

Wansdyke Path directions – A361 to Smallgrain Plantation

Map: OS Explorer 157

Distance: 1.95 miles (3.1 km)

East to west

Cross the A361 to the left of a line of trees opposite. Go through a metal gate and walk along (or preferably beside) the Wansdyke for the length of two fields. Go through a metal gate, across two frequently waterlogged byways and the small green triangle between them, and pass through a small copse beyond. Follow the path on the other side as it winds left, then right and left again, in harmony with the Wansdyke. Soon two radio masts on Morgan's Hill come into view. When you reach the field containing these masts, continue to follow the Wansdyke, with the radio masts to right, exiting the field which hosts them via a gate nestling between the ramparts of the Wansdyke. Ignore a gate to your left giving access to the North Wilts Golf Club and walk beside the Wansdyke on an often muddy path, gradually descending. Pass through a gate onto a track, which is an old Roman road, and continue in the same direction with the golf club always on your left, descending again after a while. Approx. 500m after joining the track, turn left up some steps with a wooden handrail into the Smallgrain Picnic Area car park, which is by the Plantation of the same name.

West to east

The Smallgrain Picnic Area car park, which is by the Plantation of the same name, is approximately 700m north-west of the North Wilts Golf Club car park and club house on the Blacklands road between Devizes and Calne.

Take the steps at the back of the car park up and then down onto a track, which is an old Roman road. Turn right along this, with the golf course always on your right, going uphill. After 500m, as the track bends left, go through a gate in front of you, where there is a sign describing what Morgan's Hill has to offer. Continue uphill on an often muddy path, with the Wansdyke to your left. Ignore a gate to your right giving access to the North Wilts Golf Club, and continue walking along the Wansdyke. Go through a gate nestling between the two ramparts of the Wansdyke into the field containing two radio masts on the top of Morgan's Hill. Keeping these on the left, follow the Wansdyke to a metal gate. Continue on the path beyond the gate as it winds right, then left and right again in harmony with the Wansdyke. Enter a small copse and cross two frequently waterlogged byways and the small green triangle between them on the other side to go through a metal gate. Walk beside the Wansdyke the length of two fields to arrive at the A361.