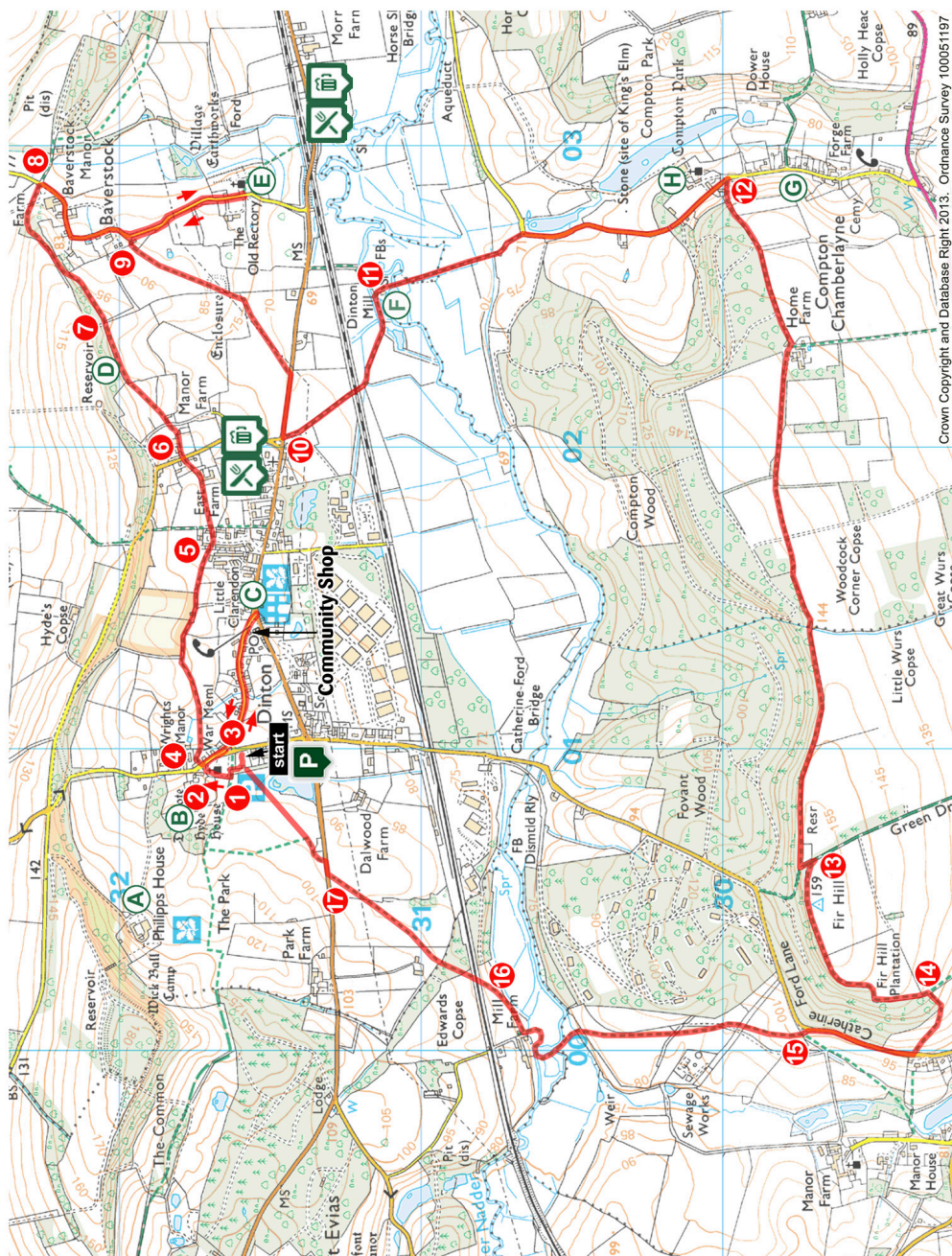









Walk 2: The Delights of Dinton, Baverstock and Compton Chamberlayne

Length of Walk
8.5 miles (13.3km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 118 and 130
Walk Start: SU 00986 31585



Key

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

Distance: 8.5 miles (13.3km)
Time: Allow 5 hrs
Terrain: Field paths, tracks and quiet lanes with sharp gradients

Start: The National Trust Car-park off St. Mary's Road next to the church of St Mary's.

Start Grid Reference:

X : 400986

Y : 131585

Latitude : 51.083587

Longitude : -1.9873002

SU 00986 31585

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)

Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase
No. 118 and Salisbury & Stonehenge No. 130

Notes & Refreshments:

The Wyndham Arms.

