

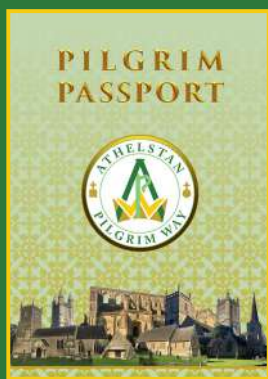


Gauzebrook

WALKING GUIDE 2 ATHELSTAN PILGRIM WAY



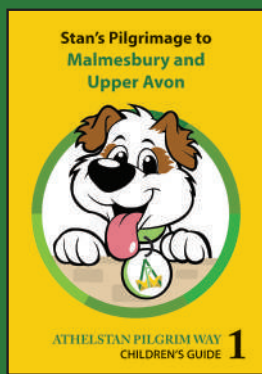
The Athelstan Pilgrim Way is a pilgrimage route linking all 36 Anglican churches in the North Wiltshire Deanery. It comprises 6 individual circular routes, with linking sections between them, and with the historic medieval Malmesbury Abbey at its centre.



HAVE YOU GOT YOUR PILGRIM PASSPORT?

There are 36 stamps to collect in each church.

PLUS: Pick up a children's guide and find out more about the furry friends guarding each building.



AVAILABLE FROM MALMESBURY ABBEY BOOKSHOP

GUIDES COMPILED, WALKED, AND WRITTEN BY DAVID & ANNE POPE

AND TASH WILKINSON

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID & ANNE POPE AND CAROLE BRITTON

MAPS © OPENSTREETMAP

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Malmesbury
Wiltshire SN16 9BA



WELCOME

King Athelstan had a palace near Malmesbury and was buried there, by the altar of the 7th-century abbey, next to St Aldhelm. The current Malmesbury Abbey is a successor to that original building, itself a shadow of its pre-Reformation heyday. The Abbey once rivalled Salisbury Cathedral in size, and has a 15th-century tomb commemorating Athelstan, the first King to unite England as a cohesive entity.

Our historic churches are living places of Christian worship and active community. They are havens of peace and contemplation. Our churches bear the marks of centuries of history, national politics and the changing preferences for how worship was conducted over time.

I invite you to make your pilgrimage around these remarkable churches of North Wiltshire, to marvel at the history and beauty and perhaps take a moment for contemplation or prayer. Whether your pilgrimage is long or short, on foot or otherwise, dare to imagine that you tread where King Athelstan trod before.

+ Neil Swindon



North Wiltshire Mission Area
Diocese of Bristol

www.athelstanpilgrimway.org.uk

THESE LANDS LIE EASY

These lands lie easy, inclines kind
Cropped fields and pastures, stone defined
Here, and there, as eastward go
Walls cede to thorn, wend waters flow.

A severed scape, the Fosse a slash,
Slink of railroute edged willow, ash.
Farms, manor, halls, age'd named,
Copse, grove and wood with lives ingrained.

Is, was, ever so diverse
Settlements, villages, scattered
Fashioned since Mutuatonis days
Fleshed by hands whom mattered.

That establishment of beacons,
Worship, arcadia acknowledged
Whatever sized, however formed,
Whatever now demolished.

Whatever remnants strated low
And clamped to cause decay
Once drawn by hand and drawn from stone
The inchoate passion play.

The gorse – now little, if at all -
If this is how the place was named,
Is golden bloomed and honey scent
A front to thorns that maim.

A skewered, spike'd crown of thorns
A circle rudely woven
That such was borne from God's own hand
To prove his son's devotion.

by Carole Britton

Also by the author: *Past, Present, Presence*,
a companion book about the churches available
from Malmesbury Abbey Bookshop



Detail of the Luce Memorial Window, Foxley Church

WALKING ROUTES: Gauzebrook

BOOK
2

This section of the Athelstan Pilgrimage Way is a circular route around the 9 churches in the Gauzebrook Benefice. The total distance is just under 20 miles, which should take around 9 hours. However, the section is made up of 9 shorter stages, each being between two of the churches, which can be tackled separately or in combination, provided that transport is available at the end of the walk.

The route described in this booklet starts and ends at Bremilham Church, because this is the closest church to link with other sections of the Athelstan Pilgrim Way, but the walk can be started at any point along the route.

The starting point is given for each stage of the walk, with the Ordnance Survey Grid Reference, the Post Code, and the what3words location reference.

All of the route is along public rights of way, or minor roads where necessary, and passes through fields where livestock may be grazing. Dogs should be kept on a lead and care taken where cattle are present, particularly during the calving season. Practical advice on staying safe when walking dogs can be found online.

Links to other sections of the Athelstan Pilgrim Way:

This section of the Athelstan Pilgrim Way links to the Malmesbury and Upper Avon section from Foxley Church via footpaths to Brokenborough Church, or from either Bremilham Church or Foxley Church by walking along Foxley Road to Malmesbury Abbey.

NEED TO KNOW:

Total distance: 19.6 miles

Duration: 9 hours

Level of difficulty: Mainly easy, possible overgrown vegetation and cattle

Car parking: see each stage for details

Public transport: see <https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/>

Refreshments: see each stage for details

Toilets: Stanton St Quintin Church, Hullavington Church

Please note that we cannot take responsibility for your safety when you walk or cycle the Athelstan Pilgrim Way, or for the accuracy of information provided regarding the routes. Information in this booklet is accurate at the date of publication, but may be subject to change.

