



ChalkEscape Walking Festival

Tuesday 13th – Sunday 18th September 2022

Welcome to the third ChalkEscape Walking Festival which we hope will encourage you and give you the opportunity to get out and explore the wonderful landscapes and habitats of the Chase and Chalke area.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteer walk leaders, route checkers and marshals we are once again thrilled to be able to offer a series of diverse walks, events and activities, covering some of the Chase and Chalke's stunning scenery as well as a variety of topics.



Discover our new self-guided routes

Over the last year Cranborne Chase and the Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership have launched a number of new self-guided walking routes which help celebrate the area's rich countryside and heritage. Routes vary in length and interest and are free and easy to download from our website (cranbornechase.org.uk/enjoy).

Further routes are in the pipeline and we thank all those who have put forward their ideas and routes for us to use – we are always keen to discover more so let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions.

In the meantime read on to find out about this year's Walking Festival events.



Walking Festival Event Registration

All events are **FREE** but spaces are limited so registration is essential. We would like to be able to offer the opportunity to participate to as many people as possible, so we would ask that you **book a maximum of 2 events for any one person.**

Before booking please use the symbols below and the description to ensure the walk is suitable. If having booked you are subsequently unable to make an event please let us know as soon as possible so that another person may take the place.

Part of the wider Chase and Chalke Landscape Partnership, the Walking Festival is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. To ensure we are reaching as wide a cross-section of our local communities as possible on booking you will be asked to provide some social and demographic information. All of the data will be held securely and used for project reporting purposes only. This is done in a non-attributed way, to ensure your data is anonymous.









Please **DO NOT** turn up to an event without having registered. Detailed information for each event will be sent out to those registered for the event a week ahead.

To book please go to <http://cranbornechaseAONB.eventbrite.com> and select the appropriate event.

Should you experience any problems booking please contact Rachel Limb on rachellimb@cranbornechase.org.uk

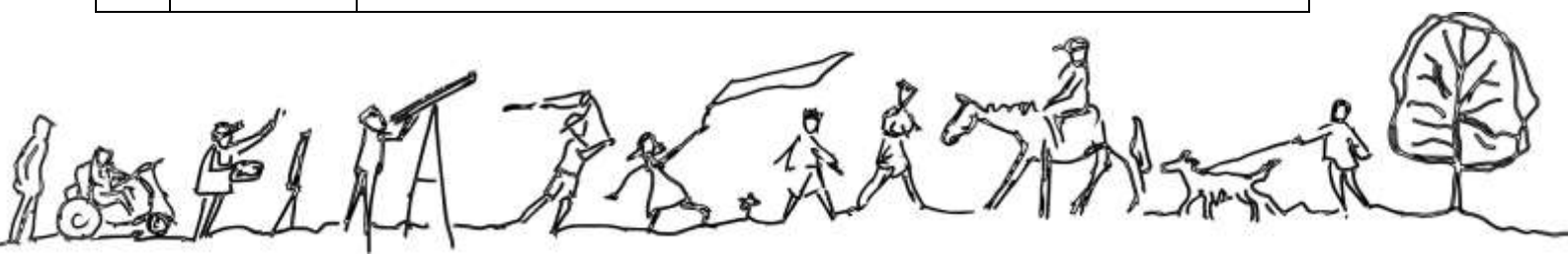
Risk Assessments on all activities have been undertaken, should any issues arise or circumstances or government guidance change, **events may be subject to cancellation.**

Key to symbols:

	Dogs on leads welcome Dogs must be on lead throughout walk		Dogs NOT permitted
	Toilets facilities on route	 2	Stiles (no.) on route
 15	Participants (max no of participants)		Family friendly route, please assess all information to ensure suitable for the ages of your children
 3	Difficulty Level (see guide below)		Weather Dependent

Guide to Difficulty Level of Walks:

1	Easy	Mainly flat walking, on paths with good surfaces. Few steps or stiles, if any.
2	Fairly Easy	Gentle, rolling landscape, walking on paths with good to average surfaces. Some walking on gentle inclines, some stiles or steps.
3	Moderate	Varying landscape with some more challenging slopes. Stiles or steps, suitable for keen walkers/those who are reasonably active.
4	Fairly Strenuous	A challenging walk, suitable for fit walkers with some experience. Steep gradients, stiles or steps and uneven surfaces.
5	Strenuous	A very challenging walk suitable only for fit, experienced walkers.