A Country pub with its own car-park just a short distance away along the B3089 at the far end of the village near the thatched bus stop.

A wonderful circular walk that will take you through the magnificent Dinton Park and past the elegant Georgian mansion of Philipps House, through ancient woodland, along quiet winding country lanes and historic villages, each with a fascinating connection - Dinton with royalty; Baverstock with the military; and Compton Chamberlayne with an uprising during the Civil War.

1. From the National Trust Car-park along St Mary's Road next to St Mary's Church (dating back to early 13th Century), enter the picturesque National Trust owned Dinton Park through the gate with Philipps House in the distance.

2. Head R through the gate into and out of the churchyard passing Hyde's House (now a private residence) on L. Cross over the road.

3. At this point you could take a short 5 minute detour down Snow Hill to the Village Stores. Just past the shop on your R is Little Clarendon (owned by the National Trust and occasionally open to the public) and Lawes Cottage. Both are private residences but were once the homes of famous people. Retrace your steps back up Snow Hill to St. Mary's Church where the buildings form the oldest part of the village with most of them made of local Chilmark stone.

4. Opposite the church, take a narrow footpath between houses and follow this across a field and onto a footpath between fields. If you look to your R, you will see a small vineyard, a reminder that George, one of the younger sons of the family that owned Dinton House, founded the Wyndham Estate Vineyard in Australia.

5. Continue straight into Spracklands housing estate and cross over the road and past house number 34 keeping to boundary wall. Leave the housing estate through the gate, cross the field past East Farm on R and down the lane past thatched cottages and you will come to Sandhills Road. If you wish to shorten the walk and omit the loop around Baverstock (6-10), you can turn R down Sandhills Road. You will then come directly to the bus shelter at 11. Cross the B3089 (checking that it is safe to do so) and continue down the lane towards the railway line and Dinton Mill.

6. Go straight across Sandhills Road into the entrance to Manor Farm past The Duckyard B&B on L and into the farmyard. Pass by the stables on L and over stiles across fields with Dowys B&B to your R, with the ancient woodland known as The Hangings on your L.

7. Where the path enters the woodland, there is a permissive path to the L that takes you up along a higher path from which, especially in winter, you may enjoy views across open fields on either side. In summer, there is too much foliage, so take the lower track through the woodland until you reach Baverstock Lane. If you do take the higher path, it circles around the far end of the woodland and back a short way before you see the exit by the farm. Here, cross over the farm track (way mark on post opposite) and go behind farm.

8. Turn R along Baverstock Lane heading towards the pretty village of Baverstock and continue downhill along the lane heading towards the tiny church of St Edith.

9. After visiting the church, retrace your steps back uphill to Manor Cottage on your L. Along the far side of the house, bear L following footpath sign directly across field but turn L before its hedgerow boundary and follow it down in a southerly direction over stile into a second field, then bear R over

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stile into a third field and head in a south-westerly direction towards the B3089 Hindon Road. Cross over the road (ensuring it is safe to do so as this road can get busy) and walk along the verge back towards Dinton Village.

10. At the thatched roof bus shelter, turn L along lane across railway track (ensuring it is safe to do so) and straight on towards Dinton Mill.

11. At Dinton Mill (now a self-catering establishment), turn R in front of the house following the path over footbridge crossing the River Nadder. Continue straight ahead between water meadows. Turn R onto Horseshoe Lane past Elms Cottage, close to the stone marking the site of the King's Elm and continue towards the picturesque village of Compton Chamberlayne. On your L is Compton Place.

12. Turn R just beyond Kings Elm Cottages opposite the door to St Michael's Church and continue uphill along a sunken track with high banks. Follow the track along the edge of the woodland towards Home Farm. At the end of the path by an old sweet chestnut tree, bear R past the farm and continue along another grassy track of fields lined with more big sweet chestnut trees and then across fields with the woodland edge (Compton and Fovant Woods) on the R. Views of the famous Fovant Badges, a remarkable series of military badges etched into the hillside during WWI by Australian and British Soldiers can soon be seen on your L. Where the track bends to the L, turn R into the wood and follow a lovely track just inside the wood's boundary. The woodland slopes down to the R and is carpeted in bluebells in the spring.

13. You will reach the ancient Green Drove Bridleway. Turn L uphill and then immediately turn R over stile into field. From here, you can enjoy the breath-taking views of almost the whole of the Northern ridge of the Cranborne Chase, from the Fovant Badges to the L with the ancient earthworks of the iron-age hillfort of Chiselbury Rings above them, to Whitesheet Hill in the distance over to the R.

