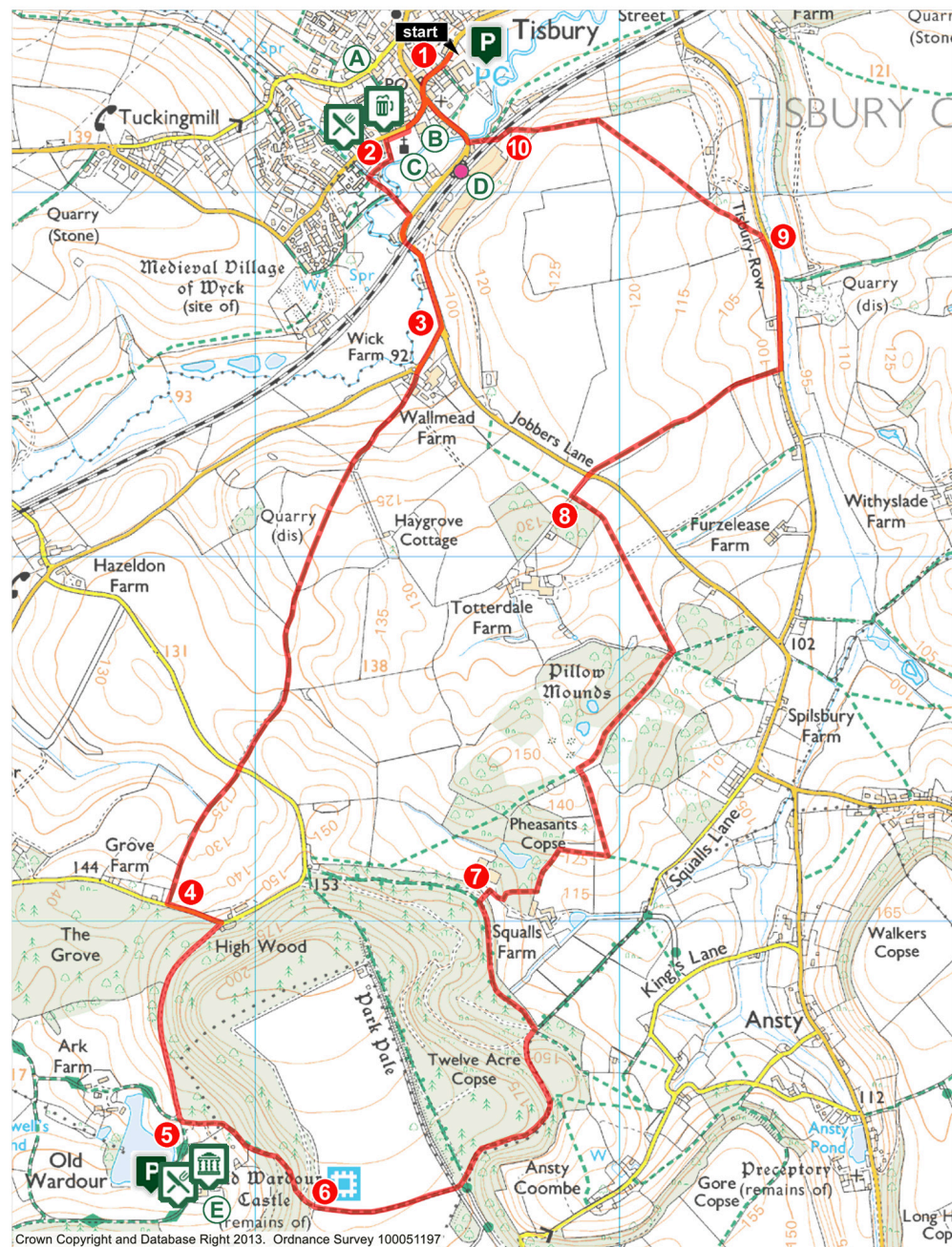


Walk 5: The magic of Tisbury to Old Wardour Castle

Length of Walk
5.5 miles (9km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 118
Walk Start: ST 94554 29381



Key

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

Distance: 5.5 miles (9km)

Time: Allow 3 hrs

Terrain: Field path, tracks and quiet lanes with easy gradients - a moderately challenging walk.

Start: Nadder Close car-park behind Tisbury's friendly and vibrant High Street or South West Trains call at Tisbury Railway Station.

Start Grid Reference:

X : 394554

Y : 129381

Latitude : 51.063738

Longitude : -2.0790941

ST 94554 29381

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)

Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase No. 118

Notes & Refreshments:

South West Trains call at Tisbury Railway Station regularly. Public toilets are located behind the High Street in Tisbury.

Refreshments are available at a kiosk at Old Wardour Castle and good selection of pubs, deli and tearoom in Tisbury High Street.

Tisbury is the largest of the Nadder Valley villages and its roots stretch back to Saxon times. It even once had its own monastery and stone circle like Stonehenge. On this circular walk, experience a mysterious dramatic landscape steeped in history and discover one of the Nadder Valley's best kept secrets - the magnificent Old Wardour Castle. Enjoy spectacular views across open countryside, farmland, woodland, along quiet lanes and tracks.

1. From the car-park, turn L along The Avenue and take a L turn onto the High Street. After passing the Market Square on the R, cross over the busy High Street ensuring it is safe to do so, and continue along Church Road. After passing a tall red brick building on the L with a high roof which used to be a brewery, now private flats, turn L through into the churchyard of St John the Baptist which is well worth a visit.

