



Upton Lovell had a very large Woollen Mill during the 19th century. In 1833 it employed about 400 people. Difficult to image such a large building on this site today. Image © Warmminster Museum

**F** **Suffers Bridge** – An eerie name for a bridge. Stories about the origin of its name, all unsubstantiated, include that the last of the Wiltshire Lords of Lovell, was beheaded on the bridge. Delightful!

**E** **Great Ridge Wood**, formerly also known as Chicklade Wood, is one of the largest woodlands in southern Wiltshire. A Roman road runs from east to west through the centre of the wood.

**D** **Wessex Ridgeway** - Once a main artery in ancient Britain, the Ridgeway is now one of the most trodden rights of way in England. Walkers might want to time their trip carefully so as to catch the orchids which flourish on the chalk downland.



Look out for the **snake heads** **fritillary** in Spring in the wildflower area at Upton Lovell Church.

**Notorious**  
highwaymen in the 18th and 19th centuries preyed upon stagecoaches on their way to London and Exeter in Great Ridge - the most infamous known as 'Jack Hag'.



**C** To the west of Corton is the **Corton Long barrow**. This is a Neolithic long barrow on the West Wiltshire Downs. 19th century excavations uncovered two cremation burials in an urn and eight skeletons.

**B** The Salisbury line of the **Great Western Railway** runs through the Wylve valley; the station was called Wiley until it was renamed in August 1874. There was a 'halt' at Upton Lovell. Passenger services were withdrawn in 1955.

**A** **The Medieval Church** is dedicated to St Augustine of Canterbury, a monk who became the first Archbishop of Canterbury in the year 597. He is considered the "Apostle to the English" and a founder of the English Church.

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

A river valley walk along ancient water meadows by the River Wylve which opens up into classic rolling chalk downland with some wide-ranging views.

**Start Point:** Upton Lovell (map shows route from the church), but you can also start at Corton | W3W: eventful.lunching.dining | Grid Ref: ST 944 408.

**Parking:** St Augustine of Canterbury Church in Upton Lovell (accessed by a narrow road), the Prince Leopold Inn.

**Terrain:** The terrain is easy going with wide open paths and tracks, but with three inclines. There are some very short sections of narrow paths.

**Narrow, uneven and slippery coming down the hill to Suffers Bridge.** There are a few stiles at the beginning of the walk.

**Length:** Approximately 8.85 miles / 14.16km

**Approximate time:** 4 hours

**Dogs:** On leads for part of the walk - livestock & ground nesting birds.

**Good to know:** Bus route D1 at Upton Lovell or route 54 to Corton. There are two good pubs at the beginning and end of the route.

**Refreshments:** The Prince Leopold Inn, Upton Lovell.

*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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## Upton Lovell and The Wessex Ridgeway With the River Wylve & Great Ridge Wood

WALK #  
**W25**



Cranborne  
Chase  
National  
Landscape



8.9  
miles  
14.2  
km

**Upton Lovell** appears in W. H. Hudson's book *A Shepherd's Life*, under the name of **Doveton**

## Directions

**1** From the car park at the church and village hall, head down the road back into the village. At the end of the road, turn sharply left at the footpath sign, opposite a large stone wall. (If you wish to visit the Prince Leopold Inn, keep straight ahead along the road, but you will need to return to the footpath to continue the walk). Follow the footpath past Hatch House and cross a footbridge over the River Wylde. Keep straight ahead along the edge of the water meadows..

**2** Continue on the bridleway straight ahead at the first farm gate. Follow this to a T-junction of paths and turn left under the railway bridge. This road is prone to flooding but the raised walkway on the right can be used. Pass the former Ebenezer Chapel (now a private house) and turn left at the road junction to follow the road through the village until reaching the Dove Inn

**3** As the road bends to the right, with the start of a high white wall topped with thatch on the left, turn left at a small grass triangle on the right onto a short steep path to the road, opposite Foley's Cottage.

**4** Cross the road and continue uphill on the bridleway along a steep hollow way between high banks. At the top, bear right, uphill on the tarmac farm road, then where the tarmac roads lead straight on and to the left turn right alongside a line of beech trees onto a stone and grass surfaced byway.

**5** Turn left where the path meets the road and follow the signposted public footpath downhill along a narrow track to a wide grass bridleway track at the foot of the hill.

**6** Turn left along the bridleway, which becomes a stone track when it meets a farm access road, for approximately 1 mile then leave the stone track and keep straight ahead through two bridlegates. At the second bridleway gate, turn to look back at the view along way you have come. The bridleway climbs up for another mile towards the woods and Great Ridge. This is a lovely, tranquil wide field-edge track from which you are likely to see buzzards and red kites soaring on the thermals, to the accompaniment in Spring and Summer of singing skylarks.

**7** Keep straight ahead through the woods, guided by a strategically placed waymark post at the entry. The bridleway is used by horse-riders and may be wet and muddy until it reaches a wide well-surfaced forest road, part of the Wessex Ridgeway. Turn left along this road, following the waymarks and keeping straight ahead and then around a sharp bend to the left. Ignore all paths and tracks that lead off to the left and right and continue until leaving the woods.

**8** Keep to the track, along the Wessex Ridgeway where you meet a lovely ridge walk with wide-ranging views on either side and a line of beech trees on your right as you head downhill.

**9** You reach a collection of barns. Turn left here and follow the track, shortly turn right, down the hill. Warning: It gets narrow and slippery towards the end of this path and comes out on a road.

**10** Take the road ahead, signposted to Upton Lovell, crossing Suffers Bridge and then the railway line. Continue into the village then as the road turns sharply to the right, turn left past the manor house then through a gate on the right onto a tarmac surfaced footpath, to return to the church and the village hall.

