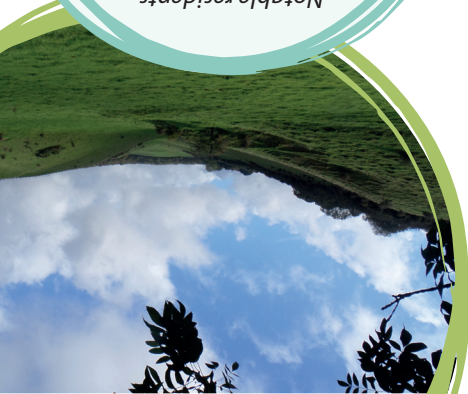




Look out for **brown hares, buzzards and skylarks galore at certain times of year on the farmed areas up and back from the Ox Drove.**



Notable residents of Broad Chalke include **Sir Anthony Eden** (1897-1977), who served as Prime Minister, **Sir Cecil Beaton** (1904-1980), photographer and designer and the author **Sir Terry Pratchett** (1948-2015).



Scenic walk which gradually climbs the chalk downs to the ancient Ox Drove for stunning views to the south and over the pretty Chalke Valley. A long climb up the gravel track of Church Bottom to the Ox Drove, returning via a quiet lane and a gravelly descent towards the river Ebble.

Start Point: Broad Chalke - Ordnance Survey Map Explorer Series 130.OS
Grid Ref: SU 040 253 | W3W: rips.samplers.inventors

Parking: All Saints Church, Broad Chalke (subject to services)

Terrain: A long and steady climb from Broad Chalke along a gravel surfaced bridleway which gets steeper as it climbs to meet the hardened surface of the Ox Drove. A level and lightly trafficked tarmac lane to Knighton Hill Farm, then field paths descending to the River Ebble and back to Broad Chalke.

Length: Approximately 4.5 miles / 7.2km.

Approximate time: 2.5 hours.

Dogs: On leads (livestock & ground nesting birds).

Good to know: (Bus route Red Bus 29 calls at Broadchalke)

Refreshments: The Queens Head / Chalke Valley Stores, (The HUB)

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**



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



Broad Chalke and Knighton

From the valley of the River Ebble to the downland high road of the Ox Drove

WALK #
W24



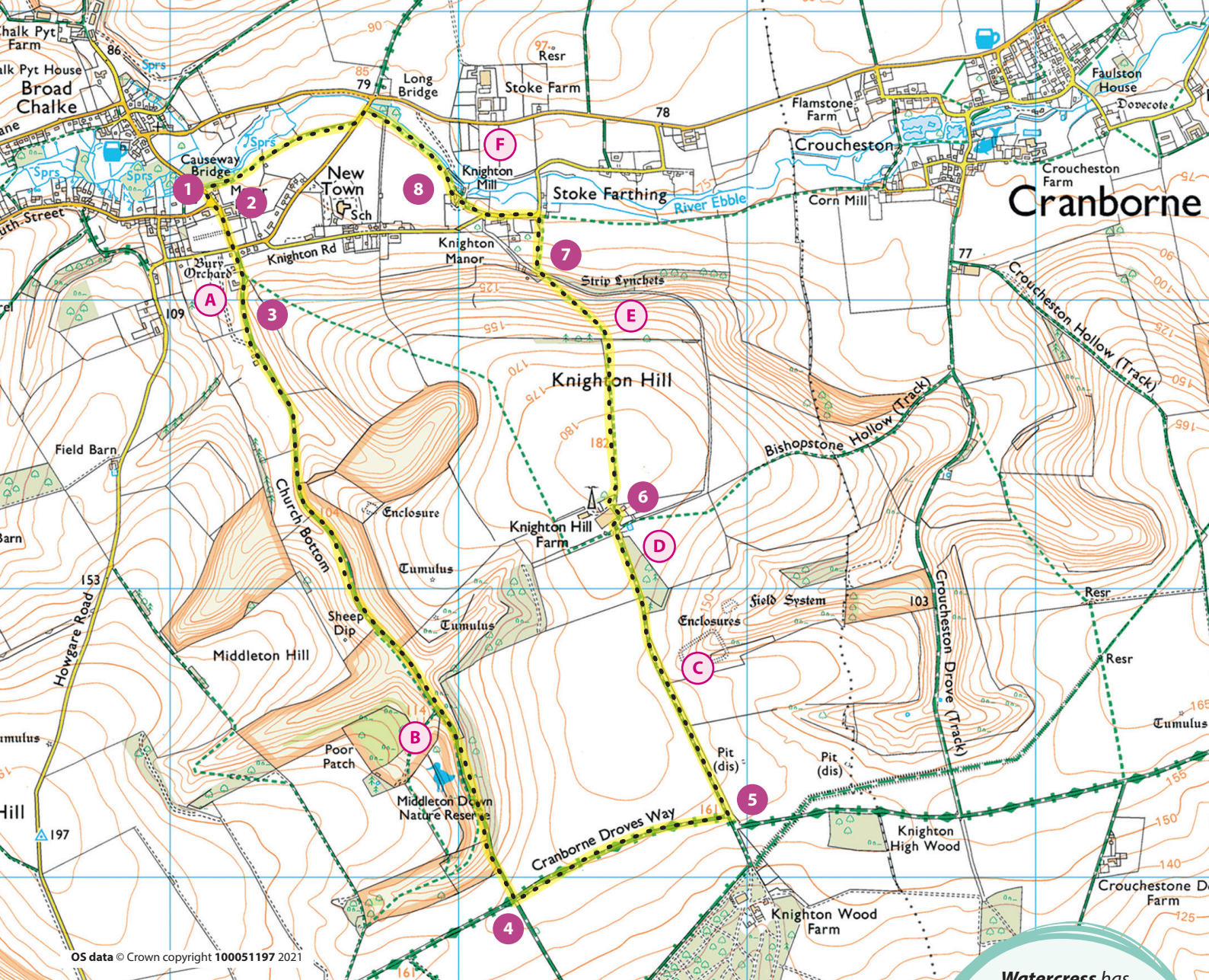
Points of Interest on this route (see map overlay for locations)

- A** Farmers in this area have joined together as the **Chalke Valley Farmer Cluster**. They work together for the benefit of specific wildlife species. They often have signs out on this route to explain what they're up to. It's important to keep your dog on a lead at certain times of year when instructed, to avoid disturbance.
- B** **Middleton Down Nature Reserve**. 25ha of lovely chalk downland SSSI owned and managed by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust with their own Dexter cattle.
- C** The enclosure shown on the map is a **Romano-British settlement** from the third or fourth century.
- D** View to the east of Salisbury Cathedral Spire, a 14th century addition to the original (Cathedral) building; it is the tallest spire in Britain at 123m on the lowest building in the region.

E **Strip Lynchets above the River Ebble**. In the Middle Ages, as populations grew, peasant farmers worked to increase fertile land on which to grow corn and other crops, as well as richer grazing for animals. Generally ploughed to follow the contours these terraces were probably abandoned after the Black Death.

F **Knighton Mill**, one of several water mills along the Ebble has now been converted into a dwelling. Turning a wheel using water was the first type of power harnessed by man that was not generated by animals or humans. Its technology was constantly being upgraded, and new uses were found for the generated power. The Domesday Book records nearly 6,000 water mills in England at that time, and this number potentially doubled in the next two hundred years.





Directions

- 1 From the car park, follow the path through the churchyard keeping to the right of the church, go through the lychgate to the road opposite the bus stop (Red Bus No 29).
- 2 Turn left and then right up the road signed to Martin and Blandford. Walk to the end of this and then cross straight over and onto the gravel track opposite (Church Bottom) with Field House to your right.
- 3 Follow Church Bottom uphill ignoring the footpath that forks to the left. There is a barn and recreation of an iron-age hut in the field on your right-hand side and then a long climb between hedge banks on both sides and access to Middleton Down Nature Reserve on your right.
- 4 At the top you come to a 'T' junction with the Ox Drive, turn left and follow this for approx 1km enjoying distant views over Hampshire and the New Forest.
- 5 Where the Ox Drive meets a tarmac lane, turn left and walk towards a mast and the buildings of Knighton Hill Farm. At the farm buildings follow the road to the right and then turn left down the footpath beside the barn.

- 6 Pass the barn, go through some trees and then follow the footpath keeping to the right-hand side of the field aiming for the gap in the hedge ahead. Cross the stile and continue down the grassy slope, picking up an old track diagonally to the left crossing the hillside and aiming for a clump of trees and a cottage.
- 7 Climb down some steps and cross the tarmac road onto the footpath opposite, follow this until it comes out opposite a bungalow, near the road. Turn left onto the road and head to Knighton Mill.

- 8 Follow the footpath signs along the gravel track around the mill buildings, climb the stile and follow the River Ebble through meadows until you meet the road. Turn left, then shortly right (approx. 50m) and follow the path through more meadows, through some trees and then via a stile back onto the road in Broadchalke. Turn right then left back to the church car park.

Watercress has been grown here for six generations since 1880. The traditional dark green watercress is grown on the natural springs of the Chalke valley.

