



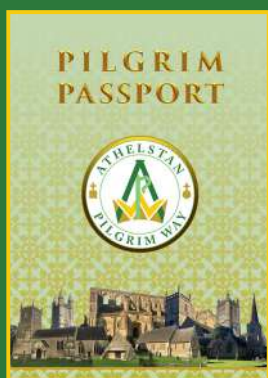
Woodbridge

WALKING GUIDE 4

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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MAPS © OPENSTREETMAP

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Malmesbury Abbey Office
The Old Squash Court, Holloway
Malmesbury
Wiltshire SN16 9BA



WELCOME

King Athelstan venerated Malmesbury as a centre of learning 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

FOR HILARY

She would not want the keening cry or sob of loss and grieving.
Here she left her self behind and bode her spirit to the next
savannah land of lighted white, to arms and more, receiving
the milk and honey of gentle balm, the true soul's sole effect.

Here she left, where Doom the draw,
us mortals crane agog in awe
to terror'd penance, bones the shell
of skinned sinners off to hell!

Her calmness merry, her stillness vivid,
Did ever was one so committed
to truth and beauty, the deepness bright'ed,
Her face a face so quick – delighted!

Rich and giving, lone and loved,
Hermit-need, to share above
all else her crystal joy in being
spirit rich, and spirit freeing.

She saw beyond a concrete mindset, saw above man's frippered wants
Our temples 'volved to market places, cluttered with invading daunts.
She was how to subvert gently, turn the tables upway down
She was how to make connection, peopled-places, city, town.

Met you did or only heard
Of this, this person: let their words
Relieve from strife and seek their sight;
Few things of time are just, and right.

by Carole Britton

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



Details of the Doom Board, Dauntsey Church

WALKING ROUTES: Woodbridge

BOOK
4

This section of the Athelstan Pilgrimage Way is a circular route around the 6 churches in the Woodbridge Benefice. The total distance is 18½ miles, which should take around 8½ hours. However, the section is made up of 6 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 Great Somerford Church, 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 via footpaths from Malmesbury Abbey to Garsdon Church; the Draycot section via footpaths from Seagry Church to Great Somerford Church; and the Braydon Brook section via footpaths from Charlton Church to Garsdon Church

NEED TO KNOW:

Total distance: 18.5 miles

Duration: 8.5 hours

Level of difficulty: Easy walking for most of the route, but the stage between Garsdon and Brinkworth is long with some difficult and overgrown stiles

Car parking and refreshments: see each stage for details

Public transport: see www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk

Church opening: see www.athelstanpilgrimway.org/routes

Toilets: Great Somerford Church, Little Somerford Church, Dauntsey Church, Garsdon Church (subject to church opening)

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: GREAT SOMERFORD TO LITTLE SOMERFORD

Length: 1.75 miles **Duration:** 45 minutes **Level of difficulty:** Easy

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST964831 **Post Code:** SN15 5HZ

what3words: untrained.vague.embellish

Car parking: Great Somerford church car park opposite church and on road at Little Somerford

Refreshments: The Volunteer Inn, Great Somerford; Fourways Stores, Great Somerford; The Somerford Arms, Little Somerford

Toilets: Great Somerford Church, Little Somerford Church



Directions:

1. With your back to St Peter & St Pauls Church in Great Somerford, turn left at the bottom of the driveway and follow the pavement out of the village.

2. After crossing the river and passing the Somerford show ground on the left, cross the road and go through the gate on the right-hand side, down a slight slope. The path goes diagonally across the field to a gate set in a row of smaller trees in a fence line.

3. From the gate, the path continues diagonally across the field to a gap between the trees. Climb over the stile in the log pile and then continue across the next field, cutting the corner of the field across to a gateway.

4. Cross the stile to the right-hand side of the gate, turn left, then continue diagonally to the top right-hand corner of the field.

5. Cross the stile on the right-hand side of the gate and then immediately take the stile just across the path on the left-hand side. From here, cross the field diagonally to the opposite corner. When you get to the edge of the field do not cross the stile, but instead turn left along the field edge.

6. Just before you get to the end of the hedge-line straight ahead, the field opens a little more to the right. Take the right-hand path and head to the left of a tree in the corner. (Ignore the gate to the right that says private.) Under the shade of the trees, cross a small bridge and then a stile.



