

▶ Distance: 8.4km/5¼ miles ▶ Time: 2½ hours ▶ Grade: Easy

Swans on the reconstructed Wilts and Berks Canal, between Points 3 and 4.



CHOSEN BY...
LEN BANISTER

An exhilarating climb over parkland with views of Chippenham followed by a descent to observe the progress of a stage of the reconstruction of the Wilts & Berks Canal is followed by an almost sneaky entrance to one of the most beautiful and certainly most filmed villages in England. Fans of TV costume dramas may be more familiar with the name of Cranford than Lacock but within minutes they will see them as one and the same. Whilst the most famous backdrop Lacock supplied was for Judi Dench's group of gossiping friends on the corner of Church Street, it has also starred in *Pride and Prejudice*.

1 Start

Walk onto green and go diagonally L to track. Go L to R of house. Cross stile and go forward over field, turning R in middle up to stile. Keep climbing and after another stile, go alongside wood to veer gently L of pond towards point between wood, L, and conifer plantation, R. Go over stile along wood edge, then into second plantation. Emerge; cross stile, go diagonally L across field. Go R to lane.

2 1.9km/1¼ miles

Go L, then R at junction. Turn L after cattle grid. Go through woodland and near bottom of dip

go L before cattle grid with hedge R. Continue through gate, then forward over two fields to gap in hedge and stile. At fence go R to continue along canal bank. Cross bridge, R.

3 4.2km/2½ miles

Go L, continue under bridge. Cross stile at end of towpath. Keep to L field edge. Cross double-stile, keep forward with hedge R. At end go L, then R through barrier up fenced path. Cross lane via two stiles, go diagonally L to road.

4 6km/3¼ miles

Go R over bridge then L. Follow walled track R of house onto surfaced cross-meadow path. Cross end of lane to stile. Keep forward to early field corner. Cross stile, then L over bridge, turning R at church. At end of Church Street, go L along West Street then L along High Street. Continue on the main road, passing the abbey to return to your car. 



Don't miss...



The abbey, which featured in the *Harry Potter* series of films. The cloisters and side rooms were transformed into the classrooms at Hogwarts.



Lacock Abbey.



PLAN YOUR WALK



Route

Start/parking Small lay-by, east of Bell Inn, by telephone box, grid ref ST928681

Is it for me? Generally good paths; one gentle climb. Map-reading skills ideal for Points 3 and 2

Stiles 14

Planning

Nearest town Chippenham

Refreshments Pubs and tearooms in Lacock

Public toilets None

Public transport Regular buses (X34) from Chippenham

Maps Ordnance Survey Explorer 156; Landranger 173

▶ **Buy maps at:** www.ordnance-survey.co.uk/maps/Shop

▶ Route available to download and print at: www.lfto.com/routes
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