2. Follow the path through the churchyard towards the River Nadder at the rear of the church. The path is pleasant route taking you alongside the river past a children's play-area on the R and straight ahead to the main road leading back to the High Street. Tisbury Railway Station is straight ahead and the South Western Hotel, one of two hotels built at the same time as the railway is on your L. Turn R and continue straight along the road under railway-bridge with River Nadder to the R.

3. Turn R at the brown tourist sign marked Old Wardour Castle and continue along the lane. Wallmead Farm is on L. Go through farmyard past cattle sheds, following the track through the gate into a field. Continue straight on through the middle of this field and follow the edge of fields until you reach a lane and cross over this.

4. Head straight on across a field keeping to R hand side along hedgerow. Turn L along Nightingale Lane and turn R along the first track continuing through the woods following the boundary between High Wood and The Grove.

5. As you emerge from the woodland, Ark Farm and Cresswell Pond are in the distance to your R. Turn L along the lane towards the magnificent ruins of Old Wardour Castle. Follow the track past the car-park and entrance to the Castle on R which is well worth a visit.

6. At top of the incline to woodland, turn L along fenced track between fields and continue straight on following the path into woodland called Twelve Acre Copse. Ignore the main path which bears to R which leads to the village of Ansty. Instead, take L track which continues downhill, not track that goes immediately L. Continue straight on downhill past Squalls Farm on R and following the way-marker towards barn. Ignore restricted by-way and carry straight on.

7. Opposite the barn (part of Squalls Farm), turn R along the access route leading to Squalls Farm, and then immediately L through woodland (Pheasants Copse) following way-marker. Cross over track at edge of woodland and continue straight on over the stile

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into a field. Ignore path to L and follow fence-line at edge of field until you see a stile ahead of you near a group of mature oak trees on R. Go over stile into field and head in a north-westerly direction to the top of field and over stile and turn R along the track into woodland. At the crossroads, turn L and immediately R over small wooden footbridge, over stile and straight on across field. Totterdale Farm is to the L. Continue straight on crossing over access lane leading to the farm and continue straight ahead.

8. Turn L along lane to end, cross over Jobbers Lane and continue straight ahead along gravelled farm track between fields, enjoying vistas of open countryside. In the distance about 1km away to the R above Withyslade Farm shrouded by woodland is Castle Ditches, an Iron Age Hill Fort where early inhabitants of Tisbury may have once fought, settled and worshipped. Continue downhill past cottage on the R to Tisbury Row and turn L towards Tisbury. Alternatively, if you would like to shorten the walk, instead of turning L, you could continue straight ahead along the footpath through the field heading towards Wallmead Farm and then turn L onto Jobbers Lane and back towards Tisbury.

9. Continue past entrance to Haredene Farm and Lime Cottage on R and just after this at the footpath sign on the L, take the steps up, following the path through the fields, admiring the surrounding views from the top across Tisbury and the River Nadder, before descending down the slope and down steps to the railway line

10. Cross over railway line (making sure it is safe to do so) and turn L down lane near the entrance to the railway station. Turn R back to Tisbury's quaint High Street with its range of friendly pubs, shops, and coffee shop and the car-park at Nadder Close behind the High Street.

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 and High Street. Often referred to as a town but it is in fact a village and the largest village in the Nadder Valley and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It's an excellent base from which to explore the surrounding countryside and AONB. Enjoy Tisbury's diverse and vibrant High Street with its range of independent shops, pubs and tearoom.

Tisbury's name is derived from the Saxon name Tysse's Burgh, meaning 'the stronghold of Tysse's people'. Interestingly, there is another Tisbury in Massachusetts, America. One of Tisbury's earlier residents was Thomas Mayhew born in 1593 who made his fortune in the New World purchasing offshore islands including Martha's Vineyard. His son, Rev Thomas Mayhew began the first English Settlement in 1642 at a place now called Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard, one of the two original towns on the Island, the other being Tisbury!

B Tisbury Brewery. The tall red brick building with a high roof along Church Road was a brewery in the 1800s delivering beer by shire-horse to the surrounding area. Prior to this, it was the site of a workhouse as early as 1769 where the rural poor lived in squalid cramped conditions. Sandwiched between the graveyard and mortuary, it was known as 'the dead house'.

C St John the Baptist Church. This 12th Century church is located on the banks of the River Nadder, exceptionally large for a village church, it contains much interest. Just north of the church was believed to be the site of a large saxon monastery which was destroyed by the Vikings in the 8th Century. Many interesting people are buried here such as Lady Blanche, defender of Old Wardour Castle during the Civil War, members of the Arundell family including Lady Ann Arundell, whose husband Lord Baltimore founded the new colony of Maryland in America, and two stone slabs in memory of Rudyard Kipling's parents to the east of the churchyard. There is also a giant yew tree believed to be over 4,000 years old sacred to celtic/saxon traditions.

D Tisbury Railway Station. Constructed in 1859. Currently managed by South West Trains and on the London Waterloo to Exeter Line. Salisbury is only about 10mins away via train.

E Old Wardour Castle. Managed by English Heritage, it is one of the Nadder Valley's hidden gems. Built late 14th Century as a fortified dwelling, it is unusually hexagonal in shape. It was owned by the Arundell family in 1547 and the scene of two Civil War sieges between the Royalists and Parliamentarians in 1643-4. Children will love exploring the castle rooms and grotto built in the 18th Century and all that is left today of Tisbury's Stone Circle as the last three standing stones were used in its construction.