

## Inkpen Beacon to Kingsclere

**Distance:** 13 miles (20.9 km) **Time:** 4–5 hours  
The Wayfarers Walk begins in the county of Berkshire at Combe Gibbet on top of Inkpen Beacon. The route takes you over Walbury Hill at 297m is the highest chalk hill in England.

Cross the A343 and skirt round the estate of Highclere Castle and its perfect park laid out by Capability Brown in the 1770s. The route then runs around Beacon Hill and its pre-historic ramparts. Here lies the grave of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon who became famous when he and Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922.

The route gradually descends down to the A34 with the Seven Barrows off to the left, follow the permissive path under the A34, then climb back up towards Ladle Hill, site of another Iron Age hill fort. Onwards, to walk past Watership Down, setting for the famous novel by Richard Adams about a group of rabbits. This chalk ridge is made up of tiny grains of calcium carbonate, making it extremely porous and a perfect turf for walkers and race horses reach the B3051 to Kingsclere.

**Accommodation:** Aldershot VIC (covers North Hants area) 01252 320 968

**Refreshments:** The Star, Kingsclere 016325 296 241.

The Crown, Kingsclere 016325 299558,  
The George & Horn,  
Kingsclere 016325 299130

### Places of Interest:

Highclere Castle 01625 253210  
www.highclerecastle.co.uk  
Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum  
01722 332151

**Public Transport:** Stagecoach 20,  
Newbury Buses & Stagecoach The Link



## Alresford to Droxford

**Distance:** 11 miles (17.7 km) **Time:** 3.5–4.5 hours  
The Wayfarers Walk enters via New Alresford, which in the Middle Ages had one of the country's biggest sheep fairs.

A short distance from the route, in the centre of the town, is the Watercress Line station, a heritage steam railway running over ten miles of steeply-graded scenic track between Alresford and Alton

The route leaves the town through the Church and passes through damp meadows to Tichborne and across the River Itchen at Cheriton Mill to the pretty village of Cheriton. The route crosses the river and then climbs up to the downs above the village. The Wayfarers Walk follows a section of the Cheriton Battlefield Walk, commemorating the Civil War battle of 1644.

Cross the A272 and continue up the tarmac road passing around the grounds of Hinton Ampner House and across fields to Kilmeston where the route climbs to the downs again, at this point the route crosses the South Hants Ridgeway and passes Betty Munday's Bottom. Continue over Corhampton Down and down in to Droxford.

**Accommodation:** Ringwood VIC 01425 470896

**Refreshments:** The Hinton Arms, Hinton Ampner 01962 771252,  
The White Horse, Droxford 01489 877490, The Vine, Hambleton 0239 263 2419

**Places of Interest:** St. Martin's Gallery, Ibsley 01425 489090. Ringwood Town & Country Experience, Blashford 01425 472746

**Public Transport:** Ringwood: Wilts & Dorset X3, X34, X35, X36, 175, 176

## Droxford to Denmead

**Distance:** 5.5 miles (8.8 km) **Time:** 1.5–2 hours  
The route now crosses the River Meon and follows it south to Soberton. From Soberton the route climbs out of the valley to higher ground until you reach the wooded Litley Hanger that overlooks the quiet village of Hambleton. Hambleton's secret is that it is the home of English cricket. Besides the pitch at nearby Broadhalfpenny Down is a memorial to those locals heroes of the 1700s.

The route now leaves the chalky land and crosses over wet clays which were once clothed in a vast dense forest, the royal hunting Forest of Bere. The route enters the village of Denmead close to Forest Gate.

**Accommodation:** Winchester TIC 01962 840 500

**Refreshments:** The White Hart, Denmead 02392 255953 The Fox & Hounds, Denmead 02392 255421 & more pubs in Denmead.

**Public Transport:** Stagecoach 67 / Brijan Tours 17 /  
First Hampshire 45, 45A, 138

## Denmead to Emsworth

**Distance:** 12 miles (19.3 km) **Time:** 3.5–4 hours  
The route continues south through gentle countryside to Southwick before climbing onto Portsdown Hill. The views from this narrow chalk ridge are spectacular. Beyond you can see Spithead and the Isle of Wight.

The Wayfarers Walk now becomes more urban and runs alongside the B2177, passing Fort Purbrook, a massive brick-built polygonal fort built on Portsdown Hill to defend the port against Napoleonic attack.

After crossing the A3(M) the route turns south and joins with the Solent Way and runs along the shoreline past the old waterside village of Langstone, with its delightful heritage quayside, pubs and a picturesque millhouse. Walk past Warblington Castle, with its gruesome tales, and the church with a grave-watcher's hut, across the fields and through the woods to finish at the fishing village of Emsworth, – the perfect spot for a relaxing seafood meal.

