



# The Kennet & Avon Canal

England's most southerly cross - country broad beam canal, weaves through the spectacular scenery between the River Thames at Reading and the River Avon at Bristol. Its route is a fusion of natural rolling landscapes including, the North Wessex Downs and Cotswolds Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, intersected by the urban and modern Reading, Newbury and World Heritage sites in Bath.

The Canals impressive architecture is in keeping with the surroundings that also provide a habitat for a diverse range of plants and animals including water voles, herons, wild flowers and rare aquatic plants.

The stretch of Canal between Pewsey and Crofton represents the summit of the Kennet & Avon Canal and is home to many important pieces of canal architecture including Crofton Pumping Station, Wilton Water; a water supply reservoir diverse in flora and fauna, The Bruce Tunnel and River Dun Aqueduct.

**Waterscape.com** provides information on a variety of interesting and enjoyable walks along the Kennet & Avon Canal. You can also access information about cycling the entire route of the canal.

A number of buses and trains operate along the Kennet & Avon Canal corridor. For further information on services and timetables call Traveline on **0871 200 22 33** or visit **www.traveline.info**.



## The Wigglywalks

**Three walks on the Kennet & Avon Canal between Pewsey and Crofton.**

**Walk 4 Easy: Wilcot to Pewsey via Pewsey Wharf Distance 2.8 Miles (4.5km)**

A walk featuring Wilcot, Pewsey Wharf, the Buckleaze Conservation Area & the Scotchel Nature Reserve. Use Connect2 Wiltshire bus Line 2. Wait for the bus at the Co-op supermarket in Pewsey Town Centre.

Take the Connect2 Wiltshire bus Line 2 to the Golden Swan, Wilcot. Head north along Wilcot main street, cross over Wilcot Bridge (no. 117) and turn right onto the canal towpath, after 1/2 a mile cross the canal at Bristow Bridge (no. 115) continue for just over 1/2 a mile to Pewsey Wharf, here there is an interpretation board as well as a café and restaurant. Continue on the towpath to Pain's Bridge (no. 113). Once at Pain's Bridge (no. 113) turn right off the towpath and proceed down the lane noting the Badger Setts.

When you reach Buckleaze Nature Reserve climb over the stile and follow the path, there is a sharp left hand turn then a stile opening right onto a firm, surfaced path. Bearing left continue under the railway arch and immediately left again to enter Scotchel Nature Park.

The path winds alongside a stream before exiting onto the main road; cross with care. You will see a line of shops indicating Pewsey town centre.

**Walk 5 Moderate: Wootton Rivers to Pewsey via Jones Mill Nature Reserve Distance 5 - 6 Miles (8.5 - 10km)**

A walk featuring Wootton Rivers, Martinsell Hill, the Kennet & Avon Canal towpath, the Buckleaze Conservation Area & the Scotchel Nature Reserve. Use Connect2 Wiltshire bus Line 3. When booking your journey ask to be dropped at the Royal Oak Public House, Wootton Rivers.

Wait for the Connect2 Wiltshire bus at the Co-op supermarket in Pewsey Town Centre. Once off the bus look for the road directly opposite the the Royal Oak, signed 'Clench'. Go along this lane and take the road leading off to the right signed East Wick. Stay on this road, uphill, past East Wick Farm on the right. At the junction just beyond the farm turn right. The road becomes steep and at the top of the hill enter the parking area on the left, go through the gate in the far right hand corner of the car park. The path follows the line of the trees and you are now on Martinsell Hill.

Stay on the well worn path, keeping to the edge of the hill and enjoy the magnificent views of the Pewsey Vale. Go through the gate and past the line of earth works on your right and look for a gate in the fence on your left. Go through the gate and head diagonally downhill towards a cluster of bushes. The path continues down; go left to a large gate that opens onto a lane.

*(Continued overleaf)*

# Pewsey Wigglywalks with Connect2



How to use the bus service to enjoy your walk..

■ Look at the map overleaf, choose a walk that you would like to do; there are three walks;

- Walk 4** from Wilcot to Pewsey
- Walk 5** from Wootton Rivers to Pewsey
- Walk 6** from Crofton Pumping Station to Pewsey

■ Then, choose where you want to start your walk and note the closest bus stop number (shown on the map).

■ Now call the booking centre on 01249 460600 and book a journey to the starting point of your walk, if required, and tell them what time you would like to travel and arrive for your walk.

stop number to the end of you walk and tell the booking centre so that we can arrange bus travel for you at the end of your walk to take you back home or back to your car if you have parked in Pewsey village centre.

