

Points of Interest on this route

(see map overlay for locations)

A Upton Lovell is a settlement on the River Wylfe, with a medieval church dedicated to St. Augustine of Canterbury. Five generations of the Lords Lovell were Lords of the Manor between the 14th and 16th centuries.

B Boyton Manor, next to St. Mary's Church, was built in 1618, for landowner Thomas Lambert. Ownership stayed in the Lambert family until 1935. From 1876 to 1882, the house was let to the youngest son of Queen Victoria, Prince Leopold the Duke of Albany, prior to his marriage and move to Claremont in Surrey. The pub in Upton Lovell is named in his memory. The Ginger Piggery offers a cafe and a range of shops, providing food, arts, crafts, fashion, furniture and beauty services.

C Sherrington. Motte and Bailey castles were Norman fortifications consisting of a large conical mound, the motte, Castle Mound is believed to have belonged to the Gifford family, but no evidence of a structure remains. Old maps show road patterns suggesting an outer bailey enclosing the church. The pond in the centre of the village is one of a number that used to produce several tons of water cress every year. Production ceased in 1976.

D Boyton Down. The views to the north are over the chalk downland of the Wylfe Valley, which gave its name to the town of Wilton and ultimately to the county of Wiltshire.

E The River Wylfe is a globally rare type of chalk stream. Over 80% of the world's chalk streams are located in Southern England. At Wilton, the Wylfe joins the River Nadder which flows into the River Avon near Salisbury Cathedral.

Strip Lynchets, Boyton Down

Suffers Bridge, Direction point 10

During WW2 Britain was facing invasion by Germany. Part of the countryside defensive strategy was to strengthen 'natural' barriers to hold up an advancing army. The GHQ Defence of Britain Line that followed the rivers Frome and Wylfe formed part of a system should landings along the south coast have occurred.

A circular walk offering lovely views from Boyton Down of the Wylfe Valley and Salisbury Plain.

Start: Village Hall and the Church of St. Augustine in Upton Lovell (or start from Boyton or Sherrington). Ordnance Survey Explorer Series Map 143. OS Grid Reference ST 944408. W3W: rocky.mystery.chum

Parking: Car park at the Village Hall and church in Upton Lovell, subject to events and services. Alternatively, choose a safe parking place where you will not obstruct other traffic and residents' driveways. Parking may be available at the Ginger Piggery (Boyton) during opening hours or The Prince Leopold Inn (Upton Lovell), please ask the owners for permission first.

Terrain: Lanes, byways, bridleways and footpaths with gates and stiles, mostly level with a long gentle climb from Sherrington onto Boyton Down and steep descent into Upton Lovell. The exposed bare-chalk surfaces on parts of this walk can be slippery. Suitable footwear is essential.

Length: Approx 5.6 miles / 9.0 km. Approx time: 2.5 hours.

Dogs: Please keep dogs on short leads wherever livestock is present.

Good to know: Beeline Coaches of Warminster provide a bus service through the Wylfe Valley between Warminster and Salisbury. <https://bustimes.org/services/24-salisbury-warminster>.

Refreshments: Ginny's Cafe at The Ginger Piggery open Wed to Sun 10am to 2pm. Local pubs are The Prince Leopold in Upton Lovell, The Dove in Corton, The Carriers in Stockton. Codford Tea Rooms are also nearby.

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](https://www.cranbornechase.org.uk)



Cranborne Chase National Landscape



[cranbornechase.org.uk](https://www.cranbornechase.org.uk)

Upton Lovell, Boyton and Sherrington

Royal connections of the Wylfe Valley

WALK #
W26



Cranborne Chase National Landscape





Directions

- 1 From the car park of the Village Hall in Upton Lovell, next to the church of St. Augustine, take the tarmac footpath beside the church and follow it to the right between hedges, onto the road. Turn left and at the T-junction turn left again and then almost immediately right onto a signposted bridleway which leads alongside houses on the right before reaching open fields.
- 2 Keep straight ahead with the hedge to your right, until reaching a fenced path between trees. Keep straight ahead until reaching fields again, then continue straight ahead over stiles to meet the road.
- 3 Turn right along the road and follow it over the railway crossing and into the village of Boyton. If you wish to visit The Ginger Piggery, turn right at the T-junction, then return to this point to continue this walk.
- 4 From the T-junction turn left (straight ahead if you have been to the Ginger Piggery) and follow the road around bends to the right and left as it leaves the village.
- 5 As the road bends right again, go straight ahead onto a signposted footpath through a kissing gate. Cross the field to go through the gate ahead. Follow the path along the field edge as it bends around to the right to a gap at the end and turn right onto a stone track, into the village of Sherrington.
- 6 At the road, turn right to pass the thatched cottage and then left onto the road past the pond. At the next road junction turn right.

- 7 At the T-junction, cross the road to a narrow path directly in front of you and continue uphill to join a wider track. Bear right onto the bridleway and enjoy the superb views across the Wylde Valley to Salisbury Plain as you climb the hill onto Boyton Down. The hillside to the right bears a series of banks called lynchets, which are usually the results of soil slippage caused by ancient farming practices.
- 8 At the top of the hill, turn right onto the tarmac surface of the byway. Stay on the byway as it passes farm buildings on the left. Continue to follow the tarmac byway until it reaches farm buildings on the right.
- 9 Immediately after the farm buildings and the tall storage silo, turn sharp right onto a bridleway along a farm track. Stay on the track, beside trees on the right and fields to the left until there is a gate into a field straight ahead. Do not go through this gate, but instead bear slightly to the left to follow the bridleway as it drops increasingly steeply downhill into a narrow sunken lane between high earth banks. Tread carefully as you descend the hill, as the bare chalk surface rock is exposed and uneven due to water erosion and, when wet, can be very slippery.
- 10 When you reach the road, cross carefully into the road opposite to cross Suffers Bridge over the chalk stream of the River Wylde.
- 11 Stay on the road as it crosses the railway and continues into Upton Lovell. When you reach the road on the left that leads back to the footpath to the church and the village hall, retrace your footsteps back to the start of the walk.