

Hale and Woodgreen

A fascinating walk between charming villages.

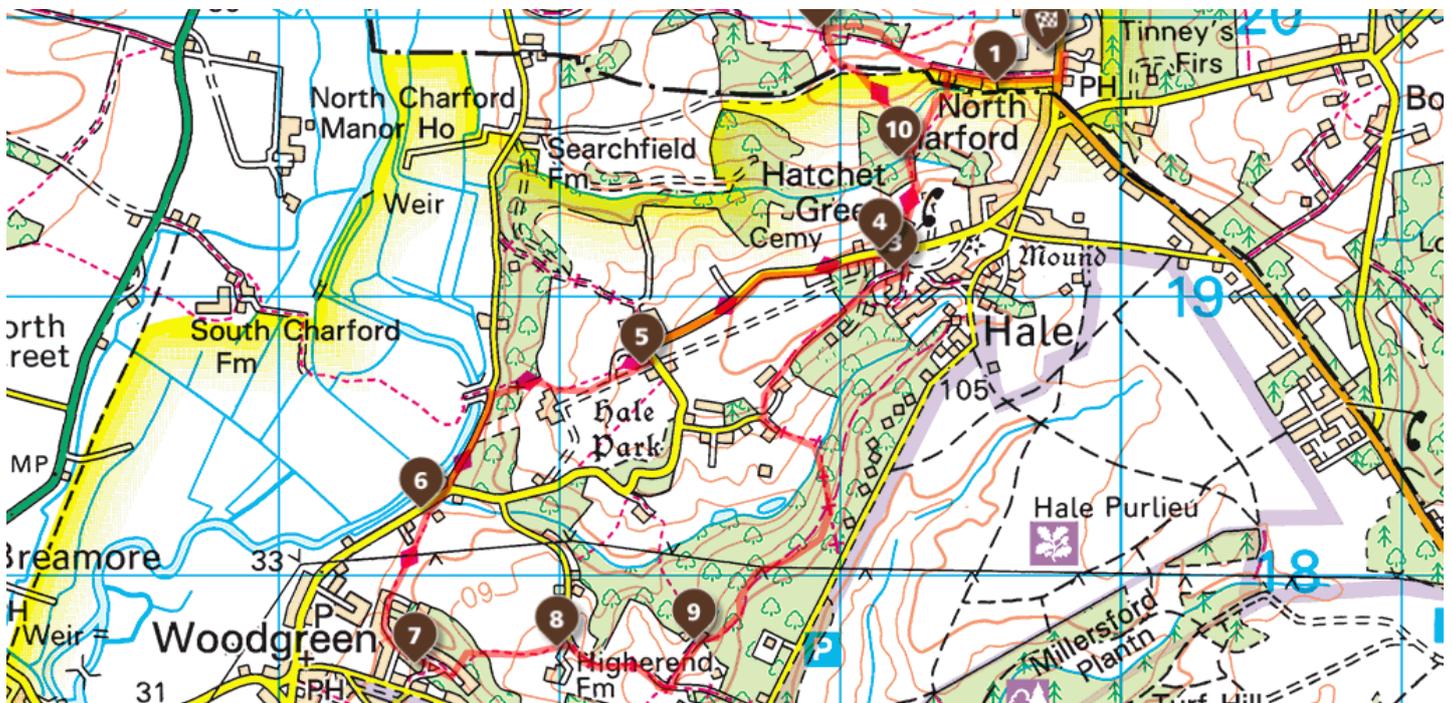
The route starts at Woodfalls and follows a section of the Avon Valley Path through fields and woods to the charming village of Hatchett Green. You then pass Hale House and St Mary's Church before walking alongside the peaceful River Avon. At Woodgreen you can explore a rural community with a strong village identity. The walk returns via shady tracks and woods to Hatchett Green and back to Woodfalls.

Be Forest Friendly: Please drive carefully on the way to your walk. The speed limits on unfenced roads greatly reduce the number of accidents involving animals. Slow down and give walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and animals a wide berth. Be especially careful at night.

