

10 Leisure Walks of Discovery A Boot Up SALISBURY PLAIN

Rodney Legg

These rolling chalklands form the largest wild landscapes of their kind. That is almost entirely due to them being the principal firing and training ground for artillery and infantry divisions of the British Army. English history started here, with Alfred the Great's key victory over the Danes, and ancient monuments abound with the largest collection of prehistoric burial mounds in the country.

White horses are the Wiltshire icon. The tops of the escarpments are moulded by the Iron Age earthworks of some of the largest Wessex hill-forts. When it comes to walking, these edges are key to wherever you are going as the footpath network comes to a halt when it meets the core of the military no-go area. Around this, however, there is an equally vast area where you are allowed to walk.

The ten selected walks, ranging from 3 to 8 miles, suit the needs of families, groups of friends or individuals looking for a gentle stroll or a longer walk, and reflect the many varied facets of the area – its people, its history, and its working landscape and will help first time visitors to experience some of the great scenery the area has to offer. Many of the walks feature a pub along the route.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to the area.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rodney Legg is a prolific author and historian who has published hundreds of country walks. Nationally he is active in the environmental movement having been chairman of the Open Spaces Society since 1989 and a member of the ruling council of the National Trust from 1990.

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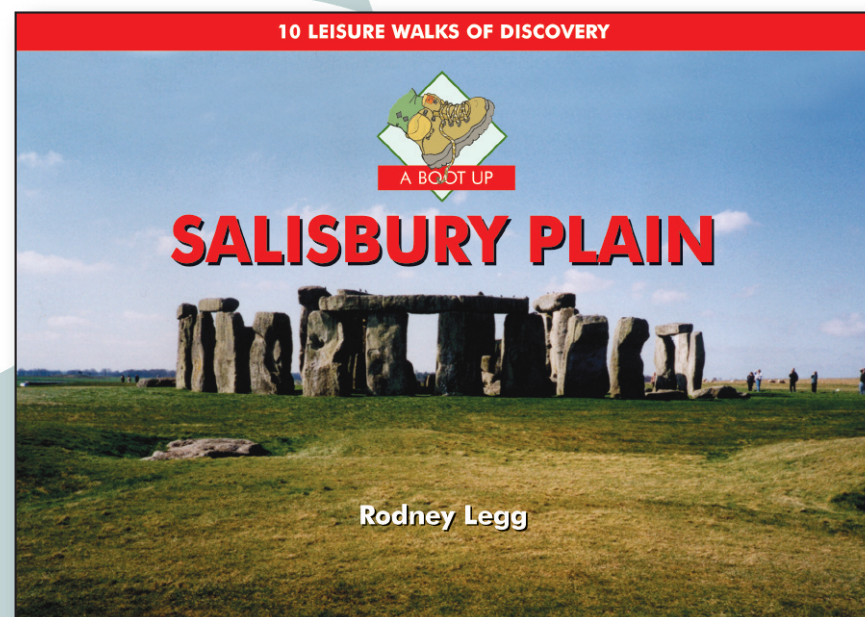
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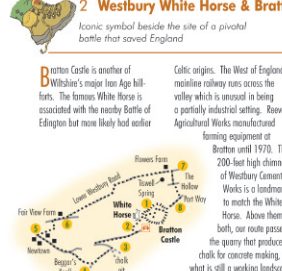
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Westbury White Horse & Bratton

Iconic symbol beside the site of a pivotal battle that saved England

Bratton Castle is another of Wiltshire's major Iron Age hill-forts. The famous White Horse is associated with the nearby Battle of Edington but more likely had earlier Celtic origins. The West of England mainline railway runs across the valley which is unusual in being a partially industrial setting. Reeves Agricultural Works manufactured farming equipment at Bratton until 1970. The 200-foot high chimney of Westbury Cement Works is a landmark to watch the White Horse. Above them both, our route passes the quarry that produces chalk for concrete making, in what is still a working landscape.



Level: 5 miles
 Route: A climb up the escarpment to return to the valley but otherwise walking down.
 Park & start: From the air park above Westbury White Horse, which is reached by going to Castle Road from the B3090 in Bratton village.
 Start ref: ST 900 514.
 Postcode: BA13 4JP.
 Public transport: Buses to Westbury and from there to Avoncl Langford.
 Website: www.westburywhitehorse.co.uk
 wilton@westburywhitehorse.org.uk

Westbury White Horse & Bratton

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Example of a double-page spread