



(G) King Down at the northern extremity of this walk is the site of a Bronze Age Bowl Barrow, 2.2 metres high and 20 metres in diameter.

(F) Badbury Rings. Part of the National Trust estate, Badbury Rings is one of 32 Iron-Age hill forts in Dorset, although there is also evidence of Bronze Age (2350 – 701 BC) and Roman occupation. The innermost of the three rings is thought to date from around 500 – 600 BC.

(E) All Fools Lane. An ancient trackway, it is thought that the original name was All Souls' Lane but became corrupted by an error of transcription at some time in its history when the 'S' was mistaken for an 'F'.



King Down Farm

Between Wimborne Minster and Kingston Lacy along the route of our walk, signs will be seen for the **Stour Valley Way**, a 64-mile long-distance footpath which follows the course of the River Stour all of the way from Stourhead in Wiltshire to Hengistbury Head on the Dorset coast.

A circular walk from the centre of Wimborne Minster exploring Pamphill Green, the Kingston Lacy Estate, Badbury Rings and King Down, returning to Wimborne Minster via Pamphill.

Start: Wimborne Minster: OS Explorer 118 | Grid Reference SZ 009999 | W3W: joined.outwards.octagon

Parking: Pay and Display car park at King Street in Wimborne Minster, or there are small informal car parks as shown on the route map.

Terrain: Footpaths, bridleways and quiet lanes in gently undulating countryside. Some stiles and gates between Wimborne Minster and Pamphill. Paths can sometimes be muddy.

Length: Approximately 9 miles / 14.5km.

Approximate time: 3 hours.

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

Good to know: Wimborne Minster has all the facilities of a small and busy market town.

Refreshments: Cafes, restaurants, pubs and shops in Wimborne Minster. The Vine Inn and the Pamphill Dairy and Farm Shop and cafe at Pamphill. National Trust cafe at Kingston Lacy House.

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)

where markets granted by the church were held. Wildlife Trust, the green was once a place Trust, Dorset County Council and Dorset century. Now managed by the National Kingston Lacy dates from the thirteenth community of Pamphill Green and **(D) Pamphill Green and St. Stephen's Church.** The connection between the National Trust in 1982 and are open to the public.



(C) Kingston Lacy Manor and Estate. The house was built in the mid 1660's to a design by the architect Sir Roger Pratt, with the gardens and parkland laid out at the same time. It was the family seat of the Bankes family who lived at Corfe Castle until its destruction in the English Civil War, the family having been loyal to King Charles 1. The house and gardens were bequeathed to the National Trust in 1982 and are open to the public.

(B) Rivers Edge Green Space. This area of public open space has been provided alongside a residential housing development constructed in the early 2020's to provide for recreational use together with new wildlife habitats, conservation and enhancement, incorporating and linking to the existing public rights of way leading from the eastern edge of Wimborne Minster to the adjacent countryside.

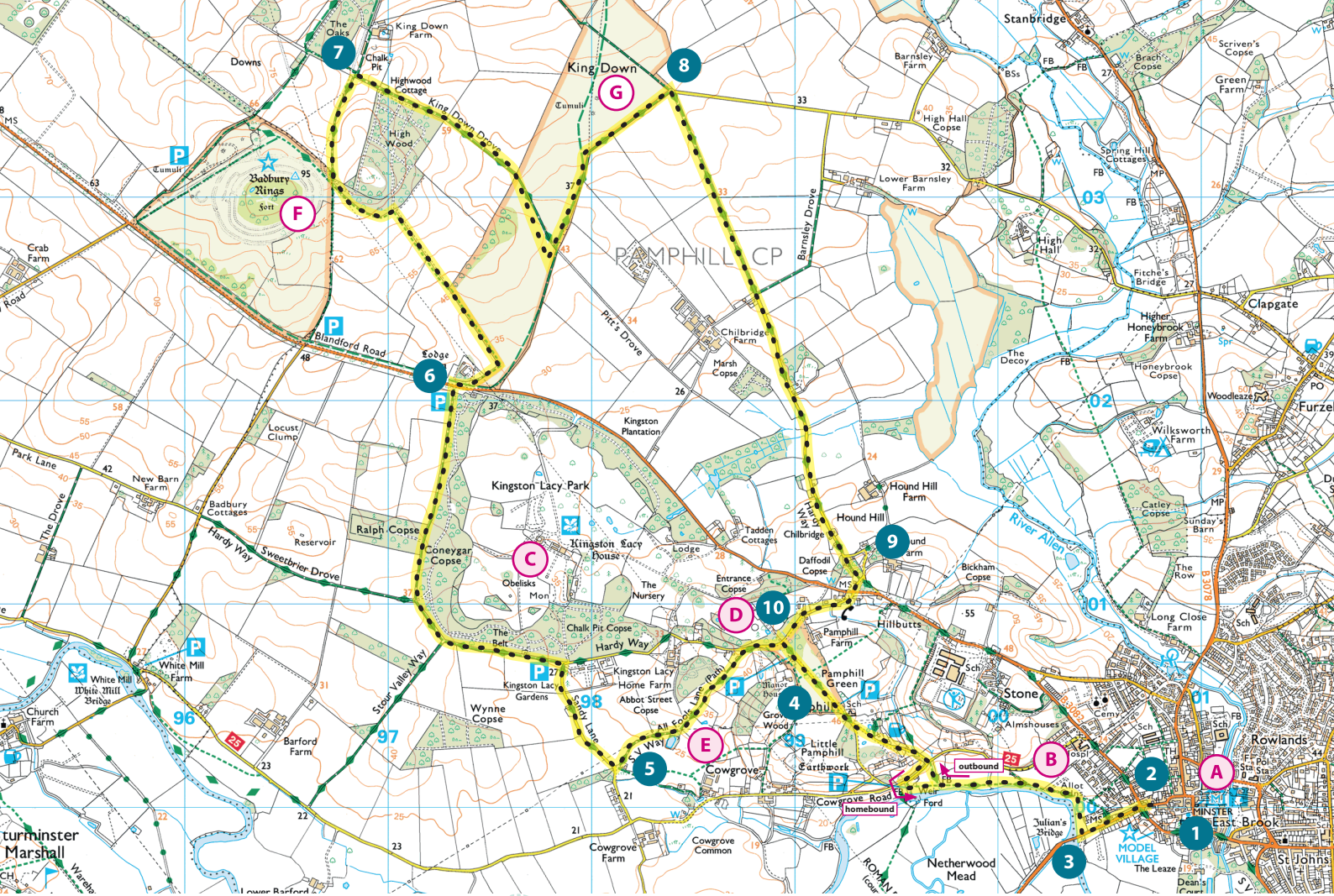
(A) Wimborne Minster. The town takes its name from the minster, which has existed for over 1300 years and is a former monastery and Benedictine nunnery. It is the burial place of King Ethelred of Wessex.

