

# Alton Barnes 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 10** White Horse and Milk Hill
- Walk 11** Alton Barnes to Woodborough
- Walk 12** Alton Barnes to Stanton St. Bernard

■ 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.

■ If your walk begins at a location which you do not need the bus to get to then find the nearest stop number to the end of your 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.

■ 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.

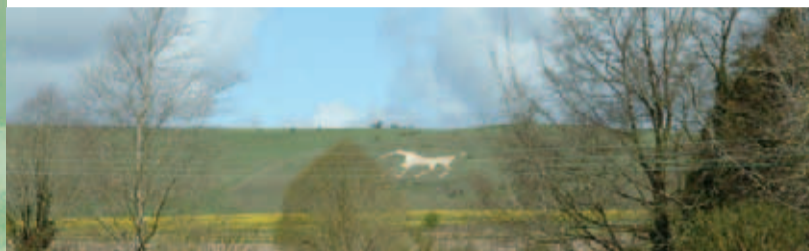
## The Kennet & Avon Canal

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.

[Waterscape.com](http://www.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](http://www.traveline.info).



White Horse and Milk Hill



Alton Barnes to Woodborough



Alton Barnes to Stanton St. Bernard

### 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.



*be seen 2 go green*

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)



## The Wigglywalks

Three walks on the Kennet & Avon Canal.

### Walk 10: Alton Barnes to the White Horse and Milk Hill

**Starting from the White Horse car park:**

Cross over the road from the car park, go over the stile opposite and walk up the mound on the hill diagonally left. Follow the path back around the hillside to the White Horse. From the White Horse continue along the path which skirts around the top of Milk Hill. Go around the spur and hillside, turn right at the gate and head towards a long bank and ditch - the Wansdyke. Go right along the top of the Wansdyke. After about half a mile turn right onto a grassy path that leads away from the Wansdyke. This path gently descends back to the car park. **This walk is altogether about 3 miles long and is moderately easy going, with stunning views throughout.**

**Starting from Alton Barnes:**

Start at the entrance to the footpath opposite Browns Lane that leads into East Field. Turn left immediately and follow the path with the fence on your right. Stop at the first break in the fence on your left. Cross the road into the field directly opposite and follow the right-hand edge of this field up to a gate and a map. Go through the gate and walk straight on towards the nearest hill. Continue along the path round the hillside towards the white horse. Continue past the White Horse and climb Milk Hill. Turn right and descend down the hill. Continue walking towards a long bank and ditch - the Wansdyke. Turn right when you reach the Wansdyke and continue along it for approximately half a mile. Turn right onto a grassy path that leads towards the car park. Continue towards the map and gate that you started at and follow the footpath back down to Browns Lane. **This walk is around 3.9 miles long.**

### Walk 11: Alton Barnes to Woodborough

First of all you should get off at the bus stop in the village near St. Mary's Church (stop number 10378). Also, before you head off, why not have a look around St. Mary's Church, which dates from Saxon times.

Now walk back up the road to the junction with the main road through the village and turn left. Walk 20 metres alongside the main road. Once you have walked 20 metres, cross the road and you should find yourself in front of a stile. Climb over the stile into a field by a post marked WCC footpath.

Then you should turn left and keep going along the edge of the field until you reach the bottom corner. You should then turn right and walk along the bottom edge of the field. Follow alongside the field until you reach the end of the field boundary. Go through the gap in the fence, turn left and follow the edge of the next field until you reach the bottom corner (keeping the Barge Inn Pub building ahead of you in the distance). At the corner turn right and follow the edge of the field up the incline towards the trees in the distance, and Stanton St. Bernard.

Once you have reached the end of this second field, go straight ahead of you towards a gap in a hedge, you will be able to see a brideway sign down a slope. Go down towards the sign, which will take you to a road, turn left and follow to the next road junction. When you arrive at the road junction, turn left towards some cottages in the distance. Follow this road past the cottages and on to a canal bridge. Cross over the bridge and immediately across the bridge go to the right hand side, and walk down to the towpath on the canal. Turn a sharp right (taking you back under the canal bridge) and continue walking on the grass towpath to Honeystreet.

Follow the grass towpath past the Barge Inn Pub camping site and continue down along the canal towards the next bridge. You could break your walk here and go into the pub and have a refreshing drink, lunch or a rest.

