

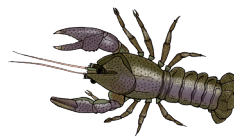
Points of Interest on this route

(see map overleaf for locations)

A St. Mary's Church is around 700 years old although it was largely rebuilt in flint and stone in the 1870s. Traces of Norman work can be seen in one of the chancel windows

B Clearbury Ring is an Iron Age hillfort and scheduled ancient monument, with a single bank and ditch enclosing about 2 hectares. The archaeologist Sir Richard Colt Hoare wrote in his "The Ancient History of Wiltshire" (1812) that he thought it probable that the camp was occupied or constructed by the West Saxon Kings Cerdic and Cynric, around 500 – 550 AD.

St Mary's Church



- C Great Yews**, in the ownership of the Longford Estate, is designated as a site of special scientific interest. There are no public rights of way through the woodland. Notices posted by the Estate state clearly that access is only by advance permission of the Estate Office: Contact - Longford Estate (longfordestates.co.uk).
- D** The hamlets of **Bodenham, Odstock and Nunton** were part of the Romano-British villa at Downton, a sizeable farmstead which grew corn and pulse crops. This became part of the Bishop of Winchester's estate by the 790s and by 1086 much of the estate was organised as a Manor
- E The River Ebbie**, which lies in what is known locally as the Chalke Valley, is a globally rare type of river known as a chalk stream. Over 80% of the world's chalk streams are found in Southern England alone. More information is available at: A Crystal Clear Ebbie - Cranborne Chase National Landscape.
- F The Avon Valley Path** is a 34-mile-long distance route between Salisbury and Christchurch, following the course of the River Avon.

Great Yews



An exploration of the eastern reaches of the Ebbie Valley and the villages and downs to the south of Salisbury.


Start Point: St. Mary's Church, Odstock.OS: Explorer 130 | SU152260 | W3W: albatross.drag.ramming

Parking: St. Mary's Church, Odstock. Please park with consideration for visitors to the church and other users.

Terrain: Downlands and fields, on quiet lanes, drove roads, bridleways and footpaths. Stiles and gates.

Length: Approximately 10 miles / 16 km.

Approximate time: 4 hours.

 **Dogs:** Please keep dogs on a short lead where livestock is present.

Good to know: Footway improvements between Odstock and Nunton are planned and will further enhance this walk.

Refreshments: The Yew Tree Inn, Odstock, The Radnor Arms. Nunton, Milk-vending machine outside The Radnor Arms.

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



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

Share your pictures with us at #cranbornechase



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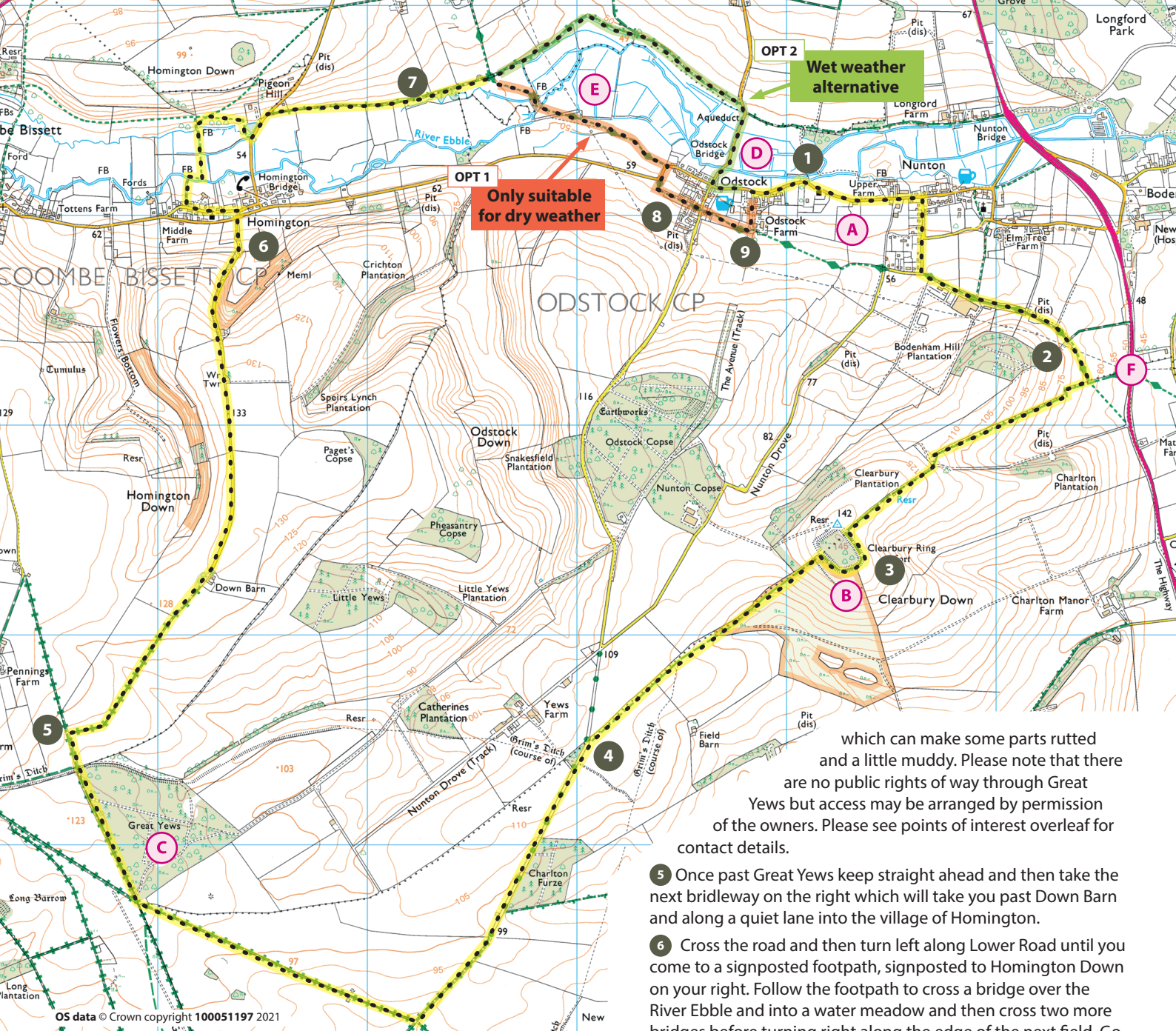


