

# BISHOPS CANNINGS



COUNTRY WALKING

This walk includes sections along the Kennet and Avon Canal and The Wansdyke, a great bank and ditch earthwork, thought to have been constructed in the Dark Ages following Roman occupation. Some parts of the walk may be muddy and strong shoes or boots are recommended. This area is so beautiful you may well want to expand your route by continuing further along the canal to Stanton St Bernard, turning left up to Tan Hill and left again onto the Wansdyke (approx 11½ miles).

## The walk

### 1 Start

Go down The Street with views of the church spire on the R. Continue down this road and go through the left gate at the end, marked 'Court Farm Caravan Park'. Follow this track down to a swing bridge over the Kennet & Avon Canal.

### 2 0.8km/½ mile

Cross the bridge and turn L to follow the towpath to the next bridge, go under and turn back up the slope to reach the road.

### 3 2.3km/1½ miles

Turn R over the bridge and follow the road up to Harepath House and turn L onto a track. On reaching a group of farm buildings, look back to see the magnificent panorama of the Downs stretching away to the edge of Salisbury Plain on the far skyline. Continue uphill to a water tower. Go over the stile ahead and down the L side of the next field to reach the Wansdyke.

### 4 5km/3 miles

The view from here includes

Lansdowne Column on Cherhill Down to the L and Wroughton Airfield, Hackpen Hill and Barbury Castle to the R. Turn L through the gate and climb up onto the top of the bank. Follow this for two fields.

### 5 5.6km/3½ miles

Turn L onto this track. After a short distance, pass some cowsheds on the right. Carry on downhill on the track to pass through a farmyard and onto the lane leading to Easton Farm.

### 6 7km/4¼ miles

Bear R and cross the stile opposite. Go diagonally across this field to the stile in the far R-hand corner, go over and follow the hedge on the L to cross two footbridges. After the second bridge turn R and follow the permissive path round the edge of the field to reach a

thatched cottage. Bear L and follow the path across the field as it heads for Bishops Cannings church. Cross the next footbridge and follow the hedge on the R heading towards a line of cottages to a stile in the corner. Go over, turn L down the driveway to reach The Street and turn R to return to the start.



## IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

**Terrain:** Canal towpath, farm tracks, downland, moderate hill  
**Stiles:** 5  
**Suitable for:** Average walkers

## PLANNING

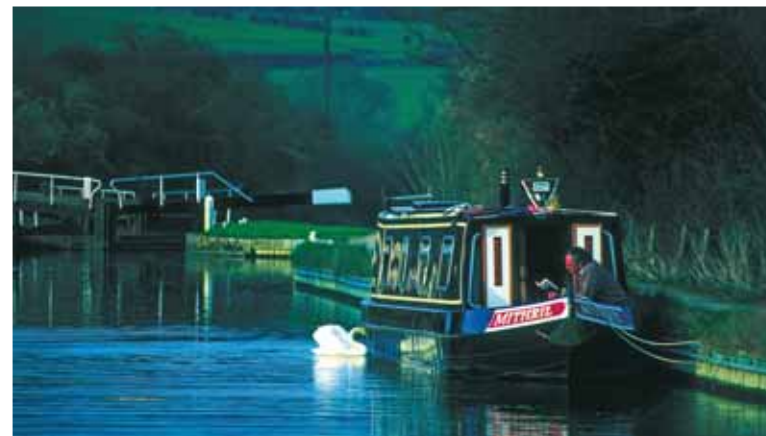
**Start/parking:** SU039643, Bishops Cannings, outside the school  
**Nearest town:** Devizes  
**Refreshments:** The Crown Inn, Bishops Cannings  
**Public toilets:** None, but toilets can be found at facilities.  
**Public transport:** Bus no.49 Swindon to Trowbridge, runs hourly. For further details contact Traveline tel 0871 200 2233.

## MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 157 Marlborough & Savernake Forest

## ACCOMMODATION

If you would like to find somewhere to stay in Wiltshire, please go to [www.visitwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk), Where to Stay.



VISITWILTSHIRE/STEVE DAY