

Kingsclere, Walk 6



HAMPSHIRE
COUNTRYSIDE
SERVICE

Distance: 4 miles

Start: St. Mary's Church

Kingsclere has varied countryside including open downland, steep slopes, small fields and woodland.

Directions

This Walk of about 4-miles starts from the centre of the village, close by the car park, opposite St. Mary's church with its "bedbug" weathervane.

With the church behind you, go up Anchor Road until you reach the footpath at the end. A few paces and you bear left into the recreation ground, keep to the hedge line over the top towards the Radio Mast at Hannington.

As you pass the lower end of the field the area to your left is a wildflower meadow mentioned in "Treasures of Hampshire". After descending the steps you reach Hollowshot Lane.

Turn left at the cottages and continue along the track, the last 200 yards through a "tunnel" of bushes, to the junction where open fields ahead and to the right require a decision.

The right fork leads across the field, usually cereal crops, and then quite steeply uphill towards the eastern end of Cottington Hill. At the top there is a small water tank at the junction and the walk goes to the left towards the farm building at Plantation Farm. Views on both sides of this track make the uphill walk well worth while.

The Portway Roman Road once ran up the bottom of the valley. At the water tank it is possible to continue ahead to the village of Hannington. During *May* this route is also complimented by an array of bluebells which can be seen growing in the woods.

On reaching the farm, bear left along the road and after 50 yards or so, leave the road and walk along the bridleway which takes you down the hill and along the track, to the junction of Hollowshot Lane.

A slight rise on the right fork at this point leads to a wide track, wooded on both sides, and after 600 yards turn left along a footpath which skirts the top edge of "The Dell" to the right and then brings you out onto the recreation ground, where a right turn towards the village leads you to your start point.

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