7. The path then takes a fairly straight course across the top of this field to another stile on the opposite side of the field, passing a large fallen tree. Cross the metal stile straight in front of you (not the wooden fence on the right-hand side) and follow the field edge alongside the hedge line.

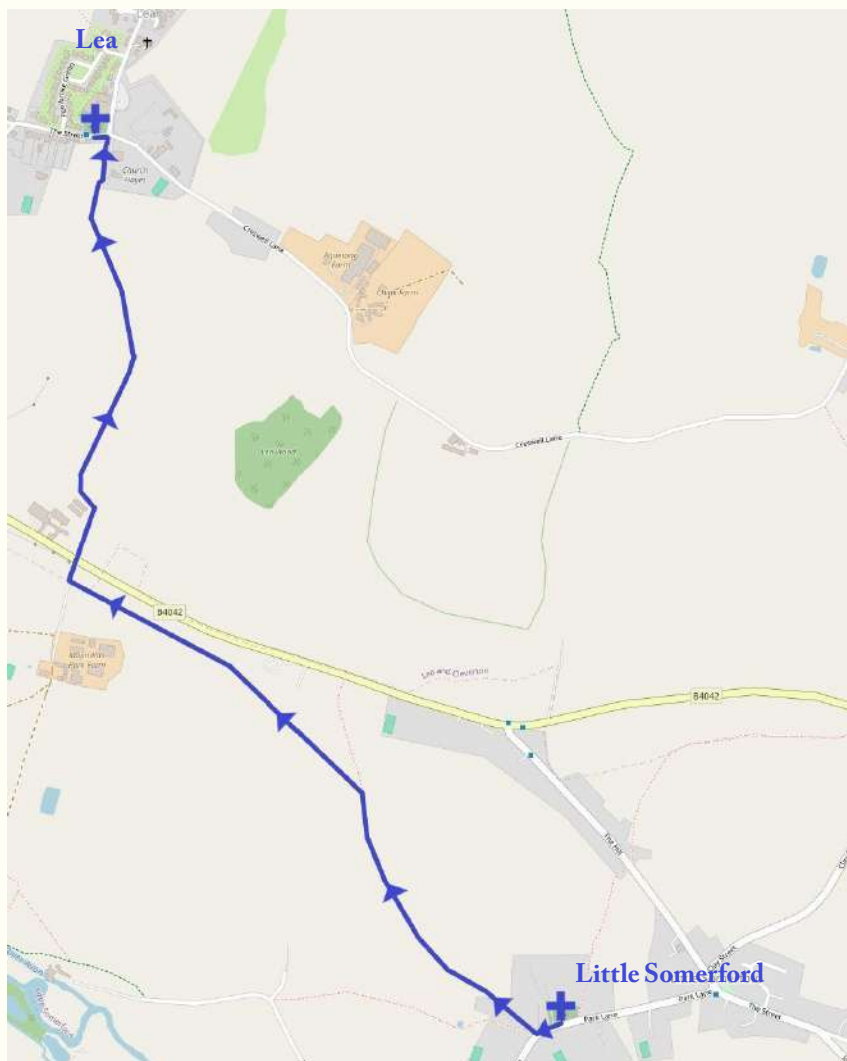
8. When the hedge line starts to bear right, the footpath goes across the field towards the large tree in the middle, where you can see a fence line.

9. Walk through the gap in the fence to the right hand-side of the oak tree. Head straight across the field, not towards the visible gate but to the line of trees on the far side of the field. The stile is pretty much in the middle, right next to the furthest right tree in a group of four trees in the hedge line (you may have to walk along a field edge or tractor lines if the field is planted).

10. Cross the stile and turn right, walking along the verge and then under the railway bridge. After the railway bridge, cross the road to walk on the pavement on the left-hand side. Follow the pavement until you get to the church of St John the Baptist, up a little slope and on the left-hand side.

