

WALKS IN THE VALE OF PEWSEY



CIRCULAR WALK

GREEN DROVE PEWSEY WHITE HORSE MANNINGFORD ABBOTS

7.7 miles / 12.4 km

Allow 3 hours

Generally level with some inclines.

The walk up to the Pewsey White Horse is very steep, but optional.

Tarmac roads, footpaths and fields.

Can be muddy in places.

Not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs.



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 National Landscape and on the Great West Way.



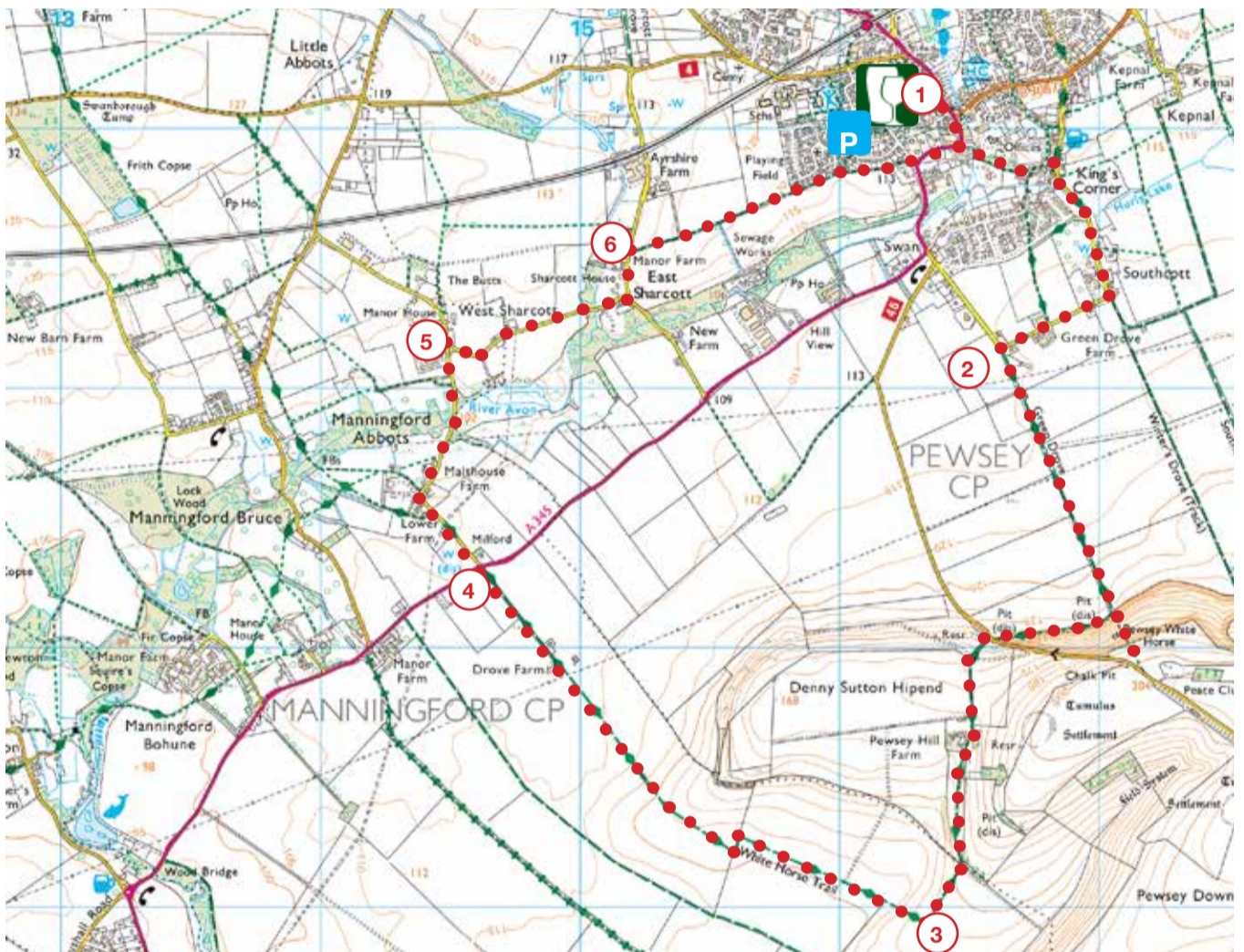
Traversed by the Ridgeway and Kennet & Avon Canal, served by a network of ancient footpaths, tracks, and bridleways, the Vale of Pewsey is ideal for walking, riding or cycling, with welcoming places to stay, friendly and atmospheric places to eat, drink and shop, and local events to enjoy throughout the year. Once you are in the Vale, use the Wiltshire Connect on-demand bus service to travel throughout the area.

For more information go to www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk



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The Grade II listed Pewsey Farm Barn, built in 1818.

Pewsey White Horse In 1937 George Marples, an authority on hill carvings, happened to be in the area at the time when a committee had been formed to find a suitable way of commemorating the Coronation of George VI. The idea of a new white horse was mooted, and Mr Marples was approached for suggestions. He produced three drawings, and one of these was approved by the committee and cut into the hillside by volunteers from Pewsey Fire Brigade.

Manningford Abbots Church There was probably a parish church in the 10th century, and certainly one in 1291; its dedication is unknown. Rebuilt in 1861-64 to designs by the architect S.B. Gabriel of Bristol, it was declared redundant in 1984 and the parish joined with Manningford Bruce.

1 Walk from the car park down to North Street. Turn right on to River Street, past King Alfred's statue. Where the road bends sharply to the right, turn left and cross the bridge over the River Avon and The Grove is on your right. Follow the surfaced path (on the left) which is dedicated to Miss Pat Beresford, a local lady who loved The Vale of Pewsey and walking – in fact this walk is based on one that she compiled. Go past the Football Recreation Ground and on to Easterton Lane. This will veer slightly to your right and on to Southcott Road. Continue along here until you get to a sharp right hand bend, follow the road round on to Green Drove and take the next bridleway on the left signposted Pewsey Hill.

2 Green Drove, at this point, is a farm track and the Pewsey White Horse is directly ahead of you. When you reach the steep hill below the White Horse, the track bears round to the right. But before you go right, take a moment to walk up the steep hill if you are able to and have a closer look – white horses are best viewed at a distance, but turn around and admire the vale across the Pewsey Downs in the north west and Martinsell in the east – and beyond. Go back down the hill and continue on the footpath heading towards the Everleigh Road. Go through the kissing gate to Pewsey Hill Farm, take care here, and on the bridleway to Pewsey Hill Farm is slightly to your right on the opposite side of the road. This track is a hollow way and when you reach the gate, go through on to the farm track. Follow the track past the enormous Grade II Listed barn on your right, go through the gate and then straight on through the walkers' gate following the signs for the White Horse Trail straight ahead.



3 Half way along the field is a tiny stand of small trees on the left and a footpath sign pointing right down the middle of several fields. Waymarkers for the White Horse Trail point the way. Take the path to the right. Here there are excellent views of Denny Sutton Hipend and the Avon Valley. This path is usually well-defined but can be very overgrown and doglegs left and right two fields over. Keep going straight ahead from here, going past Drove Farm and on to the A345.

4 Cross the main road and go down the road opposite through the hamlet of Manningford Abbots. When you reach Malthouse Farm on your right, you can either go straight on or take the kissing gate on your left which leads you on a lovely diversion to the 13th century Manningford Abbots Church and back on to the lane. This footpath may be overgrown in summer.



5 Continue along the lane and turn right down the lane to Sharcott, just past the thatched Corner Cottage. After just under half a mile (.75 km) you will reach a T junction where you turn left on to Sharcott Drove. Go along here for about 200 yards (180 metres) and turn right just after a cottage on to the grassy footpath signposted to Pewsey.

6 Follow the path, known as Sandy Lane, to your right behind the houses, past the school to the junction of The Crescent and the A345, near the Church. Go left down the road round the left at the sharp bend. Go past King Alfred's statue and into North Street and the Bouverie Hall Car Park is on your left.