Circular route from Durrington Walls to Stonehenge

This walk explores two major historic monuments, Durrington Walls and Stonehenge, in the heart of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site. On this circular walk you will discover the landscape in its full glory from the Bronze Age barrows to the First World War military railway track, as well as its diverse wildlife and plants.

Terrain

This circular walk follows hard tracks and gently sloping downs. Surfaces can be uneven, with potholes or long tussocky grass. Dogs welcome on a lead and under control, as sheep and cattle graze the fields and there are ground-nesting birds.

Things to see

Durrington Walls
Have a look around you and appreciate the nature of this henge as an enclosed valley. If you were here over 4,500 years ago you would have seen several shrines around the slopes, and Neolithic houses outside the henge. It is thought that Durrington Walls was built and used around the same time as Stonehenge about 4,500 years ago.

The old railway track
The old railway track is more than 1.5 miles (2.5km) long. It has been the ceremonial route and entrance to the stone circle and recent excavations suggest it even predates it. Though much eroded it can still be seen on its final approach to the stone circle.

The Avenue
This impressive bank and ditch earthwork is more than 1.5 miles (2.5km) long. It has been the ceremonial route and entrance to the stone circle and recent excavations suggest it even predates it. Though much eroded it can still be seen on its final approach to the stone circle.
3 Stonehenge Cottages, King Barrows, Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7DD

Start/end
Start: Woodhenge car park, grid ref: SU151434
End: Woodhenge car park, grid ref: SU151434

How to get there
By bike: Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 45 runs south-east of the property
By bus: Wilts & Dorset X5, between Salisbury, Pewsey, Marlborough and Swindon; service 16 from Amesbury, request stop at Woodhenge
By train: Salisbury station, 9 miles (14km) from Woodhenge car park
By car: Woodhenge car park is 1.75 miles (2.8km) north of Amesbury, follow signs from A345

1. At Woodhenge car park, walk through the gate opposite Woodhenge and go into the field. As you walk downhill you are entering Durrington Walls.

2. At the centre of Durrington Walls you are standing in the biggest complete henge in Britain. Next, turn left and walk up the hill, you came down to the corner of this field until you have reached a gate.

3. Go through the gate, cross the road through another gate. Walk past the sarsen stone to the other end of the field on your right.

4. Turn right and follow the track until you meet a crossroad of footpaths. Turn left and follow the bridleway until you see a sign saying King Barrows and turn right. Follow the footpath round past the woods and you will meet a gate on your right hand side.

5. Go through the gate on your right and follow the path straight down the valley and through the gate at the bottom of the hill and then continue up the hill.

6. You are now walking along the avenue which is the final approach to Stonehenge.

7. Spend some time at Stonehenge and explore its history. A ticket can be purchased from an English Heritage member of staff. Once you are ready to move on walk across the field you were in to your left and there is a gate at the bottom left hand corner of the field.

8. Go through the farm gates (or climb the stiles) at the bottom and walk up the hill keep the fence on your left hand side until you reach the end of the field.

9. You have just walked along the cursus field an earthwork that is enclosed with a ditch dating back 5,000 years old during the Neolithic period. Go through the gate at the end of the field and walk past the woods on your right. You have reached the same crossroads as in point 4. You can trace back your steps to Durrington Walls by following points 1 to 3 in reverse.