

A Walk up to Old Sarum

Total walk time: approx 30 minutes

NOT SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS OR PUSHCHAIRS

This walk is not suitable for poor weather conditions: mainly footpaths and chalky slopes. There are several routes up – this walk describes only one of them. You might like to look at our Nature section * to see what wild flowers have been found on the paths used in this walk.

Start near the middle of the village by the signposted walk opposite St Lawrence Close and take the signposted footpath to Old Sarum.



Walk up the path past the thatched cottage on your left.



Keep walking up the path through the fields up the hill.



The first part of the footpath is mainly single file. The start of the path is flat, but 2/3 of the way up the path gets more inclined. Along the path you get views across the fields to your right of Salisbury Cathedral. and across the field to your left of St Lawrence Church near the end of the village



At the top of the path you reach a fork. Take the left fork. **The footpath at the top of the slope can get muddy and is not level - there are tree roots.** Walk along the footpath along the ridge. *You are now walking along the line of the city wall of Norman Sarisberie.*



Along the path you reach a gate on your right. **For an alternative route up you can go straight on but for this walk ...** Go through the gate on your right and follow the path up the hill towards Old Sarum. This is quite steep in parts.



Here you can get a lovely view back down across to Salisbury Cathedral. *Bishop Poore obtained Papal permission to move the cathedral from this hilltop to its*



present location and the foundation stone of the new cathedral was laid in 1220

Continue up the slope to the next gate. There are a few steps up. Here you can get another view down across to the village. *Note that you are still following the line of the old city wall which continued past the gate while you climb to the top of first rampart.*



Go through the gate up a few steps to the next path. Turn left and continue along the ridge. You also get some lovely views down across the countryside beyond the village. **Mind the tree roots along this path.**



From here you get views looking down across to Salisbury Cathedral to your left in the distance



... and across the fields to your right to the village (St Lawrence Church can be seen on the right).



Near the top of the ridge you reach a fork.



Continue straight on to the outer ring around Old Sarum (LH Photo) or take the right path to Old Sarum.(RH Photo)

This walk continues to describe the walk up to Old Sarum. For views around the outer ring please see separate walk and photos.

The ditch you have just crossed was constructed on the orders of King

Alfred as additional defence against Viking marauders





This part of the walk is quite steep and the path becomes single file again. At the top of the slope you can see Old Sarum Castle in the distance. The path leads to a grassy field. Fork left to walk around the outer FREE part of Old Sarum. At the top of the grass slope you see across to the remains of Old Sarum Cathedral. *The first cathedral here was consecrated in 1092 but it was struck by lightning 5 days later. A new, larger cathedral replaced it and you can see the outlines of both in the*

grass.

From here you get some lovely views across the countryside,



and you can see why the iron age folk first built a fort here. It commands the land in all directions



Turn right to Old Sarum - this

where the 'You are here' photo was taken.



The inner part of Old Sarum is to the right along the grass path. *There was a thriving town here in Norman times and it was here that the completed*

Domesday Book was presented to King William (the Conqueror)



