

An Easy Walk up to Old Sarum

Total walk time: 20 minutes

NOT SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS, but might be possible with pushchairs.

Walk possible in most weather conditions: mainly pathways and grass.

Start at the southern end of the village, walk along Stratford Road (with Hudson's Field on your right).

Hudson's Field was purchased by Salisbury City Council in 1935 using a bequest from Councillor John Hudson who was mayor from 1926 to 1927.



Take the Portway on your right (by the big bend in Stratford Road) near the thatched cottage.

The Portway is not the Roman road from Old Sarum to Dorchester - that lies about 100 yds north of here. One theory suggests that The Portway is part of a development, called Newtown, built by Bishop Roger in the early 1100's.



Walk 1 min past a few houses up to gate on right, where there is a gap into Hudson's Field. Through the gate you should see Caravan and Campsite across the field



Hudson's Field lies to the north of Salisbury just below Old Sarum. The field is used for a number of sports. It is also used for kite flying as well as being popular with walkers and picnickers. The field is also used by Salisbury to host annual events such as Race for Life and the Salisbury Show. It has also hosted the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic Torch Relay. The 5 rated camping and caravanning site is managed by the Camping and Caravanning Club of Great Britain. The site is seasonal and is open from just before Easter to late October.*

Go through the gate and, turning left, walk up Hudson's Field. Keep the hedge to your left. Walk up towards Castle Road (A345) in the distance. Aim for the top left corner of the field (use red dog bin as marker). Keep the hedge to your left. There are several benches to rest if needed.



Did you know that you can estimate the age of a hedge from the number of varieties of shrub in a 30m length? Multiply the number of shrubs by 100 and add 30 to give an approximate age.



Near the top of the field (by the red dog bin) cross the path and go up the steps. You can see Old Sarum in the distance.

Cross the next field to top left corner. At the top left corner of this field go through the posts onto the path to Old Sarum.

From this point in Roman times, at least four roads radiated; north to Cynetio (Mildenhall), northeast to Calleva (Silchester), east to Venta Bulgarum (Winchester), and southwest to Vindocladia (Badbury in Dorset). This last road ran approximately along the northern hedge of the field you have just traversed

A 5th road is believed to have run from the west gate of Old Sarum to the lead mines at Mendip and probably a 6th south to Clausentum (Bitterne in Southampton).

The Roman name for the settlement here was Sorviodunum

Turn left up path away from Castle Road (on your right).





At the end of a short path see gate / signs up to Old Sarum.

Old Sarum was constructed in the Iron Age (600 BC - 43 AD). It is a typical hill fort with originally one deep defensive ditch and associated ramparts. An additional ditch and rampart was built by a decree of King Alfred (871-899) to protect against Viking raiders. The castle and cathedral were built by the Normans soon after the conquest.

Through the 2nd gate you can get a lovely view across to Salisbury Cathedral.

New Sarum was founded in 1220 by Bishop Poore after relations between the church and castle garrison deteriorated. It must have helped that the Bishop owned the land where the new cathedral was to be built and so he was able to build a new town and collect substantial taxes from the new citizens.



Follow the signs to Car Park, then to Old Sarum.



From here you are able to walk around the outer rings of Old Sarum and the outer part of Old Sarum for FREE (see separate walks and photos). For the inner part of Old Sarum there is a charge.

ENJOY!