

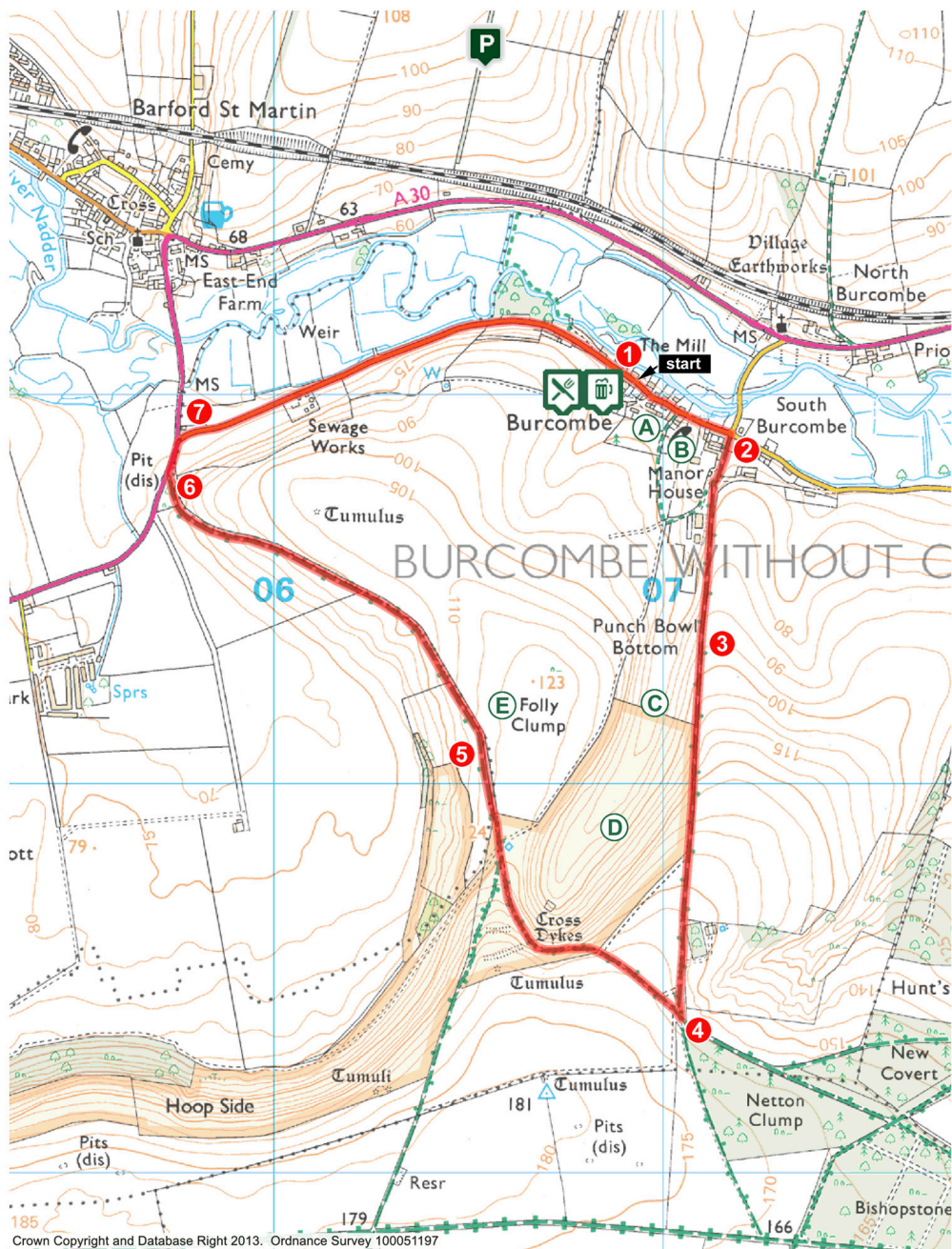
# Walk 1: Burcombe and the Punch Bowl

**Length of Walk**

3 miles (5km)