■ The booking centre will find the closest times that match your travel requirements and will confirm your boarding and alighting points for your bus journey.

■ Each bus is wheelchair accessible and buggy friendly. We also welcome well behaved dogs on board our buses.



Wilcot to Pewsey



Wootton Rivers to Pewsey



Crofton Pumping Station to Pewsey



To help us....

- Please ensure that you book your journey at least 20 minutes in advance of travelling and that you wait at your booked pick up point at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Buses may run up to 10 minutes later than booked when demand is high for the service – we apologise for any delays.

Flexible bus services to get you closer to the heart of Wiltshire  
To find out more call our information line 01380 860100  
or visit our website [www.bookaride.net](http://www.bookaride.net)



At the house on the right (West Wick House) the lane has a firm surface, continue along this lane continue along the lane until you come to the Canal. Access the canal through the gate on the left. Go left again under the bridge. Beyond the bridge to the right is Jones Mill Nature Reserve, this makes a pleasant diversion and the towpath can easily be rejoined at the end of the field.

**To return to Pewsey follow directions from Walk 4 except turning left off the towpath.**

For a slightly longer alternative walk which can become very muddy so perhaps one for finer days. With the Royal Oak on your right. Proceed eastwards, along Wootton Rivers Main Street, continue on this street until a signpost marked bridleway just before a large thatched house, and follow the signpost for the bridleway and continue uphill. At the fork turn left and then left again to access Mud Lane, Mud Lane can be MUDDY. Once on the lane turn left and continue uphill, eventually it will lead to the carpark and in the right hand corner is the gate that will lead you to Martinsell Hill.

**Walk 6 Difficult: Crofton Pumping Station/Wilton Water to Pewsey Distance 7.5 Miles (12km)**

A walk featuring the Kennet & Avon Canal Towpath, Crofton Pumping Station, the Bruce Tunnel, the Buckleaze Conservation Area & the Scotchel Nature Reserve. Use Connect2 Wiltshire bus Line 3.

**When booking your journey ask to be dropped at the Crofton Pumping Station.**

Wait for the Connect2 Wiltshire bus at the Co-op supermarket in Pewsey Town Centre. Follow the signs from Crofton Pumping station onto the Kennet & Avon Canal towpath, cross the canal and turn right. After approximately 1 1/2 miles you will reach the Bruce Tunnel. Follow the towpath diversion over the tunnel rejoin the towpath after approximately 300m. After 1/2 mile you will pass Burbage Wharf Crane on the off side, this is a replica of the original which stood on the Wharf until 1972. Continue on the towpath for 3 1/2 miles to Pain's Bridge.

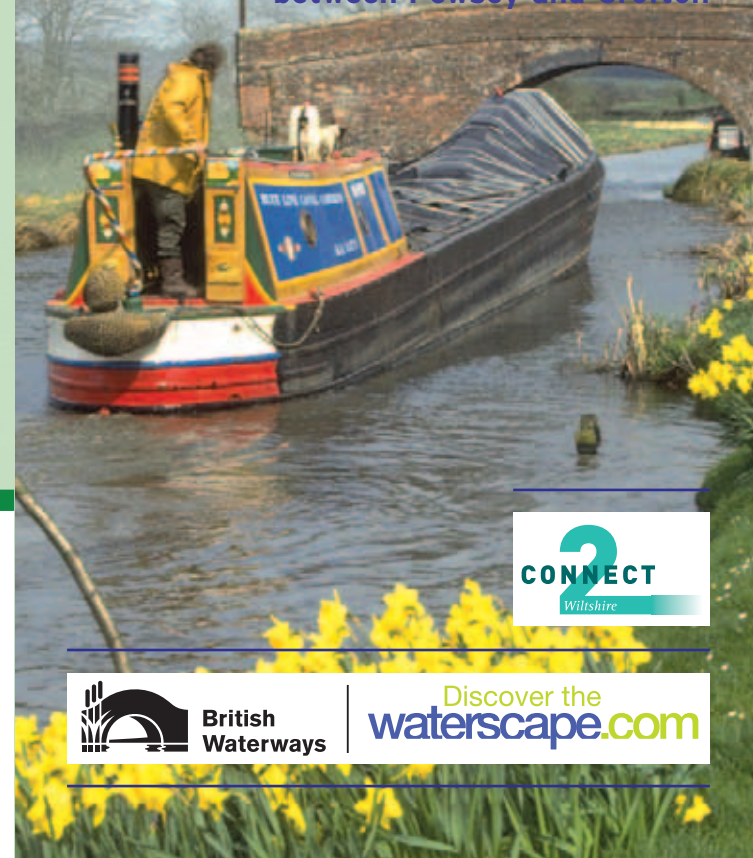
**To return to Pewsey follow directions from Walk 4.** If starting the walk from Bedwyn a very pleasant walk exists which takes in Wilton Windmill and Bedwyn Brail. Details are available from [www.visitwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk) or Tourist information Centres.



