

MWW website directions – stage 13, Wilton to Ham

Maps: Landranger 174, OS Explorer 157 & 158

Distance: 7.9 miles (12.6 km)

West to east

Turn R out of the Swan Inn car park along the main street (signposted to Great Bedwyn, NOT Hollow Lane). Turn R after approx. 150m, signposted Tidcombe, Marten and Wexcombe, along a straight Roman road. On reaching the A338 after almost one mile (1.6 km), turn L and immediately R, signposted Marten. Pass Sir William Bentley Billiards on your L, and shortly afterwards, as the road bends R, take the track to L just past the phone box, letter box and notice board outside Rose Cottage. The hedge to R is soon replaced with an open field, and when the track bends R, turn L into a field, with hedge R. Continue along edge of field, through a gate then uphill, to a metalled road. Turn R here, and after 700m turn L uphill onto Rivar Down on the signposted byway.

Follow this track for 1.3 miles (2 km) to another metalled road (to Shalbourne). There are fine views from this track to the L. Go R uphill for a few metres to a junction with a side road, signposted Fosbury 2, and take the track which leads L off this side road after a few metres. This is Ashley Down. Follow this track for just over a mile (1.6 km) to another metalled road (to Ham). The fine views continue along this section. Cross the road and go straight on, signposted Buttermere 1, and after a few metres veer L along the crest of Ham Hill on the signposted byway. Follow this track for exactly a mile (1.6 km), until you reach a waymarked bridleway gate in the fence on your L. Go sharp L (135 degrees) towards a solitary gate on the hillside. Maintain direction downhill through another lonely gate to a gate on the edge of a line of trees.

Pass through the trees; the **official route**, as marked on the OS maps, continues in the same direction through two fields, however the **waymarked route** is one that avoids the farmer having to leave a path through his crops in the first field, so instead follow the edge of the field to your L. At the corner, go R for a few metres, then L through the gap in the hedge. Aim for a double farm gate, always left open, at the bottom of the field to the L of the hedge on your R. On reaching this, the two routes converge. Turn L on a metalled but rough track to arrive at a much better metalled road after half a mile (0.8 km), at the end of the second field. Turn R here and follow the road into the village of Ham, where the MWW ends outside the Crown and Anchor pub (which is also an Indian restaurant).

East to west

The MWW westwards starts outside the Crown and Anchor pub in Ham (which is also an Indian restaurant). With the pub on your L, walk up the main street, following it first R then L, past Manor Farm House on R. Just past two houses on the L, the first of which is thatched, turn L into a field on a signposted bridleway. Proceed along the metalled but rough track for half a mile (0.8 km) into the second field, to reach a double farm gate (always left open).

At this point the **official route** shown on the OS maps takes you through the rest of this field and the next one on a route 45 degrees to the R, but the **waymarked route** is one that avoids the farmer having to leave a path through his crops in the second field, so instead turn R, aiming for a gap at the top of the hedge on your L. Go through this gap, turn R to the corner of the field and then L along its edge. After approx 150 m the two routes converge. Here turn R through the line of trees and pass through a gate. Continue in the same direction diagonally up Ham Hill, and on reaching a solitary gate the steepness increases. Maintain direction at the next lonely gate, where the slope eases off. Go through the gate at the top of the hill, and turn sharp R along the lane beyond.

Follow this track along the top of Ham Hill for exactly one mile (1.6 km), when you reach a metalled road (to Ham). There are fine views to the R along this stretch of the MWW. Cross over this road and continue along the track onto Ashley Down, where the fine views persist, for just over a mile (1.6 km) to reach another metalled road close to a junction with the main road to Shalbourne. Turn R down to the junction, and then R down the main road for a few metres, before turning L into a copse onto a signposted byway. Follow the track along the top of Rivar Down, with more bucolic views to the R, for another 1.3 miles (2 km) to yet another metalled road. Turn R down the road for 700m, ignoring a

byway to L, then turn L into a field onto a waymarked footpath. Proceed down a slope through a gate to the bottom of the field beyond, with hedge L. At the corner of the field, turn R onto a track with open field to L and hedge R. Follow the track into the village of Marten.

On reaching the main road, turn sharp R, with letter box, phone box and notice board outside Rose Cottage on R, and follow the road past Sir William Bentley Billiards on R to arrive at the A338. Turn L along it and immediately R, signposted Wilton and Windmill. Follow this straight Roman road for almost one mile (1.6 km), turning L and downhill at the T junction, signposted Grafton and Wilton. After approx. 150m, arrive at the Swan Inn in Wilton.