STAGE 1: BREMILHAM TO NORTON

Length: 1.5 miles **Duration:** 45 minutes **Level of difficulty:** Easy

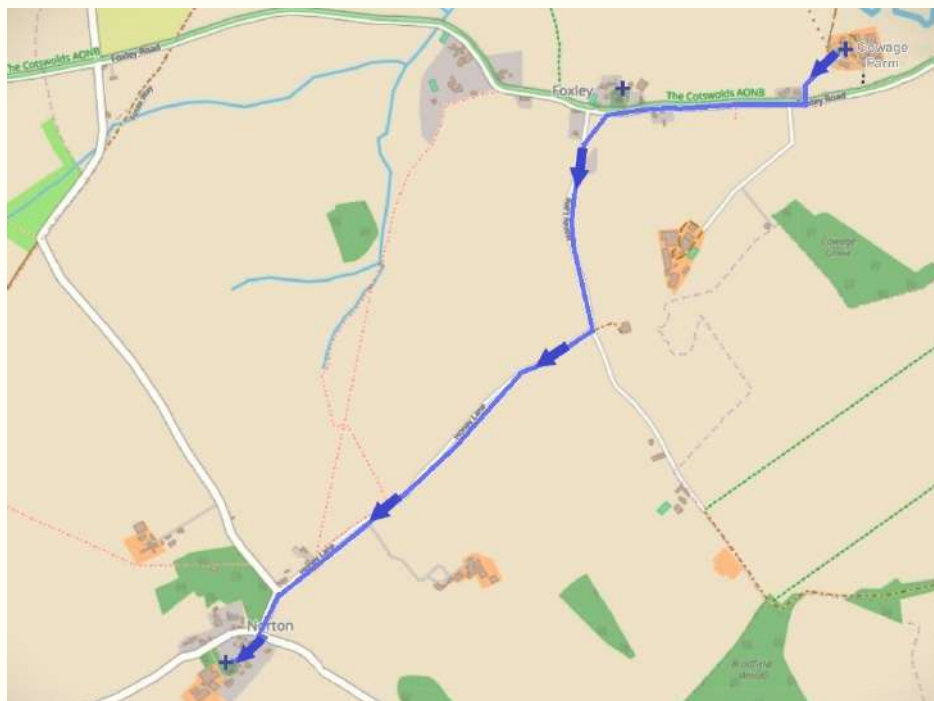
Starting Point Grid Reference: ST904861 **Post Code:** SN16 0JH

what3words: obstruction.remix.accompany

(The church is located in Cowage Farm, reached by a track from Foxley Road)

Car parking: parking at Bremilham Chapel and Norton Church

Refreshments: Norton - The Vine Tree <https://thevinetree.co.uk/>



Directions:

1. Turn right out of the churchyard and then turn left along the track to meet the road (Foxley Road).
2. Turn right at the road and follow the road to Foxley Church, which can either be visited now or in Stage 8 of this section. Take the path on the left across Foxley Green to reach the road to Norton. (The footpath sign is missing). If this path is overgrown, continue instead to the next junction and turn left, signposted 'Vine Tree'. This is Honey Lane.
3. At the next road junction, turn right, signposted Norton. (The road straight ahead is a No Through Road).
4. Continue along this road, passing the 'Vine Tree' inn on the right.



5. At the road junction, take the footbridge over the ford (which can be slippery) and follow the road to the left, signposted Hullavington and Sherston.

6. At the T junction, turn left, then turn right almost immediately. This road leads to Norton Church.

STAGE 2: NORTON TO HULLAVINGINGTON

Length: 2 miles **Duration:** 1 hour **Level of difficulty:** Moderate (due to overgrown vegetation and possibility of cattle)

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST885843 **Post Code:** SN16 0LE

what3words: doormat.sunk.domain

Car parking: Norton Church and on road at Hullavington

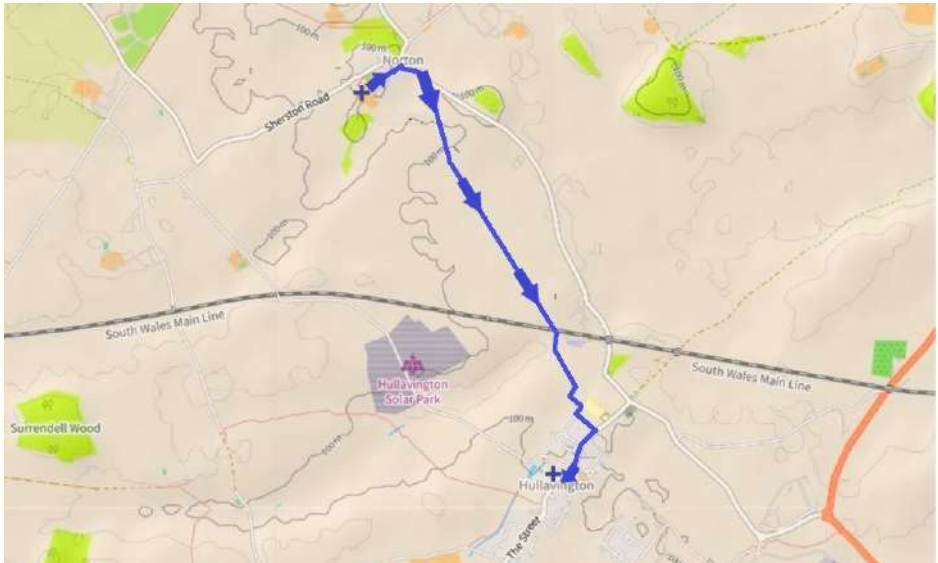
Refreshments: • Norton - The Vine Tree: <https://thevinetree.co.uk/>