# The Kennet & Avon Wigglywalks Guide

**Pewsey Vale Edition**

**Three walks using the Connect2 Wiltshire bus services on the Kennet & Avon Canal between Pewsey and Crofton**





# Walks from Pewsey using Connect2

## The Kennet & Avon Canal

Explore the Kennet & Avon Canal country. Experience a living waterway which is historic yet tranquil and full of opportunities. The canal winds its way from Reading to Bristol, passing through towns such as Newbury, Devizes, Bradford-on-Avon and Bath as well as through the North Wessex Downs and Cotswold Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The changing landscape along this waterway appeals to the visitor with features such as black and white painted locks, brightly coloured boats, level and wide towpath, interpretation panels and plenty of refreshment stops.

There are leisure opportunities for all ages whether it is walking and cycling along the towpath, enjoying the abundant waterside wildlife, or hiring boats as a group or family. Alternatively you may decide to just watch the world go by from one of the waterside cafés or pubs.



- Be safe - Plan ahead and follow any signs
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Leave gates and property as you find it
- Consider other people

For more information visit [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk) or call (01242) 521381

### Savernake Forest

Savernake Forest consists of 4,500 acres of unbroken woodlands and was once an ancient hunting forest. Now it is home to a variety of fauna and flora including woodpeckers, owls, badgers, foxes and deer.

The forest is open to visitors throughout the year and pedestrians are free to explore the Forest as they like. The Forestry Commission have an extensive campsite just inside the northern boundary of the Forest, there are also numerous proper BBQ hearths there, with tables and chairs provided.

### Enquiries:

Savernake Estate Office  
Savernake Forest  
Marlborough  
Wiltshire SN8 3HP  
Telephone: (01672) 512161  
Fax: (01672) 516965

### Public Houses

**Golden Swan, Wilcot**  
Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5NN  
Telephone: (01672) 562289

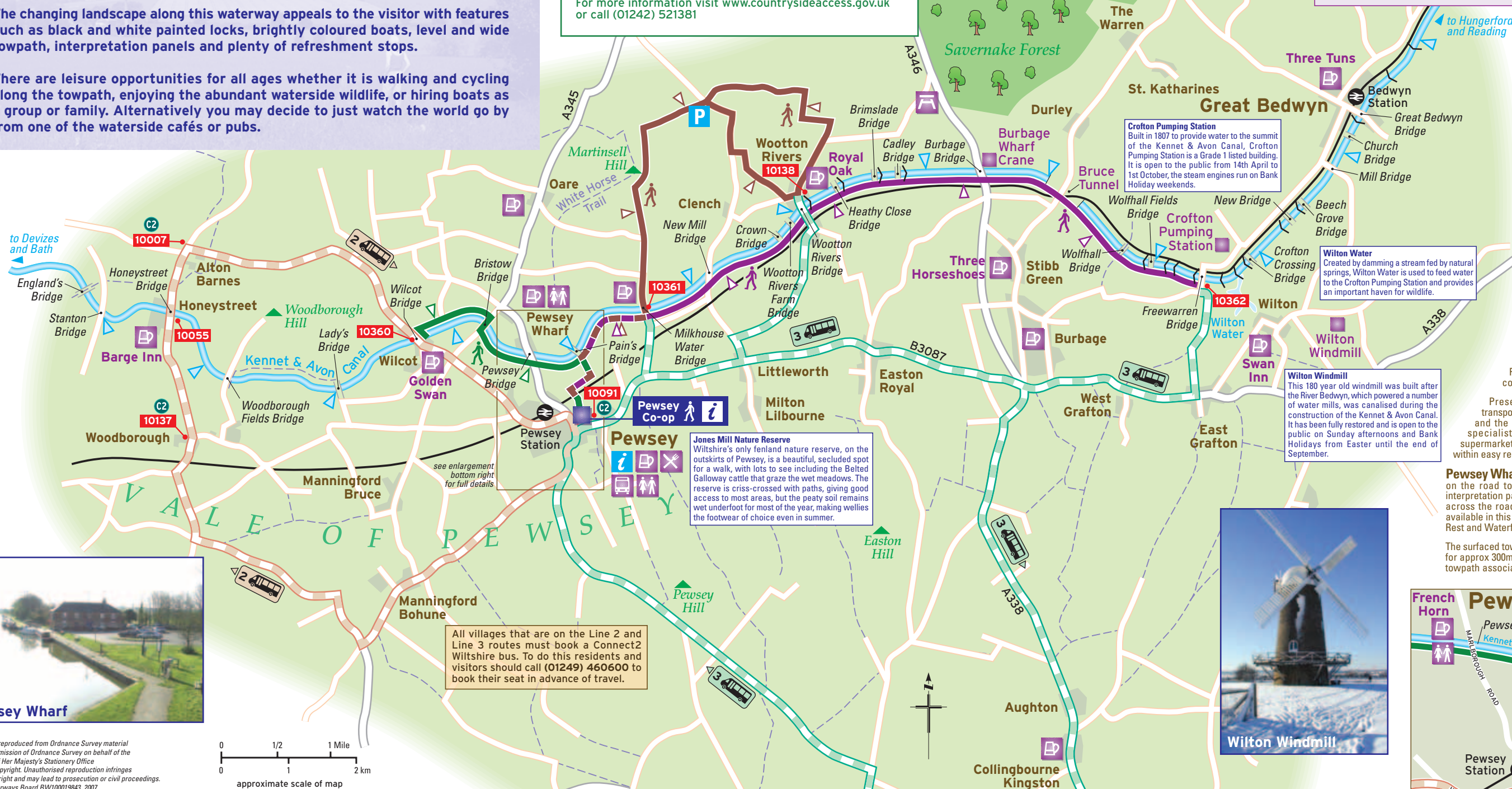
**French Horn, Pewsey**  
Marlborough Road Pewsey,  
Wiltshire, SN9 5NT  
Telephone: (01672) 562443

