

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

**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 National Landscape 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 Old 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 Haredeane Wood.** These are rich in wildlife and archaeology. Look out for corn-bunting and lapwing in spring. Archaeological remains have been found here such as a Neolithic flint tool and Medieval pottery fragments.

**D Castle Ditches.** South of Haredeane 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 tithed 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.



Step back in time on this circular walk to Chicksgrove, with its charming 14th century inn and cottages built of beautiful Chilmark stone and thatch. A perfect stroll for a summer evening or family outing.

**Start:** The Nadder Close Car Park in Tisbury. Ordnance Survey Explorer Series Map 118 | OS Grid Reference ST 945293 | W3W tablets.clusters.neckline

**Parking:** Nadder Close Car Park in Tisbury, or use public transport to Tisbury Railway Station.

**Terrain:** Quiet lanes, field paths and farm tracks in gently rolling countryside.

**Length:** Approximately 5 miles / 8 km.

**Approximate time:** 2.5 hours.

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

**Good to know:** Public toilets are located next to the car park at Nadder Close. South-West trains call frequently at Tisbury Station.

**Refreshments:** Tisbury has a good selection of pubs, cafés and shops. The Compasses Inn is located at the mid-point of this walk, in the village of Chicksrope.

*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

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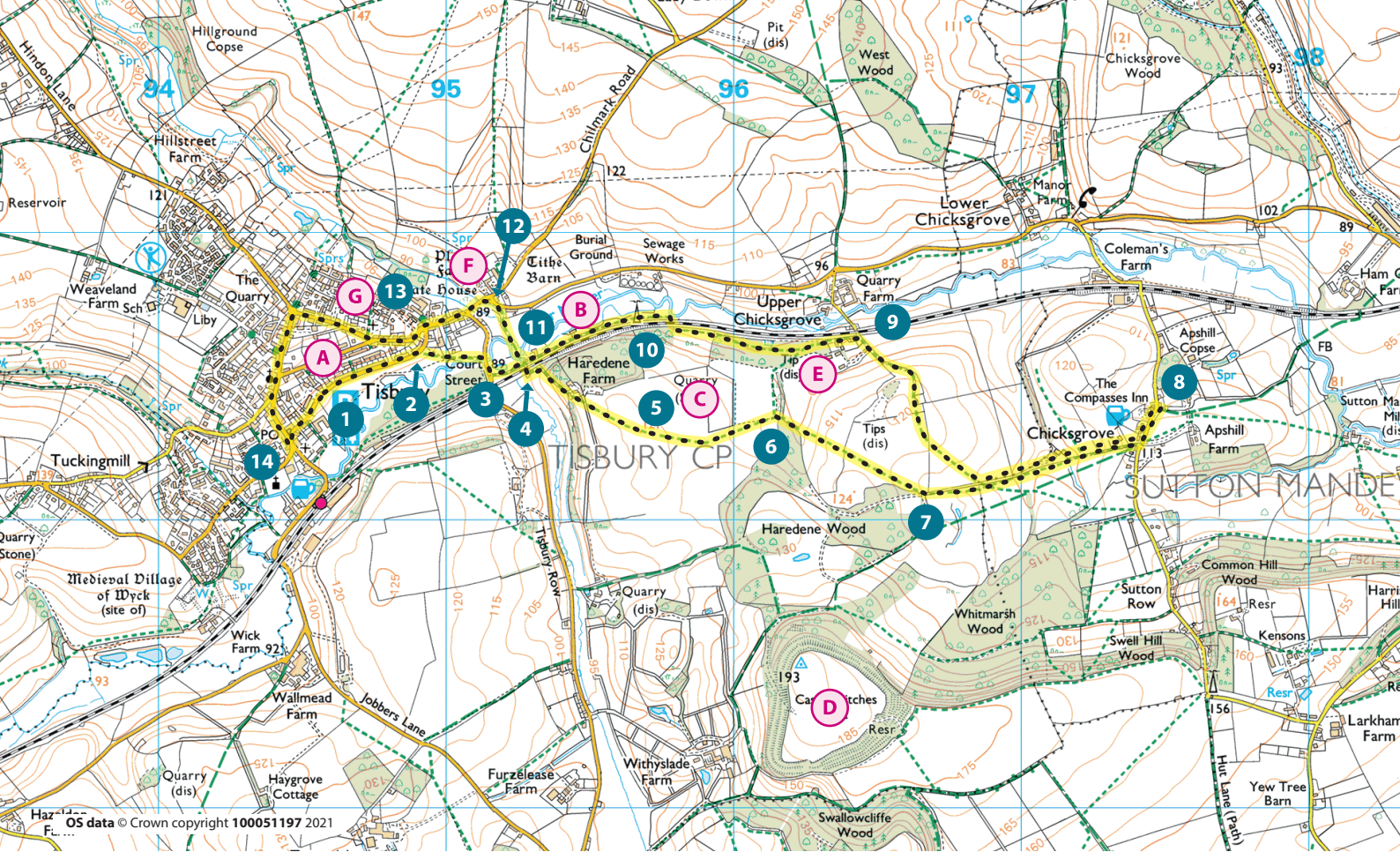


