

Milford and Laverstock Walks

Start point: Guildhall Square for all walks

Walk 3a: Milford Hollow, Whitebridge Spinney, River Bourne Community Farm – 2 ¾ miles

See: Riverside, woodland, farm animals and wildlife

1. Walk along Queen St., with the side of the Guildhall on your right, turn L into Milford St. and walk straight on under the Ring Road, pausing to look at the **mural**, before going up the left side of Milford Hill.
2. At the top take the right fork, pass Godolphin School and immediately turn L into **Milford Hollow**. On reaching the road cross over and continue along Milford Mill Rd., cross **Milford Bridge** then bear left ahead into Queen Manor Rd.
3. Take the first L into Riverbourne Rd. Before the end of the road turn L onto a path leading to a boardwalk through **Whitebridge Spinney** following the **River Bourne**. Continue along the path by the river to Riverside Rd., cross over, turn L over the bridge and take the first R into Cow Lane.

*[This is the **River Bourne Community Farm**, a traditional farm in the heart of the community. Stop at the Farm Shop for information, leaflets on the **Farm Trails** and refreshments in summer.]*

4. Continue along Cow Lane, go under the railway bridge(s), the next section can be wet after rain. At the main road, turn L. to the roundabout, cross at the lights, then cross St Mark's Avenue to access the underpass. Take the exit to City Centre, cross over the road and continue L, take the second R into College St., then L at the bottom of the hill by the grassed area.
5. Walk a short distance then turn L, into **Bourne Hill Gardens**, turn R beside the Wiltshire Council Offices and walk around the building. Enjoy the garden and sculptured seating before passing through an opening in the wall to reach **Salisbury Arts Centre**, which is usually open for exhibitions and refreshments. Walk along a path to go through a small gate, cross the road to St Edmund's Church St. and take the second R into Winchester St. to return to the Guildhall Square.

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Walk 3b: Duck Lane, Petersfinger, Laverstock Down, River Bourne Community Farm *(There are two alternative routes given to reach Laverstock Down)*

See: *Rural footpaths, downland flowers, city views*

Route (I) 4¼ miles

1. Follow sections 1 and 2 of walk 3(a). Continue straight on up Queen Manor Road. Immediately after Potters Way, turn L along a bridleway. Immediately after the **Duck Inn** turn R up the bridleway, go through the right hand kissing gate onto **Laverstock Down**. *This is open access land where you are free to roam.*
2. Follow the grassy path with the hedge on your left until you reach a kissing gate on the left, go through and follow the track between arable fields. *The fields on the left are managed by the **River Bourne Community Farm** with traditional crops and wildflowers.*
3. At the bottom of the track cross Church Rd., turn R then immediately L along the **Bishopdown cycleway**. Cross over the river and just before the railway bridge; turn L through a gate and kissing gate into the River Bourne Community Farm. Follow the path ahead, bear R through the kissing gate and bear L along the gravel path to the farm entrance. On reaching the road, either follow steps 1 to 3 of 3(a) in reverse or:
4. Turn R under the railway bridge and cross with care, to the right hand side of Kelsey Rd. The road goes uphill, then down. At the bottom of the hill bear R to the underpass into the **Greencroft**. Go straight ahead across the green, cross to Salt Lane; turn L into St Edmund's Church St., then R into Winchester St. to return to the Guildhall Square.

Route (II) 4¾ miles or 6¼ miles to include Cockey Down

1. Follow sections 1 and 2 of walk 3(a). Continue straight on up Queen Manor Road. Immediately after Potters way turn R, along a narrow bridleway. Follow the path until it has gone up a slight incline then turn L up a steeper incline and follow the level footpath until you reach a small road. [*This is where the **Clarendon Way** long distance footpath to Winchester crosses the route*].
2. Cross to a track almost opposite and after a few metres turn L onto a narrow path which climbs between high hedges and trees. On reaching a kissing gate on the R go through this onto **Laverstock Down**. Walk downhill and to the right to reach the kissing gate in section 2 of walk 3(b) (Route I).
3. If you have time for a longer walk, then continue R along the path which climbs fairly steeply across Laverstock Down to reach a clump of trees on the brow of the hill. After this the path drops down to **Cockey Down**, a **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Reserve**. Retrace your steps, enjoying glorious views over the city and wildflowers in summer, to the kissing gate. Continue the walk from sections 2 in walk 3(b)(Route I).