

A walk from Hudson's Field, Stratford sub Castle to Castle Hill Country Park

When walked in May 2020 wearing light trainers, the ground was dry and was suitable for all-terrain buggies and bikes. However, the inclines in Hudson's Field might be too difficult for Mobility scooters. Please use your own judgement about the suitability of this walk according to your own circumstances.

The route starts from the Stratford Road end of Hudson's Field. Enter Hudson's Field through the gates



on Stratford Road almost opposite Shakespeare Road (*image right*)

OR walk up The Portway (*image*

left) until you reach a house named 'Portway Fosse'. At this point look to your right, where there's a wide opening in the hedge-line leading into Hudson's Field.



Walk up the slope, aiming for the top left-hand corner of Hudson's Field. If you look to your right, there's a view of the cathedral spire.



Almost at the top of the field where the ground rises quite sharply, walk through a gap in the hedge-line to join a gravelled path. Turn right and follow the path for a few yards up to Castle Road.



Turn right and walk along to the point where there is a refuge in the centre of Castle Road, marked by bollards. Taking great care, cross over Castle Road.



After crossing Castle Road, walk up Old Castle Road, past the rear of the Old Castle Inn. Note that there isn't a pavement here, so keep to the right-hand side of this quiet road, listening out for any traffic.

After about 50 yards, look out for bridlepath and cyclepath signs to Bishopdown on your right. This is also a Public Footpath. Leave the road at this point.



Follow the tree-lined path past the Castle Hill reservoir (Wessex Water).





The path soon emerges into the wide open space that was previously farmland but is now the Castle Hill Country Park.

The distance to this point from Stratford Road is approximately ¾ mile.

Rough paths have been laid that lead around the perimeter of the country park. The views are wide with Cockey

Down, Laverstock Down and the spire of Salisbury Cathedral, all in sight.

When these photos were taken in May 2020, the park was still in its early stages. However, the undergrowth and bushes were emerging, new trees had been planted and skylarks were singing overhead, demonstrating that this will in time develop into a wild-life haven.



The distance from Stratford Road to the Country Park entrance is approximately ¾ mile. A walk around the perimeter of the park is approximately 1 mile but use of alternative paths would shorten this distance.

This is a linear walk. Retrace your steps to return to Stratford sub Castle – it's downhill all the way!