

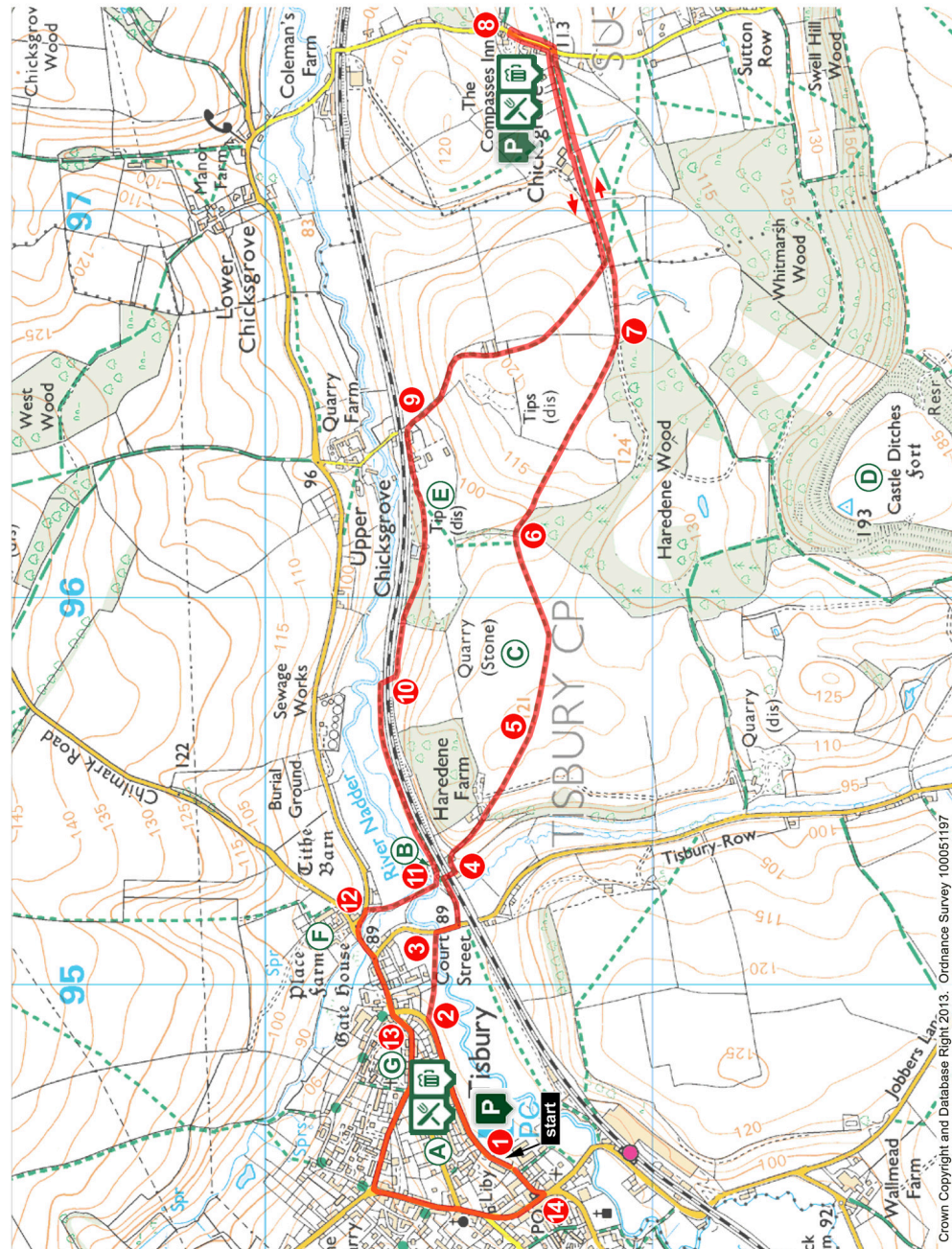
Walk 6: Tisbury to Chicks Grove

Length of Walk

5 miles (8km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 118

Walk Start: ST 94553 29384



Key

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

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Time: Allow 2 hrs

Terrain: Fairly easy field paths, lanes and tracks - 12 stiles

Start: Nadder Close car-park behind Tisbury's friendly and vibrant High Street or why not take a train journey into the Nadder Valley, South West Trains call at Tisbury Railway Station

Start Grid Reference:

X : 394553

Y : 129384

Latitude : 51.063764

Longitude : -2.0791048

ST 94553 29384

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)

Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase No. 118

Notes:

South West Trains call at Tisbury Railway Station regularly. Public toilets are located behind the High Street in Tisbury. Good selection of pubs, deli and tearoom in Tisbury High Street and The Compasses Inn, Chicks Grove.

Step back in time on this short circular walk to the enchanting hamlet of Chicks Grove, with its charming 14th Century Inn and cottages built of beautiful Chilmark stone and thatch. The perfect stroll for a summer's evening or family outing.