## Tisbury and Chicksgrove

A gentle ramble from the thriving town of Tisbury to the village of Chicksgrove.

WALK #  
**W6**





## Directions

**1** From the entrance to the main car park off Nadder Close behind Tisbury's quaint high street, turn right along The Avenue and continue straight ahead for approximately 500 metres.

**2** Turn right off The Avenue down steps with a handrail and through a metal gate into the field below. Follow the worn path diagonally to the left across the field towards the River Nadder and onto the road.

**3** Turn right to cross the bridge over the river, then almost immediately turn left onto a signposted public footpath beside the railway line, along the drive to The Mill.

**4** Just past the pond and before the mill, turn right under the railway arch and cross a stile onto a narrow path that bears left to a stile. Cross the stile and bear diagonally to the right across the field, with Haredene Farm to the left, to a stile into the next field. Turn to see the panoramic view of Tisbury behind you.

**5** Cross another stile into a large field and walk diagonally to the right across the field, heading south-east towards the ancient woodland of Haredene. Above the wood, although hidden by the trees, stands the Iron-Age Hill Fort of Castle Ditches.

**6** Go through the gap in the trees at the end of the field, where Roe Deer are often seen, and head slightly uphill in a south-easterly direction across the field to a grassy track beside the wood. Follow the grassy track along to the left to meet a stone farm track between the fields.

**7** Bear left along the track passing to the right of farm buildings and uphill to the village of Chicks Grove, where a charming thatch-roofed inn, The Compasses, dates from the 14th century.

**8** Once you have explored the village, return back along the farm track. As you climb the rising track beyond the farm buildings look for a metal kissing gate through the hedge on the right. As you pass through the gate into the field, look ahead to the left to see a barn. Head diagonally to the left to cross the field, aiming to pass through a wide gap in the hedge, before the barn. Turn right through the gap and walk alongside the hedge to a metal gate; just before the barn. Keep to the left of the barns to meet and continue along a farm track that curves to the left and downhill to a pass through a gate.

**9** Continue downhill towards the railway line. Just before the railway crossing turn left onto a public footpath along a private drive to Quarry Cottage. Pass to the right of the cottage and along a narrow path between the woods and the railway. Chicks Grove Quarry lies to the left. Where you see the sign 'Danger Deep Water' please keep dogs on leads.

**10** The path leads over stiles to cross the railway (please take care here). Turn left along the upper edge of the fields with the railway line to your left, to arrive back at The Old Mill.

**11** Turn back on yourself through the wooden gates onto the forecourt of the Old Mill then turn immediately to the left across the forecourt to a gap onto a narrow path that crosses a footbridge and then a sluice gate over the River Nadder before leading to the road through woodland that is carpeted with snowdrops in the spring.

**12** Turn left along the road, crossing the river just after passing the magnificent outer gateway of Place Farm, on the right. Bear left onto and along Court Street and, ignoring all other turns to the left and right, continue into Cuffs Lane to climb uphill past Zion Hill Cottage and the imposing Zion Hill Chapel, built in Gothic style in 1842 but now no longer in use as a chapel.

**13** At the top of Cuffs Lane, turn left and head downhill into the High Street, past the Boot Inn and the Bennett pub. Turn left beyond the post office to return along the road to Nadder Close.