

## ALONG THE ROUTE



### Stowell Park Suspension Bridge

This is a private footbridge over the canal, serving Stowell Park on the north side and providing access to Lower Bristow Copse on

the south side. It was erected in 1845 and paid for Colonel Wroughton of Wilcot.

The bridge was designed and built by James Dredge senior, an engineer in Devizes, although the bridge was built in Bath. This bridge is of additional historical importance because it is probably the least-altered Dredge bridge in existence and is, of the 50 Dredge bridges of this design, one of only two that remain - the other being the Victoria Suspension Bridge in Bath. The suspension is from wrought iron chains not wire ropes. The bridge cannot be used by the public, but can be viewed from the canal towpath.



**Pillboxes** The Kennet & Avon Canal formed an important part of the UK's defence strategy in the Second World War, when it became the Blue Section of

the GHQ (General Headquarters) Line. The GHQ Line ran right across southern England, so that in the event of invasion by the Germans it would be possible to defend London and the Midlands. As a consequence of this, today you will find a number of pillboxes built as defensive points for use by the Home Guard, as well as concrete buttresses on some bridges to prevent vehicles passing through.

**Pewsey Wharf** (*cover photo*) Built in 1806/1807 alongside the road between Marlborough and Salisbury, (now the A345), the wharf would have had numerous buildings and would have been a hive of activity with goods being loaded and unloaded, as well as being a place for passengers to embark and disembark. Today there is just one red-brick and slated building, formerly a warehouse and the house of the wharfinger, the keeper of the wharf responsible for the day to day activities, including maintaining slipways, keeping schedules and resolving disputes. This building is now the Waterfront Bar & Bistro, which serves food and local beers and ciders and has a beer garden.



## THE VALE OF PEWSEY WILTSHIRE

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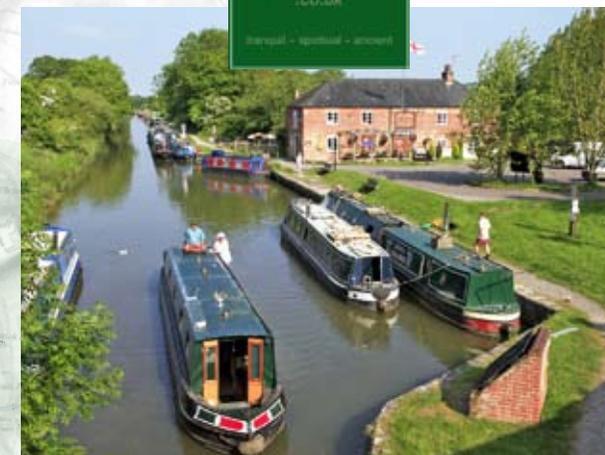
Traversed by the Ridgeway  
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## LINEAR WALK WILCOT TO PEWSEY WHARF

2.9 MILES / 4.7 KM

1 hour walking

From Wilcot village  
to Pewsey Wharf and back.