• Hullavington - Church café Friday 10am – 12 noon,
and Village shop & Post Office

• Between Hullavington and Norton - the Flying Monk Café and Tap:
flyingmonkbrewery.com/pages/cafe-tap

Toilets: Hullavington Church

Notes: The footpath can be overgrown in parts and there may also be cattle in the field as you approach Hullavington. An alternative route is to follow the minor road from Norton to Hullavington, being mindful of the traffic.



Directions:

- 1.** From the churchyard, continue straight along the road to the T junction.
- 2.** Turn right, follow the road for around 200 yards around the bend and over a bridge (care is needed, as the road can be busy), and take the marked footpath on the right over a stile.
- 3.** The Right of Way crosses the field diagonally to a stile in the opposite corner. (However, if the grass is high and no path is obvious, it is probably advisable to turn right and walk around the edge of the field instead).
- 4.** In the top right hand corner of the field, cross over the double stile, with a footbridge in between. Take care, as there is a dip to the side.
- 5.** Turn left and follow the path along the field edge, keeping the hedge on the left.
- 6.** At the end of this field, walk through the gap in the corner and cross over the stile and footbridge.
- 7.** Continue straight on through the next two fields. At the corner, continue straight on into the next field, keeping the hedgerow on the left.
- 8.** Pass the tall, clipped hedge of Bradfield Manor Farm on the left and walk through the tunnel under the railway line.
- 9.** Turn slight left to walk over a footbridge. The path here can be overgrown.
- 10.** Walk straight on up the hill, with the Sewage Works on the left, and continue through the next field.
- 11.** At the end of the field, cross the stile and turn right to arrive at the housing via another stile. (Caution – there can be cattle in this field, but there is no alternative route at this point).
- 12.** Walk up the road past the houses, take the first right and then first left to reach the main road through Hullavington.
- 13.** Turn right and follow the pavement to reach Hullavington Church on the right.



All Saints, Norton



St Mary Magdalene, Hullavington

STAGE 3: HULLAVINGINGTON TO STANTON ST QUINTIN

Length: 2.5 miles **Duration:** 1 hour 15 minutes **Level of difficulty:** Easy

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST894821 **Post Code:** SN14 6DP

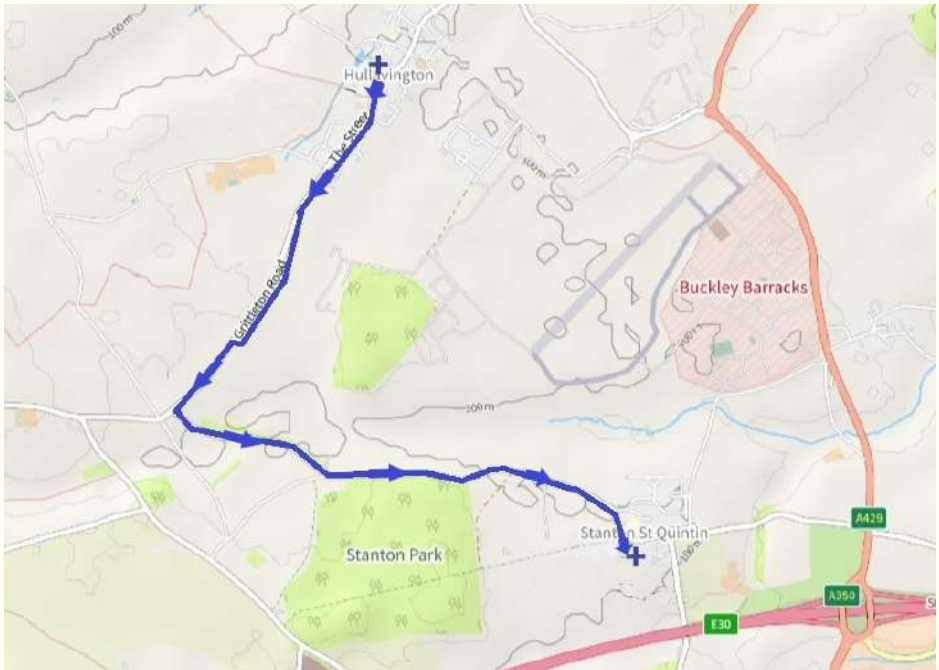
what3words: damp.ignore.supposed

Car parking: parking on road at Hullavingington and Stanton St Quintin

Refreshments:

- Hullavingington - Church cafe Friday, 10am – 12 noon, Village shop & Post Office
- Stanton St Quintin - Church Cafe on Thursdays, 2 - 4pm

Toilets: Hullavingington Church and Stanton St Quintin Church



Directions:

1. From the churchyard, turn right and follow the road, The Street, through the village towards Stanton St Quintin for around one mile.
2. At the staggered junction, take the first road turning on the left, signposted Stanton St Quintin.
3. At the next junction, continue walking along the road to reach Stanton St Quintin, with the church on the right.