Once you get to the canal bridge after the pub, turn right leading you up onto a main road from the towpath. Now you are on the road, turn left going over the bridge and follow road towards the White Horse on the hill in the distance until you get back to Alton Barnes village and your starting point. **This walk is approximately 2 miles long.**

Alternatively, you could book your trip home from the Saw Mill bus stop by the bridge at Honeystreet (stop number 10055). To do this you would need to book in advance by calling 01249 460600.

For a longer walk (2 miles there and back), why not continue under the bridge at Honeystreet along the canal. Keep walking under the first bridge you come to and along the canal. At the second bridge, called Woodborough Fields Bridge, go up onto the brideway, turn left and continue across the bridge and up the brideway to the top of Woodborough Hill, admiring the breathtaking views of the Vale of Pewsey, before returning to the canal and following it back to Honeystreet to catch your bus home.

### Walk 12: Alton Barnes to Stanton St. Bernard

From the car park, cross the road to a gate and follow the left-hand field edge to a stile. Continue to another stile and then carry on until you are at a T-junction with the Wansdyke. Turn left and continue. Begin to descend, cross a wooden barrier, then go through a gate and bear left away from the Wansdyke onto a track. Fork right through a gate and follow this track downhill to a stile.

Rejoin the main track by a barn and continue down to the road. Turn left and take the footpath right. At the T-junction turn right and pass the church, then swing right to Pewsey Vale Riding School. Turn left here and follow the track to the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Cross the canal and bear left through a gate to join the tow path. Keep to the tow path for 1 mile and turn left over the bridge into Alton Barnes. After 100yards, turn right, signed to St Mary's Church. Just before the church, turn left through a turnstile. Follow the path right, cross two footbridges, then, where the path turns sharp right, turn sharp left across the field to a kissing gate.

Turn left then take the footpath right along the right-hand edge of the field. At a kink in the field boundary, follow the waymarker left across the field. At the road, fork left up a track to a gate leading onto Pewsey. Follow the waymarker steeply uphill. Here you can take the path left to the White Horse.

Continue over the hill, and then bear right towards the road. Before reaching the road, bear left over a wooden barrier and follow the right-hand field edge to a stile. Turn right through the gate and cross the road to the car park. **This walk is approximately 6.25 miles long.**

## The Kennet & Avon Wigglywalks Guide

### Alton Barnes Edition

Three walks using the Connect2 Wiltshire bus services on the Kennet & Avon Canal



# Walks from Alton Barnes 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.

### The Long Pound

The 15-mile section of canal between Devizes and Pewsey is known as the Long Pound and is a unique stretch of the Kennet & Avon Canal. Bounded by the North Wessex Downs AONB and Marlborough Downs to the North and Salisbury Plain to the South the Long Pound is a particularly tranquil part of the canal. Unlike the rest of the canal the towpath on the Long Pound is grass, so in winter it can be muddy, in summer the rich hedgerows and abundance of wildlife make the Long Pound particularly special.

The Devizes to Pewsey section also links in with local footpaths and the national trails The Ridgeway and Wansdyke both directly and via the Quiet Lanes network. This makes the canal towpath a perfect starting point for exploring this beautiful area.

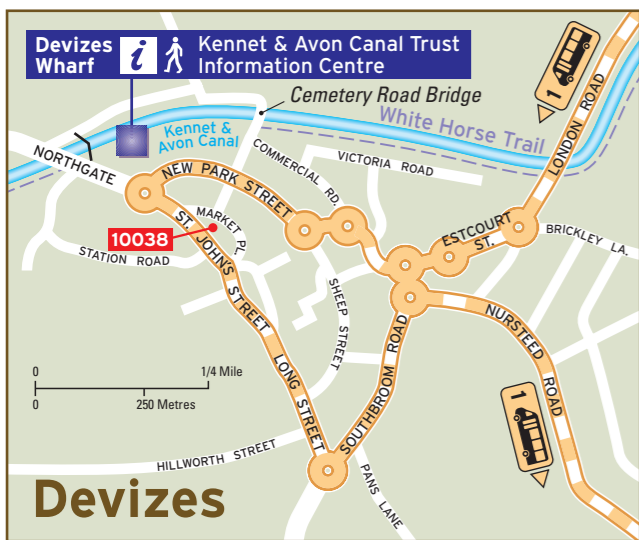
For more information on walking in this area contact The Mid Wilts Ramblers.  
Telephone: (01249) 814008  
Website: www.ramblers-wilts.org.uk

### Devizes

Devizes is an ideal destination for a day out, the town's rich history, mystery and legends make it a treasure in the heart of Wiltshire. Norman churches, medieval trail, the Kennet & Avon Canal, lively markets and fine pubs, places to eat and specialist shops tucked away in court yards and old alleyways will ensure a memorable day.

