Public Transport: Newbury Buses & Stagecoach (The Link)

Distance: 7 miles (11 km)
Time: 2.5–3.5 hours

The Wayfarers Walk begins in the county of Berkshire at Combe Gibbet near Newbury. From Newbury the Wayfarers Walk follows a section of the Cheriton Battlefield Walk, commemorating the Civil War battle of 1644.

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 pass 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.

Continuing southwards past the occasional lonely tumulus and through the village of North Oakley, onwards past cereal fields across the narrow Hay Road 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 A3 roads, skirts Basingstoke golf course before entering the charming village of Dummer.

Accommodation: Aldershot VIC (covers North Hants area) 01252 320 968
Refreshments: The Star, Kingsclere 01632 396 241
The Crown, Kingsclere 01632 299 056
The George & Horn, Kingsclere 01632 299 130

Places of Interest:
- Highclere Castle 01625 253 210
- Highclere Castle & English Heritage Museum 01722 332 151

Public Transport: Stagecoach 20, Newbury Buses & Stagecoach (The Link)

Kingsclere to Dummer

Distance: 11 miles (17.7 km)
Time: 3.5–4.5 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 in the Lunwear, 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 setting 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 Arble, 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 01419 293 806
Alresford has many pubs and eating places.

Places of Interest:
- The Hinton Arms, Hinton Ampner 01962 771 252
- The White Horse, Droxford 01491 877 490
- The Vines, Haslemere 0293 223 421

Parking
PH Public House
T Tourist Information
Trail (walkers only)
Church

Alresford to Droxford

Distance: 4 miles (6.4 km)
Time: 1–2 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 Lilyth Hanger that overlooks the quiet village of Hambledon. Hambledon’s secret is that it is the home of English cricket. Besides the pitch at nearby Broadhampden Down is a memorial to those local heroes of the 1700s.

The route now leaves the chalky land and crosses over wet clay flats, which where 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

Public Transport: Stagecoach 67 / Bryon Tours 17
First Hampshire 45, 46A, 138

Droxford to Denmead

Distance: 6.5 miles (10.4 km)
Time: 1–2 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 Sphinead 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 riverside 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: Havling Island TIC 02392 467 111
Refreshments: The Blue Bell, Emsworth 01243 733 394 and many more pubs and eating places.

Places of Interest:
- Royal Armories Fort Nelson 01329 233 734 www.royalarmories.org.uk
- Emsworth Museum 01243 378 091
- Emsworth TIC 01243 233 734 www.emsworthhotelmuseum.co.uk

The river valleys and lush meadows are full of kingcups, along the Wayfarers Walk the changing landscape selection at the end of each section. Refreshments and a rest. In Alresford you can visit Droxford and Hambledon where you can stop for chalk downland with exhilarating views or chalk-stream chalk turf in Hampshire down to the mud flats and salt Harbour in Hampshire.

**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 maps:

www.hants.gov.uk/longdistance/wayfarers-walk

Further information can be found at: www.hants.gov.uk/longdistance/wayfarers-walk

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**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, D Cecil and Hambledon 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 meadowweet, r by all the water's edge and fluttering banded demilunes amongst the reeds and water mint. The wooded hangers, like those above the village of Hambledon, 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.

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**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 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.

Houghton Castle, home of the 8th Earl 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.

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**Wayfarers Way**

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

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**Other long-distance walks**

- Avon Valley Path
- Craneldon Way
- Fleet Way
- Test Way
- Hampshire Millennium Pilgrim Trail
- Oldway Way
- Wayfarers Walk
- South Downs Way National Trail
- Stourton Way
- Hangers Way
- St Swithun’s Way

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**Publications**

| For information or leaflets about the other ten long-distance walks, please telephone Hampshire County Council's Harbour info - 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 225396 - 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
- www.hants.gov.uk/longdistance
- www.visit-hampshire.co.uk
- www.traveline.org.uk
- www.metoffice.co.uk

**Useful contacts**

- Met Office (weather information) 0870 900 8100
- The Travelling 0870 608 2605
- Tourist Information Centres (TICs):
  - Alderwood 01252 326 968 www.visit-hampshire.co.uk
  - Culture, Community & Business Services
  - The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8ZF
- Tourist Information Centres (TICs) & Visitor Centres (VIC)
  - Newbury 01635 3026 http://www.westberks.co.uk
  - Andover 01305 220 768 http://www.westberks.co.uk

**Available in alternative formats**

01962 870 500

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