STAGE 4: STANTON ST QUINTIN TO ALDERTON

Length: 5.75 miles **Duration:** 2 hours 15 minutes **Level of difficulty:** Easy

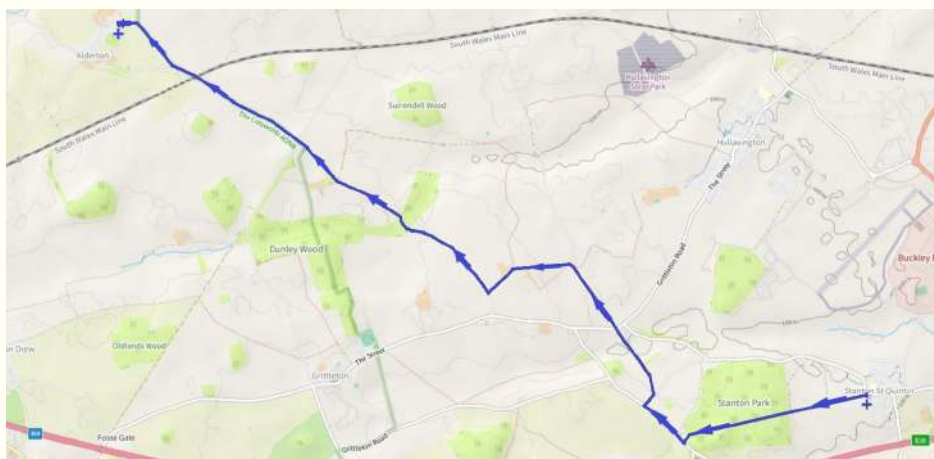
Starting Point Grid Reference: ST906799 **Post Code:** SN14 6DQ

what3words: stance.evoked.sweated

Car parking: Opposite church at Stanton St Quintin, roadside parking at Alderton

Refreshments: Stanton St Quintin Church Cafe on Thursdays, 2-4pm

Toilets: Stanton St Quintin Church



Directions:

1. Leaving Stanton Church via the lychgate, turn left and take the left turn after the entrance to Stanton Manor. This bridleway passes between two pillars and has block paving at the start. Continue in a straight line, through a gate and then through woodland until you reach a minor road at Stanton Park Cottages.
2. Turn right and then take the next right, followed by a left turn after around 100 yards.
3. At the T-junction, cross the road and follow the minor road opposite (signposted Surrendell).
4. After around 600 yards, where the road curves to the right, go straight on instead through a gate. Take the left of two possible paths and, after a short distance, the Right of Way heads diagonally across the field to the opposite corner. However, if this has been ploughed up and the path is not showing, it is probably advisable to follow the field edge on the left-hand side and around to the opposite corner.
5. At this far corner of the field, go straight ahead at the gate and head for the second gate. Go through this gate, then turn left through another gate and follow the track between the barns. (This is Roberts Berry Farm).
6. The track becomes a metalled road. Follow this until it turns left, and instead turn

right along the grassy track. This is overgrown in places, but is easily passable and has some fine stone walling.

7. The grassy track continues for around half a mile and then passes through a short stretch of woodland – Clapcote Brake.

8. At the top of the hill, emerge from the woods and continue straight along the track, with a hedge on the left-hand side.

9. At the metalled track, continue straight, passing through some gates, along a metalled road to a T-junction. The house on the left is Fosse Lodge, a Listed building.

10. Cross the road and continue on the road ahead, signed Alderton.

11. Continue straight on at the first road junction, and turn left at the second road junction, signed Alderton. The church is on the left-hand side.



St Giles, Stanton St Quintin



St Giles, Alderton



DID YOU KNOW?

You can follow Stan on a pilgrimage around all the churches on the Athelstan Pilgrim Way. (There are guard dogs at each church). Pick up a Children's Guide in Malmesbury Abbey bookshop.

STAGE 5: ALDERTON TO LUCKINGTON

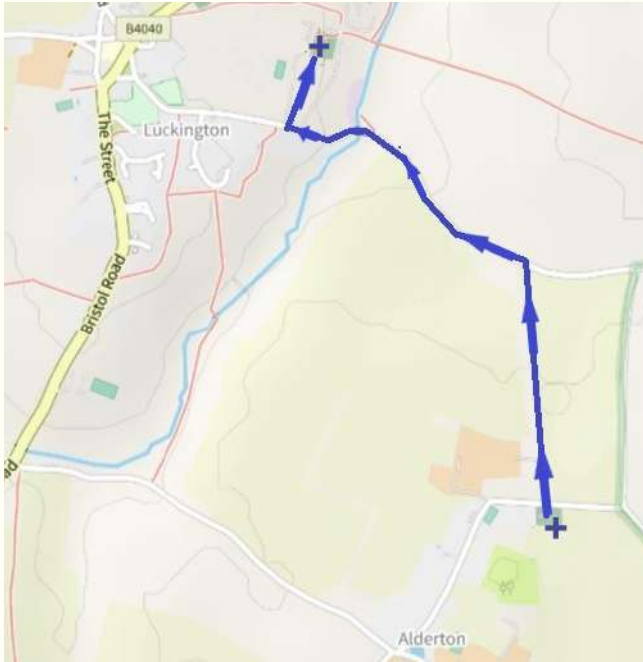
Length: 0.8 miles **Duration:** 20 minutes **Level of difficulty:** Easy

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST842830 **Post Code:** SN14 6NL

what3words: hamsters.fire.crossings

Car parking: roadside parking at Alderton, car park at Luckington Church

Refreshments: Luckington - Old Royal Ship <https://www.oldroyalship.co.uk/>



St Mary with St Ethelbert, Luckington



Directions:

1. Take the track opposite Alderton Church, marked with a Public Footpath sign, and carry straight on where the track turns left into a farm.
2. At the road, turn left and follow the road for around half a mile until you see the sign to Luckington Church, indicating a turning on the right.
3. Follow the track to reach Luckington Church.