Tuesday 13th September, 10am

West Woodyates Walk

8 mile circular walk, approx. 6 hours



This walk explores some of the area's most notable historic sites. It starts on Martin Down, looking at Bokerley Ditch and the east terminus of the Dorset Cursus, before heading to the site of the Woodyates Inn and seeing the conservation projects at West Woodyates Farm. It takes in the RSPB Garston Wood Reserve and Mistleberry Iron Age Fort before returning via West Woodyates Farm, Vernditch Chase and Ackling Dyke. The views across the Chase are exceptional and we hope the wildlife will also put on a show!

NOTE: This is a good length walk, for those who are fit and regularly active.

Terrain: Mainly farm tracks and footpaths, no steep inclines.

Meet/Parking: Martin Down Nature Reserve Car Park on A354 (directions supplied on registration)

Lunch/Refreshments: Bring plenty of water and a packed lunch to enjoy on route.

Please wear stout boots/walking shoes and dress appropriately for the weather.

Walk Leader: Alan Dedden



Wednesday 14th September, 10am

Chalke & Ebble Discovery Walk, Broad Chalke & Bowerchalke



15-20

2

4.5-mile morning walk led by a nature specialist, exploring the Chalke Valley from Broad Chalke to Bowerchalke and back.

Enroute learn about some of the wildlife and plant species you encounter, meet a farmer who is encouraging wildlife back into the valley through enhancing the conservation site on his land, and find out more about the delightful River Ebble and the work being done to help preserve it.

Terrain: Tracks, footpaths and minor roads. Gentle ascent and descents. One or two stiles, but alternate route available if necessary.

Meet/Parking: All Saints Church Car Park, Broad Chalke, SP5 5DW (car park access from The Causeway)

Lunch/Refreshments: No facilities or stops on route, please bring water and any snacks required. Perhaps enjoy lunch in the Queen's Head, or a light lunch in the coffee shop at Chalke Valley Stores in Broad Chalke after the walk.

Queens Head, Broad Chalke (SP5 5EN) Tel: 01722 780344 to confirm opening times and to book.
<https://queensheadbroadchalke.co.uk>

Chalke Valley Stores & Coffee Shop, Broad Chalke (SP5 5EH) Tel: 01722 780998
<http://chalkevalleystores.co.uk/coffee-shop/>

Please wear appropriate clothing for the walk and the weather.

Walk Leader: Tom Perrett



Wednesday 14th September, 2pm-4.30pm

Sketching Walk at Coombe Bissett Nature Reserve

2 miles max, 2.5 hours in length



Come for a gentle walk at the lovely Coombe Bissett Down Nature Reserve and take time to absorb the landscape and wildlife through artists eyes. We will walk a maximum of 2 miles, stopping to look at and draw interesting viewpoints, plants and wildlife. The focus will be on observation and mindfulness, with a few suggested exercises in drawing techniques. Materials are provided but feel free to bring your own. No skill required, and all levels welcome!

