

Points of Interest on this route (see map overleaf for locations)

- (A) Burcombe Village.** There were once two settlements; South Burcombe (the main settlement) and North Burcombe, once thriving, now only the redundant church of St. John remains, possibly one of the oldest in the Nadder Valley for it is of Saxon origin. Unusually, the tower is lower than the nave (main part of the church).
- (B) Burcombe Manor.** This was reportedly built for Lord Herbert of Lea, a friend of Florence Nightingale who was a pioneering British nurse in the 1800s.



Burcombe Manor

and wheat.

(E) Folly Clump. Although not a distinctive feature on the ground, this is thought to be an Iron Age Hill Fort enclosure which occupied high ground and would have been defended by ditches. This type of ancient settlement may have been seasonal and used during the summer months for keeping sheep and growing crops like barley

attracting lots of butterflies.

(D) Burcombe Down. The grassy slopes above The Punch Bowl are a valuable area for wildlife and notified as a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is an area of chalk grassland rich in wildflowers, now a declining habitat in Britain due to modern farming practices. Harebell, scabious, knapweed, primrose, ox-eye daisy and orchids are all present during the summer months

is exceptionally long so it was ideal for long range rifle practice! was also used as a rifle range during WWI and possibly WWII too. It have since been destroyed. Interestingly, The Punch Bowl Nadder Valley along chalk ridge-lines where they could be seen for a long distance, but most

(C) The Punch Bowl. This is a spectacular archaeological feature. Numerous ancient earthworks have been found here, memorials to Neolithic and Bronze Age tribes who were the first to inhabit the area. It is listed as a site of a round barrow. There were once a series of round barrows (Burcombe Ivers Barrows) along the ridge line above The Punch Bowl. Numerous round barrows were constructed during the Bronze Age as burial sites throughout the Nadder Valley along chalk ridge-lines where they could be seen for a long distance, but most



Burcombe is a pretty village that dates back to Saxon times and stands beside the River Nadder. Enjoy this walk through a peaceful rural landscape of chalk downland which boasts stunning views and a fascinating archaeological history.

Start: The Villa Verde pub, restaurant and bar on Burcombe Lane OS Explorer Map 130 (Salisbury and Stonehenge) OS Grid Reference SU 069310 | W3W: rebounds.initiated.saunas

Parking: The car park of the Villa Verde pub, restaurant and bar (formerly the Ship Inn) in Burcombe Lane) OR at the side of the restricted byway beside the wall on the right, just beyond Manor Farm Barns.

Terrain: Stone tracks, field paths and quiet country lanes with one initially steep then long gradual ascent and one long gentle descent.

Length: Approximately 3.4 miles / 5.4 km.

Approximate time: 2 hours.

Dogs: Please keep on short lead if livestock is present.

Good to know: The fieldside path that leads downhill from The Punch Bowl is a rich haven for wildflowers in the spring and summer, so expect the grass to be quite thick and long along this section of the walk.

Refreshments: At Villa Verde, which has a pretty beer garden that slopes down to the river. There is a picnic spot at the village hall, OS. Grid Reference SU072309 | W3W: sweeter.shimmered.with

The information is only intended as a general guide. Please check local arrangements.



Respect everyone
Protect the environment
Enjoy the outdoors
Follow advice and local signs

Share your pictures with us at [#cranbornechase](https://www.cranbornechase.org.uk)



Cranborne Chase National Landscape



[cranbornechase.org.uk](https://www.cranbornechase.org.uk)



