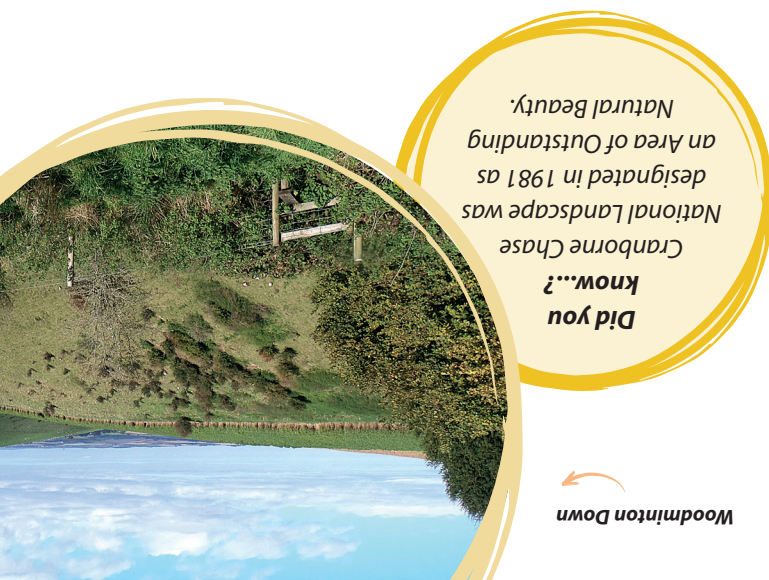


(D) Ebbesbourne Wake. The very name 'Ebbesbourne Wake' instantly sets the imagination to work. The first part is fairly straightforward - the Ebble is the bourn or small river that runs almost the length of the Chalke Valley. The second is assumed to refer to Geoffrey le Wake who was granted the manor 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.

(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';



Woodminton Down

A lovely, hilly, walk from Ebbesbourne Wake exploring the picturesque depths of the Chalke Valley, including a visit to the grave of the author William Golding in the churchyard of Holy Trinity in Bowerchalke.

Start: The War Memorial close to The Horseshoe Inn in Ebbesbourne Wake. Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 118 | OS grid reference ST992241 | W3W carefully.shuts.shielding (War Memorial)

Parking: Check - EITHER: Ebbesbourne Wake Village Hall. OS grid reference ST993242 | W3W bedrock.toads.disbanded OR Car Park of St. John the Baptist church, Ebbesbourne Wake: OS Grid Reference: ST990241 | W3W: remaining.exploring.departure.

Terrain: Field paths and quiet lanes following ancient ways through the rolling downland of the Ebble Valley. Mixed terrain with two very steep climbs and descents.

Length: Approximately 7.5 miles/ 12 km.

Approximate time: 3.5 hours.

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

Good to know: There are gates and stiles along this route, and some very steep climbs. Strong walking shoes or boots are essential.

Refreshments: The Horseshoe Inn, in Ebbesbourne Wake: check the website for opening times www.horseshoe-inn.co.uk.

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.instagram.com/cranbornechase)



Cranborne Chase
National Landscape

cranbornechase.org.uk



(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, Nobel Laureate and author of Lord of the Flies, together with his wife, is in the churchyard, where there is an excellent view of the ancient earthworks on the hillside above.

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

Ebbesbourne Wake and Bowerchalke

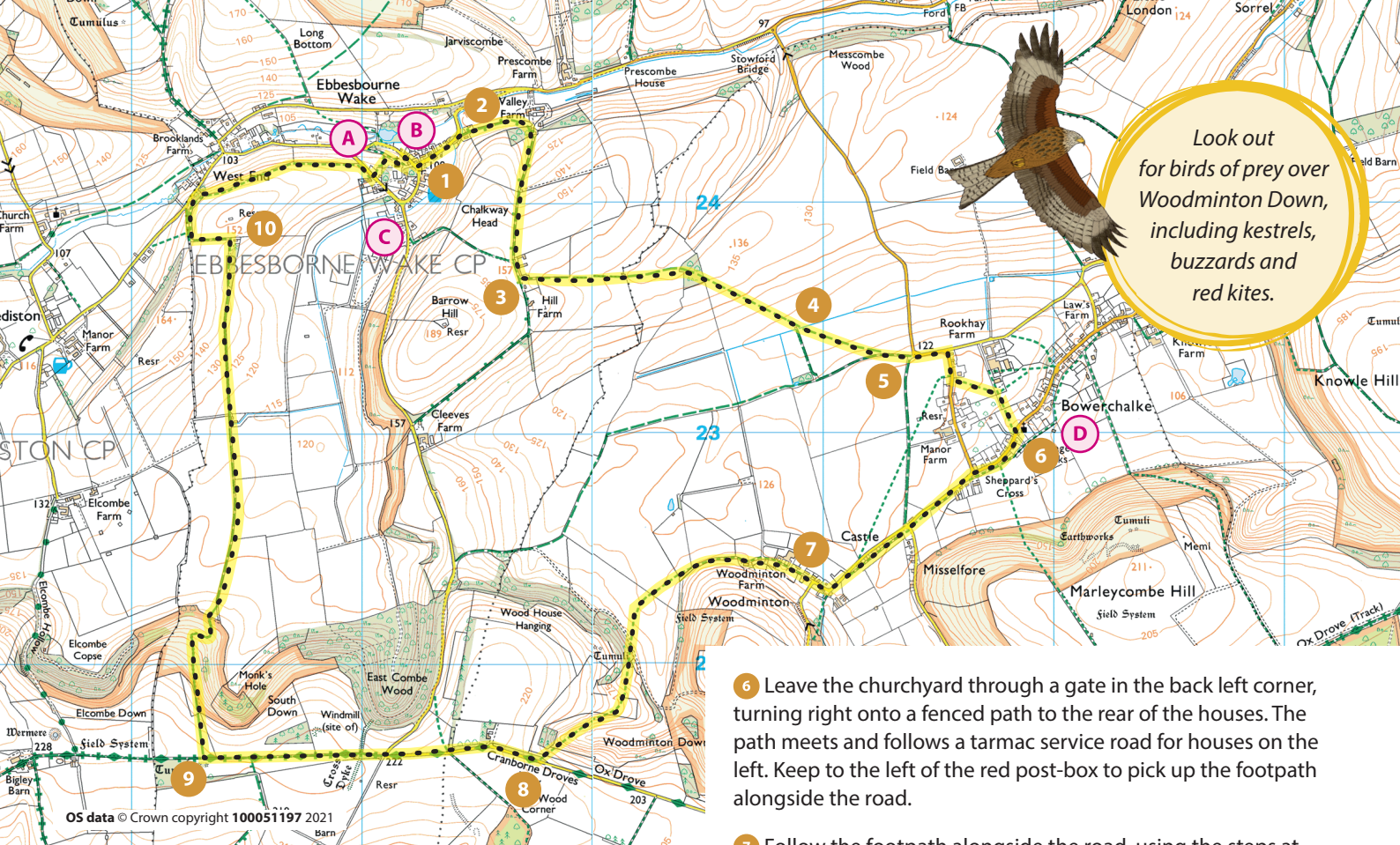
Ancient ways and fields of green and gold