- From the entrance to the main car-park off Nadder Close behind Tisbury's quaint High Street, turn R along The Avenue and continue straight on.
- After approximately 300 metres, opposite phone box, take a R turn through the gate into the field and follow the footpath down towards the River Nadder and out onto the lane (Tisbury Row).
- Turn R along Tisbury Row and then immediately L following the footpath sign adjacent to the railway line heading down the driveway leading to The Mill. Go past the pond on L (take care as the lane surface is uneven).
- Before The Mill building, turn R under the railway bridge and cross over stile. The path bears to the L. Continue past Haredene Farm, over the stile into the field. Check out the panoramic views behind of the picturesque village of Tisbury.
- Cross another stile, go across track, and head in a south-easterly direction diagonally across a large field heading for the ancient wood of Haredene. You will not be able to see it, but south of Haredene Wood is Castle Ditches, a substantial Iron Age Hill Fort.
- Go through the corner of the woodland, into field where you can often see roe deer, and head in a south-easterly direction across field. Continue through a hedge gap, across another field onto a farm track.
- At the farm track, turn L towards the delightful hamlet of Chicks Grove for refreshments at The Compasses Inn, an award winning charming 14th Century thatched inn with accommodation.
- From The Compasses Inn, retrace your steps past farm buildings, and take a R turn opposite a metal gate, over a stile heading towards trees and a barn. Go through the gap in the hedge and continue R along the edge of the field. Go over the stile in the corner of the field, passing to L of the barns. Follow the farm track and go through the gate.
- Emerge onto a track and continue straight along to the railway line. Immediately, before the level crossing, turn L past Quarry Cottage (this appears to be a private driveway, but it is in fact a public footpath). Chicks Grove Quarry is over to the L. Continue straight on alongside railway line through woodland. Please keep dogs on leads where you see sign Danger Deep Water.

This information is intended only as a general guide. Recommended Ordnance Survey maps are listed.

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Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 4 Castle St, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PZ

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



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10. Cross over the railway line (take care), go over the stile, and turn L to follow the path along fields adjacent to the railway line back towards The Mill and the River Nadder (where you may spot a kingfisher) passing through three stiles/gates.

11. At The Mill, bear R through wooden gates into private drive. Keep L through gap in the bushes and go over wooden bridge. Turn L, cross over the weir-bridge and continue through woodland carpeted with stunning displays of wild snowdrops in the spring to the road.

12. Turn L by dwelling 116 along Chicksgrove Road. Opposite dwelling 116 is Place Farm with its magnificent outer gateway. Bear L onto Court Street over the stone bridge and back towards Tisbury.

13. Ignoring other R and L turns, carry straight on into Cuffs Lane uphill past Zion Hill Cottage and further on past the imposing Zion Hill Chapel on your R built in a Gothic style in 1842 but now closed. At the top of Cuffs Lane, take a L opposite Heatons (which sells a fine collection of antique prints and maps) and head downhill for the High Street past the Boot Inn on the L licensed since 1768 and The Benett pub on the R.

14. Continue along the friendly High Street. Why not spend a little time exploring its diversity of independent shops and places to eat before turning L by Tisbury Post Office back to the car-park.

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**



Points of Interest

A Tisbury. The picturesque village of Tisbury has an air of timelessness about it. It is the largest village in the Nadder Valley and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and has been a settlement for over 2,000 years since Saxon times. Wander along its friendly High Street browsing in the assortment of gift and craft shops. St John the Baptist Church, a short distance from the Market Square is also worth a visit. The parents of famous author Rudyard Kipling are buried in the churchyard of this 12th Century church. There is also a giant yew tree believed to be over 4,000 years old and one of the oldest in Britain.

B The Mill. This was originally an old water mill on the River Nadder which was still grinding until 1919 when the owner Mr Parker was unfortunately incapacitated by an accident which put him out of business. The Mill then supplied electricity for the village for a time.

C The fields around Haredene Woods. These are rich in wildlife and archaeology. Look out for corn-bunting and lapwing in spring. Archaeological remains have also been found here such as a Neolithic flint tool and Medieval pottery fragments.

D Castle Ditches. South of Haredene Wood is Castle Ditches, a substantial Iron Age Hill Fort over 24 acres in size where early Celtic Britons once settled, fought and carried out their druid rituals.

E Chicksgrove Quarry. This is the only active source of Chilmark Stone now remaining in an area which has mined stone since Roman times. It is a beautiful cream coloured limestone nationally renowned as one of the Country's finest building stones and used to construct Westminster Abbey, Salisbury Cathedral and nearby Old Wardour Castle. It is now a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

F Place Farm. This is home to the largest tithe barn in the UK (over 188ft long) and built in the 14th Century as the summer residence of the Abbess of Shaftesbury. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, Elizabeth Zouch, the last Abbess, surrendered it to Henry VIII and then it was granted to Sir Thomas Arundell. Today, it forms part of the beautiful Fonthill Estate and many of the buildings have been converted into businesses.

G Zion Hill Cottage. Now a private residence but once home to stonemason James Rixon in the second half of the 19th Century who used to enjoy carving macabre heads which were said to resemble the villagers of the day.