**Three Horseshoes, Stibb Green**  
Burbage, Marlborough,  
Wiltshire SN8 3AE  
Telephone: (01672) 810324

**Swan Inn, Wilton**  
Wiltshire SN8 3SS  
Telephone: (01672) 870274

**Three Tuns, Great Bedwyn**  
1 High Street, Great Bedwyn,  
Wiltshire SN8 3NU  
Telephone: (01672) 870280

**Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers**  
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 4NQ  
Telephone: (01672) 810322  
Fax: (01672) 811168  
Good food and traditional beers and wines. Ramped access. Bar and restaurant are both fully accessible.



### Pewsey

The original Saxon 6th century settlement of Pewsey was first recorded in 880 A.D. as "Pefesigge", meaning well watered land, or little island, and mentioned in the 1086 Domesday record as "Pefesie". Legend also has it that King Alfred the Great owned much of the land in the Pewsey Area, and that when setting out on one of his campaigns, left his queen at Pewsey, promising that on his safe return that day should forever be a Feast Day. The Feast is held every year in the week of the Holy Cross in September – now marked by the famous illuminated Pewsey Carnival.

Modern day Pewsey still retains its charm, centred round St Johns Parish Church, standing on its former Norman foundations, with several old buildings surviving the Great Fire of 1845, such as Ball House, the Cruck cottages, built in the 1500s, and Court House.

Present facilities, based on a regular public transport infrastructure, including rail links to London and the West Country, include a number of small specialist shops centred round the busy Co-op supermarket, with 3 tearooms, 4 inns and toilet facilities within easy reach of the two free car parks.

**Pewsey Wharf** on the canal is located just outside Pewsey on the road to Oare. There you will find a shop, cafe, interpretation panels, narrow boats on the canal, and a pub across the road. A warm welcome and refreshments are available in this beautiful waterside setting at the Boatmans Rest and Waterfront Inn.

The surfaced towpath to the east of Pewsey Wharf continues for approx 300m before it becomes the natural, unimproved towpath associated with this section of the Kennet & Avon.



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### Key

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|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Walk 4: Wilcot to Pewsey         |  | Canal and Lock   |  |
| Walk 5: Wootton Rivers to Pewsey |  | Public right of way                                    |  |
| Walk 6: Crofton to Pewsey        |  | Tourist Information                                    |  |
| Markers at 1 mile intervals      |  | Car Park   |  |
| Connect2 stops                   |  | Picnic Area  |  |
| Bus stops                        |  | Pub  |  |
| Railway line and station         |  | Café/Restaurant  |  |
|                                  |  | Frequent bus services pass nearby (check availability) |  |
|                                  |  | Toilet   |  |



Jones Mill Nature Reserve



Wilton Windmill



Crofton Pumping Station