








Walk: Ebbesbourne Wake and Bowerchalke

Length of Walk
5.5 miles (9 km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 118
Walk Start: ST 992242

Key

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

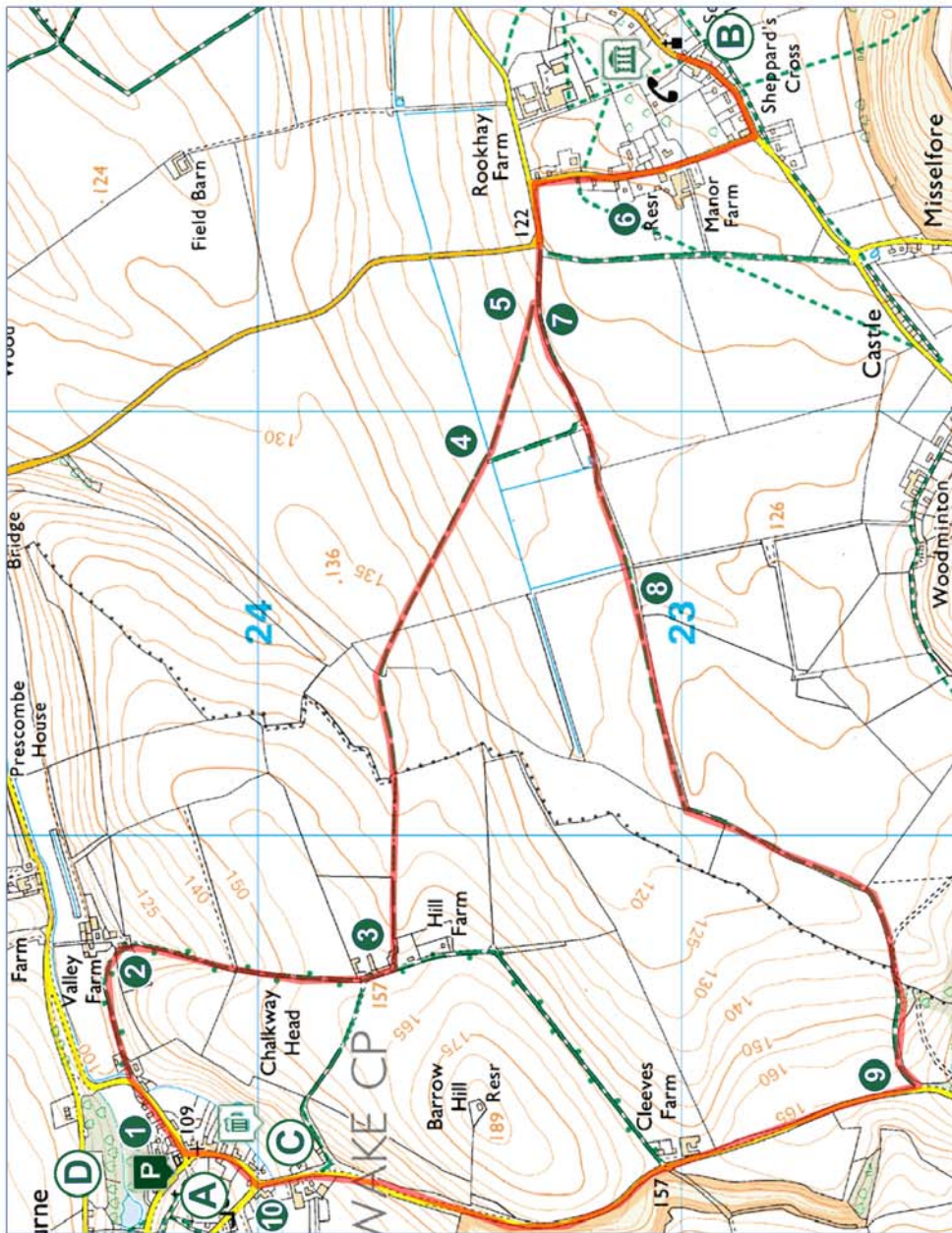
Distance: 5.5 miles (9 km)
Time: Allow 2.5 hours
Terrain: Gradual hills, some stiles mixed terrain
Difficulty: Moderate
Suitable for: All
Start: The Cross, Ebbesbourne Wake, SP5 5JF
Start Grid Reference:
X : 399200
Y : 124100
Latitude : 51.016176
Longitude : -2.012779

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)
Shaftesbury and Cranborne Chase No 116

Notes & Refreshments:
The walk most conveniently begins at The Cross, close to The Horseshoe Inn (01722 780474) – family owned and run, most family and dog friendly, with a garden for summertime enjoyment.

