



The River Wylye



Salisbury Cathedral. The Hampshire Avon, close to River Nadder which itself flows into alone. At Wilton the Wylye joins the streams are found in Southern England

- (D) The Ox Drove** is an ancient drovers' route over the downs of Dorset and Wiltshire along which cattle were herded from Devon and Somerset to the Hampshire ports.
- (E) The River Wylye**, which commences in the Deverill Valley to the south-west of Warmminster is a globally rare type of river known as a chalk stream. Over 80% of the world's chalk streams are found in Southern England



- (B) South Newton** has existed as a settlement since Saxon times. It is largely a 10th century estate which lies between the River Wylye and the hills to the north-east. The village originated along with its neighbours Stoford, Chilhampton and Little Wishford, with each village having a strip of land down to the river and up onto the downland
- (C) Grovely Wood** is owned by the Duke of Pembroke and is part of the Wilton Estate. The western section of Grovely Wood is leased to the Forestry Commission. Designated as a County Wildlife Site, butterflies which can be found here include the Purple Emperor and the Brown Hairstreak.
- (A) The village of Great Wishford** pre-dates the Norman Conquest of 1066. A church was recorded here in 1207. The present Church of England parish church of St. Giles was largely re-built during restoration in 1863-4.

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

'Figure of 8 walk' allowing one long walk or several shorter ones, with various start options. Taking in the River Wylye, Grovely Wood and the Ox Drove over the downs, the views change constantly.

**Start Point:** Informal car park at the end of Grovely Road, at the foot of Grovely Wood. OS Explorer 130 | SU062347 \ W3W:obtain.flippers.windy

**Parking:** Either at Grovely Road **1** or the Ox Drove **3** (see map). Both are informal parking areas, with room for about 12 vehicles at Grovely Road and about 5 vehicles at Shaftesbury Drove.

**Terrain:** Byways, bridleways and footpaths. Woodland sections can be muddy. Several long and moderately steep sections. Gates, and one stile.

**Length:** 9 miles / 15 km for full route. Shorter options.

**Approximate time:** 4.5 hours.

**Dogs:** Please keep dogs on a lead wherever livestock are present.

**Good to know:** Bus services along the A36 are frequent, so it is possible to start this walk from the village of South Newton for anyone who wishes to use public transport.

**Refreshments:** None are available on the walk itself but a short detour via linking paths into South Newton is available.

*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://twitter.com/cranbornechase)



Cranborne Chase National Landscape



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



Cranborne Chase National Landscape



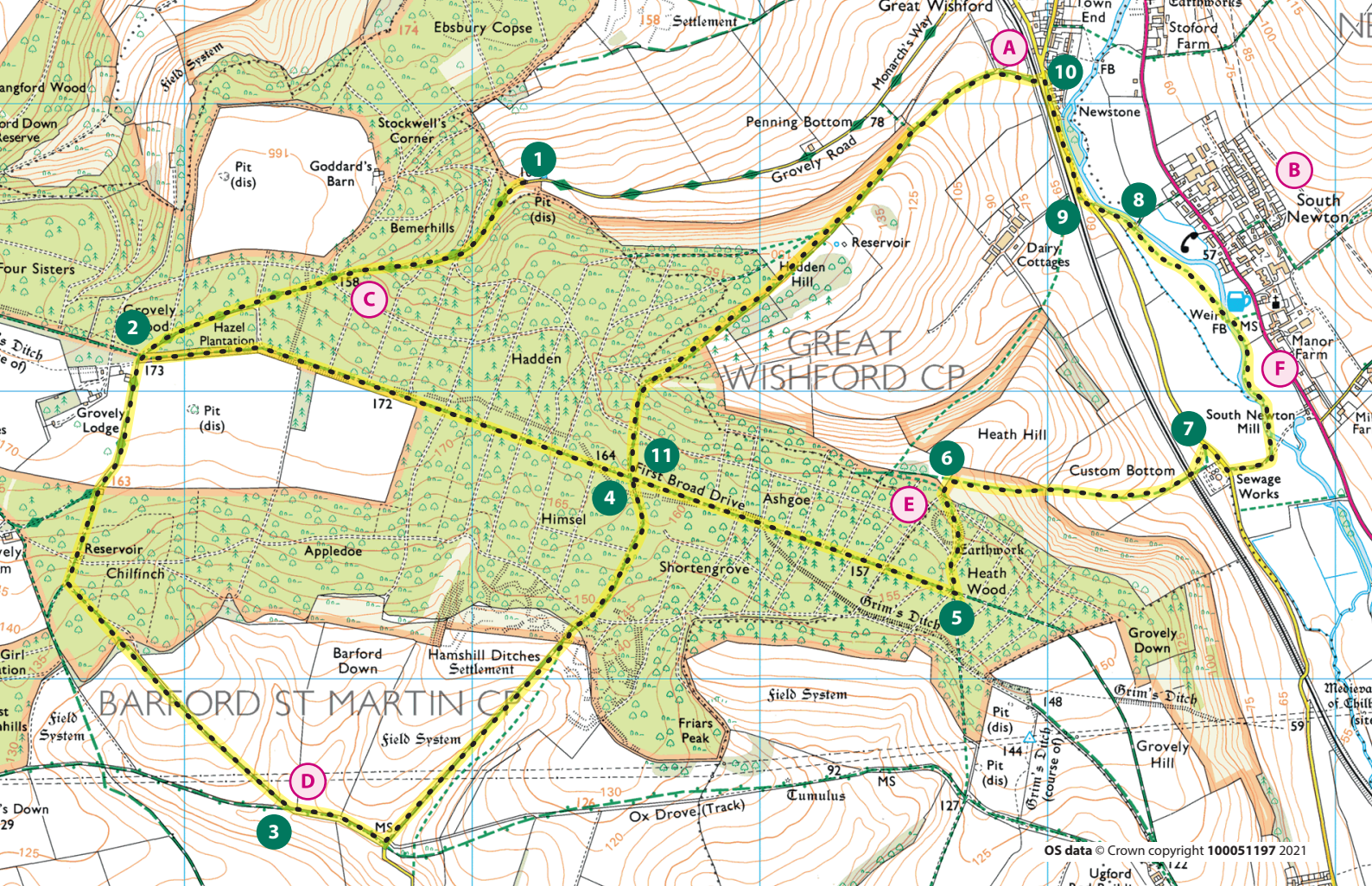
## Grovely Wood, South Newton and Great Wishford

