

A Walk into the City

Total walk time: approx. 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS OR PUSHCHAIRS.

This walk is suitable for all weather conditions: paths or paved areas. This walk describes a pleasant, leisurely walk into Salisbury city centre, initially along a shared cycle / footpath and then a paved stretch. It takes you along the River Avon into Salisbury.

Start the walk from Stratford Road near 'Castle Keep' towards the southern end of the village. *You will now be standing in the middle of the Roman town of Sorviodunum that stretched from Old Sarum down to the river.* This walk is initially signposted being part of the National Cycle Network. Take the path south towards the Leisure Centre and the City



Continue on the path, past houses on your left and open land to your right. *Looking west across the meadows you can see the trees of Tadpole Island in the bottom of the valley. It was here that the Roman Road from Sorviodunum crossed the Avon on its way to Vindocladia (Badbury in Dorset).*



The allotments on your right are very popular and a great variety of vegetables and fruit are grown, some of which are sold in the Stratford Summer Cafes, charity events that take place during the summer months.*



This footpath/cycle way is a tremendous asset to our village, making the walk into town easy and pleasurable. When you reach the entrance to the allotments you may, if you so wish, take the path to your right, up the slope and down to the river, follow the river south and rejoin this walk at the Leisure



Centre.

Keep on past a second set of allotments and then South Wilts Grammar School, both on your left, and 5 Rivers Leisure Centre to your right.



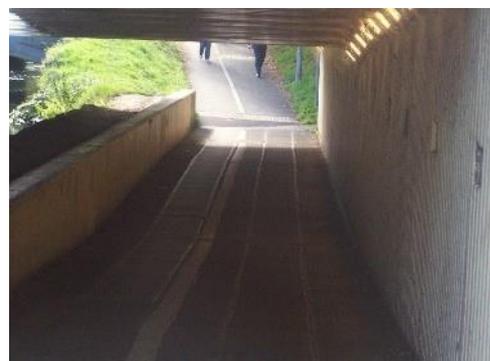
At the end of the path (by the school car park on your left) cross the small roadway to your right and walk across the wooden bridge over the River Avon. Crossing the bridge you should see the Fire Station across the field in front of you and the local amateur theatre (Studio Theatre) to the left. Take the left path and follow the river into the city.



Cross Ashley Road and keep the river on your left. Along the river length you can see families of Mallards, Moorhens and Swans. We have even seen a resting Kingfisher.

Continue on under the road bridge (**this can get very wet at its lowest point after heavy rain**) and up the slope to the small roadway. Cross this and continue under the railway bridge. **All the time keeping the river to your left.**

*Note the very apt mis-spelling on the warning notice on the side of the bridge “**Cyclists beware of pedestrains**”. Note also the impressive brickwork under the arch and admire the workmanship of our Victorian predecessors.*



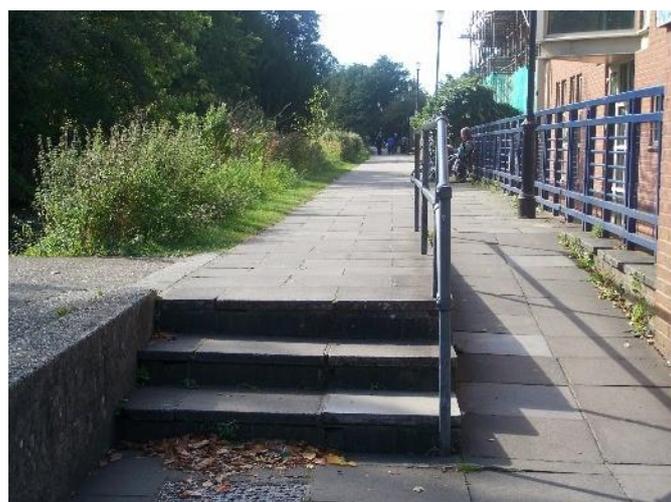
At the end of this stretch you need to cross a small bridge to your left past the ‘sluice gates’ on the river. *The water meadows to the north of the city and sluice gates like this allow the flow of water through the built up areas to be carefully controlled. Despite four rivers meeting at Salisbury very little serious flooding has been experienced for many years now.*



Follow the pathway round to the right and cross the road (Mill Stream Approach). **Take care - this road is used by cars and coaches to access parking areas!** Crossing the road you should see the Coach Park in front of you and The Boat House Pub on your left. *You should be able to see the spire of Salisbury Cathedral in the distance.*



Go past The Boat House and across to the steps/slope by the riverbank. **Take care - this is a car / coach park!** Go up the steps/slope and then follow the paved path to the city. **All the time keeping the river to your left.**



Look across the river to the garden of the Avon Brewery and note the extendable bridge provided to



allow escape in case of fire.

Cross the small road. *You should be able to see part of Salisbury Cathedral in front of you.* Go past Tesco on the left across the river.

At the end of this stretch the path opens up into a planted, seating area. Cross the 2nd small bridge to

your left. Here many swans and ducks collect to be ‘fed’.

This area is called The Maltings after the number of malthouses that occupied the site taking advantage of the fresh clean water to convert grain into malt.



Walk through ‘Market Walk’ past the library and then on to the Market Square and the City Centre.



Salisbury’s public library occupies The Market House, built in 1859. It subsequently became the Corn Market and had a rail connection to the main railway line at Fisherton.

The earliest reference to a market in Salisbury is in 1209 when Bishop Poore was allowed by King John to hold a market. In 1227, when King Henry III granted Salisbury a charter, this included the right to hold a market. The market, which now operates twice weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays, has been held more or less continuously since and must be one of the oldest markets in Britain

Salisbury is a fascinating city to explore and there are many guidebooks and books about the historic features to be found and events that have taken place. Make sure you visit Salisbury Museum (in the Cathedral Close) to learn more about our lovely city.

- Check the Stratford sub Castle Village Website for the dates of the Summer Cafes mentioned on page 1. www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk