



## CIRCULAR WALK WILCOT

0.85 MILES / 1.4 KM  
30 minutes walking

A short, circular walk, taking in the pretty village of Wilcot, its pub, church and village green with lots of interesting things to see.

Ideal for a walk with small children or for the less mobile as it is level ground and well surfaced.

### WALKS IN THE VALE OF PEWSEY



## THE VALE OF PEWSEY WILTSHIRE

Imagine quintessential England. Rolling countryside, thatched cottages, country lanes, white horses on chalk hills. Welcome to the Vale of Pewsey, one of the most beautiful and unspoilt places in the UK.

Readily accessible by road and rail, the Vale is located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

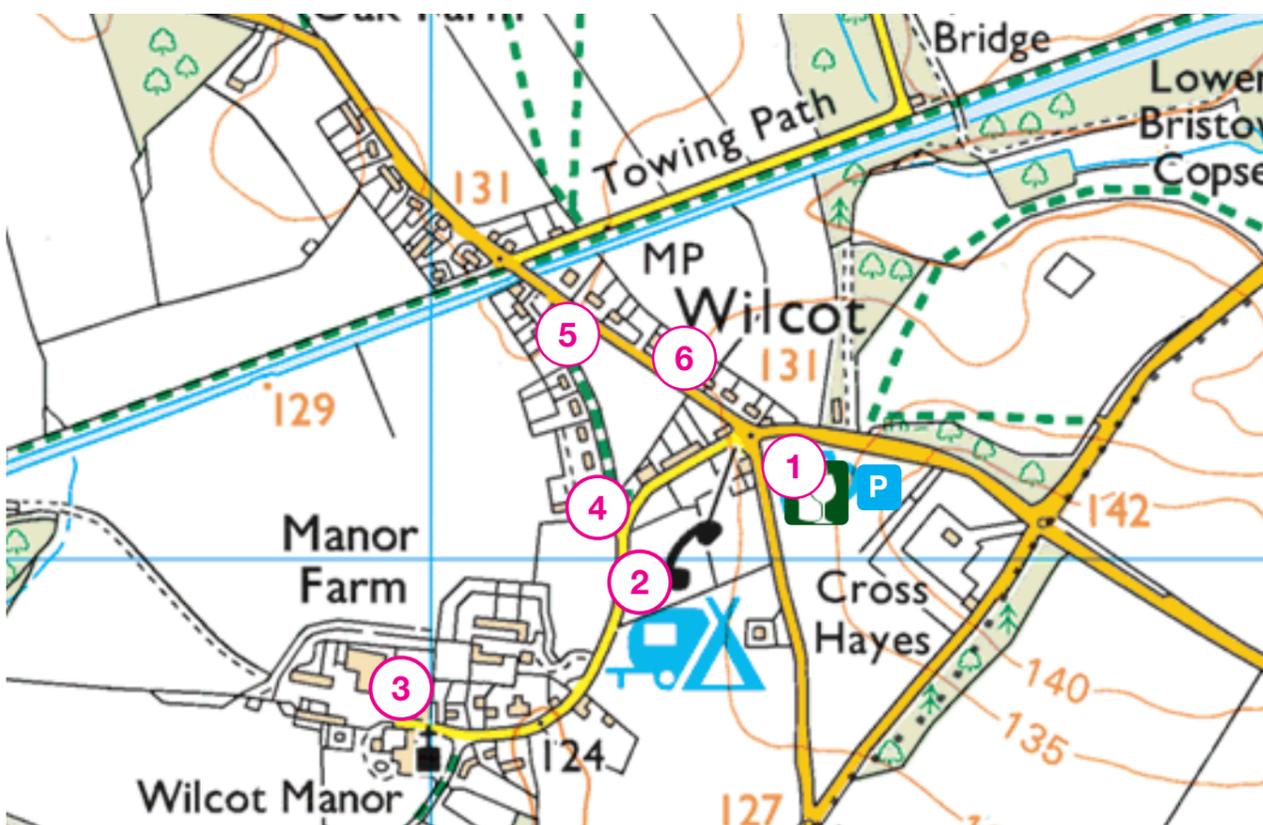


Traversed by the Great West Way, Ridgeway, and Kennet & Avon Canal, served by a network of ancient footpaths, tracks, and bridleways, the Vale of Pewsey is ideal for walking, riding or cycling, with welcoming places to stay, friendly and atmospheric places to eat, drink and shop, and local events to enjoy throughout the year.

For more information go to [www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk](http://www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk)



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Thatched cottages on Church Lane



The Village Hall

### DIRECTIONS



**1** From the Golden Swan pub, turn left down Church Lane.

**2** Where the lane bends to the left slightly, you can see that this part of the village used to be the village centre. Ahead of you is Holy Cross Church which is well worth a visit as it has a number of interesting things to see.

**3** Coming out of Holy Cross Church, retrace your steps back to the turning which is now on your left which will take you up along the western side of the large village green.

**4** Over the years, this corner of the Green has been the location for one of the village wells (mains water arrived only in the 1950's), as well as the village stocks where delinquents were held. The pretty row of limestone cottages was built in 1803-1839 to house people displaced when Stowell Park was built. Two of them had bread ovens where bread was baked for all the village.

**5** At the north end of the green, you will find the War Memorial. You can break off here and turn left and go over the bridge which leads you down on to the Kennet & Avon Canal towpath.



**6** Back at the War Memorial, turn right to go down the east side of the green. On your left is Wilcot Village Hall, originally built in 1840 as a village school, and beyond

the hall is the Wilcot Cricket Ground, where you will often find a game being played during the summer months and where you are very welcome to stop and watch.

Continue along this side of the green and you will arrive back at the Golden Swan.

### ALONG THE ROUTE



**Holy Cross Church** The parish was first mentioned in 964 in a grant made by Edmund the Elder of the Manor of Pevesie (Pewsey) to Hyde Abbey. In the Domesday Book, Edward of Salisbury held Wilcot from the King and the estate included 'a new church; a very good house; a good vineyard'. On 11 April 1876 the building was gutted by fire, leaving the main walls and tower and was then rebuilt in the same year by AJ Style. A Jacobean Fruit Trencher commonly called the 'Wooden Paten' is set into the south wall of the chancel and dates from about 1610 - and it has a very interesting inscription. The church also has a 'squint' between the chancel and the aisle to provide a view of the ceremony to the congregation. Holy Cross Church is now Grade II\* listed.



**The Golden Swan** From the mid-18th century, Wilcot had a pub which was called The White Swan which stood at the southern corner of the village green. The pub was moved to its current

location on the eastern corner of the green in 1859 and at that time, changed its name to the Golden Swan.

This pretty pub boasts the steepest thatched roof in Wiltshire. The Pearce family of Wilcot have been famous for generations in the county as Thatchers and family tradition demands that babies in the family are taken on a ladder up its thatch.

The dog-friendly Golden Swan offers camping and B&B as well as good food, local beers, a log fire and beer garden.



Please follow the Countryside Code