Level terrain:  
towpath, surfaced lanes and paths

SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS & BUGGIES



Please follow the Countryside Code

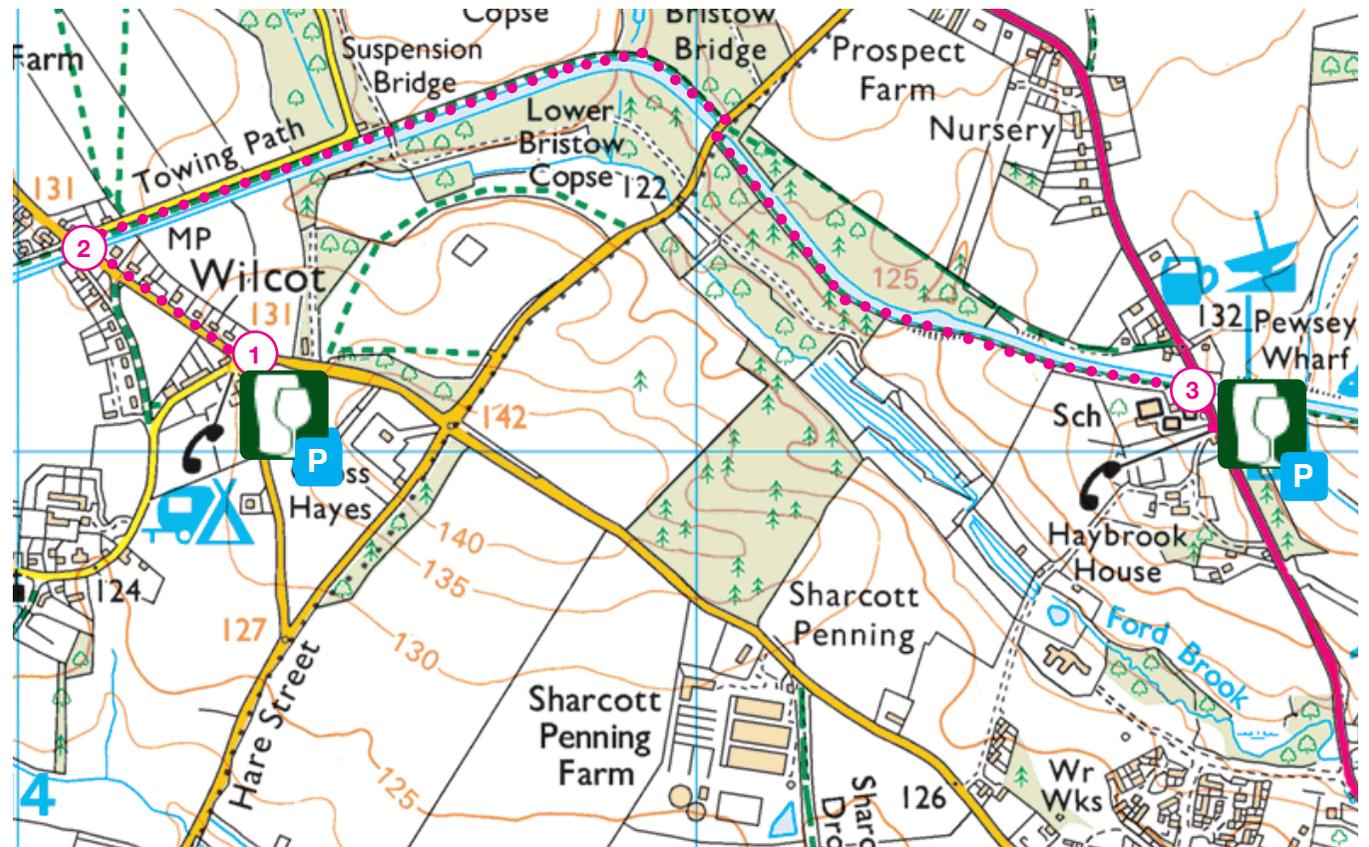
WALKS IN THE VALE OF PEWSEY

## DIRECTIONS



- 1 From the Golden Swan pub, go straight ahead along the eastern side of the village green towards the War Memorial, passing the Village Hall and Cricket Pitch on your right.
- 2 At the end of the village green, go over the canal bridge and take the path to your right down on to the Kennet & Avon Canal tow path.
- 3 Follow the tow path for about 1.25 miles / 2 kms past Bristow Bridge (*below*) and just after the A345 bridge, you will reach Pewsey Wharf and the Waterfront Bar & Bistro. There is parking at both The Golden Swan and Pewsey Wharf, so you can start and end at either end of this walk.

Return back along the tow path to The Golden Swan in Wilcot. *You can combine this walk with our 'Wilcot and the Kennet & Avon Canal' walk to make it a bit longer and to take in Ladies Bridge (below).*



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### The Golden Swan

From the mid-18th century, Wilcot had a pub 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 steeply pitched thatch.

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

