

Introduction

The Clarendon Way is a 24-mile, long-distance walking route that links two of the most celebrated and beautiful cathedral cities in England. It stretches from Wiltshire in the west to Hampshire in the east. The way is named after Clarendon Park, once the site of Clarendon Palace, a royal hunting lodge for Norman kings. All that remains of this great country house today is a single stretch of flint wall.

The Way has been divided into four sections, each providing a really good day out. Choose between watery valley meadows or high chalk downland with exhilarating views, cosy village pubs or bustling sophisticated cathedral cities, straight unswerving Roman roads or meandering woodland paths.

There are the two magnificent cities of Salisbury and Winchester where you can visit antique shops, sample local crafts and food or even stay for a night or two. There are also some charming villages such as Pitton, Broughton and King's Somborne, where you can explore the village churches and twisting lanes, or stop for a rest at welcoming pubs to sample the local beer or learn some local lore.

This ancient route runs across high land using long-forgotten riding routes. It passes through some of the oldest remaining royal hunting forests and woodland in Hampshire with ancient ruins to search for and tranquil village churches to rest in. Walk through gently rolling hills and farmland and look for buzzards, chiffchaffs, kestrels, foxes, orchids or cowslips. Stroll through fabulous water meadows teeming with wildlife. You can even imagine yourself walking with the Romans as their ghostly legions march from Old Sarum to Winchester...

History

The Clarendon Way is rich in medieval, Roman and royal history. This was an important route linking two great medieval cities, royal palaces, hunting forests and rich residences. There are numerous historically important and exciting buildings and ruins to search for and visit along the route.

Two miles from the start of the Way is the massive Iron Age hill fort of Old Sarum (Old Salisbury) re-used by the Romans, Saxons and Normans, before growing into one of the most flourishing settlements in medieval England. This fascinating and dramatic site contains the ruins of a castle, a Bishop's Palace and a cathedral (later moved down into the valley), and is also where the Roman Road begins. It's a wonderful place full of atmosphere with fantastic views, and it's a great location for a picnic or kite flying. Only 9.5 miles from Salisbury is the great and ancient megalithic monument of Stonehenge, a World Heritage Site.

In Salisbury, the skyline is dominated by the medieval cathedral's soaring spire. Built in just 38 years, it is a magnificent example of early English Gothic architecture and stands in the largest medieval close in Britain. Within this elegant close, you can find the most perfect example of Queen Anne architecture, Mompesson House.

East of the city is Clarendon Park. The route takes you through this medieval deer park to the fascinating and largely forgotten site of a former Royal Palace, one of the finest of the kings' country houses in the 13th century. Henry II, Eleanor of Aquitaine and Thomas Becket would all have been here in times past. English Heritage and the Clarendon Estate are involved in the reclamation and preservation of this site.

Royal travellers frequented the village of King's Somborne. There was a royal manor there, and by the church is the site of John O'Gaunt's palace and between the village and the river his deer park.

At the top of Beacon Hill is Withering Corner where there is a small Bronze Age barrow cemetery, an alignment of five burial mounds, and further east in Farley Mount Country Park you can find the remains of a Roman villa.

Nearby on the crest of a chalk ridge overlooking Winchester is Oliver's Battery, originally built in the Iron Age and used during Oliver Cromwell's siege of the city in 1645. The ancient earthwork provided a suitable campsite for the besieging Parliamentary forces.

Looking east, you can see St Catherine's Hill, an early Iron Age hill fort. The turf of this chalk grassland is rich in wild flowers that support many butterflies such as the Brown Argus, Chalkhill Blue and Marbled White, and orchids such as the Autumn Lady's tresses, Musk Orchid and Frog Orchid.

A Mizzmaze lies near the summit, close to the original entrance through the ramparts. One legend connected with this maze is that the cutting of it was given as a punishment to a pupil of Winchester College in the 18th century. After completing it, the task had so scrambled his brain that the poor boy threw himself to death off the hill!

At the end of the Way is the welcoming city of Winchester, once capital of the Kingdom of Wessex and later England. In Roman times the city was a regional administrative centre, and through the medieval period it was an important and prosperous town with an impressive cathedral and bishop's palace, as well as a royal residence. Alfred, whose statue stands immediately in front of the site of the old East Gate into the city, is the only monarch ever to have been given the appellation 'The Great'. The Normans built a castle on the higher valley flank, but this was demolished after the Civil War. The Great Hall, which still survives, was the heart of the Castle. When in residence the King dined here, discussed affairs of State with his barons and clergy and sat in court to administer justice.

How to follow the Clarendon Way

CLARENDON WAY

Winchester 5 miles

The route stretches between Salisbury in Wiltshire and Winchester in Hampshire.

