

## Newtown, Heathland and Herbert



HAMPSHIRE  
COUNTRYSIDE  
SERVICE

Distance: 1.75 miles

Start: Jonathan Hill car park

The Parish of Newtown lies in the very north of Hampshire and adjoins the border with Berkshire at the River Enborne. The medieval borough of Newtown was created by the Bishop of Winchester in the year 1218, forming part of his estate along with Highclere and Burghclere. In 1224 the bounds of the village were defined by a ditch nearly a mile long and you may see the remaining traces of this on your walks.

St Mary and St John the Baptist, the village church which you will pass on the Arbuthnot Woods walk, built in 1865 by the church architect Henry Woodyer, is built in flint and features a square tower with a shingled broach spire. Notice the wild flower, ferns, and buttercup on the column capitals typical of his style.

Newtown Common is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation with a wide range of heathland and woodland plants and animals. The mixture of open heath, together with areas of pine and oak woodland and birch scrub on the common gives a variety from which many species benefit.

### Directions

***This walk crosses the main heathland area of Newtown Common and then goes through the Herbert Plantation, a mixed woodland of oak, birch, alder and pine.***

Starting from the Jonathan Hill car park, head straight along the well used green track, parallel with the road, leading to the extensive, open heathland part of Newtown Common.

Go straight across the tarmac road, Adbury Holt, and continue along the side of gardens of properties on your left (crossing Burghclere Common) after which you veer left to enter the Herbert Plantation through a staggered barrier.

Follow the path for a short distance until you arrive at crossroads with a handy seat. Take the straight path to the left and follow it until you come to a junction where right hand path down through the woods.

Staying with this path and maintaining the same general direction, a stream should soon appear on your right. Carry on until the kissing gates with a sign about the Herbert Plantation and a rough track, which is the other end of Adbury Holt.

Go left up the track and shortly after a house on your left, take the path which appears on your right and rejoin Newtown Common. Following this path you shortly pass under overhead power lines and then go down to small gully, which can flood sometimes, continue up the other side in the same direction and you will very soon arrive at your starting point at Jonathan Hill.

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