STAGE 2: LITTLE SOMERFORD TO LEA

Length: 2 miles **Duration:** 1 hour **Level of difficulty:** Easy
Starting Point Grid Reference: ST967843 **Post Code:** SN15 5JW
what3words: relieves.crowns.winning
Car parking: on-road parking at Little Somerford and Lea
Refreshments:
The Somerford Arms, Little Somerford; The Rose and Crown, Lea
Toilets: Little Somerford Church



Directions:

1. With your back to the church of St John the Baptist in Little Somerford, turn right out of the churchyard and walk along the footpath for around 50m to the convergence of several driveways just after The Old Post House.

2. In the hedge on the right, there are some wooden signposts. Take the right-hand signpost towards Lea. Go through the metal gate and walk through the field following the left-hand hedge to another metal gate.

3. Walk through the gate and take the path to the left-hand side of the hedge line directly in front of you, following the hedge and through a wooden gate.

4. When you reach a metal gate with a grid on it, go through it and continue straight across the field to the other side.

5. Go through the rusty metal gate in the hedge line on the left-hand side. The footpath heads diagonally uphill slightly away from the right-hand tree line (not the path that runs alongside the hedge). You will pass a beautiful stone clad house on the right-hand side before getting to a hedge line that has a gate in it in the right-hand corner, and a tricky stile.

6. Head towards the right-hand hedge line and follow the path that is parallel with the road.

7. Go through a metal gate and continue across the field to a gap in an electric fence, then continue across that field to a driveway. You are now at Maunditts Farm. Turn right and cross the road, directly over to a stile on the other side. (NB Take care crossing this road, as it is the busy B4042 road between Malmesbury and Swindon.)



St John the Baptist, Little Somerford

8. Follow the well-trodden path through the field to the other side, keeping the field farm buildings on your left.

9. In the next field, follow the field edge on the left-hand side. When the hedge line ends, continue straight on along the well-trodden path, heading towards a tree. To the left-hand side of the tree, cross a double stile.

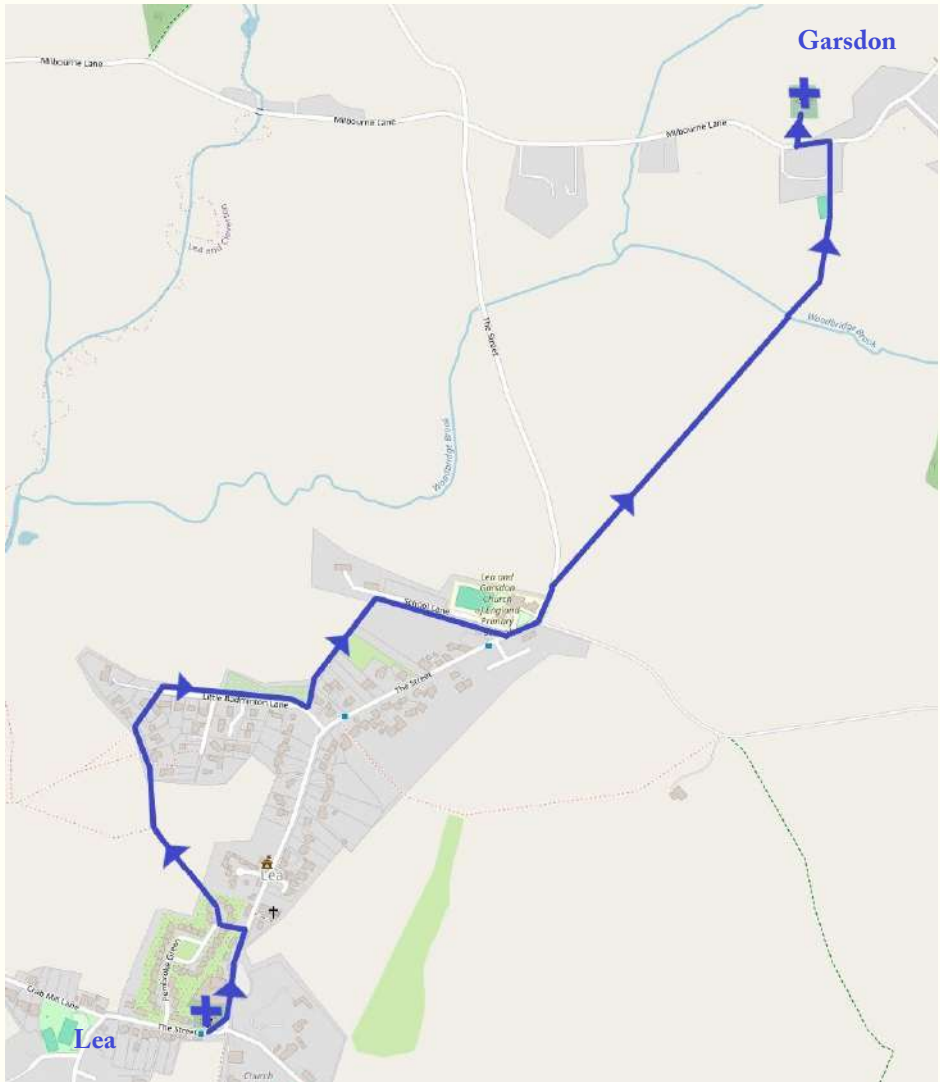
10. Head straight down, following the right-hand hedge line to another stile at the bottom.