**Ordnance Survey map:** Explorer 118

**Walk Start:** SU 06947 31029



## Key

Walk route with waypoint

Parking

Pub

Place to eat

Historic Site

Nature Reserve

Point of Interest

**Distance:** 3 miles (5km)

**Time:** Allow 2 hrs

**Terrain:** Field paths, tracks, quiet lanes with one descent and gentle ascent

**Start:** Car-park of The Ship Inn, Burcombe Lane, near Salisbury SP2 0EJ.

Walking Groups; please notify the pub well in advance

**Start Grid Reference:**

**X :** 406947

**Y :** 131029

**Latitude :** 51.078542

**Longitude :** -1.9022162

SU 06947 31029

**OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)**

Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase No. 118

**Notes & Refreshments:**

At The Ship Inn. In the summer, you can sit outside and enjoy the pretty beer garden which extends down to the banks of the River Nadder or in winter enjoy a real log fire. The pub has attracted numerous distinguished visitors over the years such as Prince William.

From the small pretty riverside village of Burcombe that dates back to Saxon times, walk through stunning chalk down-land and enjoy the peaceful rural landscape. Experience outstanding views across the Nadder Valley and learn more about the area's fascinating archaeological history.

1. From The Ship Inn car-park (a 17th Century village pub), turn L heading along Burcombe Lane and through Burcombe Village past pretty thatched cottages and Burcombe Manor (now a B&B). Continue past Manor Farm on your R.

2. Turn immediately R past Manor Farm Meats on the corner and continue along past some businesses and farm buildings on the R and then bear L up the restricted by-way, an ancient track-way.

3. It is a gradual climb between fields with a wonderful view on a clear day of Salisbury Cathedral in the distance to the L. The area is good for skylark, yellow hammer and other farmland birds. Continue on past The Punchbowl to the R, a spectacular archaeological feature.

4. At the top, admire the panoramic views. A little further on, the spire of Salisbury Cathedral is visible again in the distance between the trees. Then take the first turning on the R before a large metal field gate and continue along the restricted by-way. Follow the track down hill round the head of the Punch Bowl on the R with the cross dykes of ancient earthworks to the L.

5. Continue downhill through a metal gate onto a grassy track whose banks in summer are a mass of wildflowers and busy with butterflies. Continue past Folly Clump to the R and downhill along the track between two hedges. Eventually, you will reach the busy A30 Road.

6. At the A30, turn R and walk about 50 metres along the grassy verge (take care, as traffic can be fast). Stay on the same side, there is no need to cross the road. Turn R with care and walk along the lane signposted for Burcombe. Keep to the outside of the bends (watch out for traffic, which can be fast).

7. Continue straight along the lane approximately 1 mile back through the picturesque village of Burcombe to The Ship Inn for refreshments

This information is intended only as a general guide. Recommended Ordnance Survey maps are listed.

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Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 4 Castle St, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PZ