**Accommodation:** Hayling Island TIC 02392 467 111

**Refreshments:** The Blue Bell, Emsworth 01243 373394 and many more pubs and eating places.

**Places of Interest:** Royal Armouries Fort Nelson  
01329 233 734 www.royalarmouries.org  
Emsworth Museum 01243 378091  
www.emsworthmuseum.co.uk

**Public Transport:** First Hampshire 45,  
45A, 138 / Emsworth & District 27, 36 /  
Stagecoach 700

## Kingsclere to Dummer

**Distance:** 11 miles (17.7 km) **Time:** 3.5–4.5 hours  
From White Hill car park the path now moves away from the open downs of The Ridgeway onto chalk arable farmland, North Hampshire's cereal belt. As you near Walkeridge Farm you cross a major Roman road, the Portway. This road was mainly used for military purposes and went from Silchester, north of Basingstoke, to Salisbury. Look to the west for the long thin line of trees called Caesar's Belt that marks the line of this ancient road.

Continue southwards past the occasional lonely tumulus and through the village of North Oakley, onwards past cereal fields, across the Harrow Way and railway line to the village of Deane. Past Deane the route crosses another railway line before skirting the beech woods of Bull Bushes Copse and round the woodland edges. The Walk crosses the main A30 and M3 roads, skirts Basingstoke golf course before entering the charming village of Dummer.

**Accommodation:** Aldershot VIC (covers North Hants area) 01252 320 968

**Refreshments:** The Greyhound, Overton 01256 770241  
Queen Inn, Dummer 01256 3967367

**Public Transport:** Newbury Buses & Stagecoach The Link /  
Stagecoach 76, 86 / Steventon Transport 55

## Dummer to Alresford

**Distance:** 14 miles (22.5 km) **Time:** 4.5–5.5 hours  
From Dummer the Wayfarers Walk uses trackways to take you south across Beckett's Down. This area is dotted with many old chalk pits. The route then descends into the valley along Church Lane track, to Brown Candover. Follow the valley and cross the B3046 at the Wool Pack Inn, Totford. This pub sits on the Lunway, an ancient droveway used for moving cattle and sheep across the country. The route climbs out of the valley, joining two other routes, the Ox Drove and the Three Castle Path to Abbotstone Down and the prehistoric settlement of Oliver's Battery.

The path continues down towards Abbotstone village, across the Candover Stream, up to Itchen Stoke Down where it intersects with four other ancient trackways, take the right track to re-cross the Candover Stream and follow the River Arle, passing watercress beds and the historic Fulling Mill, before reaching the town of Alresford.

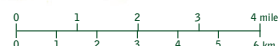
**Accommodation:** Aldershot VIC (covers North Hampshire area)  
01252 320 968, Winchester TIC 01962 840 500

**Refreshments:** The Woolpack Inn, Totford 0845 2938066  
Alresford has many pubs and eating places.  
The Horse & Groom, Alresford 01962 734809

**Public Transport:** Steventon Transport 55 /  
Stagecoach 64, X64, 67



- P Parking
- PH Public House
- i Tourist Information
- Trail (walkers only)
- ✝ Church





## How to follow the Wayfarers Way

### WAYFARERS WALK PATH

Emsworth 70 miles

The route stretches between

Inkpen Beacon in Berkshire and Emsworth Harbour in Hampshire.

The route is well sign posted with the logo of two linked WW's as shown.



© Crown Copyright and database rights 2012. All rights reserved. HCC 100019180

## Maps

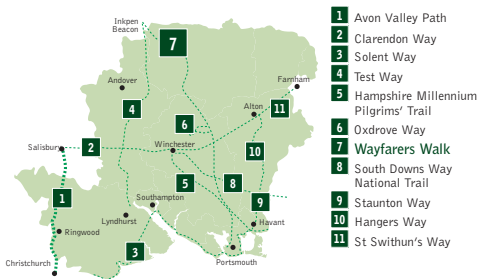
This leaflet does not provide navigation details. The route is shown on the following Ordnance Survey maps:- Explorer 119, 120, 132, 144 & 158

The route is indicated on these maps with a green diamond and the name of the route (Wayfarers Way).

You can view the Wayfarers Walk route on our website by following the links for mapping: [www.hants.gov.uk/row](http://www.hants.gov.uk/row)

Further information can be found at: [www.hants.gov.uk/longdistance/wayfarers-walk](http://www.hants.gov.uk/longdistance/wayfarers-walk)

## Other long-distance walks



## Publications

For information or leaflets about the other ten long-distance walks, please telephone Hampshire County Council's Hantsdirect - 0845 603 5636\*

\* Calls will cost up to 4p per minute for BT customers. Calls made using other service providers or mobiles may cost more. Alternatively, call 01329 225398 - standard and local rates apply to this number.

Long-distance walks  
Finding Your Way  
Guided Walks  
Accessible Countryside in Hampshire  
Discover Hampshire  
Defence of the Realm

### Useful websites

[www.hants.gov.uk/walking](http://www.hants.gov.uk/walking)  
[www.hants.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside)  
[www.visit-hampshire.co.uk](http://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk)  
[www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)  
[www.metoffice.co.uk](http://www.metoffice.co.uk)

### Useful contacts

Met Office (weather information) 0870 900 0100  
The Travelling 0870 608 2608

### Tourist Information Centres (TICs)

Aldershot 01252 320 968 [www.visit-hampshire.co.uk](http://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk)

### Culture, Community & Business Services

The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8ZF

### Tourist Information Centres (TICs) & Visitor Centres (VIC)

Newbury 01265 3026 <http://www.westberks.co.uk>

Andover 01252 320968 <http://www.westberks.co.uk>

Available in alternative formats 01962 870500

© Hampshire County Council. 2012



DESIGN & WRAP CORPORATE GRAPHICSTeam 01962 870500 PRINT BY HAMPSHIRE PRINTING SERVICES ON RECYCLED PAPER

# Wayfarers Way

A 70 mile long-distance walk from Inkpen Beacon to Emsworth Harbour



Hampshire County Council

## Introduction

The Wayfarers Walk is a 70-mile, long-distance walking route that will take you from its dramatic start, high on the chalk downs at Inkpen – over some of the finest chalk turf in Hampshire down to the mud flats and salt marshes along the coast to finish at Emsworth Harbour.

The Walk has been divided into six sections, each providing a really good day out. Choose between high chalk downland with exhilarating views or chalk-stream valleys buzzing with wildlife, peaceful pubs in pretty villages or a busy market town, or why not have a relaxing seaside picnic while watching the marsh wildlife.

There are villages along the way such as Kingsclere, Droxford and Hambleton where you can stop for refreshments and a rest. In Alresford you can visit the antiques shops and art galleries, take a nostalgic ride on a steam train, sample local crafts and foods or even stay for a night or two. We have listed a random selection at the end of each section.

Along the Wayfarers Walk the changing landscape and wildlife habitats gives a wide range of flora and fauna. The chalk downlands are rich in flowers such as cowslips, scabious, viper's bugloss and wild thyme, kidney vetch and many kinds of orchid and in the skies the thermal-riding buzzards wheel and call to each other.

The river valleys and lush meadows are full of kingcups, sweetly scented meadowsweet, ragged robin. Beside the clear streams look for grey wagtails dipping and skipping at the water's edge and fluttering banded demosels amongst the reeds and water mint.



The wooded hangers, like those above the village of Hambleton, are especially beautiful in early spring when you can see the bluebells and wood anemones that carpet the floor before the leafy shade closes in.

## Local fare

Berkshire and Hampshire boast a wide range of fine local food. For a guide to producers, call 01962 845999 or visit [www.hampshirefare.co.uk](http://www.hampshirefare.co.uk) on the web.



## History

In addition to the local fare, the Wayfarers Walk is rich in ancient history. It follows some of the oldest tracks used by shepherds to drive their animals to sheep fairs in Farnham and New Alresford.

Chalk covers a large area of the county and is good for both sheep and cereal crops.

As a chalk area Hampshire is also rich in flint, which is displayed on many local churches, cottages and walls and is still used today as a decorative building material.

On many of the high chalk ridges there are ancient hill-top forts and burial chambers. Iron Age settlers preferred the sanctuary of high ground rather than the forested valleys. These ridges were also used to move animals, flint and salt around the country. The Wayfarers Walk crosses or uses three of these ancient routes, The South Hants Ridgeway, the Harrow Way and the North Hants Ridgeway.

Highclere Castle, home of the 8th Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, is probably the finest Victorian House still in existence. Created by Sir Charles Barry, who also designed the Houses of Parliament, the Castle dominates the magnificent grounds influenced by 'Capability' Brown.

There is an Egyptology exhibition recording the explorations of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon who, with Howard Carter, uncovered the tomb of Tutankhamun.

East of the village of Cheriton is the countryside where in 1644 during the English Civil War the bloody Battle of Cheriton took place. Over fifteen thousand cavalry and infantry fought this battle. Sir Ralph Hopton's Royalist army were defeated and an estimated 2,000 men were slain. They were forced to retreat to Basing House. A monument stands in a lane overlooking the battlefield.

Hinton Ampner is an elegant Neo-Georgian country house, with highly distinctive gardens, owned by the National Trust. The house contains a fine collection of Regency furniture and Italian paintings.

Winchester Hill is one of Hampshire's great hill forts, splendidly situated on a chalk ridge and now owned by the Nature Conservancy Council. The fort has never been excavated, but the main fortifications appear to be a high single bank, rising in some places to some twenty-three feet above the ditch. Its situation is very important, for it is strategically placed east of the River Meon, and its inhabitants would have found it easy to watch for invaders following along the river valley.

Warblington Castle was a large moated house built between 1515 and 1525. It was reduced to ruins during the Civil War, except for the octagonal turret of the gatehouse which is still standing today.