14. Follow the track along the woodland edge to a metal kissing gate into field keeping to the southern edge of the woodland and over stile and then head westwards across field down to a kissing gate onto Catherine Ford Road leading to Fovant Village. Turn R on the road.

15. Bear L before the bend in road onto an unmarked footpath through a field, over a stile at the bottom, across track through metal gates, across the next field and through a further metal gate to your R. The sewage treatment works are on the L. This part of the walk runs parallel with the track of a military railway built during WWI from Dinton to Fovant to serve the training camp situated below the downs. After the kissing gate, bear R following field edge through metal gate and continue along hedge until you see Mill Farm in the distance on L. Where the field-edge path stops, turn sharp L across field towards the River Nadder and the farm. Follow the path down across several stiles along the chalk river and across footbridge to go around the south side of the farm keeping close to the fence on L. At the end of the fence, cross footbridge over stile into field and walk diagonally uphill in a north-easterly direction towards railway line.

16. Go under railway bridge across fields (you can use the two stiles to the R of this bridge if you prefer), turn R along the field edge then L across field into the wood and out over a stile past barns on your L heading in a north easterly direction across fields and stiles. In the distance to your L is the Nadder Valley Plant Nurseries. At the last stile, head to the L of the 'stag headed' tree, the other side of the power-lines, to a stile onto the B3089.

17. Cross over B3089 (making sure it is safe to do so as this is a busy road) and enter the splendid Dinton Park. Bear R and continue along path past the lake on your R back to the National Trust Car-park. There is a lovely view near the lake up to Philipps House.

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 Philipps House. This is an early 19th Century Georgian mansion built of local Chilmark stone. The house was originally called Dinton House built in 1816 by William Wyndham to designs by English Architect Sir Jeffry Wyattville, who also worked on Windsor Castle. It is similar in style to Pythouse near Tisbury, where there are other visitor attractions. The house was purchased by Bertram Philipps in 1916 who renamed it Philipps House after himself! It was then granted to the National Trust in 1943 (check opening times for the house). As well as being owned by wealthy landowners of standing, the building has been used by the United States Army in WWII with Nissen huts across the park and as a Christian women's retreat. On the ridge behind the house on private ground is Wick Ball Camp, an Iron Age Hill-Fort. On a clear day, the spire of Salisbury Cathedral can be seen from the highest point on the estate.

B Hyde's House. Now a private residence but named after Edward Hyde born in Dinton in 1608 and baptised in the local church. Hyde was Lord Chancellor and first Earl of Clarendon. His daughter Anne married the future King James II and was mother to two English Monarchs Queen Mary II & Queen Anne.

C Little Clarendon and Lawes Cottage. Little Clarendon is a delightful 15th Century Tudor stone farmhouse once owned by George Engleheart in the early 1900s, known amongst horticulturists for the cultivation of new varieties of daffodils which he grew in the garden here. Many of the species he once cultivated, grow in the fields and woodlands behind the house. There is also a former Roman Catholic chapel in an outbuilding next to Little Clarendon built by the wife of George Engleheart. Next door, Lawes Cottage was believed to have been the home of Henry Lawes, an outstanding 17th Century composer. Both are now private residences.

D The Hangings. This is a traditional name for a wood growing on the side of a hill rather than anything sinister! The woodlands are spectacular in spring and summer when they are covered in carpets of snowdrops and bluebells.

E The Church of St Edith. This is dedicated to St Edith, the illegitimate daughter of King Edgar who died in 984. The earliest part is 14th Century. In the charming country churchyard you will find the war graves of Australian soldiers who died locally in WWI mostly from diseases like influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis.

F Dinton Mill. Probably dates from the 18th Century but there has been a Mill here since the 1200s. Milling was a dangerous operation centuries ago. In 1249, the Miller Thomas Cole was killed by an inner wheel of the Mill. The Mill ceased to grind corn early in the 20th Century. It is now an idyllic spot, good for kingfishers and brown trout. Spend a few moments relaxing and listening to the peaceful sounds of running water. The water meadows around Dinton Mill are now valuable wildlife habitat, but from the 17th Century onwards, they were allowed to flood to protect the grass from winter frosts, which gave improved yields of grass for grazing sheep and cattle.

G Compton Chamberlayne is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and of all the Nadder Valley villages, one which has changed little over the years.

H Compton Place. Once home of Colonel John Penruddock, an English Cavalier who led a Royalist uprising to overthrow Oliver Cromwell and take Salisbury, but was executed in 1655 for the attempt.