This is a lovely, not too hilly walk exploring the picturesque depths of the Chalke Valley. Extend the walk to reach the grave of the author William Golding in the churchyard of Holy Trinity in Bowerchalke.

1. From The Cross, take the right-hand road downhill past houses and the village hall etc and turn right into the Restricted By-Way track. Go through the gate at the end and follow the grassy track along the edge of the field.
2. At the far end, the gate leads in to the bottom of the track up the hill – a beautiful green tunnel – clearly way-marked. Carry straight on at the top, past converted farm buildings, till you see the sign on the fence indicating the way along a narrow path around a garden fence and then out across a field.
3. Go through the gate (observing whether or not the 'Beware of the Bull' notice is relevant) and straight across the next field and through the gate into an area of scrubby woodland. On the far side, if the path across the field is not obvious, look to the right of the far corner and walk towards where a grass track comes down the opposite hillside to join the hedge – the path across the field beyond may also be visible.
4. When you reach the hedge, turn immediately off the grassy track and cross the field on your left diagonally to the hedge onto a farm track. If you don't have time to visit the church at Bowerchalke, turn right along this track and pick up directions at 7 below
5. Turn left and continue along this track till you come to the road – take care, as this is a sharp bend. Stay on the road round the corner into Quidham Street, then go through the kissing gate on the left and follow the waymarks across the field. At the far corner, climb over two stiles and then walk down the next field to another stile. Then continue to the right-hand corner and out onto the road. Turn left to the Church.
6. Return back over the stiles and across the fields till you are back on Quidham Street (do NOT take the footpath opposite in the hope that it may be a short-cut back to your route: it is not!). Continue back along the way you came, passing where the route earlier joined the track, and also the junction with the grass track mentioned before.
7. Continue along the track until the fence on your right ends and then, now leaving the hedge on your left, along the edge of the next field. At the end, go through the bridle-gate onto a farm road.



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Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Find more walking, cycling & riding routes, places to stay, attractions
and places to visit at: www.discoverchalkevalley.org.uk



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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. Take the right hand bridlegate into the next field, with the hedge on your left. At the end, go through the bridle-gate into a stretch of woodland. At the end of the woodland, the bridle-gate leads into the corner of a grassy meadow. Turn left into the field and then round the corner keep the fence on your right and walk up a track towards a metal gate. Through the gate, the track leads up between steep banks onto the road.

9. Turn right and head downhill, enjoying the view up the Chalke Valley to your left. Continue on down the narrow road, past Cleeves Farm and beyond where tall trees grow on the steep banks.

