

WALKS IN THE VALE OF PEWSEY



CIRCULAR WALK

WILTON WINDMILL
ROMAN ROAD
CROFTON BEAM ENGINES
WILTON WATER

2.3 miles / 3.7 km

1 hour: generally level with two mild inclines.

Short crossing from field to towpath where buggies or wheelchairs will need to be carried.



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.



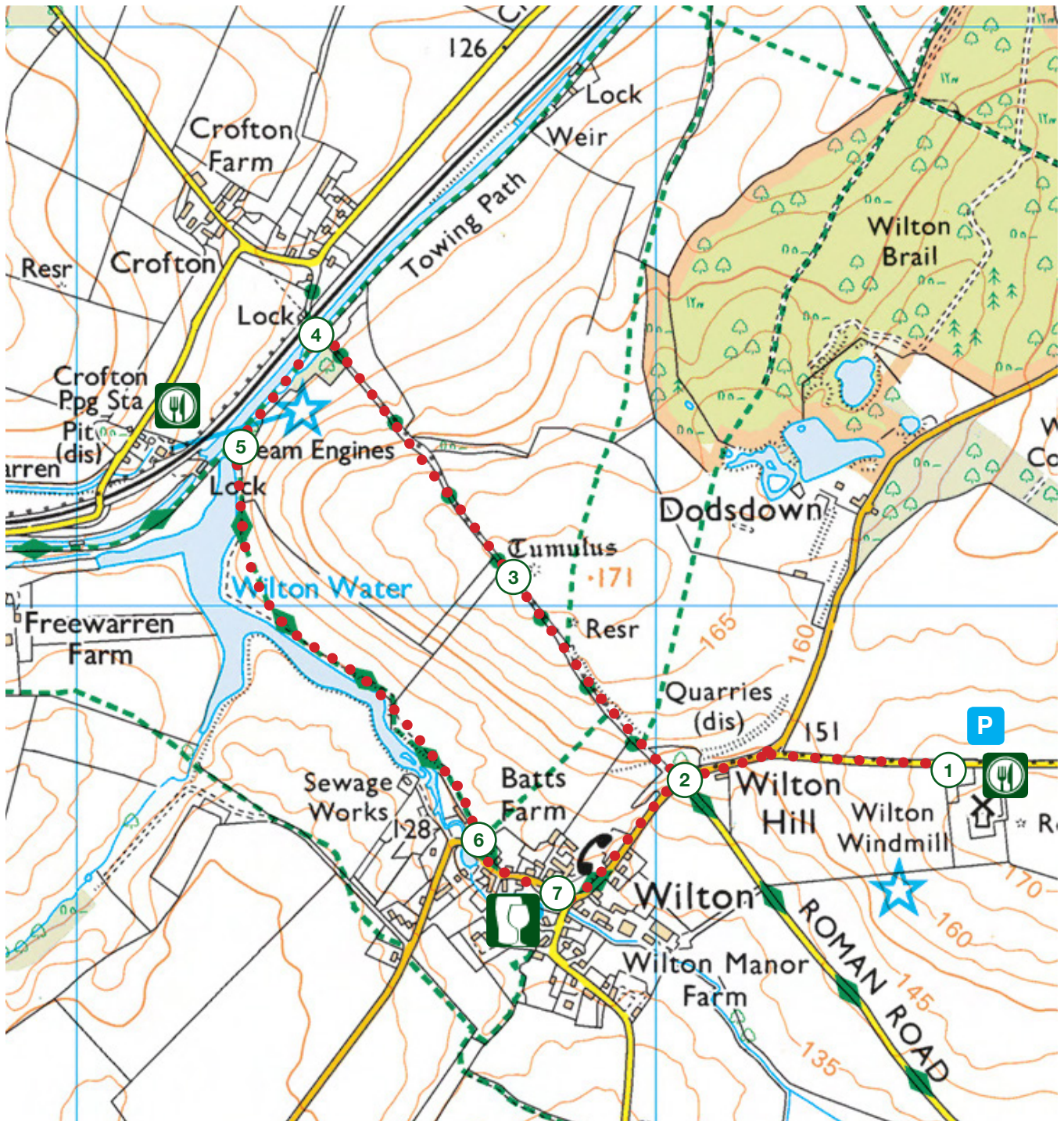
Traversed by the Ridgeway and Kennet & Avon Canal, served by a network of ancient footpaths, tracks, and bridleways, the Vale of Pewsey is ideal for walking, riding or cycling, with welcoming places to stay, friendly and atmospheric places to eat, drink and shop, and local events to enjoy throughout 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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- 1 There are a few starting places where you can park, but this route starts at Wilton Windmill where there is a layby. **P** From the Windmill, with your back to the entrance gate on the lane, turn left and go down the lane towards Wilton village. When you get to the Y-Junction, continue on down the hill until you see the footpath sign to Crofton Pumping Station on your right.
- 2 Turn right on to the footpath which is part of the old Roman Road from *Venta Belgarum* (Winchester) to *Cunetio* (Mildenhall, near Marlborough). Continue up the Roman Road ignoring the wooden signpost pointing to Crofton Pumping Station.
- 3 From the top there are fine views over Wilton village and Wilton Water to the left. Just before the road starts to drop down, you can see Crofton Pumping Station below on the left as well as extensive views straight ahead and to the right of historic Savernake Forest and the valley down towards Great Bedwyn. Turn around and look behind you to see Wilton Windmill. This is an area of Upper Chalk with flints.
- 4 Continue down the hill until you reach the canal and turn left onto the canal towpath. Five minutes walking alongside the wide Crofton Engine Pound brings you to the Pumping Station. This is the highest point of the canal between Reading and Bath.
- 5 Leave the towpath just before Crofton, turning left off the towpath and crossing a narrow walkway at the head of Wilton Water. You will now follow the path along the edge of Wilton Water which is the habitat of many wild birds and animals, so some care is required.
- 6 On the edge of Wilton Water is the Quackers bench and shortly afterwards you reach Wilton village, with the duck pond in front of you. Turn left along the lane, past all the pretty thatched cottages. A short distance, you will find The Swan Inn **I** on your right - good food, real ales, a log fire, beer garden and dog and child friendly.
- 7 Continue up the hill taking the right leg at the Y-junction. Wilton Windmill will now be in sight.

ALONG THE ROUTE

Wilton Windmill



The only working windmill in Wessex was built in 1821 to replace five watermills made redundant when the Kennet & Avon Canal took their water. The mill was in use for just over a century, falling into disuse in the 1920s due to competition from steam roller mills. Restoration work began in 1972 and by summer 1976 the windmill was once again making flour.

Crofton Pumping Station



The station was built in 1807-9 to supply water to the highest point of the Kennet & Avon Canal which links London and Bristol. Wilton Water is the reservoir created for this purpose. The 1812 Boulton & Watt steam powered beam engine, is the oldest working beam engine in the world that is still in its original location and capable of performing the task for which it was installed.

The Swan Inn



The village of Wilton stands in the valley of a head stream of the Dun, whose waters have served the pond for at least three centuries. There is known to have been a Swan Inn on the north side of the rectangle at Wilton from 1724 at the latest. The inn moved to its current location, a mid 20th-century house at the northeast corner of the rectangle, in 1996.