



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

Alton Priors and the Alton Barnes White Horse – Wiltshire

- Start: Pewsey Down car park (grid ref: SU116637)
- OS map: OS Explorer 130
- Distance: 11km (6.75mi)
- Route type: circular
- Ease: Easy to moderate – one steep ascent, total ascent: 176m

If you want a taste of some of the best scenery and sights Wiltshire has on offer, this is the walk for you. Starting on the edge of Pewsey Down National Nature Reserve, the route takes in typical Wiltshire villages, a medieval church with hidden Sarsen stones and a 1,700 year-old yew tree, the Kennet and Avon Canal and spectacular views of the Alton Barnes White Horse. There's even a canal-side pub, the Barge, en route!

Instructions

1. Turn left out of Pewsey Down and head down the road for 75m, then take the footpath on the right.
2. Follow the footpath for approx. 500m then take the path that turns left. Follow this path downhill for 800m and continue straight on when the path joins the road. After 500m on the road, turn left.
3. Walk along this road for 400m, then turn right into Village St. Follow Village St to the end and go through the gate to pick up the footpath to All Saints' Church.
4. Enter the churchyard for a look around. Don't forget to find the 1,700 year-old yew tree and the trapdoors concealing the ancient Sarsen stone (and please leave a message in the visitors book to let us know what you think of the church!).
5. When you leave the churchyard head west, away from Alton Priors, and cross the fields to the sister parish of Alton Barnes and the Anglo Saxon St Mary's Church. Turn right when you hit the lane and at the end of the road turn left to head south.
6. This road leads into the village of Honeystreet. Here, cross the bridge over the Kennet and Avon canal and turn right onto the canal path.
7. Follow the canal path for 1.7km, passing the Barge Inn and crossing one country road along the way. At the second road you meet, leave the path and turn right onto the lane and cross the canal.
8. After approx. 100m take the footpath on your right. Follow it through the field until it meets with another country lane, and turn left to follow the lane for 300m.
9. Take the second right onto Calf Lane (follow the footpath sign). At the end of the lane carefully cross the Pewsey-Devizes Road and walk up the track opposite, pass the agricultural barn and through the metal gate. Follow the track straight for 650m then follow the path as it turns right and then left and up onto the downs.
10. Approx. 2km on this track it will meet the White Horse Way. Turn right and follow the path for 1km before you hit the White Horse. Once you've enjoyed the wonderful views continue along the path for another 1km along the ridge and back up to the car park.

plotaroute.com - Alton Priors Loop Final (11.056 km)

