

LACOCK



VISITWILTSHIRE/MIKE HASTED

This beautiful National Trust village is one of Wiltshire's real gems. With houses dating from the 13th century, a majestic abbey and winding streets to explore, you will certainly want to set aside some extra time to explore. The abbey became the home of William Fox Talbot, pioneer of photography, and a museum commemorating his work is situated outside the abbey gates. (N.B. Being in a river valley, parts of the route may occasionally be flooded)

The walk

1 Start

Turn R from the car park and R again on the road leading out of the village, in front of Lacock Abbey. Cross the river by the raised path. Continue past the waymarked path on your L and take the next stile on your L, just before the chapel.

2 0.8km/½ mile

Follow the upper hedge until reaching a walkway over the stream with a stile. Cross the stile

and walk up the L edge of the field to a gateway in the L hand corner. Cross the next field, bearing L to a gateway in the Lhand corner of the far hedge. Cross another field to meet a bend in the River Avon, with a waymarked stile. Take care as this stile has a steep drop and the ground can be boggy.

3 1.6km/1 mile

Go over the stile and follow the riverbank to a kissing gate in the fence by the willow trees. Go

through and at the next curve leave the riverbank and cut half left across the field to finish at the L-hand of a raised, fenced footpath. A signpost is visible where the path joins the river bridge at Reybridge.

4 2.3km/1½ miles

Cross the river and turn L at the Tjunction, following the road for a few yards. Turn L onto a paved path between cottages where the road bends. Follow the path

across a field. Looking back across your route you can view Bowden Hill to the R and Naish Hill to the L. Turn R at the kissing gate at the end of this path.

5 2.8km/1¾ miles

Continue along the lane across a picturesque 18th century packhorse bridge by a ford (one of the oldest ways into Lacock and a good place to wash your boots!).

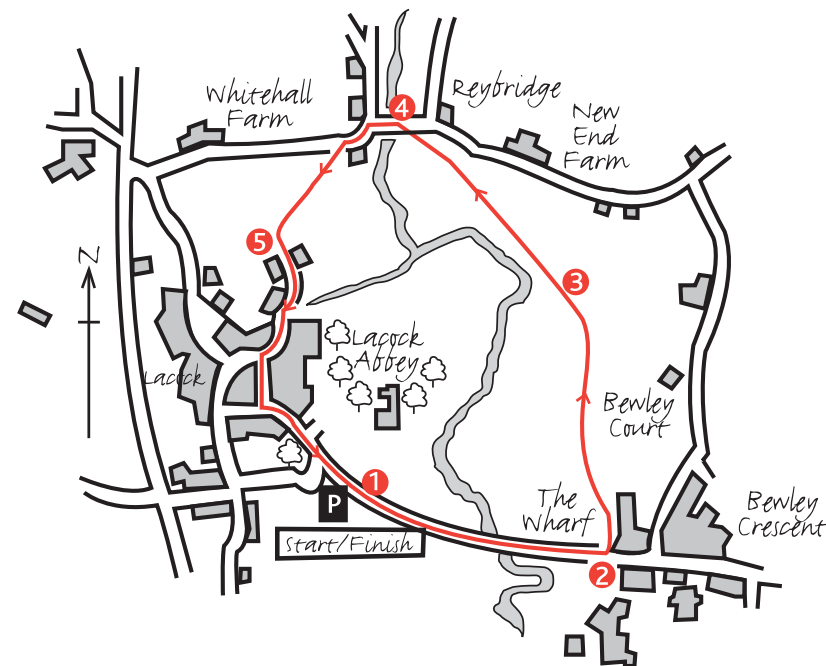
6 3.1km/2 miles

At the end of the lane, turn R, leaving St Cyriac church to your L. Pass King John's Hunting Lodge and take the first road L (East Street). Pass the 18th century lockup and entrance to the Tithe Barn. On meeting the village's

main street at the Red Lion, turn L past the Fox Talbot Museum of Photography and take a gravelled path by the road and through trees to the car park.



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IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain: Quiet lanes, metalled road, field paths and riverbank
Stiles: 4
Suitable for: Average walkers

PLANNING

Start/parking: Car park at ST916682
Nearest towns: Melksham and Chippenham
Refreshments: Lacock is well served by pubs, restaurants and tea rooms
Public toilets: In the Red Lion car park and at the facilities mentioned above
Public transport: Regular bus service between Chippenham and Melksham, which stops at the George Inn, Lacock. For further details contact Traveline tel 0871 200 2233

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 156 Chippenham and Bradford on Avon

ACCOMMODATION

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