Wylye Valley to Grovely Wood

WALK #  
**W44**







## Directions

**1** From the car park, follow the road uphill through the woods. At the top, the main track bends to the right onto Second Broad Drive. A waymark on the telegraph pole points straight ahead along the bridleway. Go past a barn on the right then alongside the field on the left.

**2** At the wood, take the waymarked bridleway along the track to the left then at the next waymark post go left again. At the end of the wood the track continues between hedges, with superb views over the countryside to the south. At the vehicle barrier, turn right onto the Ox Drove.

**3** Pass through a gate across the drove. The Ox Drove continues straight ahead and the road to the right leads to Barford St. Martin. Leave the Ox Drove at the old milestone on the left and take the signposted bridleway uphill into Grovely Wood again. Continue through the wood to a crossroads with a wide stone track, First Broad Drive.

**4** This is the centrepiece of our 'Figure of 8' route, at OS Grid Reference SU065336 | W3W: entrusted.sock.stiffly. From here, there are three different options:

**To return to the car park at point 1, turn left along First Broad Drive. When the track bends to the right, keep straight ahead on the path through the trees to return to point 2. Turn right to go back downhill to the car park.**

**To go to Great Wishford at point 12, cross First Broad Drive and go straight ahead along the bridleway, all the way to the bridge under the railway at the village.**

**For the full route, turn right along First Broad Drive. Stay on the drive until reaching the second of two blue 'permissive bridleway' signs which are attached onto the opposite side of large trees. Keep your eyes peeled, as you will only see the signs when you have passed the trees.**



**5** The second sign, at OS Grid Reference SU076333 | W3W: irritated.greet.expand, points along a grassy track to the left. Waymark posts lead to a grassy clearing in Heath Wood, where a Wilton Estate information board explains that this was an Iron Age enclosure probably used as a holding for animals. At the right hand corner, the path leads to a stile at the edge of woods and views to Salisbury Plain.

**6** Turn right over the stile, downhill to a bridleway gate and through another gate on the left to cross a large field, heading towards the railway, the sewage works and the road. Cross the railway, taking care to look and listen both ways for approaching trains.

**7** At the road turn right, then turn left opposite the sewage works onto a signposted footpath that crosses a bridge over the River Wylde then turns left along the riverbank. At the next bridge, which crosses back over the river at a weir, there is a path to the right into South Newton. Cross the bridge and continue along the bank of the river to the next bridge at which another path leads to South Newton.

**8** Do not cross the bridge. Follow the tarmac path beside the river, where a bench provides a place to rest and watch the water go by.

**9** At the end of the path, turn right along the road, between the river and the railway, to Great Wishford.

**10** On entering Great Wishford, turn left to go under the railway bridge onto a track that bends to the right and then to the left onto a waymarked bridleway that climbs back up to and through Grovely Wood and the crossroads at First Broad Drive and point 4. Turn right along the drive, and when it turns to the right go straight ahead on the path through the trees to arrive back at point 2. Turn right onto the road down the hill to the car park at Grovely Road.