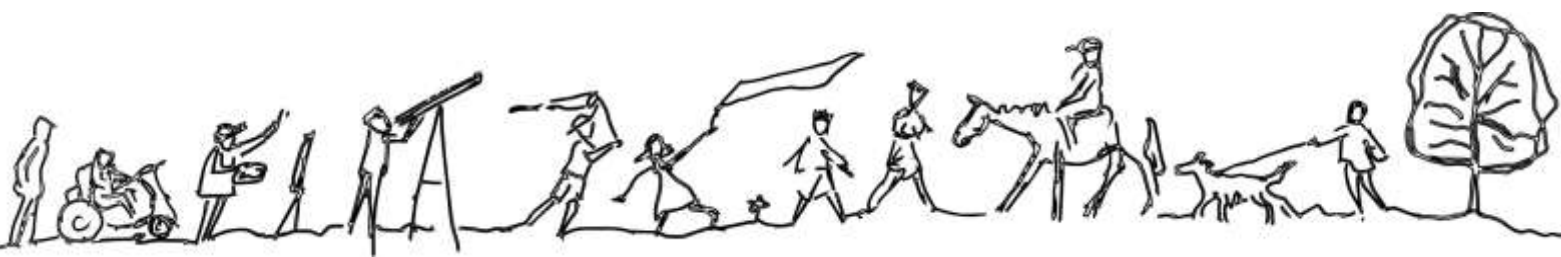
Terrain: Grassy, sloping track.

Meet/Parking: Coombe Bissett Village Hall, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LU

Refreshments: Please bring water and any snacks/drinks you require.

Please dress comfortably and appropriately for the weather. Wear shoes suitable for walking. Bring a folding seat/chair if required and water for any canine companion(s).

Walk Leader/Artist: Charlotte Moreton



Thursday 15th September, 9.15am for prompt 9.30am start

Windmill Hill Walk, Alvediston

6-mile circular route, approx. 4 hours (including break)



A mostly circular walk in low-lying meadows, arable farmland and woodland at the eastern end of the Ebble (Chalke) Valley and on the high downland which forms the northern escarpment of the Cranborne Chase. Offering stunning views along the valley to the east and south, Iron Age sites, a medieval church and the grave of a Prime Minister, plus a wealth of birdlife and wildflowers in one of the AONB's most beautiful valleys.

Terrain: Meadow, woodland and gravel paths, on mostly even ground underfoot. No stiles or fences to negotiate. One steady climb of 350ft over approx 1 mile.

Meet/Parking: Alvediston Church, SP5 5LE

Lunch/Refreshments:

Lunch available at the following local venues (we would suggest booking for 1.30pm if you are reserving a table).

The Horseshoe, Ebbesborne Wake (SP5 5JF) Tel: 01722 780474 <http://www.thehorseshoe-inn.co.uk>

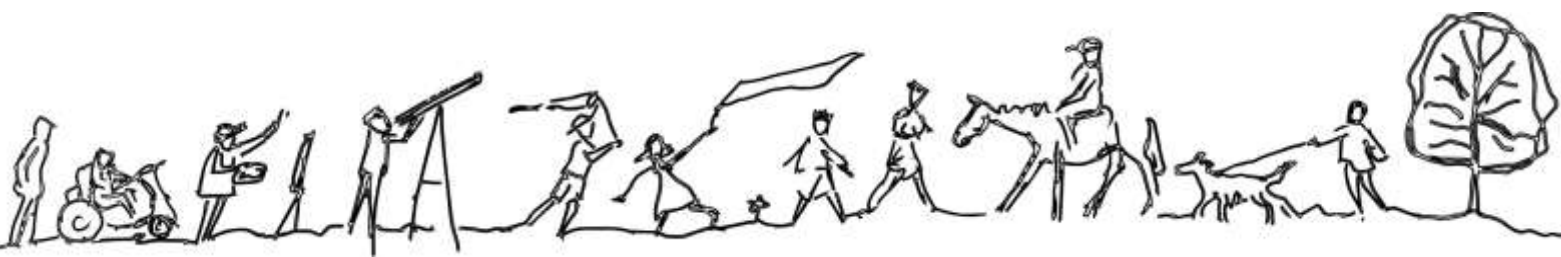
The Crown, Alvediston (SP5 5JY), Tel: 01722 780203 <http://www.thecrownalvediston.co.uk>

The Talbot, Berwick St John (SP7 0HA), Tel: 01747 828222 <https://www.talbotinnberwickstjohn.co.uk>

Ansty Farm Shop on A30 (SP3 5PX), Tel: 01747 829072 <https://www.anstypyo.co.uk>

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather, long trousers recommended and stout walking shoes or boots. Please bring sufficient water and walking sticks/poles and binoculars if you wish.

