

# WILTSHIRE'S BEST BAT WALKS

## River Ebble Coombe Bissett

### LOCATION

Following a public footpath along one of the beautiful chalk streams in the Cranborne Chase, this is an easy stroll, for all ages, offering good views of the River Ebble and a seat to rest on whilst you listen out for bats and possibly spot one of the otters who patrol this area.

Old Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LF

GRID REF SU10752636

WHAT3WORDS overheard.dates.finer

There are no toilet facilities.

### STARTING POINT

Beginning right in the middle of Coombe Bissett, there is some parking at the start of the path with more on the other side of the A354 outside the Parish Church.



### ABOUT THE WALK

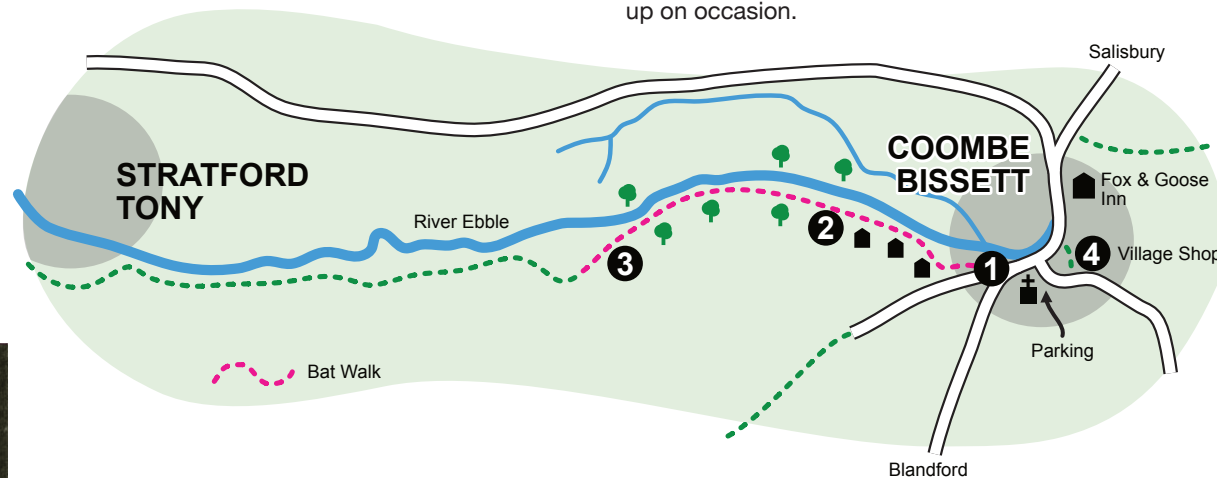
The track begins by the main road (1) and takes you below the houses and under a canopy of tall trees. Go through the gate (2) onto a narrow path providing views of the river and water meadows beyond.

There is a tunnel of Blackthorn and then the path emerges next to the river by the old Hatches (3), formerly used to manage the water meadows. Care needs to be taken as the ground slopes slightly.

This is a good place to stop and observe the bats. There has been regular monitoring in this spot and most nights up to six species of bat have been recorded, with a further four species also picked up on occasion.

It is possible to follow the path along the river as far as Stratford Tony (the next village) but for the purposes of this guide we suggest turning here and following the same route back. The track is flat and easy and the walk should take 20 minutes.

Returning to your starting point you can (carefully) cross the main road and walk past the church into the village. Turn left at the Village Noticeboard and red phone box, (4) a cut through takes you to a footbridge over the river which is an excellent spot for pipistrelle bats and Daubenton's bat.



We hope you enjoyed your walk. Please submit records of the bats you encountered and identified to Wiltshire Bat Group, and feed into our growing knowledge of the county's bats.

You can submit them directly to the county recorder, or to [www.irecord.org.uk](http://www.irecord.org.uk)



### TARGET SPECIES

**Regular:** Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Serotine, Noctule, Natterers and Daubenton's

**Occasional:** Barbastrelle, Brown long-eared, Leisler's and Greater Horseshoe



Wiltshire's Best Bat Walks are produced by The Wiltshire Bat Group

This walk selected by WBG member Louise Hartgill  
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