



COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- ◆ **Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs**
- ◆ **Leave gates and properties as you find them**
- ◆ **Protect plants and animals**
- ◆ **Keep dogs under control**
- ◆ **Consider other people**
- ◆ **Take your litter home**

MORE WALKING OPTIONS

Circular walks: more of these exist and are being developed within the South Wiltshire Footpath Network. If you have enjoyed this walk why not try another circular walk in a nearby village? Information: contact Phil Spooner, 01722711697.

Longer walks: from the Alderbury Countryside Circular Walk, it is possible to extend your walk to Downton or Pepperbox Hill by following the existing footpaths and bridleways.

Historical Village Walk: The Alderbury and Whaddon Local History Research Group have created a circular walk around the village. This is described in “A Circular Walk Around Alderbury and Whaddon”, an illustrated leaflet with a map and historical notes. Information: visit the AWLHRG website www.alderbury.org.uk

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This leaflet was prepared by Patricia Dashwood in collaboration with Phil Spooner (information), Brian Easterbrook (IT and practical support), and the Alderbury and Whaddon Local History Research Group (Points of Interest).

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ALDERBURY COUNTRYSIDE CIRCULAR WALK



**A walk just over 3 miles
starting at the Village Hall.**

DIRECTIONS:

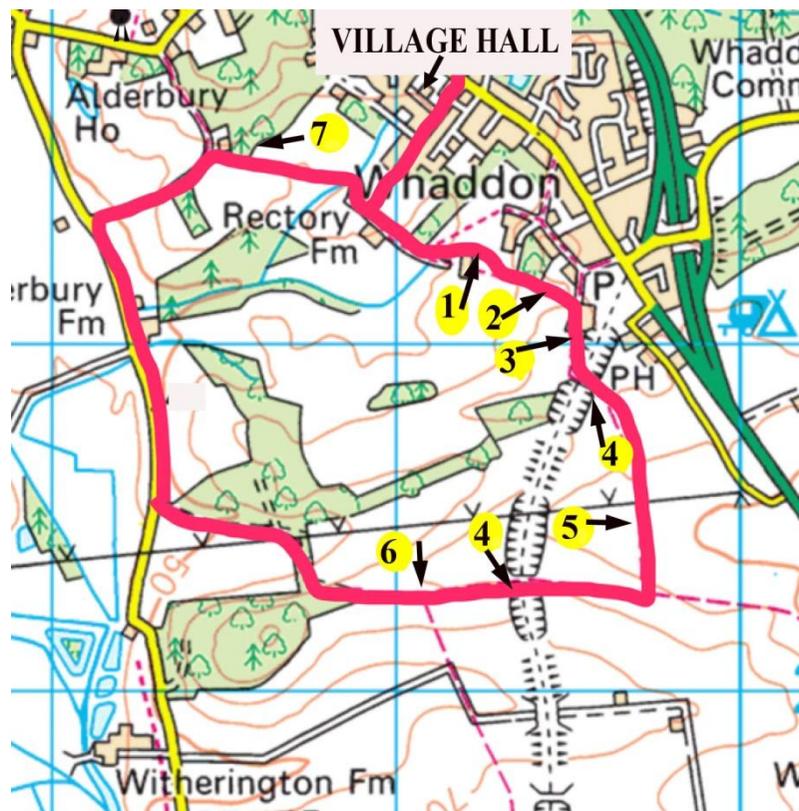
From Village Hall turn right down Rectory Road. At end turn left and follow track past Rectory Farm. Just before entrance of drive ahead to **Crossfields, 1**, bear left, and continue around perimeter of garden. Go over boardwalk and bridge and through copse. Bear left and follow enclosed path along edge of field.

At corner turn right and continue along field edge. View of **Clearbury Hill Fort, 2** on right. Pass **Matrons' College Farm, 3**. Bear right and left around the farm building and continue ahead through gate. Cross **Disused Railway Line, 4**.

Follow path across open countryside for half a mile. Just beyond the highest point you can see the spire of **Salisbury Cathedral, 5**, on your right. At T junction turn right along the hedgeline. You are now on the old **Pack Path, 6**, which follows the parish boundary with Downton.

Recross the disused railway line and bear left through gap. Turn right immediately and continue along edge of field, hedge on right. After 400 yds reach a sign post at the start of a path going into a wood.

ALDERBURY COUNTRYSIDE CIRCULAR FOOTPATH WALK 3.1M OR 5KM



Turn right here and continue downhill through the wood. (BEWARE, TREE ROOTS!)

At corner with field ahead, turn right and follow path along the edge of the wood. Pass pylon and reach track.

Turn left, and continue to road. (Witherington Road). Turn right. The next 900 yds are along the road. CARE! Stay on the right hand side. Just before the "Alderbury" village sign, turn right up track. As the track bends to the left, look out for a kissing gate between 2 oak trees on the right. Go through gate and follow enclosed path. **Greenset House, 7**, is on the left behind the hedge.

Continue with the fence on the right, cross stile, and keep straight on. You will cross some boggy areas (old field drains). At the end of the fence continue ahead through a kissing gate and along the right hand side of the next meadow. Pass a redundant kissing gate. Follow path alongside a garden hedge and fence to rejoin Rectory Road. Turn left and return to the Village Hall.

Points of interest, key to numbers.

1. Crossfields; the last brickmaker in Alderbury lived here until the 70's.
2. View of Clearbury Ring Fort, an Iron Age Hill Fort which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
3. Matrons' College Farm, endowed by the Bishop of Salisbury to fund Matrons College in the Cathedral Close which provided dwellings for widows of the clergy.
4. View of Cathedral spire, which is 404 feet high, and the tallest spire in the United Kingdom.
5. Disused railway line, a branch line of the Salisbury and Dorset Junction Company which was closed in 1964. It connected Alderbury to West Moors – from where you continued on to Wimborne, Bournemouth and Poole. There was only a staff platform and signal box at Alderbury.
6. Pack Path, which goes from Witherington Road to the A36, following the Parish boundary with Downton. It was part of a network of paths used by pack animals to take goods to the market.
7. Greenset House was the Vicarage until 1937, when it was sold . The rectors now live in a modern bungalow in The Copse.