WALKS IN THE VALE OF PEWSEY

visitpewseyvale.co.uk
tranquil – spiritual – ancient

CIRCULAR WALK

GREAT BEDWYN
KENNET & AVON CANAL
CROFTON
WILTON, BEDWYN BRAIL

5.2 miles/8.4 km
2 hours
No stiles, a few mild inclines

Rail crossing, plus short crossing from field to towpath where buggies or wheelchairs will need to be carried.

WALKERS ARE WELCOME

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.

GREAT WEST WAY

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

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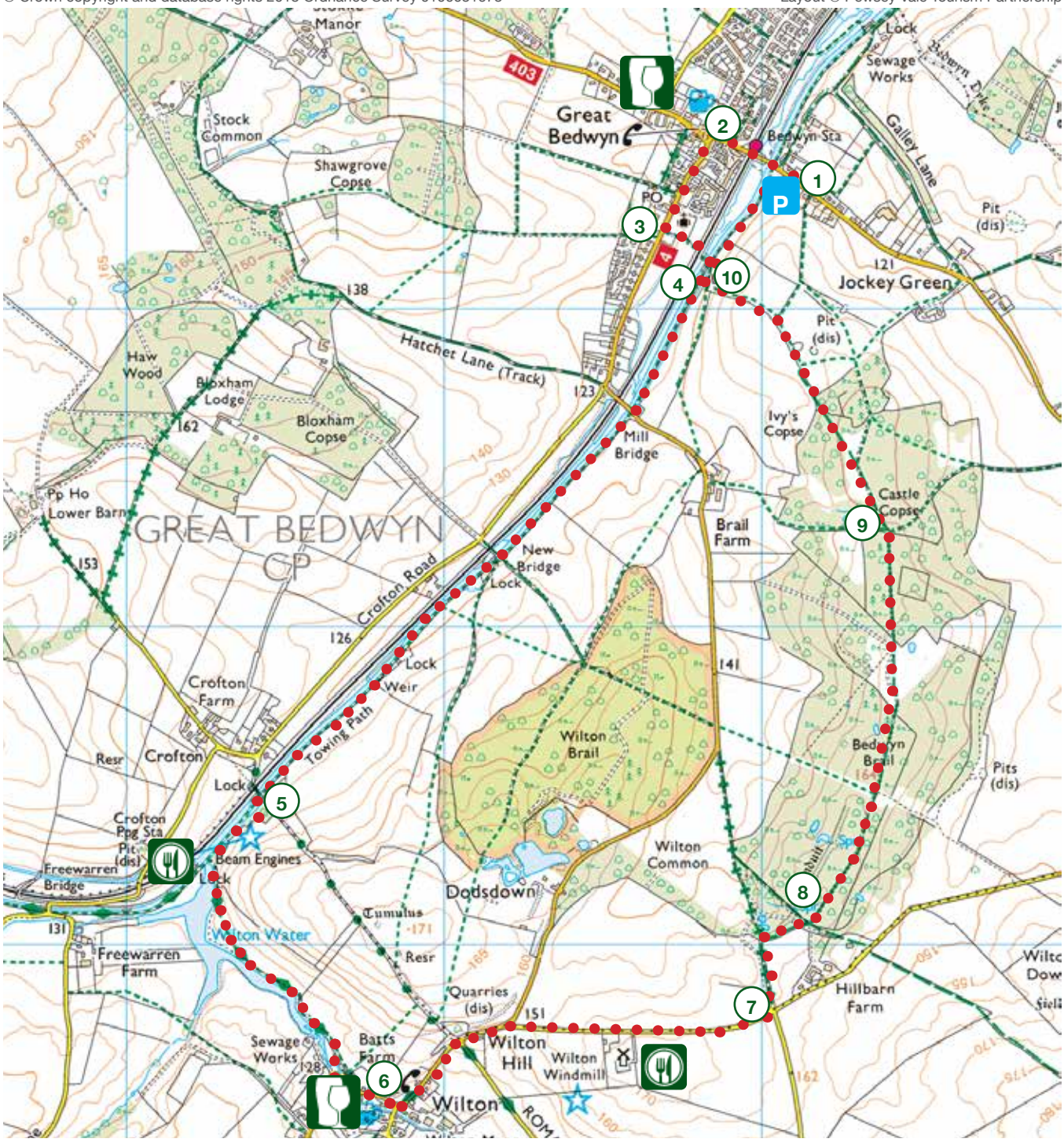

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DIRECTIONS

1 Starting at the Bedwyn Wharf car park in Brook Street, turn left on to Brook Street and walk over the canal bridge and then the railway bridge.

2 At the junction with Church Street, visit the Visitor Information Kiosk in the red phone box where you can get lots of local information. Turn left into Church Street and continue past the Post Office & Bakery on your right. When you get to St Mary's Church you may want to go in and have a look at the tomb of Sir John Seymour in the chancel. His daughter, Jane, was Henry VIII's third wife and the Seymour family home was at Wolfhall, just a few miles away.

3 Just beyond the Church take the footpath left between the two gravevards. Climb a stile. cross a

field to a kissing gate, then carefully cross the railway line to a further kissing gate. Cross the footbridge, then the bridge over the Kennet and Avon Canal and descend to the tow path.

4 Turn right, past Church Lock (no. 64) and continue along the tow path upstream for 1½ miles (2.4km), which takes you under Mill Bridge and past three further locks to reach Lock 60 and Crofton Beam Engines. If you want to visit Crofton Beam Engines, then cross the canal here, turn left, then follow a wooded path right and pass through the tunnel beneath the railway. Ascend the steps to the Crofton Pumping Station.

5 Otherwise, just before Lock 60, take the footpath left, using a narrow walkway, over the head of Wilton Water, waymarked to Wilton Windmill. Walk along the edge of Wilton Water, past Quacker's Bench, until you get to a short track leading to the lane by the village pond in Wilton.

6 Turn left, then just past The Swan Inn, follow the lane round to the left, sign posted Great Bedwyn. As you go up the hill, at the fork in the road, take the right-hand lane towards Wilton Windmill, the only working windmill in Wessex, where the site is open all year round if you wish to stop off.

7 Continue along the lane, passing the windmill on your right and turn left on to a track, opposite the lane to Marten. At the signposted junction take the right path waymarked Gt Bedwyn Bridleway.

8 At a staggered crossing of paths, turn right signposted to Gt. Bedwyn, and then in 50yds (46m), turn left signposted to Great Bedwyn. Go round the barrier, enter Bedwyn Brail and proceed along the well-surfaced track. Continue through the woods, following the signs to Great Bedwyn.

9 Where the surfaced track bears right, follow this round staying on the Gt Bedwyn Footpath (signposted) which brings you to a metal kissing gate leading out of the Brail and into a field. Follow a well-trodden trail leading diagonally across the field towards a clearly visible gap in the hedge at the other side, leading into another field. Descend along the left-hand side of the next field, with Great Bedwyn visible ahead. Near the bottom of the field, bear half-right, downhill to the canal.

10 Pass through the gate by the bridge and Lock 64 and turn right along the tow path which will lead you back to Bedwyn Wharf car park.