

WEST LAVINGTON AND SALISBURY PLAIN



VISITWILTSHIRESTEVE.DAY

West Lavington is situated on the northern fringe of Salisbury Plain, and the village itself is so long that it has joined with the adjacent hamlet of Littleton Pannell. The first part of this walk is on the Wessex Ridgeway, which then meets the Imber Range Perimeter Path for a short while, before dropping back into the valley and returning to the village. Magnificent views across the hills, woods and villages can be savoured, along with unusual flora and fauna.

The walk

1 Start

From the small lay-by, take the track up between the two hedges. After 70 yds turn R through the metal kissing gate. At the next junction turn L and walk up with Dauntsey School playing fields on your R. Continue straight ahead up the hill above the village, with views across the valley to the L of Rams Cliff and its series of Strip Lynchets - man-made terraces designed to ease cultivation on steep hillsides.

2 1.3km/¾ mile

On reaching the edge of the woods, turn R onto a gravelled track. At the end of this track there is a T-junction. Turn L, and take the track up through further woodland. As you emerge from the trees, keep the green barn to your R and continue straight ahead. You are now on Strawberry Hill where fine views across the valley abound to your L. As you descend into the valley through a small copse

beware, the track is slippery when wet. Emerging from the copse, continue straight on past the fence on your R. When you reach the point where the gravel track bears R continue straight on to the grass track - do not follow the gravel track around to the R. As you approach the hill ahead, follow the track around to the R, keeping the copses to your R and continue up the hill until you reach the corner of a barbed wire fence (quite a steep

climb). Turn L here following the fence line up to the metalled road at the top of the hill.

3 4.8km/3 miles

When you reach the road turn L and continue on the road. To your R is the MOD New Zealand Farm Camp. You are now leaving the Wessex Ridgeway and joining the Imber Range Perimeter Path. As you travel down the metalled road, the views to your L are some of the best you will see from the IRPP. After about a mile you will see a by-way sign pointing off the road to the L. Take this route which leads you towards a gap in the trees with Market Lavington village in the distance. On reaching the trees go through the gate and continue with the fence on your R. Carry on down the track and into the woods. Beware if muddy.

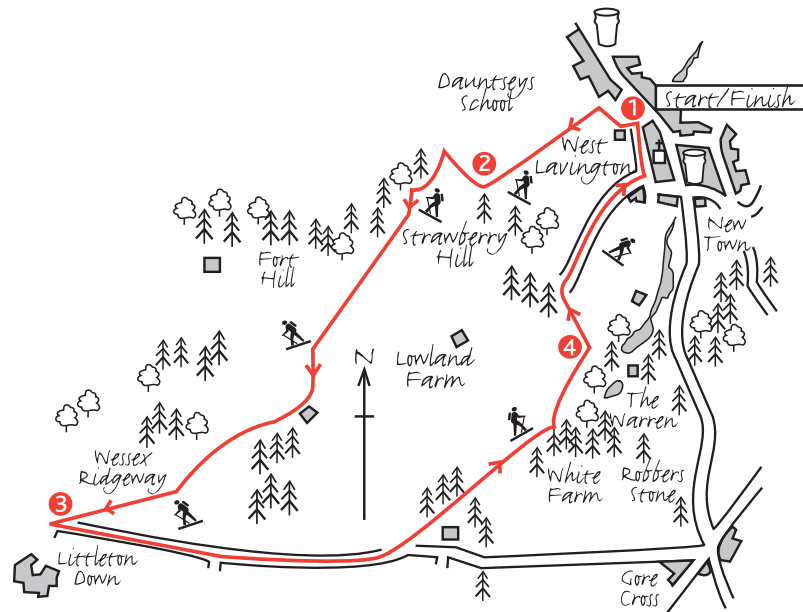
4 8.2km/5 miles

At a four-way crossroads, turn L. You are now travelling in a north-westerly

direction. After ¼ mile you reach a metalled road. Turn R onto this road. At the bottom of the hill turn L. You may wish to detour to look at All Saints Church down to your R. If so, look to your L as you enter the churchyard and you will see a walled garden with the remains of a fireplace, originally used to keep exotic plants at an appropriate temperature through winter. If you are not taking the detour to the church, simply continue on for approx ¼ mile back to the starting point of the walk.

POINTS OF INTEREST AND LOCAL INFORMATION

- All Saints Church in West Lavington has a Norman north arcade dating from c1200 and many fine monuments (SU07529)
- Strip Lynchets on Rams Cliff
- Dauntsey School founded in 1543 by Alderman William Dauntsey. The almshouses to the north-east of the church were founded at the same time



IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain: Tracks, woodland, plain, moderate hill
Stiles: 0
Suitable for: Average walkers

PLANNING

Starting point: SU005432. Park in lay-by 50 yds up White St. - 5 spaces. Also roadside parking further up White St. outside the cemetery.
Nearest town: West Lavington
Refreshments: Nisa shop in centre of village; The Stagepost pub; Churchill Arms pub; The Bridge Restaurant, on A360 south of West Lavington; fish & chip shop in nearby Market Lavington
Public toilets: None. But toilets can be found at facilities.

Public transport: Bus service 272/273 runs approximately 2-hourly (Bath to Easterton) (stops in centre of village approx ½ mile from start). Route 2 (Devizes to Salisbury) runs approx hourly and stops approx 200yds from start. For further details contact Traveline, tel 0871 200 2233

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 130 Salisbury & Stonehenge

ACCOMMODATION

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