STAGE 6: LUCKINGTON TO SHERSTON

Length: 1.75 miles **Duration:** 40 minutes **Level of difficulty:** Easy

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST837840 **Post Code:** SN14 6PG

what3words: packing.qualified.suspends

Car parking: car park at Luckington Church, parking on Sherston High Street

Refreshments: • Luckington - Old Royal Ship <https://www.oldroyalship.co.uk/>

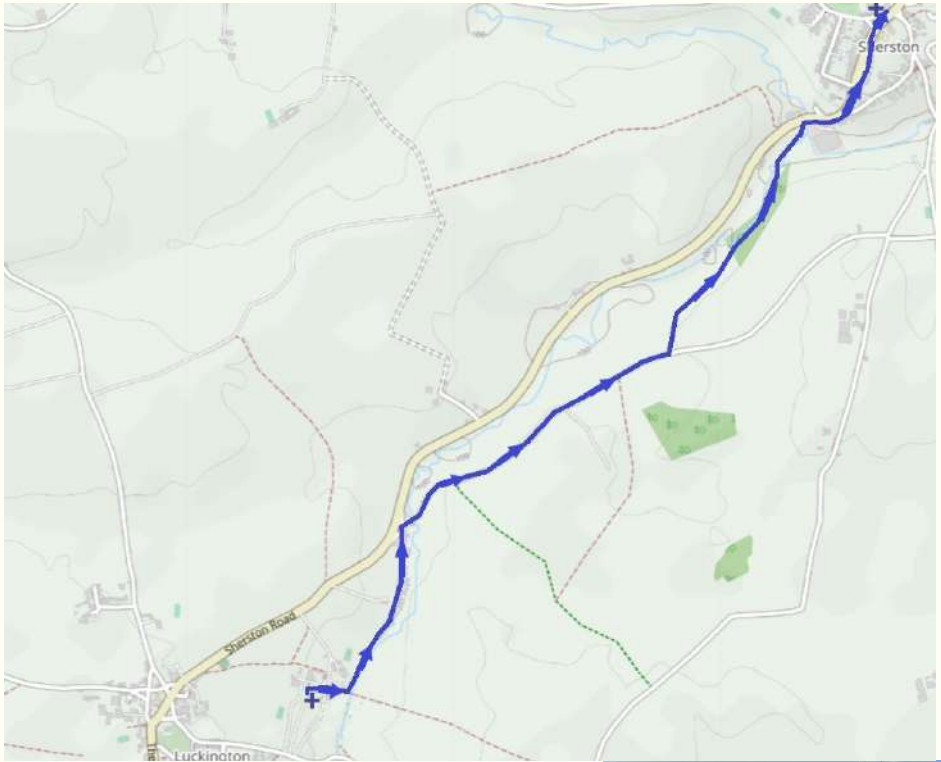
• Sherston - Church Cafe Thursday 10-12am, Co-op & Post Office,

Rattlebone Inn: www.therattlebone.co.uk,

Angel Cafe with rooms: www.angel-sherston.co.uk,

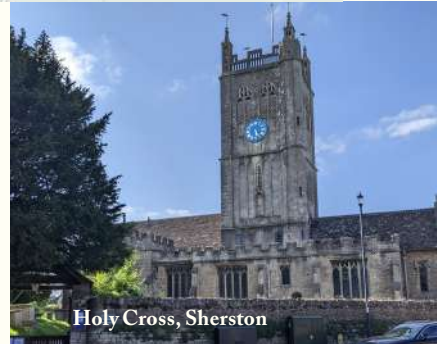
Courtyard Cafe: www.lucycom.com,

Bridge Indian Restaurant: www.thebridge.restaurant/sherston



Directions:

- 1.** Go through the gate at the far corner of the churchyard (the north-east corner) and turn right along the track. You are now following the Macmillan Way.
- 2.** Follow the track as it curves around to the left, ignoring the footpath straight ahead.
- 3.** At the junction of minor roads, turn right taking the footpath above the ford and follow the road for around half a mile.
- 4.** As you reach the top of the hill, take the footpath on the left across a field.
- 5.** At the far end, cross over the stone stile and follow the path through fields and then woods, with Luckington Brook on the left.
- 6.** Cross over the brook at the footbridge and follow the path to the main road leading into Sherston.
- 7.** At the main road, turn right (NB take care here, as there are stretches without a pavement and visibility can be poor) and walk up Brook Hill to reach the High Street. The Church is on the left-hand side.