Cranborne Chase National Landscape

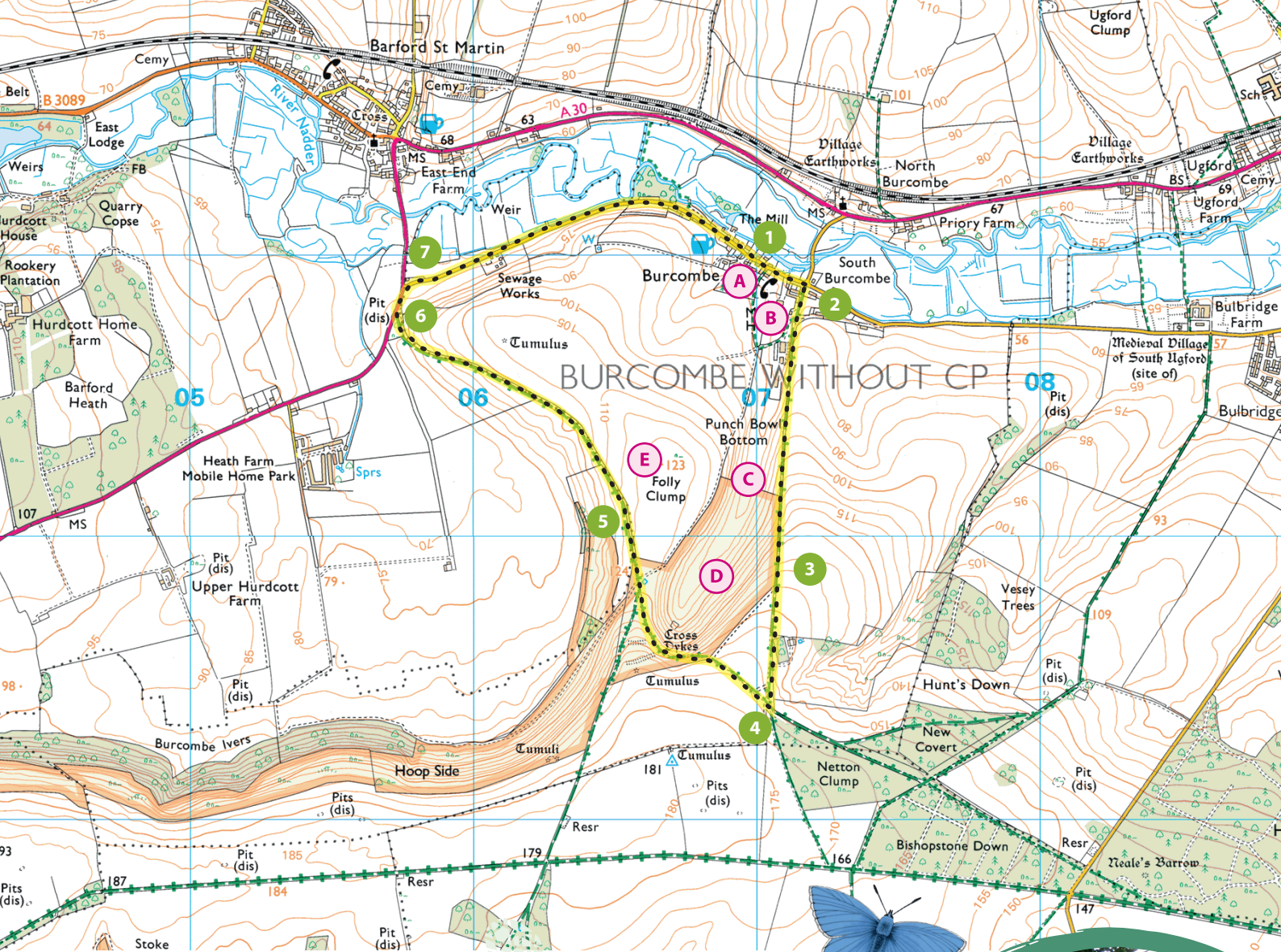


Burcombe and The Punch Bowl

A walk through a downland landscape with a rich history of human activity

WALK #
W1





Directions

1 From the car park of Villa Verde, turn left along Burcombe Lane through the village, passing pretty thatched cottages and Burcombe Manor. Continue along the road, past Manor Farm on your right.

2 Turn right at the crossroads, immediately after Manor Farm Meats, onto a wide stone farm access road, and restricted byway, passing the offices of several small businesses. Beyond these offices there is space beside the high wall on the right for vehicle parking, as an alternative to the car park of Villa Verde.

Bear slightly to the left of the track to the farm to begin the steady climb along the Restricted Byway, passing above the farm and then with views down into Punch Bowl Bottom.

3 As the track leads higher above the Punch Bowl, views to the left on a clear day extend eastwards over the fields and woods to the spire of Salisbury Cathedral and beyond. The area is good for spotting skylarks, yellow hammers and other farmland birds. Continue along the byway, high above the spectacular archaeological feature of The Punch Bowl.

4 At the top of the track, turn to admire the panoramic views across the Nadder Valley. Take the first turning to the right, just before a wide metal field gate and continue along the restricted byway, following the track downhill around the head of The Punch Bowl to the right and the cross-dykes of ancient earthworks to the left.

*Hollow way
leading down
to the A30*

5 Continue downhill, bearing to the left to reach a metal gate onto a grassy track along the edge of the fields on the left. The bank to the right of the track is a mass of wildflowers busy with butterflies in the summer. Continue past Folly Clump to your right and downhill into a sunken lane between hedges that becomes a hollow way that leads to the busy A30 road.

6 Do not cross the road, but turn right along the edge of it for about 50 metres. Take care here, as the traffic can be fast-moving. Turn right into Burcombe Lane, signposted to Burcombe. Facing the oncoming traffic, stay on the road for approximately 1 mile, all the way back to the village and the Villa Verde.

