

Look out for **skylarks** and **buzzards** - or even a **Great Bustard!** One of those released on Salisbury Plain has been seen on **Toyd Down**

Funerary monuments for Britain's early farming communities, **Knap, Grans and nearby Duck's Nest Barrow** (the latter visible to the north east) being in such close proximity show the intensity of settlement in this area in the Neolithic period (3,400-2,400BC).

Directions

- 1 Walk into the churchyard at All Saints Church and follow the path past the church down to the far end of the churchyard and through the gate. Cross the small field and go through the gate straight ahead.
- 2 Having gone through the gate turn immediately right along the fence and go through the double kissing gates into the next field. Keep heading in the same direction, with the fence now on your left, to the corner of the field. Go through the kissing gate hidden in the corner and follow the path. Cross the stone pack bridge to reach the road.
- 3 Cross the road (that leads into Martin) and take the indistinct path that runs between the road and ditch (stream) along the verge through scrub and trees. When the path leads out onto the road again, turn right along the road.
- 4 At speed signs, take footpath on the left along Angels' Lane. (NOTE: In winter, the path may be flooded. If so, you can walk along the other side of the hedge, along the edge of the field to the right of the sunken lane.) Continue along the lane until you reach a footpath on your right. Take the path up the hill, keeping the hedge on your right-hand side. On reaching the road, stop to take in the view which offers a fine panorama of Martin.
- 5 Turn left along the road. Shortly after, take the footpath on your right, just before the farm. Where the track opens out into a field, carry on in the same direction, keeping close to the hedgerow on your left. Sticking close to the fence, follow the path through a small woodland until you reach a footpath sign.
- 6 Turn left and follow the path round the edge of the field until you come to a gate on your left.

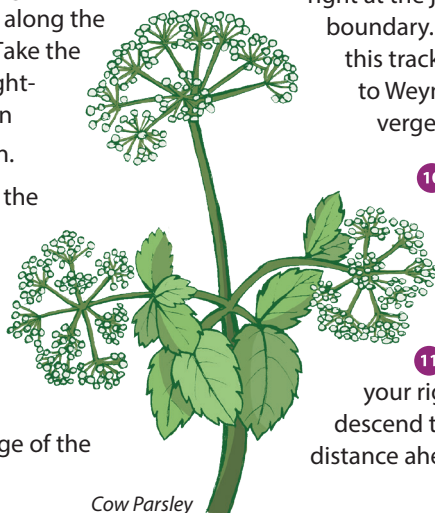
7 Go through the gate and keep walking with the hedge on your right. Pass Grans Barrow and then go through the gate just ahead.

8 Turn left and then turn right at the next fence, just before Knap Barrow. The section of the walk between points 7 and 9 follows the Wilton Way, an ancient route between Damerham and Wilton. The two barrows would have been an important landmark, helping travellers to find their way.

9 Eventually you come to a crossroads. You will be turning sharp left on to the wide track, but for interest just to the right at the junction is a boundary stone, marking the parish boundary. Head left along the wide track - in the 17th century this track was part of the main coaching road from London to Weymouth. Look out for the milestone on the left-hand verge, opposite a field gate.

10 A track coming in from your left was originally a crossroads, where Angels' Lane met the main road, giving a direct route from Martin. High up on the hill ahead was a windmill, another distinctive landmark for long-distance travellers.

11 Shortly after the farm, take the footpath on your right and retrace your steps back to Martin. As you descend the hill, notice the row of farm cottages in the distance ahead of you, which was once the site of a monastery.



Cow Parsley



Brown Hare ©David Blake

Points of Interest on this route (see map overleaf for locations)

- (A) All Saints Church.** dates from c. 1100. As you enter the churchyard, notice the grave of William Lawes, situated on its own in front of the tower. It is inscribed: A shepherd of the Wiltshire Downs, William Lawes was the "Isaac Bawcombe" of W.H. Hudson; A Shepherd's Life by W.H. Hudson is a fascinating account of rural life in a Wiltshire village (now known to be Martin) in the 19th century.
- (B) Knap and Grans Barrows.** Knap Barrow is 95m long and is the longest barrow in Hampshire. The barrows date from the Neolithic period and, together with the numerous tumuli dotted around the nearby fields, are a reminder that this is an ancient landscape with a long history of human habitation.
- (C) The Wilton Way** dates from Saxon times. It is mentioned in the Martin parish charter of 945 and it connected Fordingbridge to Wilton. Even when Wilton ceased to be the capital of Wiltshire, the road was still the main route between Damerham and Salisbury well into the 19th century and was maintained at 40 feet in width by law.
- (D) Boundary stone.** This stone marks a point on the boundary of the parish of Martin. Until 1895, the parish of Martin was in Wiltshire and the county boundary ran along the Wilton Way south of the crossroads. The current boundary runs along the V shape formed by the two tracks to the north of the stone.



- (E) This milestone** shows the distance to Poole Gate. In the 17th century this was the main road between London and Weymouth and the itinerary can be seen in Ogilby's Britannia, with the route coming via Cranborne and Tidpit and then continuing cross country to Downton and on to Stockbridge. It was maintained at 40 feet wide by law. In the 18th century a quicker route through the New Forest was introduced, but this was still the main road from Salisbury to Poole. In 1818 the Poole Trust was formed in order to convert the road into a turnpike, although this was never completed and was finally abandoned in 1835.
- (F) In 1901,** a group of Trappist monks, seeking refuge from the suppression of the monasteries in France, established a monastery here – **Our Lady of Paradise.** The monks lived in the farm cottages and they built a wooden church alongside. When they left after the end of the First World War, the church was dismantled and given to the garrison at Bulford.

Did you know
that Martin was used as a setting in an episode of *Dr Who*, starring Peter Davison 'The Awakening' was first broadcast in January 1984.



Great for: Chalk downland vistas, travelling historic highways, discovering Neolithic barrows and bird spotting.

With thanks to **Janet Richards** for recommending this route.

Start Point: All Saints Church, Martin | OS Explorer OL22 | SU070195 | W3W: chess.fabric.traps

Parking: All Saints Church, Martin (subject to services) - accessed by narrow driveway almost opposite village shop. Please park courteously.

Terrain: Fields, grassy and dirt paths, farm tracks. Fairly flat, some gradual inclines, no stiles, narrow kissing gates sections 1-3 can be avoided by using village road through Martin. Some sections seasonally wet.

Length: 4.2 miles, 6.75 km

Approx time: 2 hours

 **Dogs:** On leads (livestock & ground nesting birds)

Good to know: Bus stop at Martin Drove End, serving buses on Salisbury – Blandford Route.

Refreshments: Village Shop (open Mon-Fri 9-10.30am & 4.30-6pm & Sat 9.30-12.30pm). Nearest pubs: The Compasses, Damerham or Rose & Thistle, Rockbourne

The information is only intended as a general guide. Please check local arrangements.

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Respect everyone
Protect the environment
Enjoy the outdoors
Follow advice and local signs



Illustrations by Sal Meedings



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Tranquil Tidpit Tramp

Circular walk with Neolithic barrows, bird watching and classic chalk downland views

WALK #
W18



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