

Kingsley, St Nicholas Trail



**HAMPSHIRE
COUNTRYSIDE
SERVICE**

Distance: 2.2 miles

Start: Car park opposite St Nicholas Church

The parish of Kingsley stretches from Frith End and Alice Holt Forest in the north-east to Shortheath Common and Binswood in the south-west. Kingsley derives its name from the King's Lea, a meadow or pasture.

At one time the village formed the clearing which lay between the Alice Holt and Woolmer Forests. Both these forests were favoured hunting ground of the kings and at the western end of the village is the site of the original settlement with the medieval church of Nicholas and the Tudor timber-framed Lode Farm.

Sandy heathlands and a wide and varied agricultural countryside provide a beautiful setting for this small village.

St Nicholas Trail

This trail offers the best of the English countryside with a route which passes through farmland, woodland, floodmeadows and heathland. It can be uneven, there are steps over the old railway embankment, it's necessary to use narrow country lanes and to cross a B-road – but it's worth it!

Follow the lane along to the open fields. Please respect the farmland and wildlife here and take care when using the gates and boardwalks. A bench near to Pear Tree Meadow will enable you to enjoy the 'long views' for which Hampshire is famous.

The route takes you onward to the village centre where you cross the road to the Cricketers Inn and onto Kingsley Common. Pass Kingsley pond and the golf course and continue to the Oakhanger Road.

There are several attractive listed buildings in Kingsley with Ockham Hall, Kingsley Mill and the barns at Bakers Corner all beside this route.

Be careful walking to the main road and back up to the parking area opposite St Nicholas Church.

Why not complete your walk by sitting on a bench in the churchyard and enjoy the views to the hangers beyond.

