## Around the hill

This is a nice and gentle walk through chalk grassland, with great views of the Silbury Hill ancient monument. Wildlife to be seen include marbled white butterflies, sedge warbler, water vole, and deer.

Grade of walk: Trainer (all rounder)
Type of walk: 'Historical Footsteps', 'Flora & Fauna'

## Terrain

The terrain is flat. Parts of the walk are narrow, but good under foot. There are a few stiles so please take care. Dogs are allowed, but must be kept on a lead where livestock are present.

## Things to see

### Silbury Hill

Silbury Hill is the largest prehistoric man-made mound in Europe. It's 121ft (37m) high. Despite three attempts to tunnel into it in 1776, 1849 and 1968-9, its original purpose is still debated. What is known is that its construction was started about 4,400 years ago and completed within 100 years, having grown from a few piles of soil to the mound we see today.

### Water voles

The riverbanks are lined with reed canary grass, providing food and cover for nationally protected water voles (Arvicola amphibius). There have been several sightings in this location as well as field signs', including burrows in the river bank, footprints and latrines.

### Environmental stewardship

This land is managed under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) which means payments are available for management work that deliver positive environmental outcomes, such as improved biodiversity.
Silbury Hill, near Avebury, Wiltshire, nearest postcode SN8 1QN

Start/end
Start: Silbury Hill car park, grid ref: SU096685
End: Silbury Hill car park, grid ref: SU096685

How to get there
By bus: From Swindon or Devizes (North or South); Number 49 bus (Stagecoach) to Swindon. Alight at Beckhampton, walk along the A4 for approximately 0.5 miles (800m). From Calne or Marlborough take the No 42 (APL) service; alight at the Wagon and Horses pub and walk west along the A4 for approximately 0.5 miles (800m)

By train: Nearest stations are Swindon, 11 miles (17.7km) or Pewsey, 12 miles (19.3km)

By car: Silbury Hill car park is exactly halfway between Beckhampton and West Kennet on the A4, 6 miles (9.7km) west of Marlborough

1. Start your walk at the Silbury Hill car park on the A4, halfway between Beckhampton and West Kennet. The footpath starts behind a clump of beech trees and follows a line of hawthorn hedgerow with Silbury Hill on your right.

2. Pass through a five-bar gate and carry on until you cross a small bridge over the River Kennet. Turn right here and carry on across some stiles, keeping the river on your right and Waden Hill on the left. Eventually the path leads into an open grassland field.

3. The path eventually leads back to the A4. Follow the footpath westwards on the north side of the road (you don’t need to cross the road) for 440yds (400m). Follow the path back to the Silbury Hill car park, making sure you stop at the viewing area on the way.

4. We hope that you really enjoyed this one-mile walk. The National Trust looks after some of the most spectacular areas of countryside for the enjoyment of all. We need your support to help us continue our work to cherish the countryside and provide access to our beautiful and refreshing landscapes. To find out more about how you too can help our work as a volunteer, member or donor please go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk