

Canal Walk, Great Bedwyn

OS Explorer Map No: 157

Approximate length: 6.5 miles

Suitable for: Walkers

Type of terrain: some surfaced tracks, also some unsurfaced tracks, muddy in places, a short distance on minor roads

You will need: Wellies or stout boots

1-3 Starting from the car park at the Crofton Pumping Station (www.croftonbeamengines.org) turn right along the Crofton Road following the sign to the canal, once over the bridge at point 2 join the towpath on your left. Follow the tow path back towards Great Bedwyn, until you are opposite the pumping station at Point 3.

3 At this point those who want to shorten the walk should stay on the tow path going straight to point 6. Everyone else should cross the footbridge to the right and follow the footpath along Wilton Water, signed to Wilton Windmill.

3-5 At the end of the footpath you will come out on the road in Wilton at point 4, bear left through the village past the Swan Inn. Bear left again and continue to point 5.



Photo by Mary Noyce



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5 At point 5 those who wish to go a bit further may continue up Wilton Hill to Wilton Windmill (www.wiltonwindmill.co.uk) and can return to Great Bedwyn via the rights of way through Bedwyn Brail and Castle Copse and rejoin the route at point 7.

5-8 Take the track to the left onto the Roman Road and follow it down to the canal at point 6. Turn right onto the tow path and continue to Great Bedwyn at point 7. Turn left over the canal passing the railway station to point 8.

8-10 Turn left onto the Crofton Road opposite the Cross Keys pub and continue through Great Bedwyn to point 9. Turn right onto the bridleway Hatchet Lane and continue into the woodland at point 10.

10-12 Once into the woodland follow the fence-line on your left and then follow the track that continues along the edge of the wood. Go out of a bridlegate to the left and along the field edge to point 11. Turn left onto the surfaced track and follow it past Crofton Farm to rejoin the Crofton Road at point 12.

12-1 Turn right and continue along the road until you return to the pumping station car park.