Walk Leader: Paul Cordle



Friday 16th September, 10am start

Harley Cross Circular, Gussage All Saints

6-mile circular route, approx. 2.5 hours



A circular walk exploring ancient ways including the Roman Ackling Dyke, from Gussage All Saints and finishing at The Drovers Inn for anybody wishing to eat.

Terrain: Good tracks and paths with some gentle slopes providing excellent views over the countryside. No stiles.

Meet/Parking: Gussage All Saints Village Hall, BH21 5ET

Lunch/Refreshments:

Lunch available at the Drovers Inn, Gussage All Saints, at the end of the walk. If you would like to eat we suggest reserving a table to be sure of space. Suggest 1pm reservation. For more information and booking:

The Drovers Inn, Gussage All Saints (BH21 5ET) Tel: 01258 840550 <https://thedroversinn.info>

Please dress comfortably and appropriately for the weather. Wear shoes suitable for walking and bring water and any snacks/refreshments you require.

Walk Leader: Frank Masterman



Sunday 18th September, 9am

Melbury Explorer

9 mile circular walk, approx. 5½-6 hours



This route will take you from Melbury, through Charlton, then towards Win Green finishing via Melbury Wood and Down (with optional Melbury Beacon loop). Offering wonderful views in many directions over Dorset, Wiltshire, perhaps even to the Isle of Wight, the walk follows old droves and ancient ditches passing through the pretty village of Charlton. From the downland heights of Melbury Hill and Win Green to the sheltered valley of Melbury Beech Wood, where you may be lucky enough to spot deer, buzzards and red kites.

PLEASE NOTE: This route is long and hilly with steps and several ascents, for experienced, fit, walkers only.

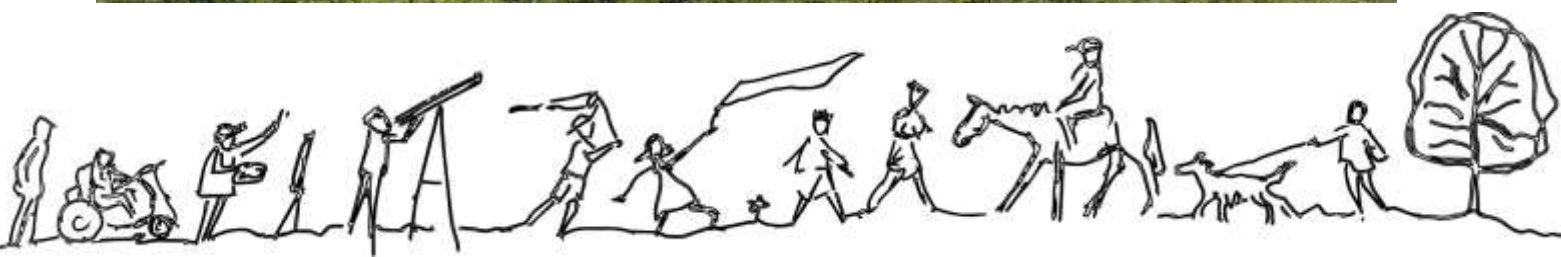
Terrain: Mostly open chalk downland on footpaths and bridleways, numerous stiles, some wetter conditions.

Meet/Parking: Melbury Abbas Village Hall, SP7 0DU

Lunch/Refreshments: Please bring a good supply of water and packed lunch, to be enjoyed on route.

Please wear comfortable walking boots/shoes with good grip. Dress appropriately for the weather and conditions, carry light weight waterproof jacket and trousers. Bring sunscreen and hat and walking poles if required.

Walk Leader: Andrew Ebbens



The Countryside Code



Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- take care with BBQs and do not light fires
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



www.gov.uk/countryside-code

