

OLD AND NEW WARDOUR CASTLES



ENGLISH HERITAGE

A pleasant walk through fields and along tracks that can be muddy in winter. Old Wardour Castle dates from the 14th century and was the site of two sieges in the Civil War. It features in the film 'Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves'. The castle is in the care of English Heritage and opens daily from April to October, but weekends only in winter. New Wardour Castle was built in the Palladian manner in the 18th century and has a fine Italianate Chapel. It is not open to the public.

The walk

1 Start

Take the track to the R of the Castle and to the L of the lake. Keep R at the lodge and soon look back for a good view of the Castle. Continue up the side of the wood. Before the archway keep R. You should now have good views of New Wardour Castle over to your R. At the field entrance, go over stile and keep on the L of the fence towards a small wood in a dip.

2 1km/½ mile

Pass through a gateway with the pond on your L. At the next

gateway cross the field towards another gate. Go through gateway and keep straight on uphill. At junction of paths, fork right onto uphill ungrassed track and, keeping to ungrassed track, later go through entrance at side of gate. Carry straight on past house. The Latin inscription on gates on R: "Fiat Justitia, Ruat Caelum", means "Let justice be done though the heavens fall". Shortly after the gates, turn R over stile into field.

3 1.9km/1¼ miles

Bear R and enter wood through

gate keeping to R hand path. Turn L at the clearing and walk towards farm gate. Pass through side of gate and continue towards farm buildings, go over stile. Turn R across farmyard and straight on through a wooden gate. Pass between hedges and through another wooden gate into a field.

4 2.5km/1½ miles

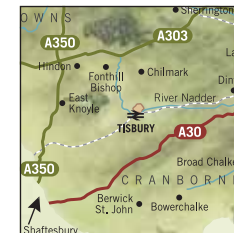
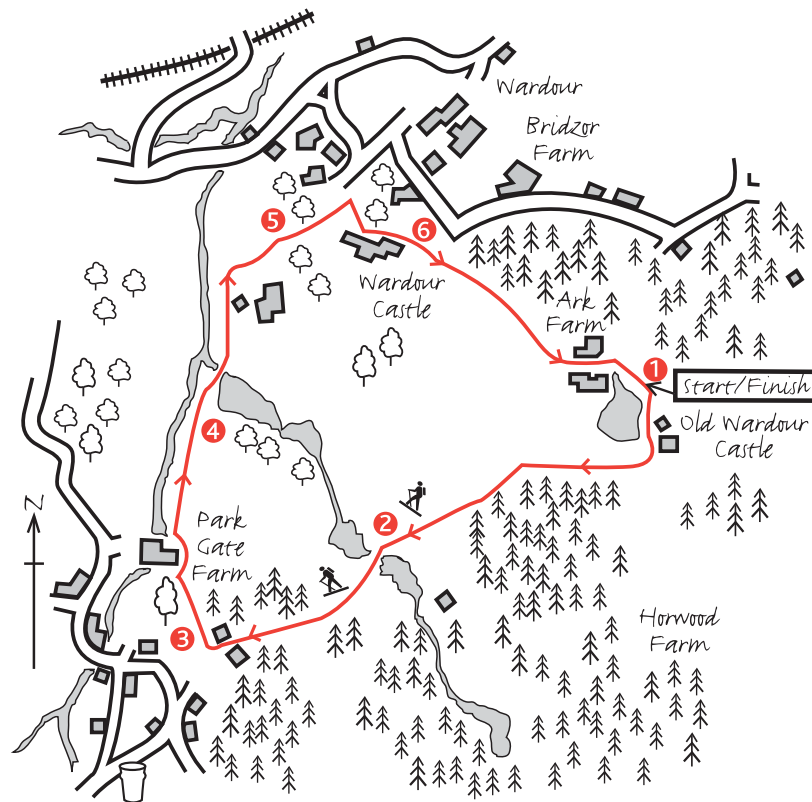
Walk through field with hedge on your R and stream further down to your L. Cross double stile and walk towards house, crossing the bridge through a gate. Go uphill to L of house over stile.

5 3.5km/2¼ miles

Cross the farm road and go over another stile. Keep straight on over a stile into woods. Continue to R of Wardour Court towards New Wardour Castle. At end of Wardour Court, turn R, then L across a lawn and go between bushes to a gravel path. Walk in front of New Wardour Castle on your R.

6 4.5km/2¾ miles

50yds after end of metalled road turn R over stile by a gate. Continue along track across field and look towards Old Wardour Castle. At junction of tracks, turn L through farmyard. At end of buildings, turn L along surfaced track towards the car park.



IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain: Farm tracks, through fields, some rough grass, moderate hill.

Stiles: 9

Suitable for: Average walkers

PLANNING

Start/parking:

Car Park at ST938264

Nearest town:

Tisbury
Refreshments: The Foresters Pub, Donhead St Andrew. Pubs & other facilities available in Tisbury.

Public toilets: None. But toilets can be found at the facilities mentioned above

Public transport:

Bus no.26, very limited service from Salisbury to Shaftesbury - stops at Wardour & Donhead St Andrew. For further details contact Traveline, tel 0871 200 2233

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 118 Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase.

ACCOMMODATION

If you would like to find somewhere to stay in Wiltshire, please go to www.visitwiltshire.co.uk, Where to Stay.