

Edington



WILTSHIRETOURISM

A varied walk that combines a wide range of countryside habitats with fabulous views. There are interesting churches to visit en-route and several nearby pubs for sustenance after the walk! The route takes you up Edington Hill and onto the Imber Range Perimeter Path (IRPP). Edington has its place in history as the site where King Alfred, in 878, gained a decisive victory over Danish invaders - ensuring the continuing existence of Wessex as an independent kingdom.

The walk

1 Start

Having parked adjacent to the village green, take the path directly in front of you, next to the building with a post box in the wall. Continue on until a four-way junction, go straight ahead along the metalled road for around half-a-mile, then turn L at the T-junction. Here you will see Priory House, and as you follow the wall around, Edington Priory Church comes into view. Opposite the church gate there is another small gate with a sign saying Ralph's Seat - a detour to see this feature takes you up steps to find this secret place with lovely views.

2 0.8km / ½ mile

On leaving the church continue up the road towards the hills. After around 75 yds take the small footpath to the R of the red brick cottages. On reaching the main road turn R on to the pavement. After 50 yds turn L crossing the B3098, and follow the footpath sign up Edington Hill. It is a steep incline but the views looking back are well worth the effort. This hill is the steepest part of the walk. At the top, take the stile and cross straight over the field to the metal gate (this field is often ploughed or planted and the pathway not always obvious). Once through the

gate, follow the path that bears slightly to the R. On reaching the fence turn L towards the next gate. There are fabulous views on your R over Luccombe Bottom and up towards the hill of Westbury White Horse, with the village of Bratton in the near distance. The area in which you are standing has tumuli and pillow mounds.

3 2km / 1¼ miles

Go through the gate and follow the track until you reach the next gate. Turn immediately L towards the farm buildings about ¼ mile away. Take this track toward the farm buildings (GR 931522). You

are now joining the Imber Range Perimeter Path. Continue straight on past the farm buildings. At the metalled road turn R and after 25 yds bear L back on to the footpath. Continue along the IRPP around the edge of this large field.

4 4.2km / 2½ miles

On reaching the stile, (GR 942530), climb over and bear L. You will see the IRPP byway signs ahead of you. At the signs, turn R and continue up the hill. Just after the brow of the hill on your R you will find the old 1763 milestone showing a distance of 19 miles to Sarum (Salisbury) and 17 miles to Bath. At the junction carry straight on. As you reach the metalled road and the triangle of grass, turn L onto the marked footpath, staying on the L-hand side of the fence. There are excellent views beyond Erlestoke Golf Course. As you approach the woodland turn R over the stile, which has its own dog gate. Once over the stile bear L down next to the fence and through the woods. This is steep so take care.

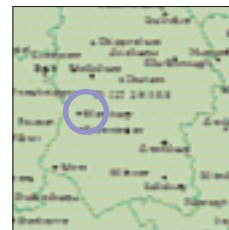
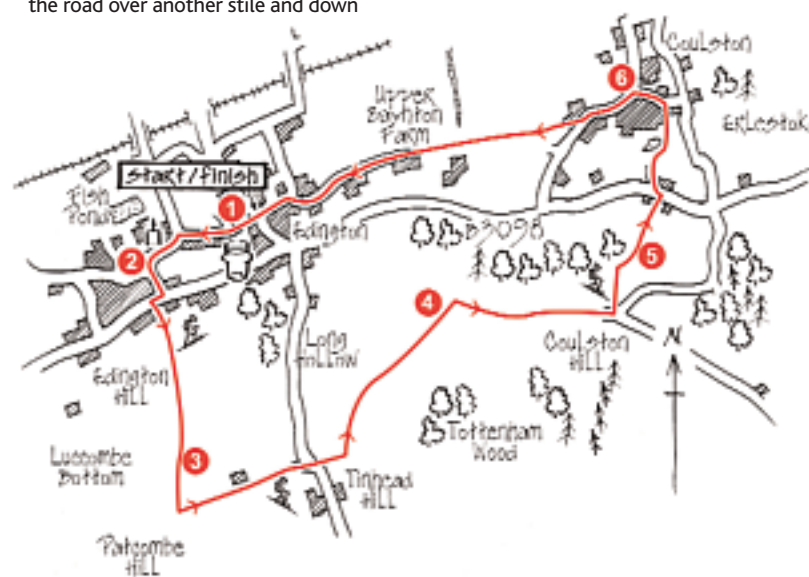
5 5.5km / 3½ miles

As you emerge from the woods head for the road over another stile and down

toward the road. On reaching the bottom of the hill, take the stile of the L of the metal gates and cross the road with care into the driveway for Baynton House. This is a footpath. You are now entering a Deer Park so ensure all dogs are kept on a lead. As you emerge from the grounds of Baynton House, you will see the church of St Thomas a Becket in Coulston, set in a peaceful glade. Moving on from the church you drop down to a metalled road where you turn L.

6 6.4km / 4 miles

At the next junction bear L signposted for Bratton and Westbury. After ¼ mile there is a signpost for two public footpaths leading to the R (you will see a small red brick building about 15 yds down the path). Take the left-most of the paths, and go over the stile and into the field aiming for the stile almost straight ahead. Go straight across a number of fields - the Westbury Cement chimney gradually becomes visible in the distance ahead. On reaching the metalled road that is Baynton Road, continue along this road, bearing L at a T-junction and on to the village green.



IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Quiet lanes, metalled road, field paths and tracks

Stiles 4

Suitable for Average walkers

PLANNING

Start/finish Edington Village Green 934532

Parking

932534 - 5 spaces near Village Green

935522 - 3 spaces on grass next to road

949529 - 15-20 spaces on grass next to road

952540 - 2 spaces next to road

926532 - 12-plus spaces by Edington Church

Nearest town Westbury

Refreshments The Lamb Inn, Edington Kiosk shop, Edington church.

Public toilets Edington Church, but limited opening times.

Public transport

Bus Service No 87 runs two-hourly (Devizes to Westbury/Trowbridge) Mon-Saturday service only. For further details contact Wiltshire Bus Line tel 08457 090899

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 143 Warmister and Trowbridge

ACCOMMODATION

If you would like to find somewhere to stay in Wiltshire, please go to www.visitwiltshire.co.uk, Where to Stay.