WALK #
W17



Cranborne Chase
National Landscape





Directions

1 From the church, bear right uphill on the road to the war memorial at the junction with Duck Lane and The Cross. If you start at the Village Hall, turn right out of the car park onto Pound Lane. Head downhill along Pound Lane past the village hall and along the road until it turns to the left.

2 Keep straight ahead here onto the restricted byway (signposted as a public bridleway) along a stone track and through the gate as the byway becomes a grassy track along the field edge. Go through a gate at farm buildings into a tree-lined lane that climbs uphill to meet a farm road at Hill Farm.

3 Continue past the buildings at Hill Farm then turn left at a yellow waymark arrow on the fence along a narrow path that opens to a expansive view across fields. Keep straight ahead with the hedge to your left, then straight across the field to a gate into a second field. Cross the field to a gate into a small wood and keep straight ahead to another gate where a bridleway signpost points the way diagonally to the right and downhill across the next field.

4 At the end of the field, a grass track leads uphill but our way bears diagonally to the left, uphill across the field then through a gap in the hedge onto a farm track.

5 Turn left along the farm track. At the road keep straight ahead and then to the right at the next bend, then look for a kissing gate into a field on the left. Go diagonally to the left across the field, aiming for the telegraph pole in the far corner. Cross two stiles at the end of the field. You will see the church set picturesquely against the hill behind it. Turn right along the edge of the next field, over another stile and across the next field to a gate and stile onto the road. William Golding, the author of 'Lord Of The Flies' is buried, with his wife, in the churchyard at point **6** on the map.

6 Leave the churchyard through a gate in the back left corner, turning right onto a fenced path to the rear of the houses. The path meets and follows a tarmac service road for houses on the left. Keep to the left of the red post-box to pick up the footpath alongside the road.

7 Follow the footpath alongside the road, using the steps at 'Applespill' and 'Misselfore' then continue along the path beside the road to a gate into a field. Keep straight ahead along the edge of the field to a gate onto the road at a T-junction, opposite a small gravel parking area and green where there are two bench seats. Turn right through the gate, to the T-junction, then left along the road, following it into the hamlet of Woodminton and around a sharp bend to the right.

8 At the next bend in the road, to the left, keep straight ahead along a track past houses to Woodminton Farm. Go through the gate and continue past the farm buildings onto a fenced, wide, grass path with fields on the right. Go through the next gate and across the field to a stile. Cross the next field bearing diagonally to the left towards the corner of the wooded bank ahead to reach a vehicle track; look across the track to find a short wooden post bearing a waymark that points to a path up the bank to a stile. The path now goes straight ahead, dropping into a steep valley and back up to cross another stile onto the open grass downland. Sheep are grazed on this land, so please keep dogs on a short lead until you reach the road on the far side of the down. Keep straight ahead and over another stile then down a very steep bank and up the opposite side to another stile. Cross two more stiles to reach the road along the Ox Drove.

9 Turn right along the road then when it turns sharply to the right, keep straight ahead onto the signposted byway. After approximately 800 metres look for a waymarked bridleway gate on the right. Follow the bridleway alongside the fence on the right then through a gate in the fence onto a grass track that leads downhill between grass banks, twisting and turning to the bottom of the hill. Continue along the track at the side of the fields, following it straight ahead through gates and over the next hill.

10 Follow the bridleway around a bend to the left, then just before it turns right to descend the hill, turn right onto a waymarked wide grass footpath. Follow the footpath along the edge of fields, overlooking the road, houses and farms of West End, until it arrives at the road at Ebbesbourne Wake, opposite the church car park.