STAGE 7: SHERSTON TO EASTON GREY

Length: 2.5 miles **Duration:** 1.25 hours **Level of difficulty:** Easy

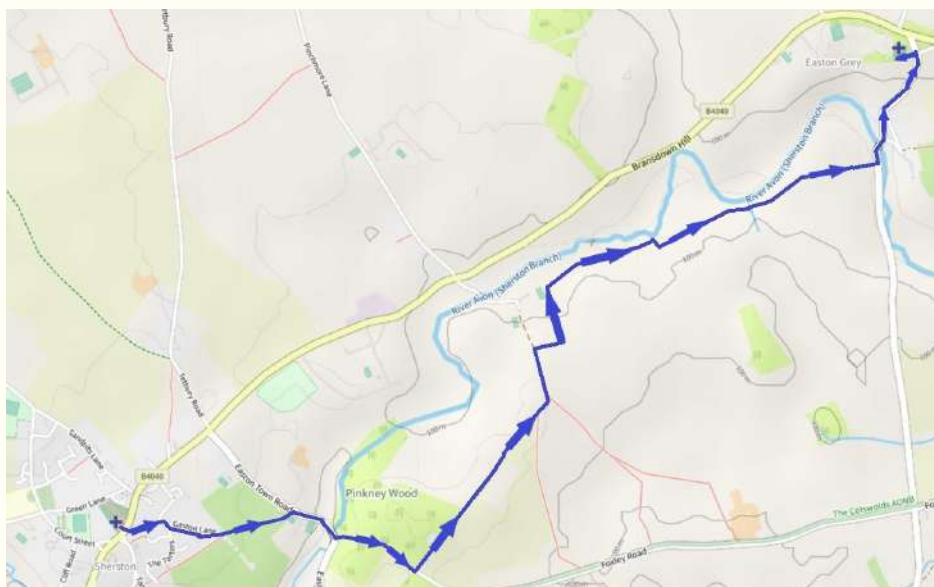
Starting Point Grid Reference: ST854860 **Post Code:** SN16 0LR

what3words: impulsive.voltages.teams

Car parking: parking on Sherston High Street, street parking at Easton Grey

Refreshments: • Sherston - Church Cafe Thursday 10-12am, Co-op & Post Office, Rattlebone Inn: www.therattlebone.co.uk, Angel Cafe with rooms: www.angel-sherston.co.uk, Courtyard Cafe: www.lucycom.com, Bridge Indian Restaurant: www.thebridge.restaurant/sherston

Notes: the route follows the White Walls Way to Easton Grey (<https://whitewallsway.weebly.com/>), and then passes through Easton Grey village to Easton Grey Church, which is on the estate of Easton Grey House.



Directions:

1. Cross the road from the church and walk down Gaston Lane to a junction. Turn right and then first left (still Gaston Lane), and go through the gate at the end of the road into a field.
2. Turn left and walk across the field to a stile, cross the next field and follow the path which arrives at the Easton Town road via a gate.
3. Turn right and follow the road down the hill to the River Avon. Take care, as there can be fast moving traffic. On the bend, take the road turning left and up a hill, signposted Foxley and Malmesbury.

4. At the end of Pinkney Wood on the left, turn left on a signed footpath between dry stone walls.
5. Go through an iron gate, by an information panel on the White Walls Way, and continue on the waymarked footpath.
6. After the next gate, look for the gate on the opposite side of the junction (marked as the footpath). Go through the gate and follow the path around the edge of the field to a gate in the opposite corner. Go through the gate and cross the field to the next gate, with the hedgerow on the left. (Please note there can be cattle in this field, so take care, particularly with dogs).
7. Follow the path through a series of gates and woodland, with the River Avon on the left, until you reach the road near Easton Grey village.
8. At the road, turn left and walk over Easton Grey bridge, through the village and up the hill to reach Easton Grey Church on the left just before the main road.

STAGE 8: EASTON GREY TO FOXLEY

Length: 1.8 miles **Duration:** 1 hour **Level of difficulty:** Easy

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST881876 **Post Code:** SN16 0PH

what3words: accented.bulldozer.highly

Car parking: street parking at Easton Grey and at Foxley

Notes: the route follows the White Walls Way
(<https://whitewallsway.weebly.com/>) from Ruckleyhill Farm to Foxley.

Directions:

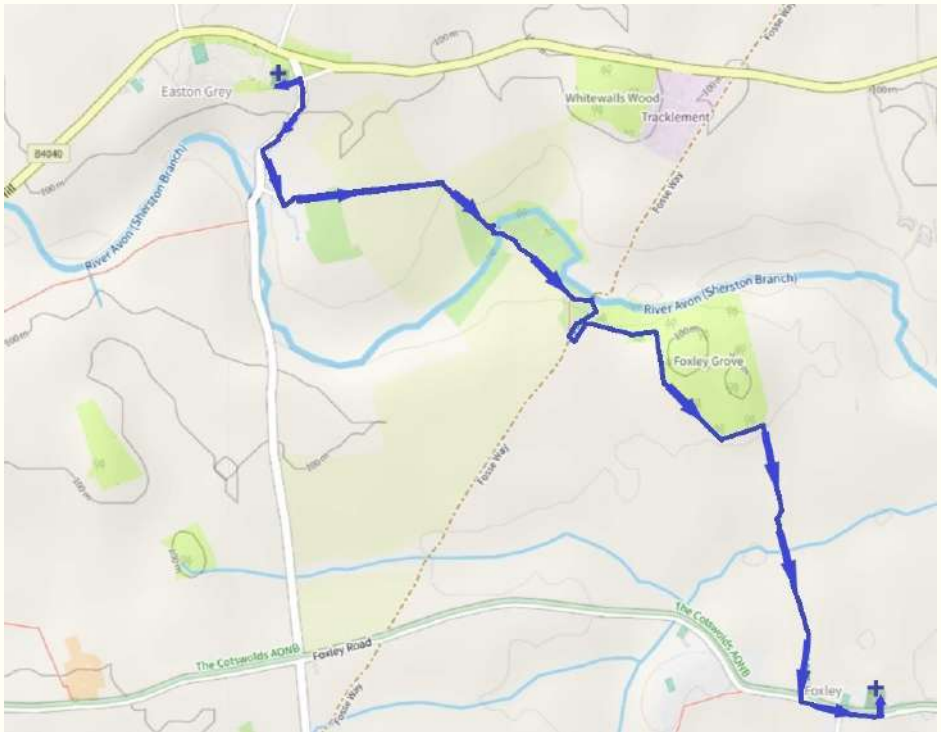
1. Leaving the churchyard, turn right and walk along the pavement towards Easton Grey village.
2. Just after the 30mph signs, turn left and walk along the road.
3. At the end of the road, turn left at the footpath sign.
4. Follow the footpath through the field (White Walls Way sign), through a gap in the hedge and across the next field.

