

Points of Interest on this route

(see map overleaf for locations)

(A) Tisbury and High Street. Often referred to as a town but it is in fact a village and the largest village in the Nadder Valley and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs National Landscape. It's an excellent base from which to explore the surrounding countryside and AONB. Enjoy Tisbury's diverse and vibrant High Street with its range of independent shops, pubs and tearoom. Tisbury's name is derived from the Saxon name Tysses Burgh, meaning 'the stronghold of Tysses people'; interestingly, there is another Tisbury in Massachusetts, America. One of Tisbury's earlier residents was Thomas Mayhew, born in 1593, who made his fortune in the New World purchasing offshore islands including Martha's Vineyard. His son, Rev Thomas Mayhew began the first English Settlement in 1642 at a place now called Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard, one of the two original towns on the island, the other being Tisbury!

(B) Tisbury Brewery. The tall red brick and Chilmark Stone building with a high roof along Church Road was a brewery in the 1800s delivering beer by shire-horse to the surrounding area. Prior to this, it was the site of a workhouse as early as 1769 where the rural poor lived in squalid cramped conditions. Sandwiched between the graveyard and mortuary, it was known as 'the dead house'.

(E) Old Wardour Castle. Managed by English Heritage, it is one of the Nadder Valley's hidden gems. Built late 14th Century as a fortified dwelling, it is unusually hexagonal in shape. It was owned by the Arundell family in 1547 and the scene of two Civil War sieges between the Royalists and Parliamentarians in 1643-4. Children will love exploring the castle rooms and grotto built in the 18th Century and all that is left today of Tisbury's Stone Circle as the last three standing stones were used in its construction.

(C) St John the Baptist Church. This 12th Century church is located on the banks of the River Nadder. Exceptionally large for a village church, it contains much interest. Just north of the church was believed to be the site of a large Saxon monastery which was destroyed by the Vikings in the 8th Century. Many notable people are buried here such as Lady Blanche, defender of Old Wardour Castle during the Civil War, members of the Arundell family including Lady Ann Arundell, whose husband Lord Baltimore founded the new colony of Maryland in America, and there are two stone slabs in memory of Rudyard Kipling's parents to the east of the churchyard. There is also a giant yew tree believed to be over 4,000 years old, sacred to Celtic/Saxon traditions.

(D) Tisbury Railway Station. Constructed in 1859. Currently managed by South West Trains and on the London Waterloo to Exeter Line. Salisbury is only about 10 mins away via train.

A lovely Wiltshire countryside ramble through fields and woods from the largest village in the Cranborne Chase National Landscape to one of its historic gems, Old Wardour Castle.


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: Village, field and woodland paths and farm tracks and quiet lanes through stunningly attractive countryside.

Length: Approximately 5 miles / 8km.

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.

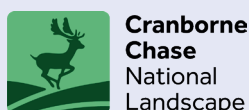
Refreshments: Tisbury has a good selection of pubs, cafes and shops. Old Wardour Castle, managed by English Heritage, does not have a cafe but a vending machine offers tea, coffee and hot chocolate. Cold drinks, ice-creams and pre-packed snacks are also available.

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://www.cranbornechase.org.uk)



cranbornechase.org.uk



Cover image: © Sue Alston

The Magic of Tisbury and Old Wardour Castle

Historic Landscape and Civil War Hostility

WALK #
W5



Cranborne Chase
National
Landscape



Directions

1 From the entrance to the main car park off Nadder Close behind Tisbury's quaint high street, turn left along The Avenue and left again onto the busy High Street. At the Market Square on the right, cross over the road and continue along Church Road. After passing a tall brick building with a high roof, which was formerly Tisbury Brewery and has now been converted to private flats, turn left onto the path through the churchyard of St. John the Baptist. The church is well worth visiting.

2 Follow the path across the front of the church and turn left then right, onto a pretty path which takes you alongside the River Nadder and to the left of a children's play area to the road outside Tisbury Railway Station.