11. Cross the stile and then continue straight ahead, diagonally across the field, to a stile in the left-hand hedge line.

12. Cross the stile and follow the footpath around, through a line of young beech trees. Take three steps down and then follow the wall on the right-hand side in the shade of the trees. The path meets the road opposite St Giles' church in Lea. Cross the road, turn left, and the church is on the right-hand side.

STAGE 3: LEA TO GARSDON

Length: 2 miles **Duration:** 1 hour **Level of difficulty:** Easy
Starting Point Grid Reference: ST957863 **Post Code:** SN16 9PB
what3words: ignites.secretly.wonderful
Car parking: on-road parking at Lea and Garsdon
Refreshments: The Rose and Crown, Lea
Toilets: Garsdon Church



Directions:

1. From the porch at St Giles' Church, Lea, turn left and walk out through the graveyard to a gate in the left-hand wall. From here head up the road past the Rose & Crown pub.
2. When you get to Rushcroft Close, turn left up the driveway. Continue on the gravel through the houses and along an alleyway between numbers 2 and 3.
3. Cross the stile, then continue straight on through the field to a gateway.
4. Cross the stile and turn immediately right and follow the well-trodden footpath along the edge of the field. If you look to your left at the far end of the field, you should be able to see Malmesbury Abbey on a clear day.
5. Climb over the stile on your right by a gate and a garden wall. Walk down the lane until you get to Pensfield House, turn right and continue down the lane past the allotments.
6. Once past the allotments, take the left-hand footpath with a bin on a post, over a little stone step. Climb over the stile and follow the footpath which hugs the right-hand hedge towards a house.
7. Climb a stile, turn right and follow the lane to the end towards the school.
8. When you get to the end of School Lane, turn left and carefully cross the road before the bend. Just after the sewage pumping station on the right, take the signed footpath.
9. Cross over the little bridge and climb the stile. The footpath then takes a left diagonal turn. When you reach the hedge



there are two stiles to climb, a stile with a little foot bridge across a stream and another stile leading into a field.

10. In the field, take a path diagonally across to a gate in the far corner. When you get to the gate go through it, walk left diagonally across the field to a gate in the opposite left-hand hedge.
11. Go through the gate and walk diagonally left towards Woodbridge Brook and a wooden gate. Go through the gate, walk carefully down a narrow track over the brook and through another gate at the bottom.
12. Once through the gate, head across to the right-hand rail fencing. Here there isn't a stile, but there are some rails that you can slide across, and then continue up keeping the rail fence on your right-hand side.
13. When you get to the top of the hill, go through the gate and immediately turn left across a stile and then turn right, keeping the post and rail fence on your right.
14. Pass between a neatly trimmed conifer hedge and stables. Head up the gravel driveway, turn left down the road and you will reach All Saints' Church, Garsdon on your right.

