

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

**(A)** The parish of Kingston Deverill, which includes the village of Monkton Deverill, is in the **Deverill Valley** which carries the upper reaches of the River Wylye, a chalk stream which eventually joins the River Nadder at Wilton which itself flows into the Hampshire Avon close to Salisbury Cathedral. The surrounding landscape has many bowl barrows, from the Iron Age or earlier. Two Roman Roads crossed the ford at Kingston Deverill. The Domesday Book of 1806, when the land was held by the canons of Lisieux recorded a settlement of nine households. Ownership was then taken by the Crown, from which the Kingston prefix originated. The church of St. Mary is from the 15th century.

**(B)** **Whitesheet Hill**, on Mere Down close to point 7 of this walk is a significant archaeological site where there is a 5000-year-old Neolithic enclosure, a circular earthenwork, round barrows and an iron-age hill fort. There is also a designated Nature Reserve which provides a rich habitat for butterflies and flowers. To visit, continue straight ahead along the byway to a stile and information board. There is also a pedestrian gate a little further along the byway.

**(C)** **The Mid Wilts Way**, from Ham Hill within the North Wessex Downs AONB and close to the boundary of Wiltshire with West Berkshire stretches for almost the full breadth of Wiltshire for 68 miles to finish in Mere, close to the boundary with the county of Somerset. It can be walked in either direction.

**(D)** **Kingston Deverill** is the location of the airfield of the Bath, Wilts and North Dorset Gliding Club. Trial lessons and flights and flying lessons are available from qualified instructors. Contact the club for more details: <https://www.yumping.co.uk/gliding/bath-wilts-n-dorset-gliding-club-e15885>.



Quiet lanes, bridleways, byways and footpaths in undulating countryside.


**Start Point:** Point 1 or Point 6 on the map (Route Directions commence from Kingston Deverill). OS Explorer 143 | ST846370 \ W3W: stamped.rolled.goblin. If starting at Mere Down, follow the directions from Point 6.

**Parking:** Roadside parking is available on the verge of Kingston Lane in Kingston Deverill, at Point 1 on the map (you will need to refer to the map because there is no nameplate sign to indicate the name of the road), or at Mere Down at Point 6 on the map.

**Terrain:** Some stiles and gates. Some of the byways, bridleways and footpaths can be muddy in parts.

**Length:** Approximately 9.5 miles / 15.2 km.

**Approximate time:** 4.5 hours.

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

**Refreshments:** None available on the route. The nearby town of Mere has shops, a post office, a café, public houses and the Hillbrush Brush Factory Visitor centre which has a restaurant.

**Good to know:** This walk is best enjoyed when the weather is fine but not extremely hot or very windy! If you are lucky, you will be serenaded by skylarks as you cross the downs. This walk can be linked at Mere Down with Walk W37. The town of Mere is 1.7 miles / 2.7 km away and will take about 40 minutes to reach.

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

## Kingston Deverill and Charnage Down

Ups and downs of West Wiltshire

WALK #  
**W36**







## Directions

- 1 Walk north on Kingston Lane until it turns sharply to the left. Take the road to the right, to reach a ford at the River Wylve. Cross the footbridge then over a stile on the left onto a signposted footpath across a field.
- 2 Cross the stile onto the road and turn left to the village of Monkton Deverill. Where the road bends to the left, go straight ahead into the village. Take the next road to the right, passing barns on your right, and a small wood on your left. At the end of the lane go through the gate into the field.
- 3 Bear left up the hillside, climbing past a belt of trees below you to the right, to go through a small gate in the hedge ahead. Follow the path straight ahead to reach and pass through the edge of a wood.

Continue along the path at the edge of the next field as it turns right and then left to pass the buildings at Keysley Farm.

- 4 Continue along the grass verge of the farm access road then take the signposted bridleway along the track to your right, between open fields. Ahead in the distance you will see vehicles passing along the busy A303. Follow the track into a shallow valley and go through the gap ahead to follow the waymarked path around to the right then to the left to pass the wood on your left. Stay on the track at the edge of the field as it climbs to reach the A303, then go right along the edge of the field until reaching a layby beside the A303.

- 5 Bear right onto the grassy byway that stretches ahead and continue along the line of this ancient Roman Road, passing Mere Down Farm on your right. When you reach Mere Down, go straight across the road and continue along the byway. **Vehicle parking is available here, so it can be chosen instead of Kingston Deverill as the starting point for your walk.**

- 6 Follow the byway until you come to a gate on your right where there is a waymark arrow on the gate post.
- 7 Go through the gate onto the downs, and with the fence to your right keep straight ahead to go through three more gates and arrive at the airfield of the Gliding Club.
- 8 Go left, downhill and through another gate. Turn right along the ridge before descending to a gate onto a farm track. Go through the gate opposite and across the field to gate onto a lane.

- 9 Follow the lane to the left and then around to the right. At the next road junction fork left along the lane, beside the River Wylve.

- 10 Take the next road on your right to return to Kingston Lane from where you started this walk (or follow these directions from point 1 to point 6 if you began your walk at Mere Down).



Monkton Deverill