

GREAT BEDWYN AND WILTON WINDMILL



VISITWILTSHIRE/JON STONE

This route takes in part of the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath, as well as Wilton Windmill, the only working windmill in Wiltshire, and the world's oldest working beam engine at Crofton Pumping Station. And it's easy walking!

The walk

1 Start

From the station, return to the main road and turn L to cross the railway line and canal. Turn R and cross the wharf car park to the canal towpath. Turn L and follow the towpath past four locks until you reach Crofton Pumping Station - a brick building with a tall chimney.

2 3.2km/2 miles

At the fifth lock, number 60, it is possible to cross the canal, with

care, and go under the railway line to visit the Crofton Beam Engines pumping station. Crofton Beam Engines are open Easter to October, with refreshments available. The engines are in steam on Bank Holidays and some other weekends (contact Marlborough Tourist Information Centre). Back at the canal, the walk continues by turning L along a footpath signposted Wilton Windmill, which goes along the edge of Wilton Water.

3 4.2km/2½ miles

At the end of the field, turn R for a few yards to the village duck pond and L along the main road through the village, past The Swan public house on your R and up the hill to the fork in the road.

4 4.8km/3 miles

Take the right fork and continue up the road to the windmill, which is accessible to the public at all times, but is open Easter to September on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 1400 and 1700.

5 5.3km/3¼ miles

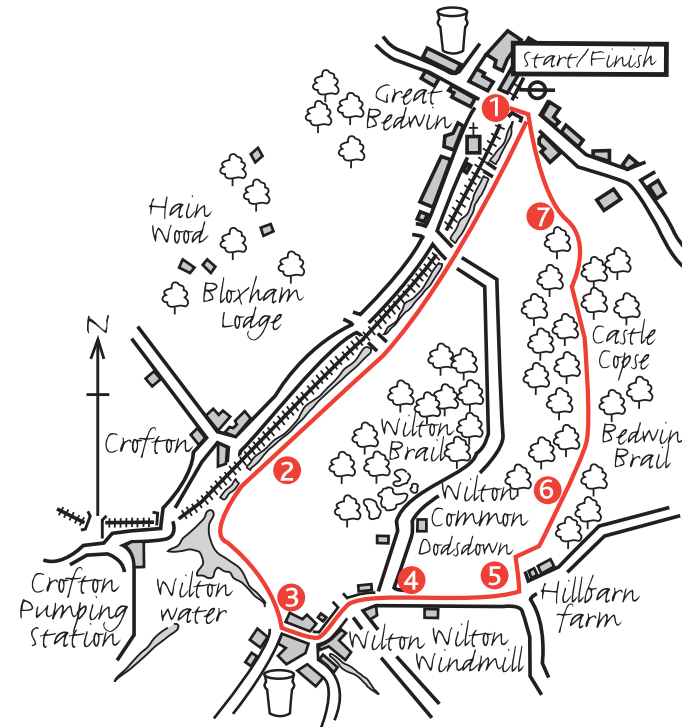
Continue along the road for 450m and turn L along a track for 300m. Turn right along another track, running just inside the edge of the wood, to a gate on the L into Bedwyn Brail.

6 6.3km/3¾ miles

Follow this hard track, which later becomes a grass track through a clearing, until it finally leaves the woodland.

7 8km/5 miles

Keeping in the same direction, cross the field aiming for the lowest point. Find a path going through the hawthorn bushes and emerging at the corner of a field. Bear L and walk down the side of the field with the hedge on your L until you reach the road. Turn L to return to the station.



IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain: Canal towpath, quiet lanes, woodland tracks
Stiles: 0
Suitable for: Average walkers

PLANNING

Start/parking: SU279645, Bedwyn Station

Nearest town: Marlborough

Refreshments: The Swan Inn, Wilton; The Three Tuns & Cross Keys, bakery and post office, Great Bedwyn

Public toilets: In Marlborough. But toilets can be found at facilities above and at Crofton Beam Engines

Public transport: No.20/20A from Marlborough to Hungerford stops at Bedwyn station. (not Sundays). For further details contact Traveline, tel 0871 200 2233. Thames Trains run hourly from Paddington, also stopping at Reading, Thatcham, Newbury, Kintbury & Hungerford (two-hourly on a Sunday). Contact National Rail Enquiries, 0845 748 4950

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