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1. Redlynch Sports and Social Club

From the bus stop pass Woodfalls Inn and turn right at a waymarker onto Lodge Drive, opposite Redlynch Sports and Social Club (waypoint 1). Continue ahead past houses and go straight on when the road become a gravel track, ignoring a waymarker on your left which will be your return route. The track bends to your right through a wide metal gate and into a field. Keep left along the field edge.

Quick Info

Start / Finish

Woodfalls bus stop, near Woodfalls Inn, Grid ref. SU 198 198, Postcode SP5 2NN

2. National Park boundary marker

Turn left at the National Park boundary marker through a kissing gate (waypoint 2). The next two waymarkers direct you downhill across a field and through a short section of woodland. Go straight on, taking a detour around an oak tree to avoid a stile, into a meadow.

Follow the path back into a wood and uphill past a signpost for the Avon Valley Path (AVP). Cross over two stiles before following a field path to Hatchett Gate Farm. Go through the farm and over a stile, following the track to a wide metal gate and road.

3. Right onto Hale Lane

Turn right onto Hale Lane and over a cattle grid to continue on the route for AVP (waypoint 3).

4. White gate

When the road bends left at Home Farm, go left around the corner for 50m then turn right through a white gate towards St Mary's Church, still following the AVP (waypoint 4).

The path does not go on the drive to Hale House, but runs in the same direction 10m to the north on the footpath. The path then bends right and heads downhill past St Mary's Church to join Moot Lane.

5. Farm drive

Turn left to follow the AVP along the lane, with glimpses of the River Avon through the trees. Turn right at the road junction towards Woodgreen for 25m, then turn left at the waymarker up a farm drive (waypoint 5).

6. Waymarked junction

Just ahead on your right, cross the stile by a wide gate and follow the field edge on your right with views across the Avon valley. Continue ahead across three field stiles to join a gravel track downhill. The track then climbs uphill and bends to your right to a waymarked junction (waypoint 6).

Short detour to village

At this point you can continue straight ahead to Woodgreen Common. Turn right onto the road and downhill to join a permissive path on your right to Woodgreen Village Hall, Horse and Groom pub and the local shop, which is owned and managed by the village community. Return to the waymarked junction to continue on the route.

7. Over a stile

Turn sharp left at the waymarker (leaving the AVP route), bear right and then turn left over a stile between two houses. The path drops downhill through a pretty wood, over a plank bridge and then uphill to a kissing gate. Go across an open field keeping to the left. Cross a stile on your left and walk across the field diagonally to the next field stile and then over another stile close to a farm entrance (waypoint 7).

8. Stricklands Plantation

Turn left onto the track and then turn immediately right along a tree-shaded bridleway. Go ahead and then turn left at waymarker down a wide gravel track and into a wood. Turn right at

Distance

5-10 miles

Duration

2-3 hours

Surface

Woodland and field edge paths, country lanes.

Getting there...

Wiltshire route 44 bus service from Salisbury to Woodfalls. Regular service.

the next waymarker and follow the rhododendron-lined bridleway uphill through Stricklands Plantation (waypoint 8).

9. Hatchet Green

At the track junction and four-way post turn left, following the byway uphill to a track junction. Go straight ahead to join a footpath which turns right and uphill to Hale Farm. Cross a field through two gates to a large wooden hut. Continue ahead through the farm and a gate, following a shady path alongside a fenced field, with views of the tree avenue which extend across Hale Park to Hatchett Lodge. At the next two track junctions turn left to continue following the gravel track to a wide metal gate by a thatched cottage and onto Hatchet Green (waypoint 9).

10. Right through the meadow

Turn right through the meadow at the AVP sign post near the woodland edge (waypoint 10). Turn left off the path to cross a plank bridge and continue uphill through the meadow. Turn left to follow a track uphill past a house to a track junction. Turn right and retrace your steps back along Lodge Drove to Woodfalls bus stop.

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