5

Pinkney

Using Sherston 26, Forlorn, Sherston 12 & 10, Pinkney Road, Sherston 32, Tetbury Road and Sherston 30.

3.5 miles - *two minor hills.*
2.7 miles - *using the shorter option - returning via the fairly busy B4040.*

Go towards Malmesbury and opposite the church lych gate turn right onto the narrow one-way road called Gaston Lane. Follow the lane to a road junction. Cross over, turn right, then almost immediately left to continue down Gaston Lane to a metal kissing gate (also known as a swing-swong). Bear left on SHER26, taking the path across the field with views of Pinkney Wood ahead. Go over a stile, then continue on the same line to another kissing gate in the right-hand field corner. Descend the steps to the road, turn right and follow it with care down the hill to Forlorn Bridge and over the infant River Avon. Take the road on your left, signposted Malmesbury, climbing uphill through pleasant woodland.

When the woodland on the left stops, turn left onto the signposted footpath (SHER12), which passes Keeper's Cottage. This was traditionally the home of the gamekeeper for Pinkney Park which is also on your left and has some fine trees. The land on the right was once the site of a US Army transport base set up in readiness for the 1944 D Day landings. Beyond this, on a clear day, the chalk downs behind Calne can be seen, notably Cherhill Down

with its monument and White Horse.

Continue along the track to a large iron gate which once retained Pinkney Park's herd of deer. Go through the gate onto SHER10 and follow the wall of the Park round to the left. Easton Grey House will be seen in the distance. Go through the gate and then down through the farm, ignoring a footpath sign to the right. The road now curves left and then right to cross the Avon again on a picturesque stone bridge. Climb the hill to the B4040 crossroad in the hamlet of Pinkney.

Either: cross over this road and go straight on up the quiet lane opposite. After 500 yards, the fine house of Pinkney

Court is seen on the right, and normally herds of alpacas occupy the fields on either side of the road. These endearing relatives of the camel are natives of South America kept for their high quality hair. Keep on this road for a further 400 yards to the top of the rise, where the trees of Westonbirt Arboretum can be seen ahead. Now turn left through a gate on the signed footpath (SHER32). Walk through two fields (which can be very muddy when wet), keeping the hedge on your left and passing two deep wooded hollows containing ponds and a stone trough. These are relics of the days when cattle were kept in these fields. At the end of the second field, go through a gap in the hedge onto Tetbury Road and turn left towards Sherston. When the road bends sharp left you will see some steps on your right leading up to a kissing gate onto SHER30. Follow this path over two fields and two more kissing gates and through a gravelled drive between houses. At the end turn right and continue along the road, past the church and Post Office, to return to the starting point.

Or: if you prefer a much shorter walk you can turn left onto the B4040. There is a narrow pedestrian pathway along the right-hand side, which will take you back into the village, across the crossroads and into the High Street.

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SHERSTON CP

SHER 32

SHER 25

SHER 30

SHER 26

SHER 10

SHER 11

SHER 12

Tetbury Road

Pinkney Road

B4040

Cardinal Cottage

Querns Piece Farm

Pinkney Court

Eaglefield House

Vancelettes Farm

Sherston Parva or Pinkney

Quarry (disused)

Park Farm

Scot's Farm

Home Farm

Middle Lodge

Garden House

Pinkney Park

Cricket Ground

Easton Town

Lower Farm

Pinkney Park

Pinkney Wood

Old Wood

Keeper's Cottage

Forlorn

Quarry (disused)

New Plantation

Sherston

Pyke Farm

Manor Farm

Easton Town Farm

Sewage Works

Pyke Boarding Kennels and Cattery

Reservoir (covered)

Pavilion

Sch

Earthwork

Cross (rems of)

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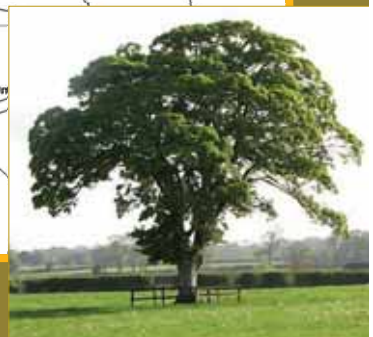
Stanbridge Farm