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

Wimborne, Kingston Lacy and Badbury Rings

Also exploring Pamphill and King Down





Directions

- 1 From the starting point of this walk with your back to the entrance to Wimborne Minster, turn left along the flagstone footpath that leads through an archway into the King Street car park. Cross the car park to reach King Street and turn right to the roundabout.
- 2 Turn left at the roundabout, along Julians Road. Cross the road and continue to a gate and notice board on the right at the entrance to Rivers Edge Natural Green Space.
- 3 Follow the footpath through the Green Space, alongside the river. After crossing the second of two footbridges, turn right to a stile onto Cowgrove Road. Cross the road with care and go straight ahead up Vine Hill, passing the Vine Inn and the school to reach Pamphill Green.
- 4 Continue straight ahead across Pamphill Green, parallel to the road, to a T junction where St. Stephen's Church lies directly ahead. Turn left along the road until reaching a wooden bench on the left and signs onto the bridleway along All Fools Lane, which leads downhill to Sandy Lane.
- 5 Turn right along Sandy Lane until reaching a small car park at a sharp bend to the right. Turn left across the car park onto a signposted bridleway which follows a broad track that borders Kingston Lacy Park, a National Trust property, on the right. Continue along the bridleway as it turns sharply to the right and until reaching another small car park at the main road between Wimborne Minster and Blandford Forum. The road runs between a magnificent avenue of beech trees.
- 6 Cross the road and bear right to a vehicle barrier onto a bridleway that leads to a gate into fields. Follow the grassy track beyond the gate and around to the left where it runs alongside

the hedge on the left all the way to the woods ahead, on the skyline. On reaching the wood, follow the track around to the left, with the wood to the right, until it meets a broad track on the other side of which is a gate into the historic Iron-Age hillfort of Badbury Rings. If you take the opportunity to explore Badbury Rings, you will need to return to this gate. Turn right along the track and follow it downhill along the edge a field to a crossroads beyond which lies King Down Farm.

- 7 Turn right at the crossroads, along the signposted bridleway, King Down Drive. At the next junction of tracks, turn left past the vehicle barrier, onto the bridleway to King Down. As the bridleway bends to the right the bronze age bowl barrow on King Down is visible in the field directly ahead and can be reached by the public footpath through the gate into the field.
- 8 Once back on the bridleway, continue around to the right until it reaches another crossroads. Turn sharply to the right here along the ruler-straight stone track that leads to Chilbridge Farm to the right. Do not go towards the farm here, but continue straight ahead along a tarmac road that leads all the way to the main road between Wimborne Minster and Blandford Forum.
- 9 Cross the road and take the road ahead which leads past the Pamphill Dairy, Farm Shop and Cafe to Pamphill Green.
- 10 At the T-junction at St. Stephen's Church, turn left to return across Pamphill Green and along Vine Lane. At the T-junction at the end of Vine Lane turn right along Cowgrove Road to a car park on the left beside The River Stour. A path from the car park leads to a footbridge which provides magnificent views of the river and its plentiful and active bird life. Return across the car park to a gate onto the path through the fields alongside the river and through the Rivers Edge Green Space and along Julians Road into Wimborne.