

A Walk Worth Doing!

Wilton Windmill is a great starting or stop off point when walking around the Wilton Area. Being close to Crofton Beam Engine and the Kennet & Avon Canal, visitors can take a gentle stroll around the countryside, visit the local sites and sample the fare of the local hostelrys.

One of the best local walks is the Circular Walk to Crofton Pumping Station via Wilton village and Wilton Wide Water. You can do it clockwise or anticlockwise:

- ✕ Along Roman Road -2km / 1.25 miles
- ✕ Along Wilton Water-2 km / 1.25 miles

Or you can take the combined walk which is 4 km / 2.5 miles. It is approximately 30 minutes each way - one hour in total.

At the **Windmill car park**, turn left and go down the lane towards Wilton village. Continue straight down the hill at the Y-Junction until you see the footpath sign to Crofton Pumping Station.

Via Roman Road

This is part of the old Roman Road from Venta Belgarum (Winchester) to Cunetio (Mildenhall, near Marlborough). Continue up the Roman Road ignoring the wooden signpost pointing to Crofton Pumping Station. You can return this way later.

From the top there are fine views over Wilton village and Wilton Water to the left. Just before the road starts to drop down, you can see Crofton Pumping Station below on the left as well as extensive views straight ahead and to the right of historic Savernake Forest and the valley down towards Great Bedwyn. This is an area of Upper Chalk with flints.

Continue down the sunken road and then turn left onto the canal towpath just before Crofton level crossing. Five minutes along the wide Crofton Engine Pound brings you to the **Pumping Station**. This is the highest point of the canal between Reading and Bath.

Via Wilton Water

To return to the **Windmill** we leave the towpath at the head of Wilton Water and turn left to follow the path around it. Here we cross through the middle and lower chalk and onto Upper Greensand. This is the habitat of many wild birds and animals, so some care is required. On the hill to the left of Wilton Water, a new wood has been planted. This is of mixed deciduous trees and is due to mature around the year 2020.

Continuing on, we reach the edge of Wilton village. At this point you can either cut through the village past the duck pond and the Swan Inn and walk along the lane, or turn left to go across the field rejoining the Roman Road at the point of the signpost to Crofton. From this point it is a short walk up the Roman Road which then joins the lane further up where you should then turn left.

Continue up the hill taking the right leg at the Y- junction. Wilton Windmill will now be in sight and the car park is on your left.

