

Spectacular Countryside

Wiltshire is very lucky to have not one, not two but three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – not to mention a section of the New Forest National Park and over 8,200 footpaths waiting to be discovered. Easy to explore, yet off the beaten track, Wiltshire's scenery is as beautiful as it is varied, ranging from rolling chalk downland to gentle Cotswold hills; from a high grassy plateau to acres of ancient woodland.



Big skies and Broad Horizons

At the heart of the county lies the vast expanse of the [Salisbury Plain](#). In addition to being a military training area, the land is home to some unique wildlife including the recently reintroduced Great Bustard – Wiltshire's county bird. Within the Plain also lies the abandoned village of Imber, which opens at various times during the year.

Havens for Wildlife

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust manages 37 nature reserves across the county, covering a wide variety of natural habitats from bog and wetland to chalk grassland and woodland. The National Nature Reserve at North Meadow, near Cricklade is renowned for its spectacular display of Snakeshead Fritillaries during April, while West Woods at Marlborough and Grovely Woods near Wilton are carpeted with beautiful bluebells in May.

Wiltshire's White Horses

Among the many characteristic images of Wiltshire are its [white horses](#), of which eight can still be seen today across the centre of the county. The oldest, at Westbury, has a history dating back at least 300 years. The most recent, at Devizes, was cut into the chalk to commemorate the Millennium in the year 2000.

Cycling, Walking and Horse Riding

Wherever you are in the county, Wiltshire's miles of ancient drove roads and uncrowded country lanes are the perfect way to explore this quintessentially English landscape. A series of [cycle routes](#) range from short hops to long-distance trails – of which the 160-mile Wiltshire Cycleway is an excellent example. Elsewhere around the county you can sample one of several National Cycle Routes, or experience part of the National Byway. Walkers will love Wiltshire too, with the opportunity to revel in part of the Ridgeway, a classic National Trail, or take to the Thames Path, which follows this most famous of rivers from its source in the Cotswolds towards London.

Whether galloping over rolling chalk downs or hacking through beautiful woodland, horse riders are also well served, with plenty of spectacular routes to choose from.

For further information or to arrange a press visit please contact Florence Wallace, Travel Trade & PR Manager, flowallace@visitwiltshire.co.uk Tel: 01722 341309 or 07436 5888