Clearbury Ring and Great Yews

Exploring the downland and water meadows to the south of Salisbury

WALK #
W38





Directions

- 1 From the entrance to the church car park take the stone-surfaced path with the roadside hedge to your left, then use the verge and roadside footpaths to walk alongside the road into Nunton. Turn right along Nunton Drove then when the road turns sharply to the right, go left onto the farm access track along the signposted bridleway.
- 2 Pass the farm buildings on the right of the bridleway and continue straight ahead through a gate across the track. At the next set of gates take the signed footpath through the kissing gate and continue with the hedge on your right to a gate in the field corner. Turn right into the next field onto a grass bridleway with the hedge to your right.
- 3 Stay on the bridleway as it climbs to pass to the right of a small plantation of trees then through a gate on the left to continue uphill to the hillfort of Clearbury Ring. Follow the bridleway around the edge of the hillfort and then downhill along the edge of the down, then through a gate onto a grass drove. At the end of the drove, turn left through the gate onto a wide stone-surfaced byway.
- 4 Stay on the drove, to pass the woodland of Charlton Furze on your left, and continue until you reach a crossroads of droves. Turn right along the grass byway and continue between fields to reach the woodland of Great Yews. At the end of the byway, turn right and then almost immediately left onto another byway with Great Yews to your right. Motor vehicles have a legal right to use these byways,

which can make some parts rutted and a little muddy. Please note that there are no public rights of way through Great Yews but access may be arranged by permission of the owners. Please see points of interest overleaf for contact details.

- 5 Once past Great Yews keep straight ahead and then take the next bridleway on the right which will take you past Down Barn and along a quiet lane into the village of Homington.
- 6 Cross the road and then turn left along Lower Road until you come to a signposted footpath, signposted to Homington Down on your right. Follow the footpath to cross a bridge over the River Ebble and into a water meadow and then cross two more bridges before turning right along the edge of the next field. Go through a gate on your right onto a waymarked 'permissive path' which leads past an ornamental pond, to join Homington Road. Turn left on the road, then go right along a narrow byway into a hedged lane.
- 7 Stay on the byway until you see a metal gate into the field on your right. (OPT 1) If the water meadows are not flooded, if you are content to walk across fields where farm animals and horses may be present, go through the gate to follow the trodden path across the field to a stile and two bridges over the River Ebble then another gate. Go through the gate and follow the trodden path diagonally to the left across the field to a gate onto the road as it enters the village of Odstock. If the water meadows are flooded or you wish to avoid farm animals and horses, do not go through the gate but keep straight ahead (OPT 2) along the byway until reaching the road. Turn right along the road into the village of Odstock and then left at the crossroads to return to St. Mary's Church in Nunton.
- 8 If you have crossed the water-meadows and the fields to reach Odstock, go through the gate and turn right onto the road then as it bends sharply to the right, take the signposted footpath on the left which leads to and through the children's play area. Keep straight ahead between the houses then cross the road at the bottom of the hill. Take the narrow, signposted, footpath ahead of you then as you reach the buildings at Odstock Farm, turn left on to The Avenue to reach the road.
- 9 Turn right along the road to return to St. Mary's Church.