The route is waymarked with the green logo along the route as shown:-



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Maps

This leaflet does not provide navigation details. The route is shown on the following Ordnance Survey maps:-

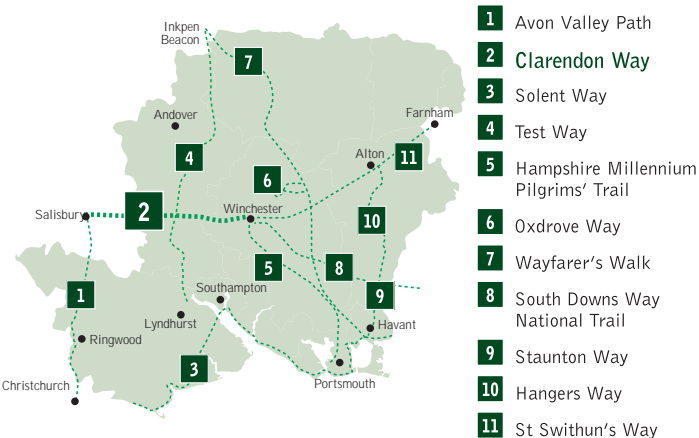
Explorer 130,131 and 132

The route is indicated on these maps with a green logo and the name of the route (Clarendon Way).

Further information and a detailed route description is available on the web:

www.hants.gov.uk/walking/clarendon

Other long-distance walks



Publications

For information about the other ten long-distance walks or for leaflets about the following, tel: (01962) 870500, or visit your local Hampshire County Council Information Centre or Tourist Information Centre.

Long-distance walks
Finding Your Way
Guided Walks
Accessible Countryside in Hampshire
Discover Hampshire
Defence of the Realm

Useful websites

www.hants.gov.uk/walking
www.hants.gov.uk/countryside
www.visit-hampshire.org.uk
www.traveline.org.uk
www.metoffice.co.uk

Useful contacts

Hampshire County Council
Information Centre Winchester
01962 870500

Met Office (weather information) 0870 900 0100

Traveline (bus information) 0870 608 2608

Tourist Information Centres (TICs)

Salisbury 01722 334956 www.visitsalisbury.com

Winchester 01962 840500 www.visitwinchester.co.uk

Recreation & Heritage Department

Hampshire County Council, Mottisfont Court, High Street,
Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8ZF

Available in alternative formats
01962 870500



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walking in Hampshire

Clarendon Way

A 24 mile long-distance walk
from Salisbury to Winchester



Hampshire
County Council

Salisbury to Clarendon Palace

Distance: 3 miles Time: 1-2 hours

The Clarendon Way begins at the magnificent medieval Salisbury Cathedral; its landmark spire is the tallest in Britain and is visible for miles, guiding travellers into the city. Surrounding this awe-inspiring cathedral are the lawns of the elegant close, within whose massive ancient walls you will find the charming Mompesson House, a 13th century banqueting hall and two outstanding museums, the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum and the Wardrobe Military Museum.

Leave the city via Milford Street, and drop down to cross the River Bourne at the medieval stone Milford Bridge, where the pretty mill house still stands. Walk onwards along a hollow way called Queen Manor Road, go through Rangers Lodge Farm and then enjoy the peace and quiet of the forest at Clarendon Park, once home to one of the three top royal hunting palaces in the country.

Accommodation

Salisbury TIC 01722 334956

Refreshments (small selection)

Haunch of Venison, Salisbury 01722 411313
Polly Tea Rooms, Salisbury 01722 336037

Places of Interest

Salisbury Cathedral 01722 555120
Old Sarum 01722 335398
Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum 01722 332151

Public Transport

Clarendon Palace: No public transport at Clarendon Palace but Wilts & Dorset 89 serves Pitton and the Winterslows, on the Clarendon Way. 01722 336855

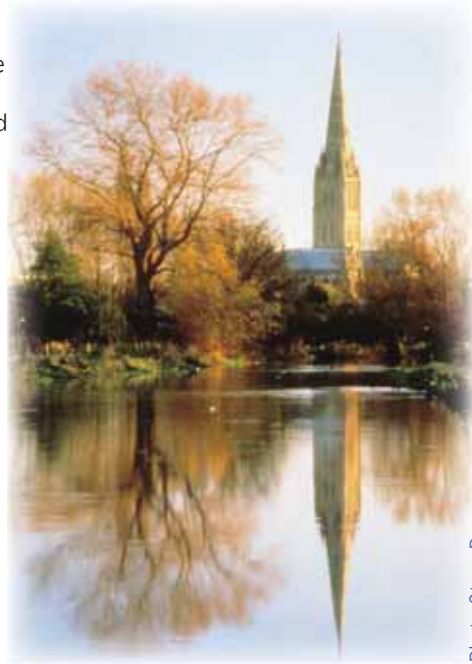


Photo Steve Day

Clarendon Palace to Broughton

Distance: 8 miles Time: 3-4 hours

Clarendon Palace, set within Clarendon Forest, was a favourite royal hunting lodge for Norman kings, and particularly beloved by Henry II. It was then expanded by the Plantagenets into a great country house. Now, almost nothing remains except a single length of flint wall.