STAGE 4: GARSDON TO BRINKWORTH

Length: 6.5 miles **Duration:** 3 hours **Level of difficulty:** Difficult, with some stiles that might be overgrown or broken

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST967878 **Post Code:** SN16 9NJ

what3words: direction.suppers.beans

Car parking: on-road parking at Garsdon and Brinkworth

Refreshments: The Three Crowns, Brinkworth

Toilets: Garsdon Church

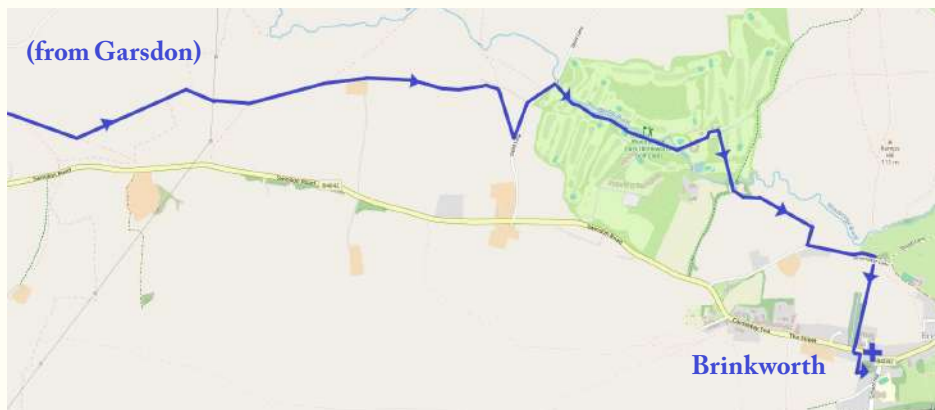


Directions:

1. With your back to Garsdon church, walk down the gravel driveway and turn left onto the road. Follow the road until you see a sign for Brinkworth and Purton in front of an old telephone box and a post box.
2. Take the road on the right towards Brinkworth and Purton. Walk along this for around 700 yards, ignoring the first signed footpath on the right, and take the second signed footpath on the right just before a left-hand bend and a large stone house.
3. Once in the field, the footpath hugs the left-hand hedge. At the very near bottom of the field you'll find a bridge over the brook on the left-hand side. Cross the bridge and go through the gate.
4. Follow the yellow footpath markers through a mown path across the fields, passing through two gateways.
5. At the end of the mown path, cross two stiles and continue straight ahead. When you reach the opposite hedge, keep a pond to your left and go round the pond. Carry straight on, towards a bridge and a gate in the field opposite.
6. Go through the gate, turn left and walk up the laid hedge. When you get level with some electricity posts, turn right across the field towards the house and a gate in the hedge.
7. Go through the gate and take the mown path straight ahead that leads to a gate onto a road.
8. Turn left and walk along the road. At the junction, turn right to follow the signpost for the Somerfords.



All Saints, Garsdon



- 9.** Pass Street Farm and then take the next footpath on the left which goes through the farm buildings.
- 10.** Continue along the track and go through a gate, continuing slightly right to a gap in the hedge opposite. When you reach the gap, go through the hedge and walk straight down the field, keeping parallel with the left-hand hedge.
- 11.** When you get to the far hedge, go through the gap and straight down the field, keeping the right-hand hedge parallel to you, to a little bridge across a ditch and a gate.
- 12.** Go through the gate, turn right and go straight across, heading for the electricity lines between two pylons. At the hedge, cross the double stile with a bridge and head straight across the next field.
- 13.** Once across the field, go through an old metal gate and then keeping parallel with the right-hand hedge, walk to a large tree in the distance.
- 14.** When you reach the tree, go through the metal gates straight on, keeping parallel with the right-hand hedge past some farm buildings. Follow to the end, where there is a crossing across a ditch.
- 15.** Go straight across the next field to the opposite hedge and cross the double stile in the hedge. Go straight up, heading for the corner of the opposite hedge.
- 16.** On reaching the corner, carry on straight ahead. When you reach the hedge, go through an old rusty farm gate and follow the left-hand hedge to reach the corner.
- 17.** Turn right across the field to a gap, go through the gap across the next field, through the gate, turn left and walk down the lane.
- 18.** Turn right by the footpath sign to the right-hand side of a stream, and walk onto the golf course, following the stream. When you get to hole 9, turn right, walk a short distance and then take the public footpath on the left into a small wood.
- 19.** When you emerge from the wood, just keep following the footpath signs and the small stream to the left on the edge of the golf course.
- 20.** When you get to the tarmac track, follow it through some houses to arrive at farm buildings.