Easton Grey Church



Foxley Church





- 5.** Where a path joins from the left, turn right and follow this path, going downhill to the River Avon. (The path can be a bit overgrown at this point).
- 6.** Crossing the river by the footbridge, continue straight ahead through two gates.
- 7.** Cross the field, through the gate and continue straight on down the lane to another gate, where a bridleway crosses. (A slight detour left along the bridleway crosses the Avon at the site of the Roman Town of Easton Grey. There is an information panel on the other side of the bridge).
- 8.** Turn right along the bridleway and, when you reach the top of the hill, take the signed footpath on the left.
- 9.** Follow the footpath, keeping to the left and through the wood, turning right at a stone wall.
- 10.** Follow the path through the field, keeping the wood (Foxley Grove) on the left, until you reach a farm track.
- 11.** Turn right and follow the farm track to a gate. (Note the 2012 dry stone sculpture on the left just before the gate).
- 12.** Go through this gate and a further gate to reach the road. (Please note, there could be cattle in the fields before the road).
- 13.** Turn left and follow the road to reach Foxley Church on the left after around 200 yards.

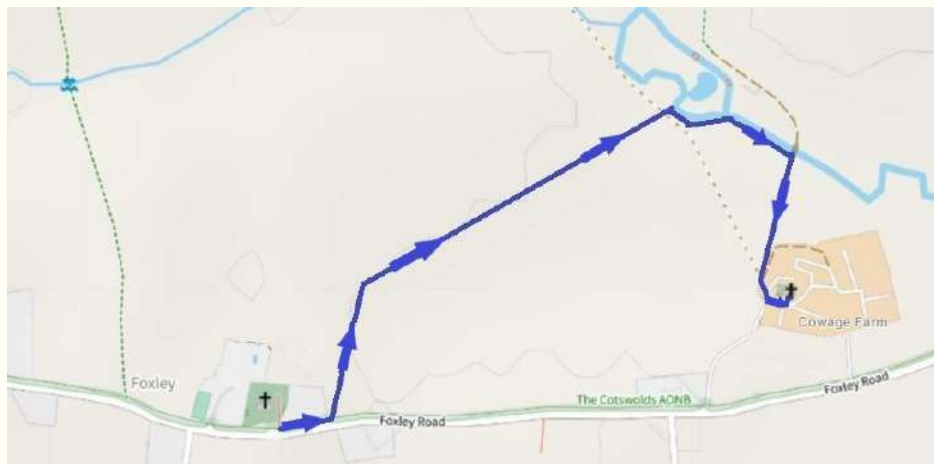
STAGE 9: FOXLEY TO BREMILHAM

Length: 1 mile **Duration:** 30 minutes **Level of difficulty:** Easy

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST897859 **Post Code:** SN16 0JJ

what3words: marshes.patch.cemented

Car parking: street parking at Foxley, parking at Bremilham Chapel



Directions:

1. Turn left out of the churchyard and follow the road for a short distance, taking a footpath to the left, over a stile, after the telephone box.
2. Follow the path over a stile and through the next field.
3. Cross the stone stile at the end of the field, with the river on the other side.
4. Follow the path, with the river on the left, to a gate, turn right and follow the track to Cowage Farm. Bremilham Church is on the left as you reach the farm and is the smallest church in use in England (12 foot by 12 foot square). For the annual service, the vicar stands in the church and the congregation have to stand outside!

