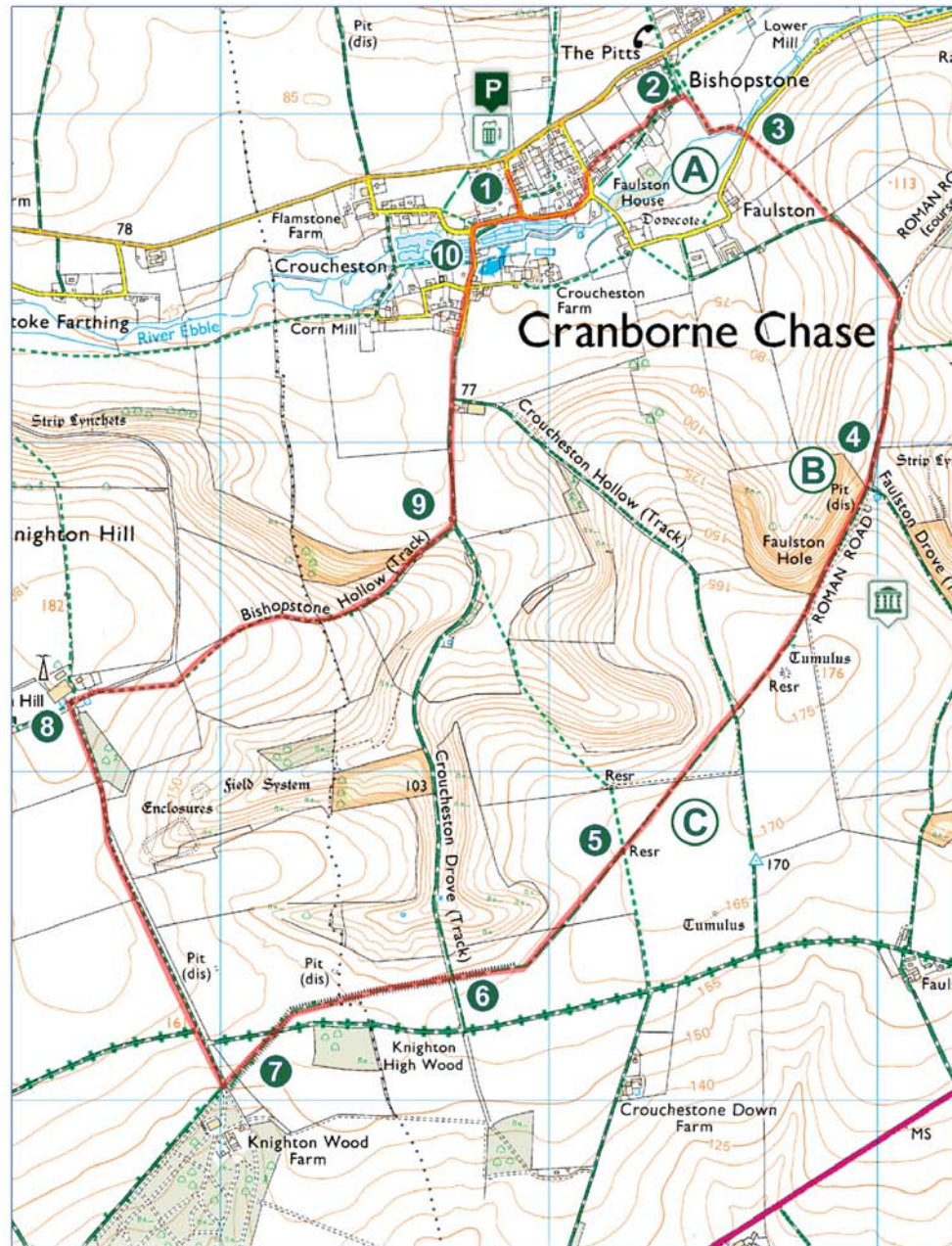
3. When you reach the road, note the direction of the finger-post – you will find the onward path up the bank on the other side of the road. Follow this path across two fields, until you emerge onto the angle of a bend in a track which leads up the hill. A little way up, this merges into what is left of a Roman Road.

4. When the track emerges out of the trees to join a farm track, ignore Faulston Drive on your left and continue ahead up the hill till you come to a gap in the hedge on your right indicated by a waymark. Go through the hedge but turn immediately left, keeping the hedge on your left. Continue up this field margin till you see a waymark pointing half-right – do not continue up on the grass track. Initially, cross an uncultivated strip. Then continue on the same trajectory across the field, well below the clump of trees up on your right which is a reservoir. In winter the path may not be very clear, but on the far side you will see a bridle-gate. Through the gate, cross the track coming up on your right along the field margin, which is Croucheston Hollow. Continue across the next field.

5. You will come to a wide grassy track, with the reservoir down to your right. Follow the paths through the crops. You will pass the end of a fence and continue round a bend to the right till you reach a gap in the hedge onto a track which is Croucheston Drive.

6. Go straight over still on the path through crops, which turns up to the left to join the Ox Drove. The 'agger' or bank shown on the map here alongside the Roman Road has, sadly, been completely obliterated by cultivation.