10. At the road junction turn right to return to The Horseshoe Inn at The Cross.

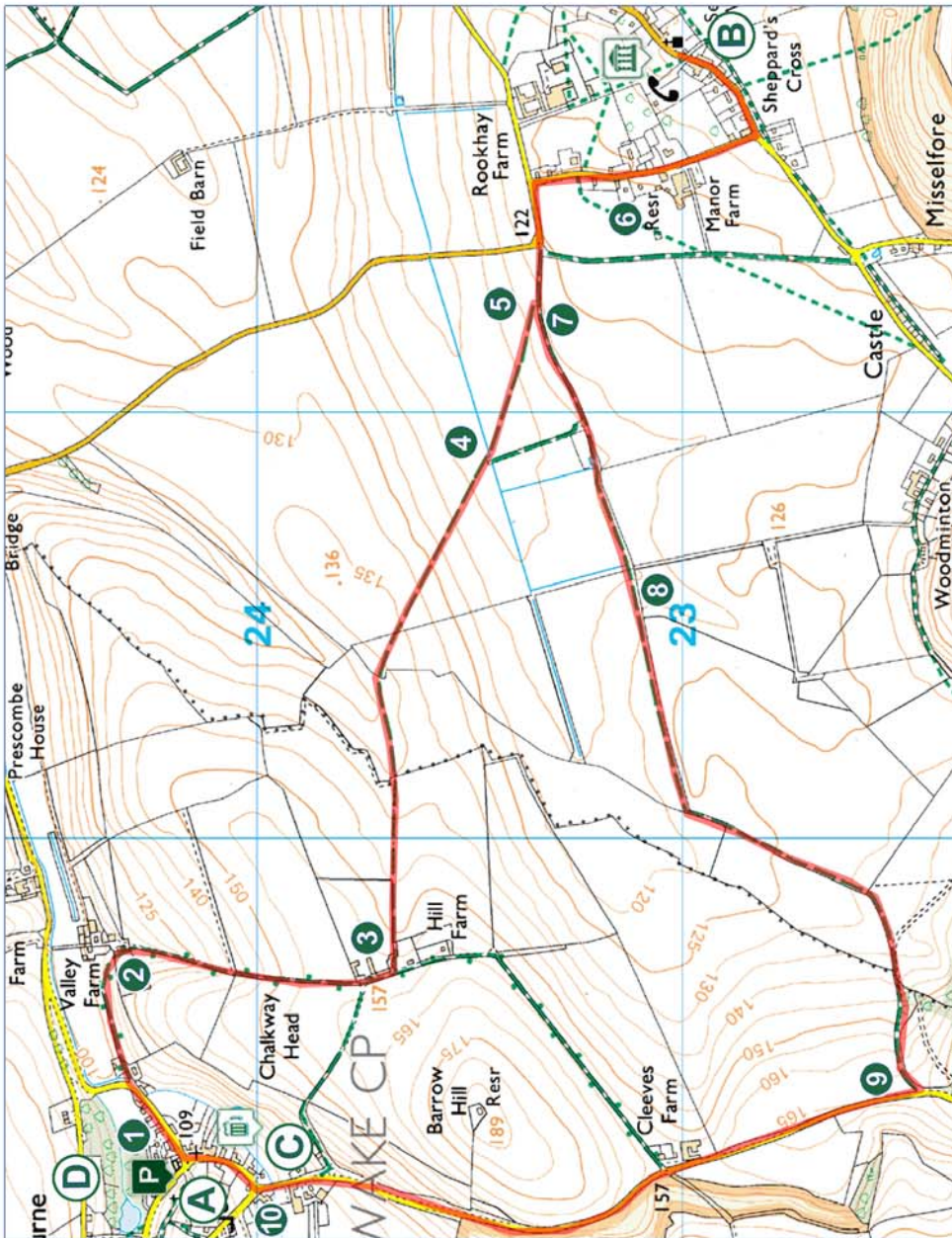
Points of Interest

A War Memorial Ebbesbourne Wake The War Memorial records the names of those who served in the World Wars as well as those who fell – a total of 31 in WWI, an astonishing number from such a small community.

B Holy Trinity Church Bowerchalke Holy Trinity Church dates from the 13th century. Most impressively, the village raised £42,000 to augment the ring from two to five bells to mark the Third Millennium and the clock was also given by public subscription, in 1881. The grave of William Golding, author of *Lord of the Flies* and Nobel Laureate, together with his wife, is in the churchyard, from which is an excellent view of the ancient earthworks on the hillside above.

C The Bunting - Historic property, with a plaque on the wall explaining that, 'This house known as Bunting was the first meeting place of the Congregationalists in Ebbesbourne. They worshipped here from Jan 13th 1782 to about the year 1791.'

D Ebbesbourne Wake The very name 'Ebbesbourne Wake' instantly sets the imagination to work. The first part is fairly straightforward – the Ebb is the bourne or small river that runs almost the length of the Chalke Valley. The second is assumed to refer to Geoffrey de Wak who was granted the manor in the sixth year of the reign of King John, ie in 1205 – a similar derivation to the Bavant in neighbouring Fifield Bavant. The Wake family coat of arms can be seen on the tower of St John the Baptist church, which dates from the time of the Norman Conquest, but no connection with Hereward the Wake has been established.



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Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.