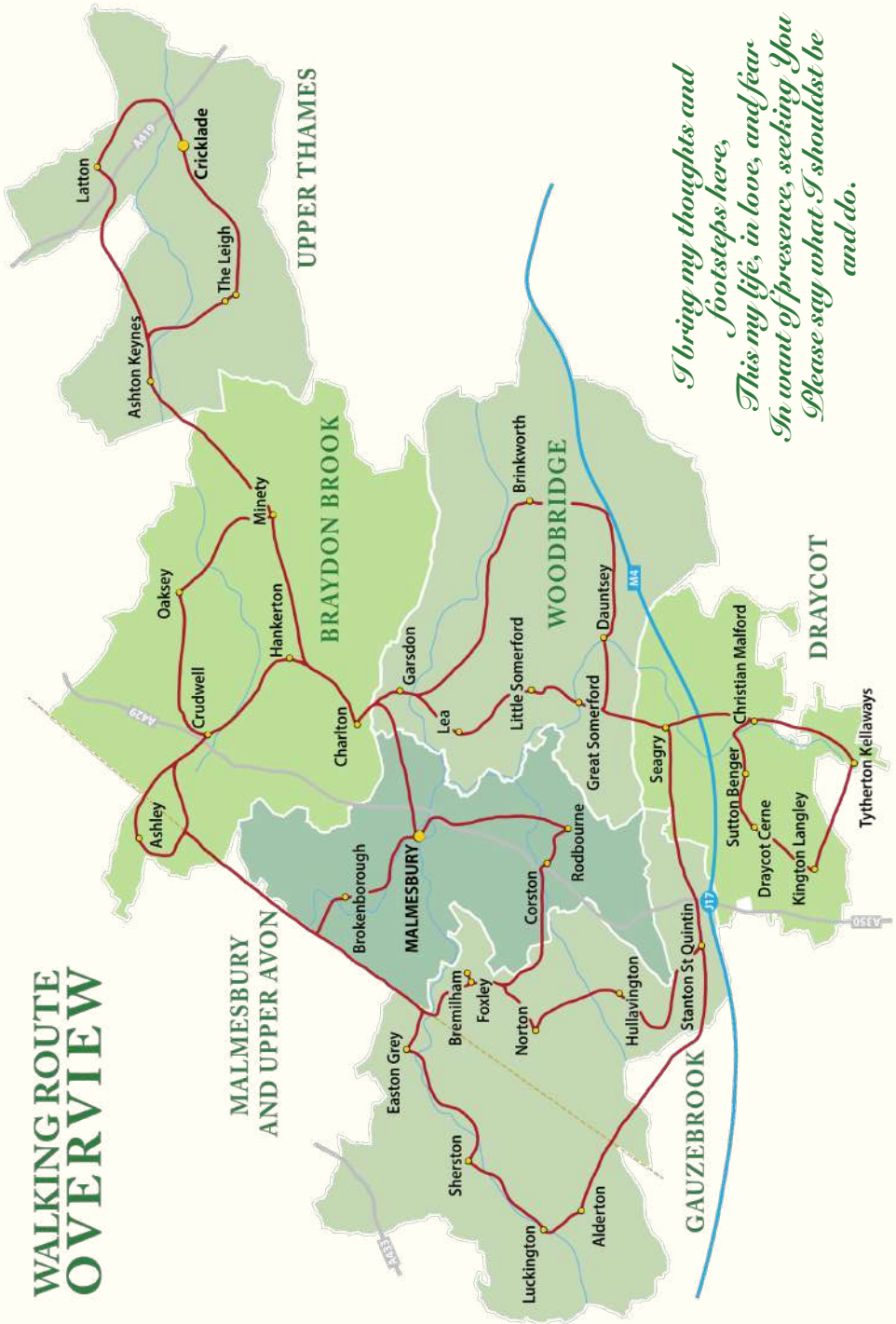
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Have you enjoyed your pilgrim walk? Did you meet unexpected obstacles or discover something new?

Find us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/athelstanpilgrimway/>



WALKING ROUTE OVERVIEW



*Bring my thoughts and
footsteps here,
This my life, in love, and fear
In want of presence, seeking You
Please say what I shouldst be
and do.*

PLANNING YOUR WALK:

MAPS: Whilst the maps shown in this booklet should be sufficient, we recommend the use of the Ordnance Survey Explorer maps 156 and 168, which contains full details of footpaths and bridleways.

SAFETY: Walking is a low impact activity that offers many health benefits and is generally a safe way to exercise. However, there are safety and environmental issues to consider. The National Trust website and the Ramblers website offer useful safety tips for exploring the outdoors.

HOSPITALITY, REFRESHMENTS & TOILETS: Relevant information is included on the detailed description of each stage of the walk.

TRANSPORT: Although the route described in this booklet is circular, the individual stages are not. For up-to-date information about local bus services, please visit:

www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION

www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/accommodation

CHURCH INFORMATION: If a church is not open, details of how to obtain access should be available in the porch. Further details of the churches, together with their usual opening arrangements, can be found on the Athelstan Pilgrim Way website:

www.athelstanpilgrimway.org

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT PILGRIMAGE?

Pilgrimage has historically been a way to enact one's dedication to God by undertaking a walk to a site of special religious significance. Liturgy, prayers, and material tokens of devotion (such as pilgrim badges) were particular features of medieval Christian pilgrimage. Today such enactments may take less devotional forms, but are increasingly found to be restorative and reorientating in surprising ways, both physically and spiritually.

Find out more about the Christian understanding of pilgrimage by using **The Pilgrim Way** resources from the Church of England:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/pilgrim-way>



WALKING GUIDE 2

Athelstan Pilgrim Way



Churches of the Gauzebrook Benefice:

- Bremilham Chapel, Foxley
- All Saints, Norton
- St Mary Magdalene, Hullavington
- St Giles, Stanton St Quintin
- St Giles, Alderton
- St Mary with St Ethelbert, Luckington
- Holy Cross, Sherston
- Easton Grey Church
- Foxley Church



North Wiltshire Mission Area
Administered by Malmesbury Abbey
Diocese of Bristol



www.athelstanpilgrimway.org.uk