Walk through the woods and emerge into the village of Pitton perhaps taking a break at the Silver Plough pub, then climb up the steep escarpment known locally as Green Hill. Up on the downland there are great views in every direction. Then it's on to West Winterslow, past the Lord Nelson Arms Pub and into Middle Winterslow, home of the famous truffle hunters.

Heading east out of the village, you cross from Wiltshire into Hampshire. Here the way shares the course of the Roman road with another long-distance path, the Monarch's Way. Follow the road into Noad's Copse, where it is said that if you listen carefully you can hear the Roman soldiers marching through. This copse and others are remnants of Buckholt Forest, one of the favoured hunting grounds of Saxon and Norman kings. Walk with the Romans in a straight line to Buckholt Farm, where the Way leaves the road, turning left onto a track leading to an old hollow way lined with yews that drops down to the village of Broughton.

Accommodation

Salisbury TIC 01722 334956

Refreshments

The Silver Plough, Pitton 01722 712266
Lord Nelson Arms, Middle Winterslow 01980 862218

Places of Interest

Clarendon Palace

Public Transport

Broughton: Wilts & Dorset 68 01722 336855
Stagecoach 77 0845 121 0180



Broughton to Oliver's Battery

Distance: 9.5 miles Time: 3-4 hours

While in Broughton, why not try to find the well in the main street that dates from 1921, dug after a prolonged drought, or visit the churchyard where there is an unusual dovecote with 500 nesting boxes. Leave the village behind and follow the Wallop Brook down to the outskirts of Houghton – worth a detour to see the church and to have a snack at The Tally Ho! Inn, then back to the path to cross the River Test, Hampshire's longest and finest chalk stream. The way passes through a breach in the park pale (steep ditches and banks that enclosed John O'Gaunt's deer park) close to Blacklake Farm.

The path crosses The Test Way and then climbs out of the valley to King's Somborne. This village is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and near to the church is the site of John O'Gaunt's palace. There is a friendly pub where you can take a break, and a war memorial designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, the famous architect. The Way climbs out of the valley over open farmland, and if you look to the north-east on a clear day, you can see Danebury Iron Age hill fort, 2,500 years old.

Off the path to the north is the hamlet of Ashley, with its attractive cottages; here the Normans built a castle whose bailey earthworks can still be seen.

The route briefly rejoins the Roman road along which there is a marker stone dedicated to four German crew members who died when a Ju-88 aeroplane was shot down after being chased from Manchester by a Spitfire during the Second World War. Climb up to Beacon Hill and on past Farley Mount Monument – the curious pyramid-shaped folly built two centuries ago to commemorate a horse called Chalk Pit, which survived a leap into a 25ft-deep chalk pit with its rider. Enjoy the spectacular views all around from this point. The path continues along the length of Farley Mount Country Park, Crab Wood (a fine example of ancient woodland) and large areas of open country, before following minor lanes and permissive paths to Oliver's Battery overlooking Winchester, once used as a camp by Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War.

Accommodation

Winchester TIC 01962 840500

Refreshments

The Tally Ho! Inn, Broughton 01794 301280
Crown Inn, King's Somborne 01794 388360

Places of Interest

Farley Mount Monument
Farley Mount Country Park 01962 860948

Public Transport

Oliver's Battery:
Stagecoach 2, 5 0845 121 0180

Oliver's Battery to Winchester

Distance: 3.5 miles Time: 1-2 hours

Walk down Whiteshute Lane, and cross the railway-line footbridge to St Cross, England's oldest and most perfect almshouse. Founded in 1132, The Hospital of St Cross is famous worldwide for its unique tradition of Wayfarer's Dole, a drink of beer and some bread, still given at the Porter's Gate for a small charge to visitors who request it.

Across the river you can see the rounded shape of the Iron Age hill fort of St Catherine's Hill overlooking the valley. On into the city, the path passes between Winchester College playing-fields and the water meadows. The path turns right at the Bishop's house and circles around the outside of the old city wall. Past the ruins of Wolvesey Palace, the route continues beside the river to Bridge Street and the City Mill that dates from 1743 – the only surviving mill in Winchester. Turn left towards King Alfred's statue, past the almshouses of St John's Hospital and the Guildhall, and finish at the beautiful Winchester Cathedral, and the final resting place of Jane Austen.

Accommodation

Winchester TIC 01962 840500

Refreshments (small selection)

Stanmore Hotel 01962 852720
Bell Inn, St Cross 01962 865284

Places of Interest

Hospital of St Cross 01962 878218
Winchester Cathedral 01962 857200

Public Transport

Winchester Stagecoach 0845 1210180
National Express 08705 808080
South West Trains 08457 484950

