



Canal &
River Trust

Canal boats, countryside and a chalk white horse

A variety of scenery for you to enjoy on this circular walk from Devizes to Roundway Hill, taking in stretches of the Kennet & Avon Canal

Distance 4.76 miles (7.67km). Duration: minimum 2 hours. Easy walking: towpath, tracks, field paths, stretches of road, one steep hill

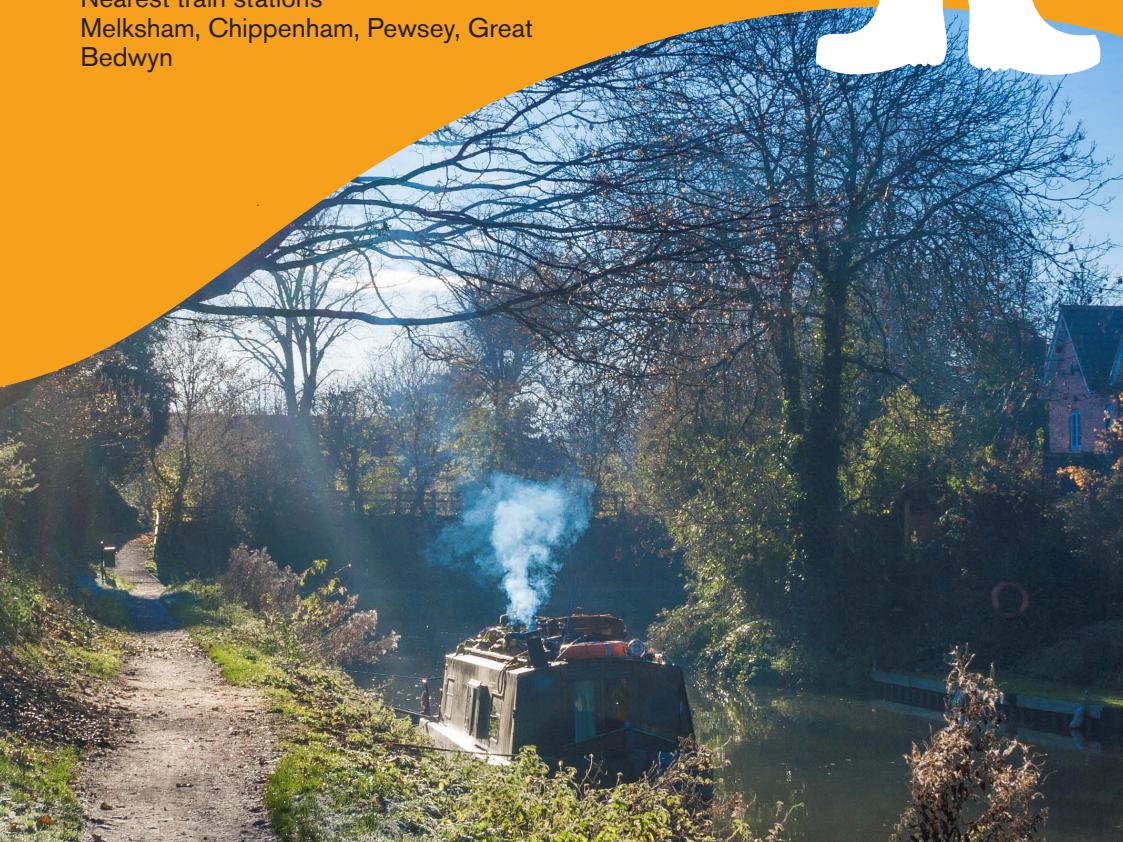
Nearest train stations
Melksham, Chippenham, Pewsey, Great Bedwyn

National Rail Enquiries: 03457 484950

Bus information
Traveline: 0871 2002233

There are several car parks to choose from in Devizes

For information about Devizes visit devizes.org.uk



Guiding you step by step



An idyllic area to explore.

Leave the bustle of Devizes behind you and enter the secret world of canals before heading along pretty paths into open countryside and on to Roundway village.

The Kennet & Avon Canal is managed by the Canal & River Trust.

The canal opened in 1810, connecting Reading with Bristol like a watery motorway.

Boats bustled both ways and the wharves were busy with workers handling goods such as timber, stone and grain.

In Devizes, Town Wharf was one of seven constructed. It had several warehouses; a bonded (secure) warehouse was used for spirits and tobacco for snuff.

It also had a house for the wharfinger (wharf manager) and a corn store.

When steam trains arrived, boat trade declined and the canal fell into disrepair.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust volunteers working with British Waterways restored the canal, which the Queen reopened in 1990 for everyone to enjoy.

Begin your walk

Leave Devizes Market Place and walk along Snuff Street (to the right of the Black Swan pub). Cross New Park Street and walk under the Wharf Centre archway into Couch Lane opposite.

The Kennet & Avon Trust Wharf Centre, with its museum and tea rooms, is on your left.

Once Devizes had seven wharves, crawling with workers handling goods such as timber, stone and grain.

You are standing next to Town Wharf. It had several warehouses, and a bonded (secure) warehouse used to store spirits and tobacco for snuff.

At the canal bridge turn right onto the towpath and walk to the next bridge. Turn left and enter Quaker's Walk through the gate on the right hand side.

Follow a surfaced path until you come to a road (Roundway Park). Cross this and take the footpath immediately opposite.

The Millennium White Horse appears briefly on Roundway Hill ahead. A crucial battle in the Civil War took place on Roundway Down in 1643. It was won by the Royalists.

Here the track curves right - follow it until you reach a minor road then turn left into Roundway village. The road curves left where there is a post and phone box.