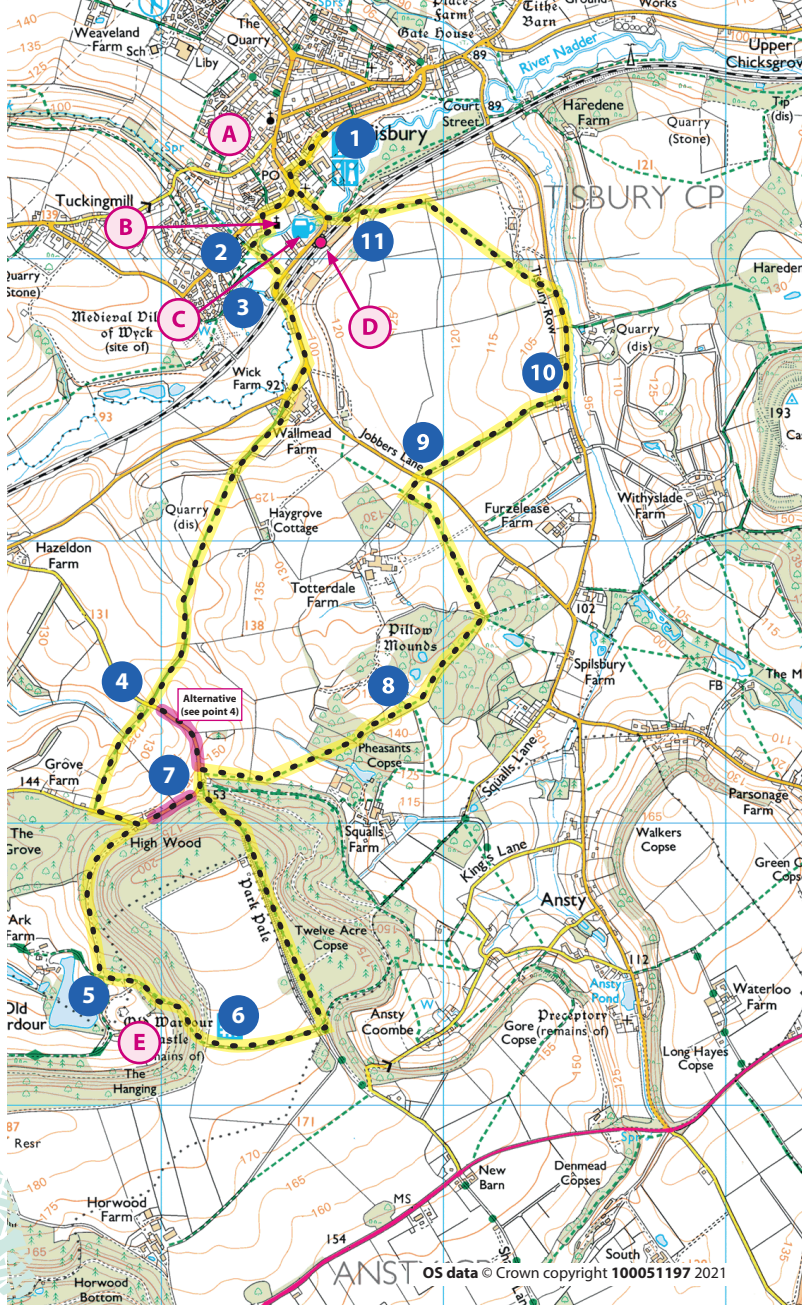
3 Turn right along the roadside footway and continue under the railway bridge to enter the road on the right, signposted to Old Wardour Castle. At Wallmead Farm, on the left of the road, follow the signposted public bridleway through the farmyard and through a gate onto a farm track that leads uphill to fields. A waymark on the gatepost points you across the centre of the middle field. At the next field keep straight ahead through the gate and up the side of the field with the hedge on your right. Continue along the field path, go through a gap at the end of field, onto a lane.

4 The public bridleway leads through the field opposite and then uphill to a road. Turn to the left, uphill along the road to the next junction at High Wood. The field is grazed by cattle, so if you wish to avoid walking amongst them you can instead turn left along the lane and walk uphill to the junction at High Wood. A stone-built house stands at the road junction at High Wood. If you took the bridleway from Point 4, turn sharp right in front of the house. If you took the road from Point 4, take the left fork to pass the house. Stay on the road as it bends to the left and downhill to Old Wardour Castle.

5 Our route turns left onto a public bridleway along a track between the woods and the castle car park and entrance, but before you continue on your way you might wish to keep straight ahead along the road to view Ark Farm, the large ornamental Cresswell Pond and a number of interesting historic houses. Once you have done that, take the bridleway uphill past the car park and the entrance to the castle, and under an archway that was built with stones from the ruins of the castle.

6 At the top of the hill, follow the bridleway around to the left along a fenced path between fields. There are wonderful views from here across to the escarpment of the downs. The field on the left was a 'Park Pale', an area of land which was used to enclose wild deer in the times when Cranborne Chase was a medieval hunting ground. When you reach a crossing of tracks at the end of the fields, enter the wood ahead and then turn left along the track on the high ground inside the edge of the wood. Follow this all the way to the end of the wood and downhill to the road; you will now see that you have made a full loop around High Wood and the Castle.

7 A single-story stone cottage stands beside the road. Go downhill along the road, with the cottage on your right, and then cross a waymarked stile and gate into a large field. Bear diagonally to the right across the field, heading for a metal kissing gate into the woodland on the far side, before and to the left of the large barns at the field end.



8 Follow the waymarked footpath uphill through the woods and then along the left side of a field until it reaches a metal gate onto a woodland track. Bear right along the track until you see a waymark post indicating paths to the right, straight on and to the left. Take the path to the left, over a small bridge, and then straight across the next two fields. Tottendale Farm stands on the high ground to your left. Keep straight on, uphill across the fields then bear left alongside the wood to reach a stone track next to the entrance gates to the farm.

9 Turn right along the track to the road to follow a signposted bridleway along a gravel track all the way to the next road.

10 Turn left along the road, past the entrance on the right to Haredene Farm and Lime Cottage. A signposted public footpath on the left of the road leads up steps and diagonally to the right uphill across a field to a gap in the hedge. Bear diagonally to the left across the next field to a gate in the far corner.

11 Keep to the fenced path alongside the next field, with the railway line below and a superb view over Tisbury. Follow the path through the next gate and downhill to the left, then through another gate and down steps at Tisbury Railway Station. Cross the railway through the white gates (take great care to watch and listen for approaching trains) then bear left along a lane to the road bridge over the River Nadder. Turn right over the bridge and back to the Market Square and High Street.