

Distance: 9¼ miles/14.9km ■ Time: 4 hours ■ Grade: Moderate



## THE MYSTERIOUS MOUND



CHOSEN BY...  
**NIGEL VILE**

A superb walk into Britain's past, that explores some of the finest pre-historic landmarks in Southern Britain. This figure-of-eight route centres upon Avebury with its ancient

henge. The first loop contains more ancient history, starting with Silbury Hill, a mysterious man-made mound. The intrigue continues with the chambered long barrow at West Kennet, the Sanctuary and a grand return to Avebury

along the stone-lined Avenue. Suitably refreshed at either the Red Lion or Circles Restaurant, the second loop leads onto Windmill Hill, a classic example of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, with three concentric but intermittent ditches. ➡



View to the mysterious Silbury Hill.





OS Explorer map 157 Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)**1 Start**

Exit car park to A4361 and turn R. In 25m, turn L through gateway and follow path signposted to Silbury Hill. Cross small enclosure to gate and follow path by the infant River Kennet. In just under 0.8km, ignore bridge on R and continue following the river downstream for 250m to gate and field. Follow R edge of this field to gate and A4. Cross to layby, turn L before following path on R signposted to West Kennet Long Barrow. Having crossed the Kennet, pass through handgate and follow path to L along to solitary tree where an obligatory detour to R leads up to the Long Barrow. For main walk, keep ahead along edge of field to gate and stile, before following track to lane. Cross stile opposite and follow R edge of field ahead to stile in its far corner. Continue along an enclosed path to junction with track, turn L and walk along to road by Thames Water pumping station.

**2 2¼ miles/3.6km**

Turn L, cross the Kennet and, in a few paces, follow bridleway along bottom R edge of field. In 400m, leave field and join track. Turn L and follow this track for 400m to

the A4 on Overton Hill by the Sanctuary. Cross the A4 and follow the Ridgeway for 400m before turning L onto byway and walk across towards a clump of beech trees and a barrow. In 200m, pass through gate on L and follow NT permissive path for 200m down towards 3 more barrows. Beyond, follow permissive path downhill for 250m to gate, turn R and follow another permissive path around to B4003. Cross road to gate and turn R and walk towards West Kennet Avenue. In 350m, pass through a pair of gates and follow Avenue ahead for 800m back to Avebury. At end of Avenue, beyond gate, cross road to gate opposite, turn L and walk through clump of trees before following line of stone circle down to Red Lion.

**3 5 miles/8km**

Turn L and walk down Avebury's High Street for 200m before turning R into churchyard. Bear half L to gate in churchyard wall and follow tarmac path for 150m to fork just beyond bridge over the infant River Kennet. Veer R and, in 50m, cross stile on R before clipping the corner of field ahead to footbridge. Beyond this bridge, turn L and

walk across next field to stile in opposite field boundary. Keep ahead across following field to stile opposite, before crossing next field to stile and belt of trees. Beyond trees, walk length of next field to gate and stile and track. Turn L to gate and follow R edge of field uphill towards Windmill Hill. Beyond gate, follow R edge of second field to gate and Windmill Hill.

**4 7 miles/11.3km**

Walk ahead across hilltop, passing several barrows, before dropping down far side of Windmill Hill to gate and track. Turn L and, just before track emerges from clump of trees in 150m, turn L and follow track uphill and across open country for 1.2km to junction by barns. Turn L and, in 300m, at junction just past Bray Cottage, keep ahead along cul-de-sac lane. In 350m, where lane ends, keep ahead on tarmac path back to bridge over the infant Kennet passed earlier. Keep ahead along path back to Avebury churchyard, bear R across to churchyard gate and then L along the High Street in Avebury. In 100m, opposite red-brick cottages turn R along path to NT car park. **CW**



Stone circle in Avebury.

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**PLAN YOUR WALK****ROUTE**

**Start/parking** NT car park Avebury, free for members, £7 for non-members, grid ref SU099696, postcode SN8 1QT  
**Is it for me?** An undulating walk using quiet lanes, footpaths and tracks  
**Stiles** 6

**PLANNING**

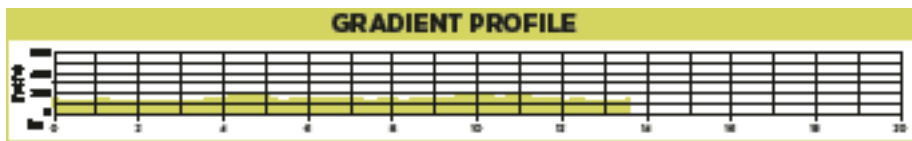
**Nearest town** Marlborough  
**Refreshments** In Avebury, the Red Lion (booking advised) and Circles Restaurant  
**Public toilets** Behind the Great Barn in Avebury  
**Public transport** X49 Trans Wiltshire Express Swindon-Deveizes and Trowbridge passes through Avebury, Stagecoach Swindon-Deveizes, Sun only  
**Maps** OS Explorer 157; Landranger 173

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
[walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes](http://walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING