

# WILTSHIRE.

**T**HIS county is situated in the province of Canterbury, in the diocese of Salisbury, and contains 29 hundreds, one city, 15 boroughs, and 10 other market-towns. On the north and west side of it lies Gloucestershire; its western boundary is Somersetshire; Dorsetshire confines its southern extremity; and Hampshire and Berkshire inclose it on the east. Its extreme length is 54 miles, and breadth 34, and its area measures about 878,000 acres. The air of Wiltshire like that of other counties, is various, according to the different parts of it, but on the whole it is agreeable and salubrious. On the downs and higher parts, it is sharp and clear; in the vallies mild, even in winter. Throughout the county, in a north-east direction, runs the chalk ridge, spreading in large high plains, called the Wiltshire downs. These downs, in the southern part called Salisbury plain, the surface consists of a kind of chalky loam of various depth. There are also some very singular veins of sand, which run through this district; the western and northern parts principally consist of a rich tract of vale land. Over the extensive wilds, called Salisbury plain, roam immense flocks of sheep, who with their shepherds, are the sole tenants, if the bustard, the wheatear, and a few other solitary birds be excepted, which avoid the haunts of men. The summer stock of sheep on these plains and downs, is computed to be 500,000; the wool, which in course forms a considerable article of trade, is moderately fine. On the borders of Dorsetshire many cows are kept, and much butter made; the north-western part is famous for its cheese, second only to that of Cheshire. The manufacturing part of the county is on the Somersetshire borders, the principal article worked is superfine broad cloth; besides which there are manufacturers of Serges, and other woollen stuffs; of dowlas, bed-ticking, gloves, &c. The rivers of this county are the Lower Avon; the Thames or Isis; the Cole; the Kennet; the Bourne; the Upper Avon; the Willey; and the Nadder.

## *Index of Distances from Town to Town in the County of Wiltshire.*

The names of the respective towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet gives the distance.

		<i>Distance from London.</i>																
	Amesbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77					
Bradford	27	Bradford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100					
Calne	23	13	Calne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88					
Chippenham	32	11	6	Chippenham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93					
Cricklade	38	30	17	20	Cricklade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84					
Devizes	16	13	7	10	24	Devizes	-	-	-	-	-	-	89					
Highworth	35	34	20	23	8	25	Highworth	-	-	-	-	-	77					
Hindon	17	20	30	24	47	26	51	Hindon	-	-	-	-	97					
Malmesbury	46	21	16	9	12	20	20	44	Malmesbury	-	-	-	96					
Marlborough	19	27	14	20	19	14	16	36	23	Marlborough	-	-	74					
Melksham	22	5	8	6	26	8	26	22	16	22	Melksham	-	96					
Salisbury	8	33	30	33	46	22	43	16	52	27	29	Salisbury	81					
Swindon	29	27	14	18	9	19	6	45	16	11	22	37	Swindon	83				
Trowbridge	22	3	13	13	30	10	33	17	27	24	5	30	29	Trowbridge	98			
Warminster	18	11	21	15	38	17	42	9	30	31	13	22	36	8	Warminster	96		
Westbury	20	7	17	15	34	14	39	13	26	28	9	26	33	4	4	Westbury	99	
Wotton Bassett	32	22	10	12	8	16	11	42	10	15	17	39	6	22	30	26	Wotton Bassett	90

## BRADFORD,

**O**N the western border of Wiltshire, 100 miles west of London, 7 miles south-east of Bath, and 20 from Bristol, is a noted and populous manufacturing town, romantically situated on the banks of a considerable river called the Lower Avon, which running through the centre, divides it into two parts over which are two stone bridges, one large and handsome with 9 arches in the centre, of the town, the other lower down the river in the outskirts of it. The river flows west through Bath to Bristol, and empties itself into the Bristol channel. The Kennet and Avon canal which connects the two great commercial cities of London and Bristol, and on which considerable trade is carried on, not only between those cities, but likewise the different towns on its whole line of navigation, forming also a junction with the coal and other canals, is close to this town, adjoining to which is a handsome and commodious wharf for the benefit of trade. Bradford is an ancient town, of some note in the time of the Saxons; deriving its present name from Bradenford, the Saxon term for broad-ford, over which at that period, there was no bridge; it gives name to its hundred and is built all of stone, is situated within a cove formed by the surrounding hills, from the summits of which, are delightful picturesque, varied and extensive prospects, and which at the same time defends it from the north and east winds, is very healthfully situated on a rocky soil, and every part verging to the river, keeps it salubrious. During the heptarchy it was distinguished by a bloody battle fought here between Kenewalchius, King of the West Saxons and his kinsman Cuthred; the remains of intrenchments and tumuli, where the slain were deposited, being still to be seen. On digging near the spot in the year 1820, several skeletons were found in good preservation, together with swords; spear-heads, arrow-heads and other warlike instruments, then in use, and a ring supposed gold, with a motto in the centre of an unknown character. In the reign of Edward I. it sent in one instance two members to parliament, to wit, Thomas Dering and William Wager, but whether it forfeited its right by neglect or was disfranchised by the authority of government is uncertain; it still, however, retains the appellation of "the borough." The streets in this town, although irregular, are in general wide and airy, and contains many very good houses. The church is a large ancient building with a steeple and tower, containing 8 remarkably fine toned bells, the interior is handsome, and has an excellent organ, with many well sculptured marble monuments, particularly in the chancel, where there is a very good altarpiece, ornamented with a painting of the last supper, done by a native of this town; it has also two handsome windows of painted glass, representing the actions of our Saviour and his apostles; those windows with an elegant service of communion-plate and