- 21.** Following the footpath signs, turn right, take the track for a few yards and then take the footpath left.
- 22.** When the track emerges back onto the golf course, take the right-hand footpath edge of the mown area, watching out for golf balls. The footpath goes through a small woodland, just follow the main path. Go across a footbridge, head across a small meadow, take the left-hand path (ignoring the stile) and continue along the bridleway.
- 23.** After the bridleway takes a sharp right, there is a junction of paths. Turn left along the signposted byway.
- 24.** When you reach an intersection with footpaths on the left and right, take the right-hand path, continuing straight ahead through three gates into a field. Follow the well-trodden path directly up the right-hand side to a small gate in the right-hand corner, at the side of the houses.
- 25.** Follow the path to the main road, cross the road and walk a little way left along the pavement until you reach the side gates of St Michael & All Angels' Church.



DID YOU KNOW?

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

STAGE 5: BRINKWORTH TO DAUNTSEY

Length: 4.5 miles **Duration:** 2 hours **Level of difficulty:** Moderate

Starting Point Grid Reference: SU013844 **Post Code:** SN15 5AX

what3words: goose.savers.scales

Car parking: on-road parking at Brinkworth and Dauntsey

Refreshments: The Three Crowns, Brinkworth

Toilets: Dauntsey Church

St Michael & All Angels, Brinkworth



Directions:

1. With your back to the porch of St Michaels and all Angels church, turn right and walk down the road (take care, as this can be a busy road).
2. Cross over the railway bridge after the housing estate and turn right into what looks like a car park. Cross the stile and follow the concrete path to the Brinkworth water recycling centre. Take the stile to the right-hand side and walk down a narrow track alongside the centre to a bridge and a walk-through to a field.



- 3.** Cross the field towards the large footbridge, go through the step through and across the bridge. Once across the bridge, continue straight ahead, diagonally across the field towards a small group of trees.
- 4.** Cross the stile in the hedgerow, across a small bridge and another stile, and walk straight across to a stile in the opposite hedgerow.
- 5.** Cross over the stile and the bridge. Opposite on the farm track is another step through. Go straight across the field to a metal gate, then continue into the next field keeping parallel with the right-hand fence line.
- 6.** Go through a step-through across a farm track, through another step-through and keep straight ahead to the hedge line opposite. Here the stile is 10 yards to the right of the marked footpath on the map.
- 7.** Go across the field. There is no stile in the opposite hedge, so walk down the hedge (right) to the open gateway, go diagonally left across to the opposite hedge line, and go through a rusty 5 bar gate (you may have to climb the gate).
- 8.** Walk straight across the field to the opposite hedge line and cross a double stile with a bridge between. (This is about 30 yards to the right of its location on the OS map.)
- 9.** Go straight across the field, cross over the stile and continue straight on through the field, keeping the hedgeline and the woodland on the left. Continue straight on through a metal gate.
- 10.** When you come to a hedge line in the middle of two gateways, take the right-hand gateway and walk along the side of the field, keeping the hedge line on your left.
- 11.** Cross the double stile over a ditch with a bridge between. Take a diagonal route across the field, cross over the next stile and then walk diagonally across the next field. (Here you may have to reroute through horse paddocks, going through them



where you can open them). Cross a stile in the corner to reach a road.

12. At the road, turn right and walk past Home Idoover Farm. Continue past Idoover Garage and the entrance to Idoover Lodge.

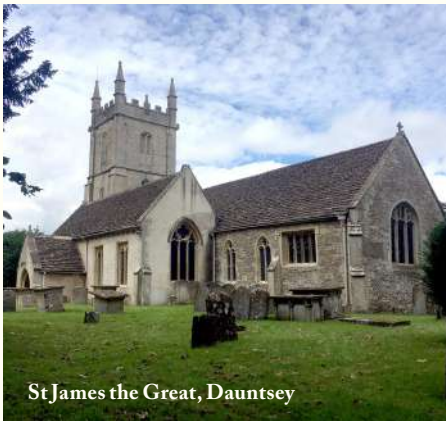
13. When you get to Park Farm, follow the driveway through the entrance gates and then keep left of the grassy mound. After the grassy mound, keep the left-hand field hedge to your left and follow the farm track around. When you get to a bend in the hedge line, continue straight across to the opposite hedge, cross the bridge and go straight across this field to a driveway.