### Devizes Wharf

Previously called Town Wharf, Devizes Wharf is the only survivor of Devizes' three wharves. Once a hub of boat building and trading the wharf now has a theatre and is the headquarters of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.



## Devizes



- 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

**North Wessex Downs AONB**  
Created in 1972 The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers 1,730 sq km. It gives protection to one of the largest and least developed tracts of chalk downland in southern England.  
Telephone: (01488) 685440  
Website: [www.northwessexdowns.org.uk](http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk)



Woodborough Hill

**White Horse**  
Originated by Robert Pile in 1812, the White Horse of Alton Barnes has always been a prominent feature of Wiltshire's landscape. It stands proudly on top of Milk Hill and looks out across the beautiful countryside and villages such as Alton Barnes and Woodborough. It is even occasionally lit up with thousands of candles at certain times of the year and is certainly one of Wiltshire's greatest sights.

**The Wansdyke**  
Wansdyke is an early medieval defensive linear earthwork, consisting of a ditch and a running embankment from the spoil. It runs from Maes Knoll, a hill fort close to Norton Malreward, in the Chew Valley south of Bristol, to the Savernake Forest near Marlborough. Its origins are unclear, but archaeological data show that it was probably built during the 5th or 6th century. When the Saxons came upon the dyke, they named it after their god Woden; hence it became 'Woden's Dyke' and, eventually, Wansdyke. It can be compared to both Offa's Dyke and Hadrian's Wall as one of the largest defensive earthworks in the United Kingdom.



Pewsey Wharf

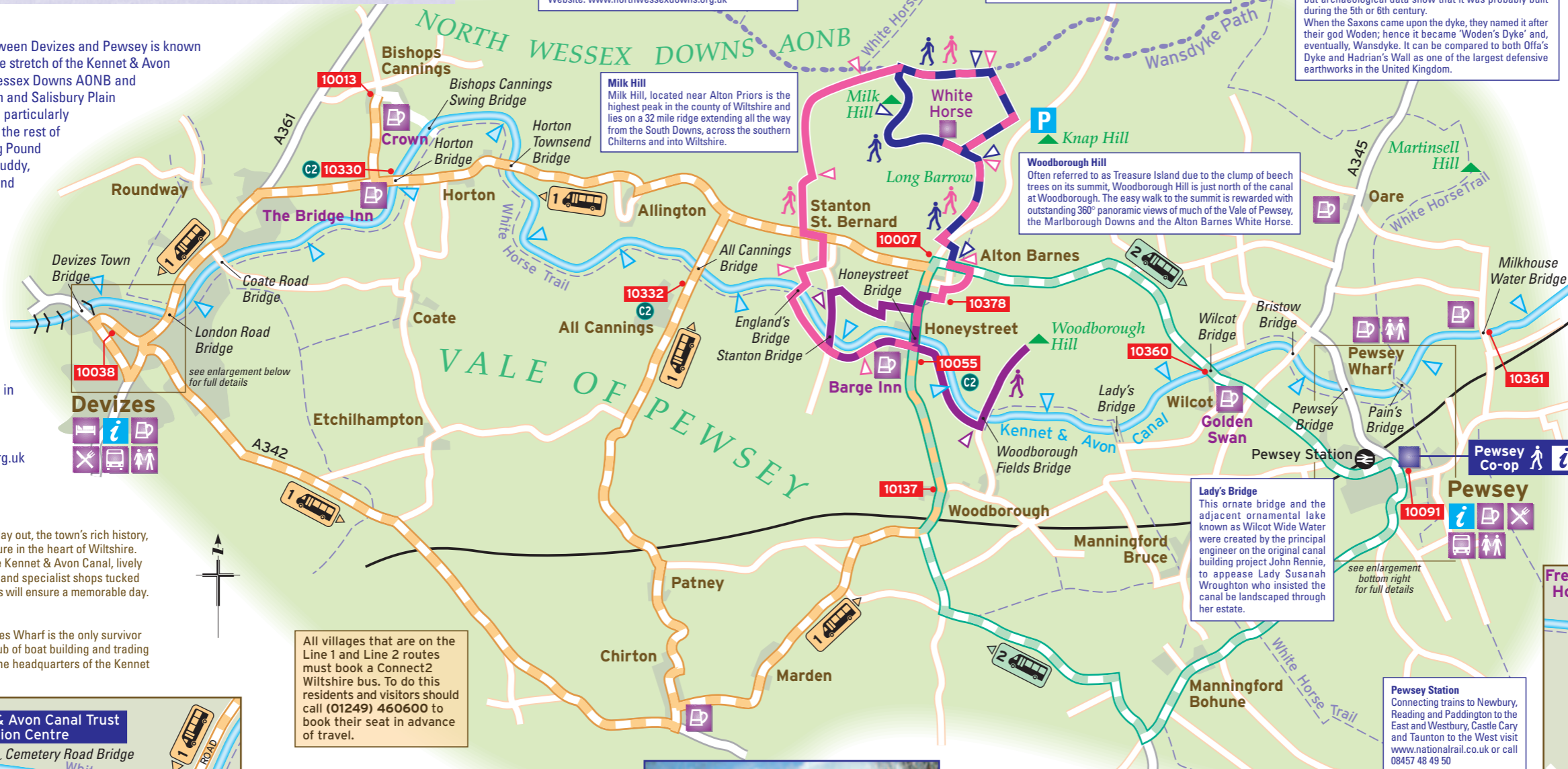
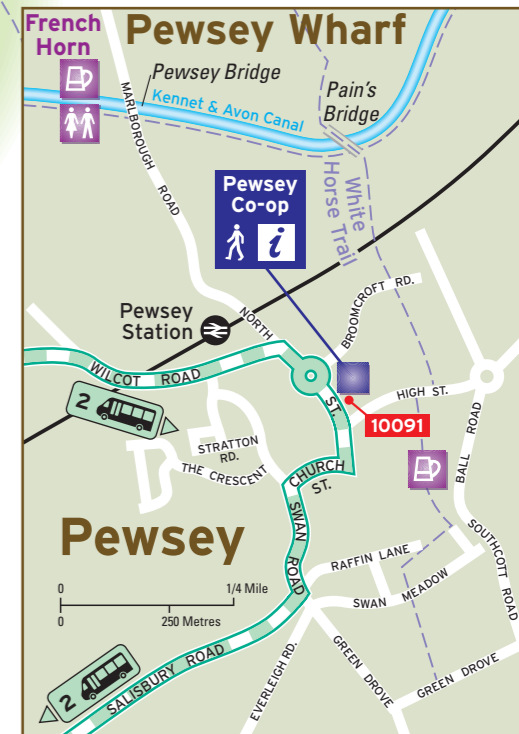
**Pewsey**  
The original Saxon 6th century settlement of Pewsey was first recorded in 880 A.D. as "Pefesigge", meaning well watered land, or little island, and mentioned in the 1086 Domesday record as "Pevesie". Legend also has it that King Alfred the Great owned much of the land in the Pewsey Area, 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.



All villages that are on the Line 1 and Line 2 routes must book a Connect2 Wiltshire bus. To do this residents and visitors should call (01249) 460600 to book their seat in advance of travel.

0 1/2 1 Mile  
0 1 2 km  
approximate scale of map



St. Mary's Church, Alton Barnes



Looking towards Milk Hill

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Produced by FWT [www.fwt.co.uk](http://www.fwt.co.uk)

**Key**

Walk 10		Canal and Lock	
Walk 11		Public right of way	
Walk 12		Long distance footpath	
Markers at 1 mile intervals		Holiday Accommodation	
CONNECT Telephone bookings required		Tourist Information	
Connect2 stops		Pub	
Bus Stops		Café/Restaurant	
Railway line and station		Frequent bus services pass nearby (check availability)	
		Toilet	