7. Turn right along the Ox Drove (or stay in the field) and right again along a metalled road. Continue on the road, which bends round Knighton Hill Farm.



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Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Countryside Code

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



8. Continue to an opening on your right where there is a waymark on the post pointing down the edge of a field. Walk along down this field margin to the corner, then go through a gap down a bank on your right, into Bishopstone Hollow. Towards the top of the Hollow there is a gateway into a field from which is a delightful view of Bishopstone.

9. Follow this track on as it becomes a metalled road, back past houses towards the village.

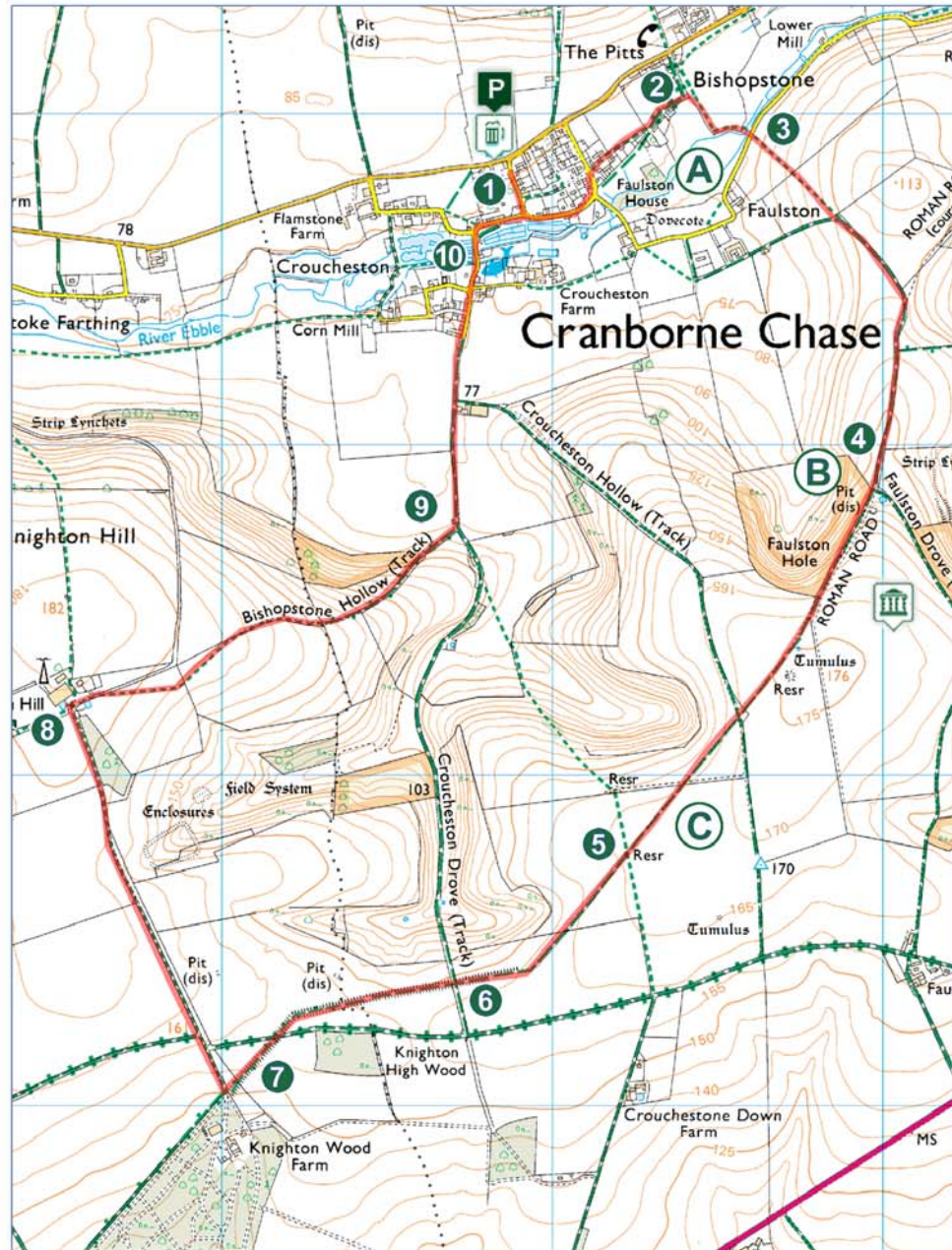
10. Before the road bends round to the right by various sluices etc in the marshy river, there is a pleasant short cut to the right across the corner and a bridge over the river. At the junction with Netton Street, turn left back up the road to the pub or village hall car parks.

Points of Interest

A River Ebbles. Crystal clear chalybe stream.

B Roman Road. This ran from the camp at Vindocladia (Badbury Rings near Wimborne) to Sorviodunum (Old Sarum/Salisbury). If you look through a gateway on the left before the track curves to the right, you can see where the road runs across and disappears into bushes.

C Views of Salisbury Cathedral. There are lovely views from this section of the route, including across the Chalke Valley to Salisbury Cathedral.



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