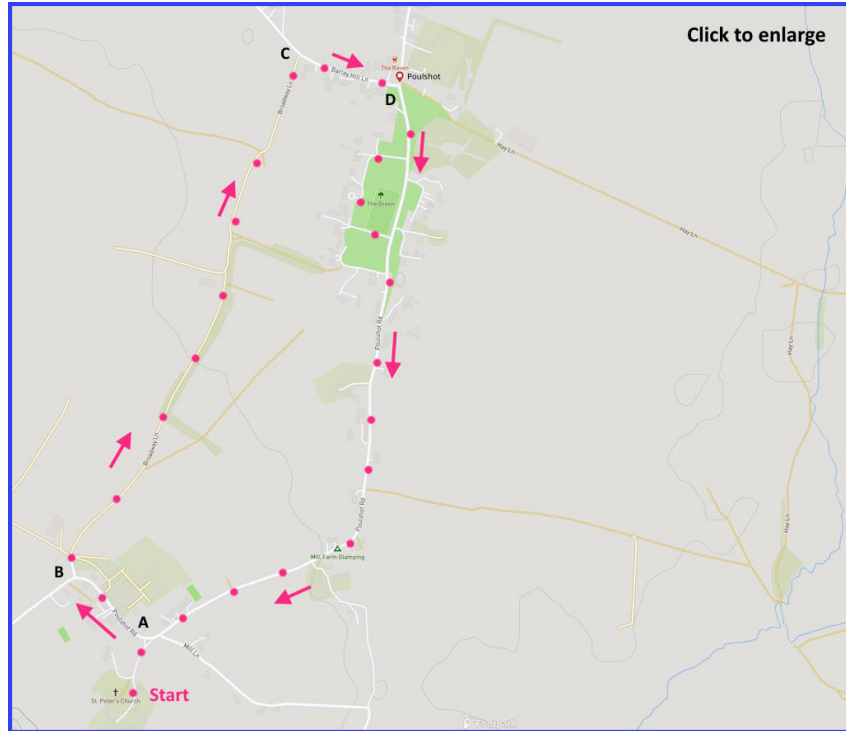




POULSHOT

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A 2-mile, easy rectangular walk behind and through this Wiltshire village. Click [here](#) for an aerial view. Click [here](#) for a downloadable PDF of guide.



(Routes suggested from each map point + metres to next point)

- Start:** Walk away from church to main road junction: 100m
- A:** Turn left and walk main road until right turn marked 'byway': 250m
- B:** Walk ahead (curving left at byway/footpath post) until road junction: 1100m
- C:** Turn right and walk to T-junction: 210m
- D:** Take right turn and walk through village (going round village green) to start: 1500m

The pictures below are in the order things were seen on this walk. Clicking on any one will enlarge it (and the slideshow)



[D]



[E]

The walk

Parking adjacent to St Paul's church should be easy. This route starts here, shortly taking up the byway that forms one long side of a walking rectangle. The field path is set wide between hedgerows, although the narrow trodden part is really only comfortable for two side by side [C]. For the first 200 metres it is flat but a little rugged

under foot. Thereafter it is a well gritted byway [D]. After heading right at the end of this byway (notice the pleasant [Raven](#) pub just to your left in the other direction), the route heads down the other side of our rectangle and takes in the long thin village. A detour around the pleasing village green is suggested before heading back to the church – in the area known as ‘Townsend’.

Poulshot village

Poulshot (“Pole-Shot”) is blessed with a charming 13th century church, [St Peters](#), the aisles and south porch were added a little later but it has not suffered from excesses of more recent restoration (e.g. Victorian). The interior includes (with some pride) a 13th century stained glass window: found on the south wall of the chancel. The 1781 old rectory is now part of Church Farm and is adjacent to the church.

Traditionally, Wiltshire village churches are located more centrally to their local community. That St Peters is rather at one end of the community may be because it formerly served a larger group of nearby villages. It may also explain the associated ‘chapel of ease’ which was later built more centrally (you see it on you left beyond the village green: an attractive timber framed building with a louvred turret). A building like this was designed to support a church that was more distant from the community centre, or otherwise overflowing. This one could seat 100 parishioners.

The village green is strikingly large and offers a pleasant frame for cricket (etc) with its peaceful setting including a boundary of mixed and interesting houses – many of which were formerly small farms. There are also some attractive houses to be seen beyond the green as you walk back towards Townsend. Perhaps notice the [Manor Farmhouse](#) (on your right just beyond the green) – a 17th century timber framed house, although now fronted in brick. A little further down (on the right) is thatched Stansfield Cottage with ‘1656’ boasted over the porch. Just before you reach Townsend and the church you pass a turning, Mill Lane. At the end of this lane is Poulshot’s closest access to [running water](#). Once this was the site of a mill for the grinding of snuff.

Despite its long history (Doomsday at least), there have been few celebrity residents. The one most often mentioned is a notorious highwayman. Thomas Boulter was (in-)famous for his work across a wide area of the south – although holdups also took him quite a way north (Cheshire). Apparently local angry dogs were later named “Boulters” after him. However at the age of 30 he was picked up trying to reach France and was hung at Winchester in 1775.

Poulshot community

Brief perambulations around a village can’t reveal much about the spirit of the place – that is, what sort of *community* it is. You can inspect the manicure of the gardens, the names given to houses, the make of cars in the drive (or whether there are ‘drives’), and perhaps the produce in the local shop (there isn’t one)... but all such research may not serve you well in ‘reading’ the place. That granted, there is another window of investigation (or nosiness) – the internet. The online evidence from a [parish newsletter](#) and the [village trust](#) website suggests Poulshot is quite an animated community. There was even a long running [Poulshot Village News](#) magazine delivered to all households by volunteers and available online (although seemingly now expired).

Within these spaces the inquisitive visitor finds: ‘Poulshot Friends and Neighbours’, ‘Farmers Club’, ‘Poulshot Readers’, ‘Poulshot Cricket Club’, ‘Poulshot Entertainment Group’, and so on. Perhaps a busy place beneath a tranquil exterior.