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Salisbury Club Site – Old Sarum Loop

Camping and Caravanning



Route Summary



An easy, 2.5-mile walk that explores Old Sarum, the extraordinary site of 2,000 years of history, including Iron Age, Romans, Normans and Medieval. With big views across Salisbury and the green, green countryside, too.

Route Overview



Category: Walking

Length: 4.910 km / 3.07 mi

Last Modified: 18th July 2017

Difficulty: Medium

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Undefined

Date Published: 12th July 2017

Description



A relaxing but fascinating 2.5-mile stroll through 2,000 years of history at Old Sarum. The evocative site includes heritage from the Iron Age, Romans, Normans, Saxons and Medieval Britain. While the easy walk rewards equally with big views across Salisbury and the green, green Wiltshire countryside.

Waypoints

1 Start

(51.08624; -1.80182)



Leave the campsite via the main reception and you can already see Old Sarum up ahead. The field in front of you is public land so you can make your way across in whatever zigzag pattern you fancy. Ultimately try and head towards Old Sarum at a slight diagonally right direction.

2 (51.09050; -1.80161)

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Go up the small bank next to a bench, turn L on a good track, then quickly R up four steps (pictured) and swing R, into field and carry on diagonally right across it, going uphill and towards the road you can probably hear behind the bushes. If you miss this exact section, fear not. There are several gaps in the hedge and as long as you're heading towards Old Sarum (again, an approximate diagonal right), the grassy ramparts of which are clearly visible close by on the horizon, you'll be fine.

3 (51.09192; -1.80018)



At the corner of the field go through a gap in the hedge and turn L, uphill on a good path, heading directly towards those large grassy ramparts of Old Sarum.

4 (51.09240; -1.80096)

Go through a gate and a large black sign tells you you're on the English Heritage site. How you explore it from here is up to you really, but we enjoyed swinging right and working our way from the outside of the site, in, in a sort of spiral shape. Go through a gate and turn right, on to the road.

5 (51.09301; -1.80088)

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Take a left through a gate and onto the ramparts. An initially steep for short climb brings you big new views across the Wiltshire countryside. Follow the raised bank around and feel the history.

6 (51.09401; -1.80814)



About half way around, a tempting path goes L and uphill towards the centre of Old Sarum, presenting a good opportunity to explore some of the ruins. When you're satisfied, head back towards the bank, but take the closer/higher one, for a slight change of elevation, and continue on round.

7 (51.09173; -1.80515)



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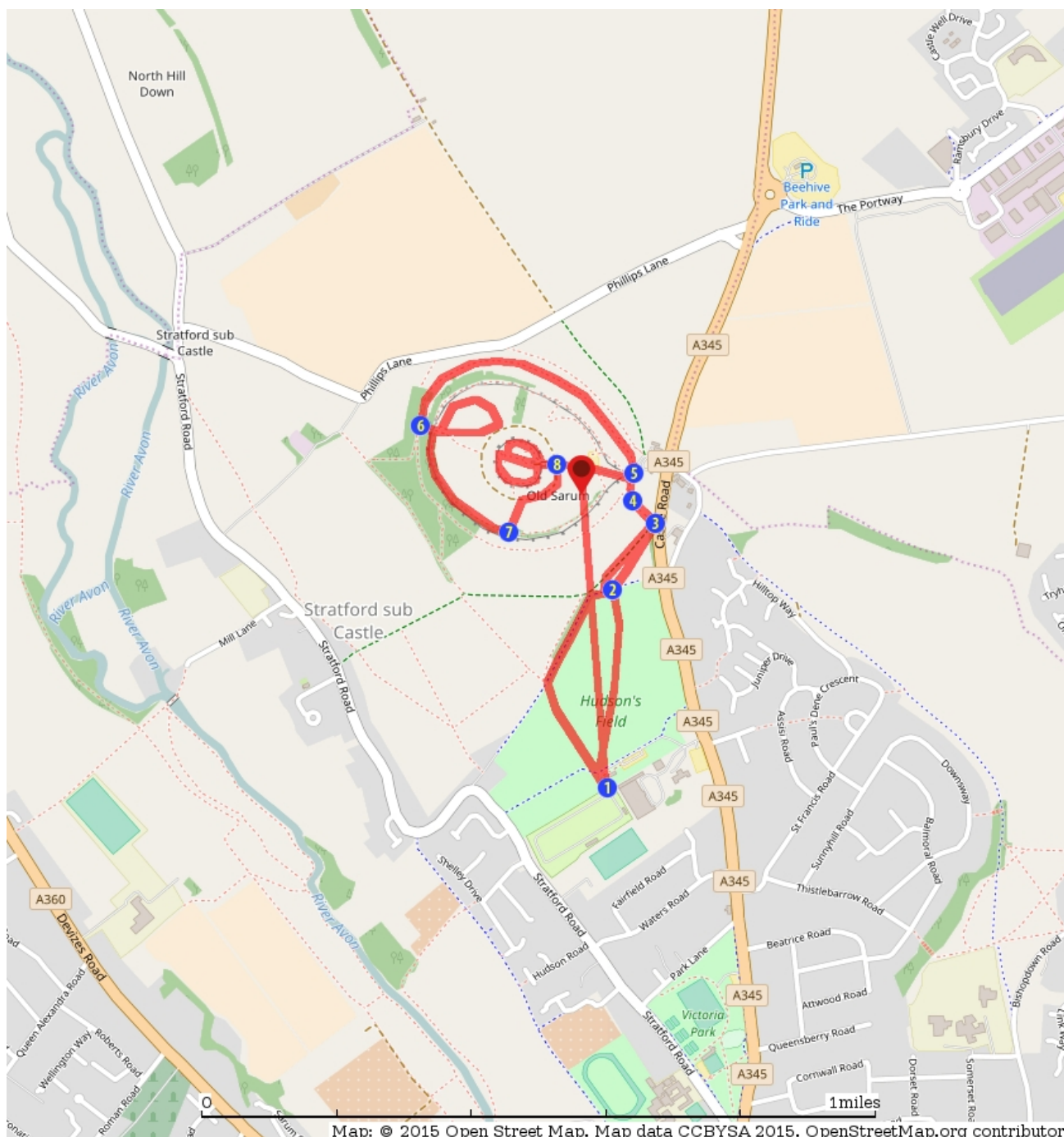
Enjoy the huge views. You should be able to see the campsite, with Salisbury's famous cathedral rising behind it. At a large beach tree, head L and towards the central part of Old Sarum.

8 (51.09319; -1.80353)



Follow the central bank round to the right, to reach the main entrance of the hub of Old Sarum. There are some impressive ruins inside, well worth exploring. But there's an entrance fee for this area of £5.30 (non members). From here simply head downhill through the car park to rejoin the trail near to where you first came into the Old Sarum site. And retrace your steps, or select an alternative route, back to the campsite.

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