

## WALKS IN THE VALE OF PEWSEY



### CIRCULAR WALK

## WOODBOROUGH KENNET & AVON CANAL HONEYSTREET & BOTTLESFORD

7.3 MILES / 11.7 KM : 3 hours  
(without Woodborough Hill  
6.3 miles/10.1km : 2.5 hours)

Field paths, canal towpath,  
footpaths and lanes.

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](http://www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk)



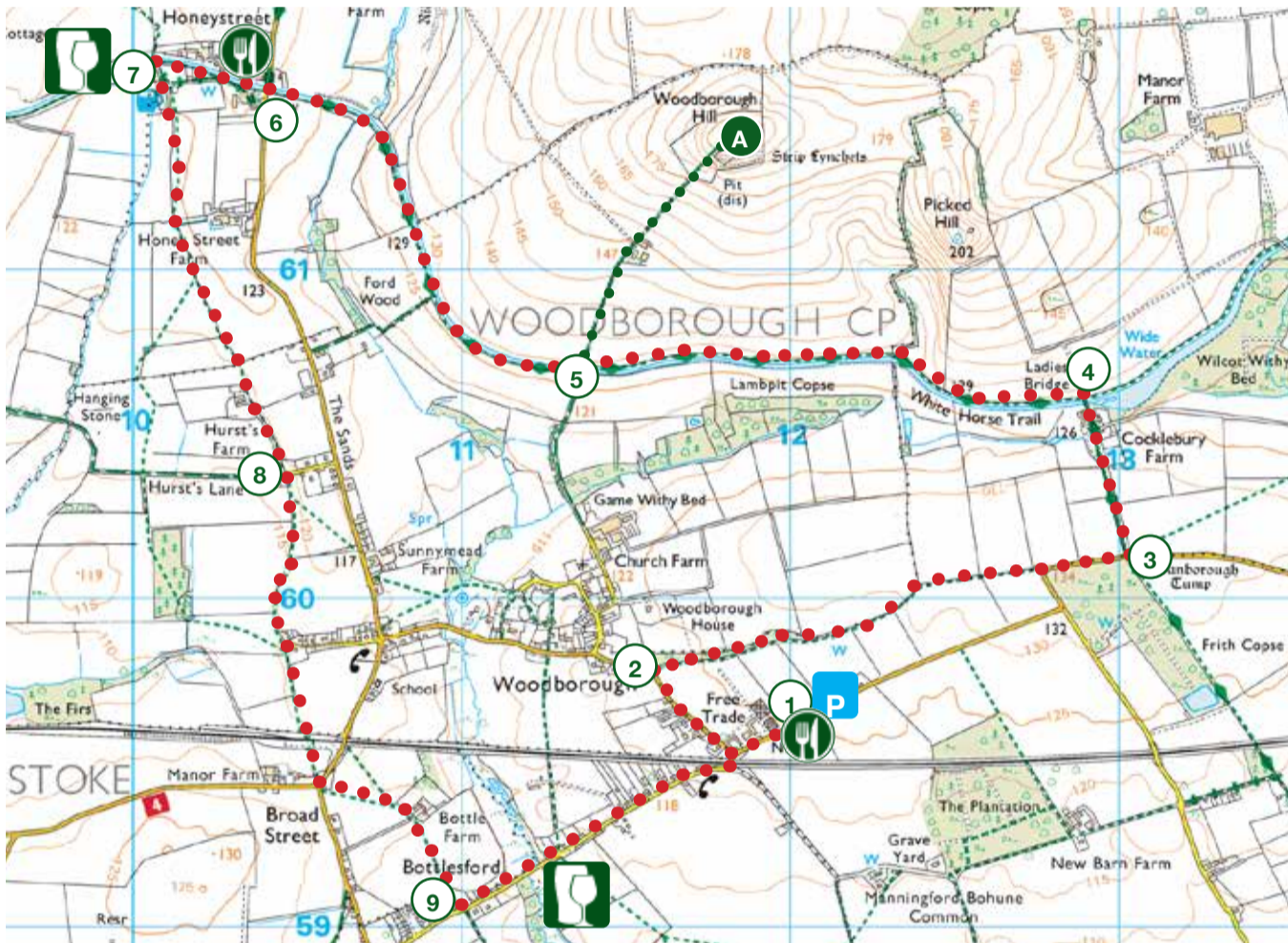
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### ALONG THE ROUTE

#### Ladies Bridge (photo below)

When in 1807 the Kennet and Avon canal crossed land owned by the Wroughton family of Wilcot House, access was permitted on two conditions. That the canal should be widened near their house to create an ornamental lake, now known as Wide Water; and that the company build an ornamental bridge. Built by John Rennie, the ladies referred to are Susannah Wroughton and her daughter, also Susannah.

#### Nursery Farm, Woodborough

In 1883 Walter T. Ware, Nurseryman, began trading from this very location. Ware's, was celebrated for tulips and daffodils – there is evidence that Monet bought bulbs for his garden in

Giverny from here – and as recently as the 1960s coach trips would come to walk around the tulip fields. The tulip fields were for the visitors, the daffodils were cut by the local workers, boxed and then taken by train – initially from Woodborough Halt Station until 1964 when Beeching made his cuts, and then from Pewsey Station – to London and the north of England and beyond.

#### Swanborough Tump

The meeting place of the Saxon Hundred Moot of Swanborough, in AD 871 King Alfred and his brother Ethelred met there for an assembly of warriors confronting a Viking incursion. Uncertain of their fate, each of the brothers swore, despite Saxon custom, that if either died in battle the fallen man's children would still inherit the lands of their older brother King Aethelwulf

- 1 This walk begins at Woodborough Yard (also known as Nursery Farm - see Along the Route). This is a lovely complex of converted farm buildings now serving as independent shops and cafes. From Woodborough Yard, turn right on to the lane, towards the railway bridge. Follow the road round to the right and continue along here, until you reach a slight left bend in the road with a footpath sign pointing right.
- 2 Turn right on to the footpath and follow the well-marked track, going along until the track bears left through a small wood. You will be able to see Woodborough Hill, Picked Hill and Alton White Horse from here – the first of many glimpses. At the end of the wood, continue straight ahead until you reach the lane.
- 3 Turn left onto the lane with Frith Copse on your right. When you reach the turning for Cocklebury Farm on your left, look to your right to see Swanborough Tump (see Along the Route). Turn down the tree-lined driveway (from where you have a great view of Martinsell Hill to your right) and at the bottom of the track, go through the gate and on to Ladies' Bridge (see Along the Route).



- 4 Go over the bridge and turn left onto the towpath.
- 5 Continue along the towpath until you reach Woodborough Fields Bridge (number 122).

**A** A walk up to the top of Woodborough Hill is highly recommended – the views are fantastic especially of the Alton White Horse. To go up the hill, turn right at the bridge and follow the track.

Once you are back at the bridge, cross to the south bank of the canal and turn right to continue west.

- 6 You will reach Honeystreet Bridge (number 124) where you can go up on to the road and cross over to visit Honeystreet Mill for refreshments, shopping and the Crop Circle Exhibition. Otherwise continue along the towpath until you reach The Barge Inn.
- 7 Turn left through the Barge car park and when you get to a grassy bank in front of you, bear left for a few yards and you will see a wooden gate on your right. Go through this gate and go across the field. There are two stiles – take the one on the left. Continue along the edge of the field until you get to the other end and a metal gate with stile. Go through the metal gate on to the concrete track and then through the metal gate in front of you and slightly to the right. Keep the barbed wire fence on your left and continue to the end of the field. Continue straight ahead through the next field to the next stile which takes you into a fenced off path with trees. At the end of this there is another stile which brings you on to a hard track which joins Hurst's Lane. Climb the steps to your left leading up from the lane.
- 8 Continue along the edge of the field, with the hedge on your right. At the third stile (to the left of a metal gate) go over the stile and turn right down the grassy path to another stile. Go over the stile and immediately turn left then right on to the track and continue straight ahead and cross over the railway footbridge. Go through the paddock bearing slightly left following the path between the trees. At the wooden gate, you exit the field on to a junction of several lanes. Go straight ahead on to Broad Street and over the waymarked stile almost immediately on your left. Continue through the field and along the paths (the final stretch is quite narrow) until you come out on Gores Lane in Bottlesford.
- 9 Turn left, passing or stopping off at The Seven Stars Inn on the way. A short distance beyond the Tourist Information phone box, you will reach a railway bridge. Woodborough Yard is over the bridge and then immediately right..

