

SP PITTON

Pitton Circular Walk

(taking in the Clarendon Palace ruins)

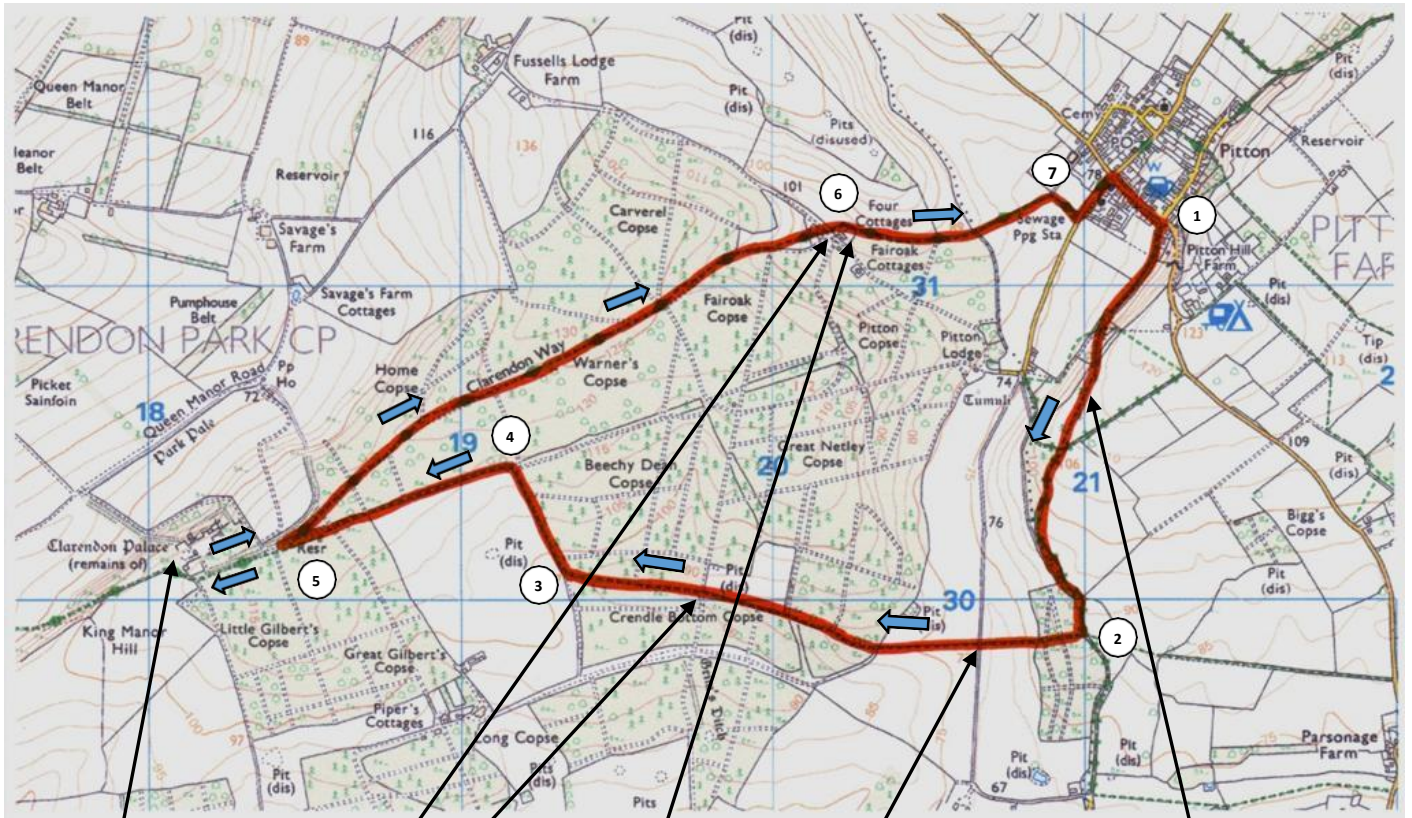
This walk is c. 4.8 miles and will take about two hours, depending on your speed of walking.
There are neither stiles nor any difficult terrain to negotiate.

The walk starts from Pitton Village Hall, opposite The Silver Plough village pub.

Along the walk you will encounter posts with waymarks giving directions for this Circular Walk.

Please keep to the footpaths and keep dogs under close control at all times.

We hope you enjoy this great walk and have time to take in the delights of the Clarendon Palace ruins.



Clarendon Palace ruins

Estate roads

Cottages

Best's Farm track

Memorial benches.

Walk description:

1) From The Silver Plough, cross the road to the Village Hall and take the unmade track with the Village Hall on your right. Adjacent to the tennis courts, take the path to the left and continue parallel to the track. Walk past the cottage on your right and where the path splits take the left, uphill path. After a slight climb the path passes two memorial seats (700 yards). After 100 yards the path joins a junction of two unmade tracks. The walk continues almost straight ahead, slightly to the left.

2) After 800 yards there are sign-posted paths to the left and right. Take the right hand path through the trees, then across the fields, across the Best's Farm track (300 yards) and into the forest. Follow the path through the forest and cross the tarmac estate road (1,000 yards).

3) Continue for 500 yards and follow the track to the right.

4) Keeping the fields to your left continue for about 400 yards and, at the corner of the field, the path turns left.

5) Continue for 800 yards until the Circular Walk signpost on the right, which is where the walk joins the Clarendon Way. This is the path home, but to visit Clarendon Palace follow the next section.

To visit the Clarendon Palace ruins

Here you can take a quiet break to enjoy the ruins of Clarendon Palace, which are a further 100 yards straight on. Here at the centre of the largest medieval deer park in England lie the ruins of Clarendon Palace. A 20 km deer proof bank and ditch enclosed the park, the palace being within a smaller, inner park. Much of the medieval landscape survives today, including substantial park banks, tracks, and fragments of lodges which contain timber, some of which was growing here in 1218. There has been a continuous settlement in this ancient landscape ever since the Neolithic period. Bronze Age barrows, Iron Age enclosures and burials, Roman Villas, and field systems bear testimony to continuous settlement here for over 6,000 years.

The ruins are quite extensive. Have a look round them. There is usually a flock of alpacas in the enclosure, so please keep your dog on a lead. There are some interesting information boards and plenty of room to have a picnic.

From the Clarendon Palace ruins the path (the Clarendon Way) continues on to Salisbury.

To continue the walk retrace your steps back to the Circular Walk path signpost, which is now on your left.

Walk continued:

6) Take the path on the left, which is part of the Clarendon Way. This becomes a well-used track and narrows to a footpath which goes downhill through the trees (1 ¼ miles).

7) Then you will see farm buildings on the left and a green on the right. Cross the tarmac estate road with cottages on the right. Follow the path behind the cottages until you emerge at the edge of the woods with views of the village and the school (800 yards).

8) The path goes downhill and bears right to the Pitton pumping station, which you pass on the right to emerge into the lane (Slateway). Turn left, proceed along the lane and then right at the cross roads. Continue up the hill to return to The Silver Plough.