At this junction take the right fork, signposted dead end. You will see the White Horse again.

Pass a grey barn and pylon on your left and head uphill.

Soon you will arrive at sign saying 'Welcome to Leipzig Plantation'.

Planted by the Victorians, this is believed to be named after the Battle of Leipzig, which took place in 1813 during the Napoleonic Wars.



You're at the top



Wonderful views to enjoy

See if you can pick out Devizes landmarks as you head downhill. Pass through kissing gates and then you are on the home stretch back to Roundway village

Turn around and enjoy the views towards Devizes. You can make out the square tower of St James Church and the chimney of Wadsworth Brewery.

Take the left fork and head uphill until you see a finger post pointing to a public footpath.

Follow the path downhill keeping the hedge on your right and the field on your left, heading towards a pylon.

You will come to a metal kissing gate signposting the Mid Wilts Way, Wessex Ridgeway and White Horse Trail.

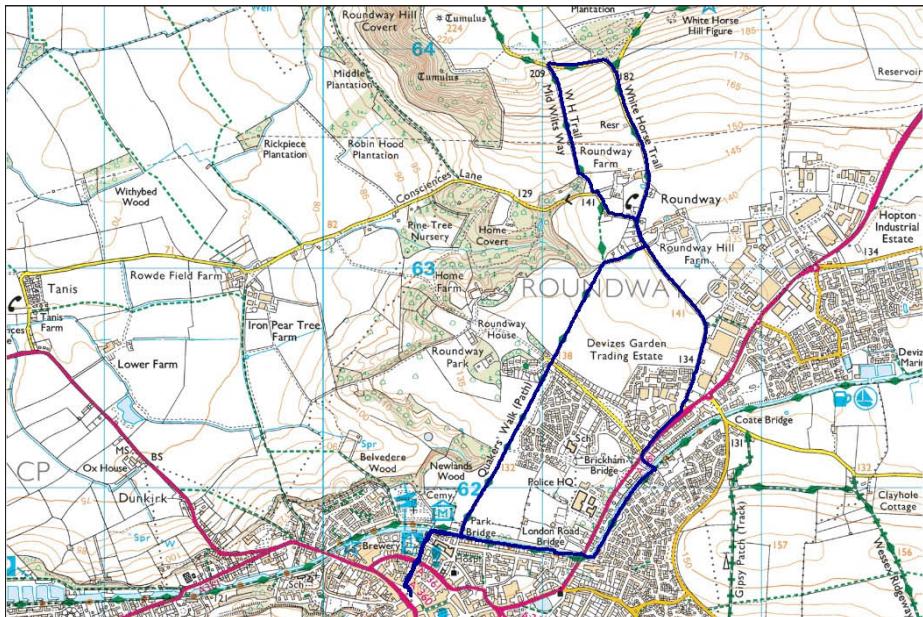
Pass through the gate and follow the grassy track to another kissing gate. You will take some small steps down on to Conscience Lane.

Turn left and head back into Roundway village. Follow the road as it bends left, taking you back to the phone and post box in the village.

Follow the road round to the right and head downhill, passing Kidd Farm Machinery on your left.

Cross Folly Road and then, keeping Subway on your right, walk along the busy A361 London road. Cross Flax Mill Park and Roundway Park.

Cross the A361 at the pedestrian crossing and head right towards Devizes. Turn left up an unnamed drive alongside Rosemundy Cottage B&B.



Back to the tranquillity of the canal

You will reach a canal bridge. The strange domed structures on the top are anti-tank obstacles left after World War II. Turn right through the gate and walk along the towpath.

Further on the canal swings sharp right - keep on the towpath and walk under bridges 138 and 139, the latter leading to Quakers Walk.

Come off the towpath at bridge 140, turning left into Couch Lane. Walk past the Kennet & Avon Trust Wharf Centre on your right. Maybe pop in to visit the museum, which offers a vivid insight into the canal's past. You could also stop for refreshments and pick up a souvenir at the gift shop.

Then you continue down Couch Lane and cross over New Park Street at the pedestrian crossing. Opposite you is Snuff Street.

Walk up here until you are back in the Market Place.

There's plenty to do once you're back in Devizes, a charming market town dating back to the 11th century.

Visit the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Wadworth's Brewery and two Norman churches.

Don't miss the 16-lock Caen Hill Lock Flight, part of 29 locks built between Devizes and Lower Foxhangers. This allows boats to pass through a drop of 237 feet in 2 miles (72m in 3.2km). This feat of engineering is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

You can also explore lots of interesting independent shops and places to eat.

**Discover places to visit, ways to volunteer and how you can donate at
canalrivertrust.org.uk**



Get involved, join us

In an increasingly fast-paced and crowded world, our canals and rivers provide much-needed spaces where we can slow down, enjoy the environment and relax. The Canal & River Trust is responsible for caring for 2,000 miles of waterways that run through the heart of England and Wales. With your support we can protect these havens. Forever.

Thanks to our waterways millions of children have the chance to experience local wildlife - even to see a kingfisher or an otter close up. Those struggling with the pressures of day-to-day life have somewhere to rejuvenate themselves. And many of us have a place on our doorsteps where we can simply stretch our legs and soak

up 200 years of history.

Our waterway network is a national treasure. It makes people's lives better and we're here to ensure that it is protected forever.

Sign up for our monthly Canal & River Trust newsletter to read the stories of the people we meet along the waterways. Get the latest offers, learn about our work and keep up-to-date with news and events.

All photos by C Robson, Canal & River Trust



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Find out more at canalrivertrust.org.uk

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