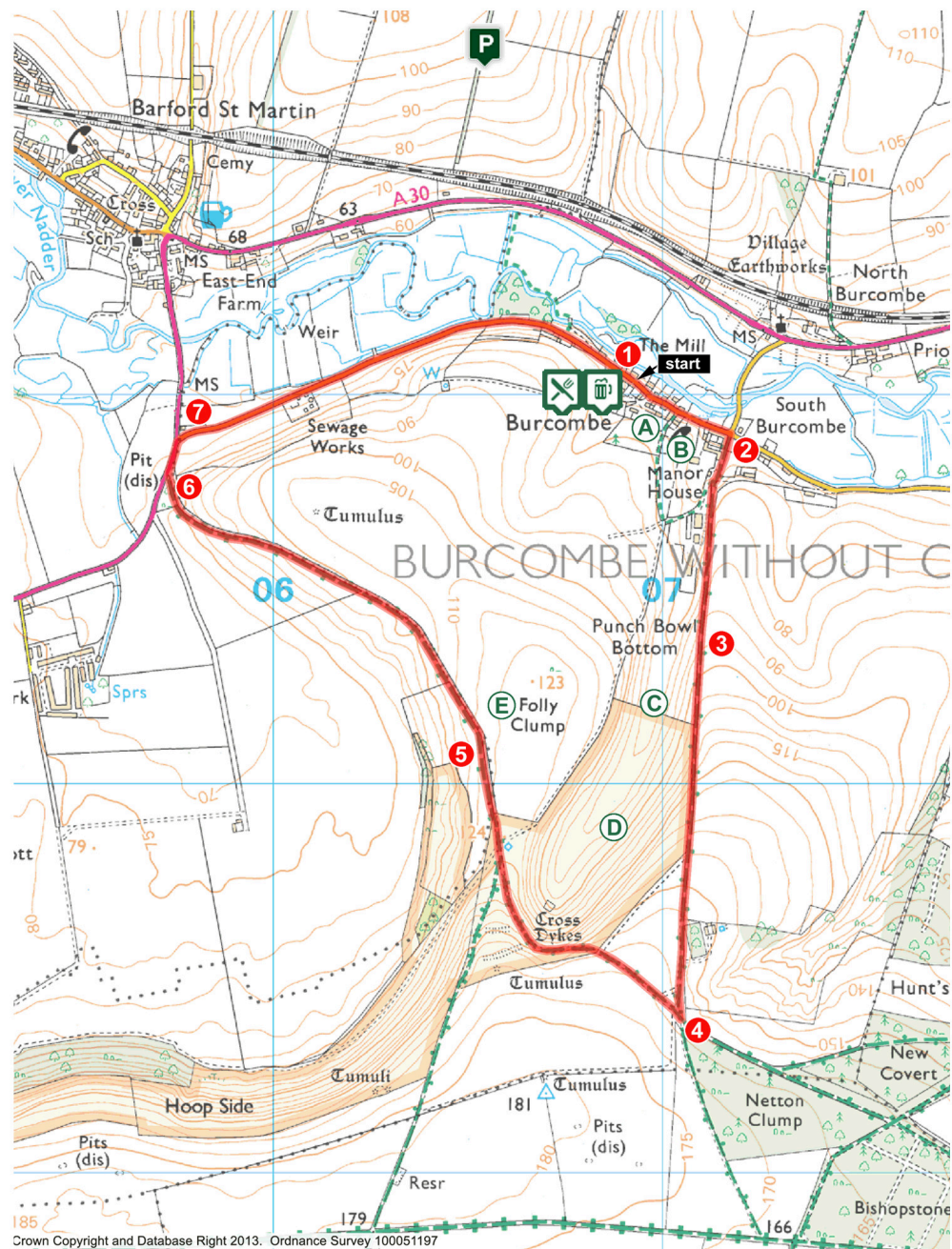
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## Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



## Points of Interest

**A Burcombe Village.** There were once two settlements; South Burcombe (the main settlement) and North Burcombe, once thriving, now only the redundant church of St. John remains, possibly one of the oldest in the Nadder Valley for it is of Saxon origin. Unusually, the tower is lower than the nave (main part of the church).

**B Burcombe Manor.** This was reportedly built for Lord Herbert of Lea, a friend of Florence Nightingale who was a pioneering British nurse in the 1800s.

**C The Punch Bowl.** This is a spectacular archaeological feature. Numerous ancient earthworks have been found here, memorials to Neolithic and Bronze Age tribes who were the first to inhabit the area. It is listed as a site of a round barrow. There were once a series of round barrows (Burcombe Ivers Barrows) along the ridgeline above The Punchbowl. Numerous round barrows were constructed during the Bronze Age as burial sites throughout the Nadder Valley along chalk ridge-lines where they could be seen for a long distance, but most have since been destroyed. Interestingly, The Punch Bowl was also used as a rifle range during WWII and possibly WWI too. It is exceptionally long so it was ideal for long range rifle practice!

**D Burcombe Down.** The grassy slopes above The Punch Bowl is a valuable area for wildlife and notified as a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is an area of chalk grassland rich in wildflowers, now a declining habitat in Britain due to modern farming practices. Harebell, scabious, knapweed, primrose, ox-eye daisy and orchids are all present during the summer months attracting lots of butterflies.

**E Folly Clump.** Although not a distinctive feature on the ground, this is thought to be an Iron Age Hill Fort enclosure which occupied high ground and would have been defended by ditches. This type of ancient settlement may have been seasonal and used during the summer months for keeping sheep and growing crops like barley and wheat.