14. Continue straight ahead just to the right of a clump of trees and follow the grassy path that goes alongside a post and rail fence.

15. When the rail fence ends, go straight ahead through the double gates, straight across this field through another five-bar gate, through another field and another five bar gate.

16. When you get through to this field turn to the right and head for the small gate in the fence. You should now be able to see the graveyard.

17. Head towards the graveyard and then keep to the left of it heading for a kissing gate in the corner. Turn right onto the driveway towards Dauntsey park and then take the gate on your left into the graveyard and to the porch of St. James.



St James the Great, Dauntsey

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/>



STAGE 6: DAUNTSEY TO GREAT SOMERFORD

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

Starting Point Grid Reference: ST980825 **Post Code:** SN15 4HT

what3words: spouse.floating.thudding

Car parking: On road parking at Dauntsey and Great Somerford church car park opposite church

Refreshments: The Volunteer Inn, Great Somerford; Fourways Stores, Great Somerford

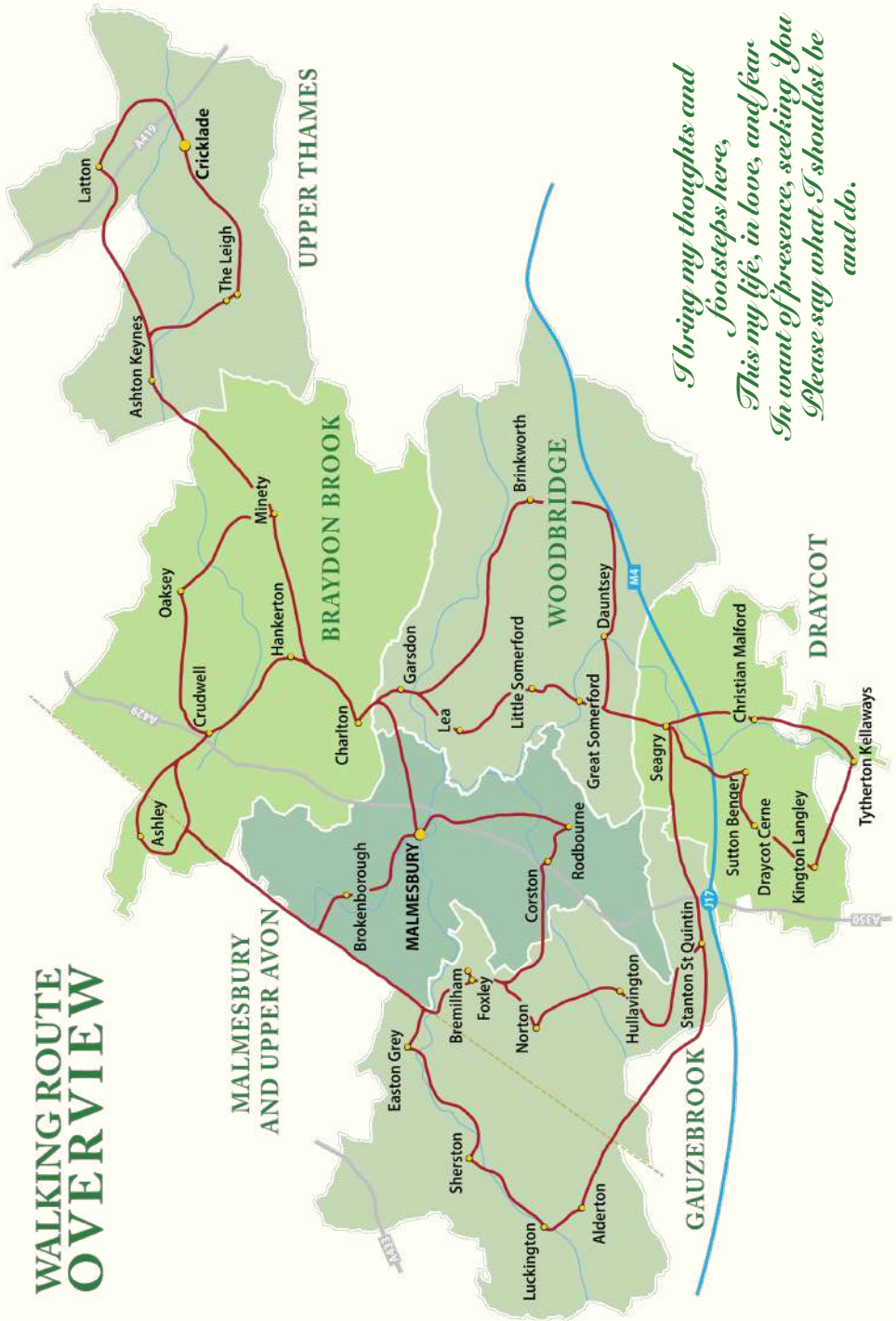
Toilets: Dauntsey Church, Great Somerford Church



Directions:

1. With your back to the church, follow the path out through the graveyard onto the driveway. Turn right and walk to the road.
2. At the road junction, turn right and follow the road all of the way to Great Somerford. (On the right-hand side of the road, opposite Bute Cottage, there is a World War 2 'Pillbox', a small fortified concrete bunker built as a defence in case of invasion).
3. When you reach Great Somerford, continue walking along the pavement, passing the old police house to a point where there is a field in front of you with a metal gate and an electricity pylon opposite in the corner.
4. Go into the field and walk across to the opposite side of the field. Follow the path keeping on the left-hand side of the field until you get to a small gate. Go through the gate and follow the gravel driveway past The Rectory.
5. At the end of the gravel driveway, turn left and walk along the road, with the church in front of you.
6. Cross the road, follow the path up to the church driveway and go along the driveway to arrive at St Peter and St Paul's Church.

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 168 and 169, 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?

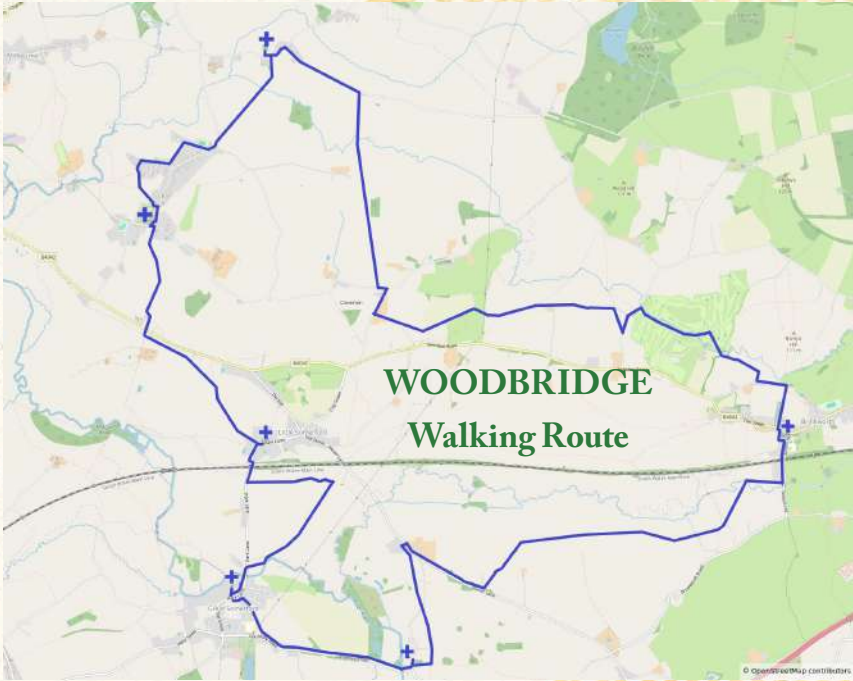
Pilgrimage has historically been a way to enact one's dedication to God by undertaking a walk to a site of special religious significance. Liturgy, prayers, and material tokens of devotion (such as pilgrim badges) were particular features of medieval Christian pilgrimage. Today such enactments may take 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 4

Athelstan Pilgrim Way



Churches of the Woodbridge Benefice:

St Peter & St Paul, Great Somerford

St John the Baptist, Little Somerford

St Giles, Lea

All Saints, Garsdon

St Michael & All Angels, Brinkworth

St James the Great, Dauntsey



North Wiltshire Mission Area
Administered by Malmesbury Abbey
Diocese of Bristol



www.athelstanpilgrimway.org.uk