



Walk on the

WILD SIDE

JO VAUGHAN HEADS FOR HAMPSHIRE THIS MONTH, STOPPING NEAR THE TOWN OF WINCHESTER FOR A WONDERFUL STROLL



THE HISTORIC and attractive town of Winchester is full of exciting things to do, but you don't have to visit a leisure centre to enjoy some exercise. Just to the city's east runs the River Itchen, around which this month's walk is based.

The Club's site at Morn Hill is a couple of miles from the city centre, but there are no accessible footpaths in the surrounding area. Instead, we take the short drive, or bicycle ride, to the village of Easton before setting off on our stroll.

We start at the Cricketers Inn, but if you're not planning to use the pub for refreshment, parking can be a bit of a problem. There's a good parking area on your left just before you arrive in the village, otherwise turn right and park as soon as possible. There's a 6ft 6in width limit here, however, so larger vehicles beware. But as the site's less than two miles from our starting point, if you carry bikes with you they may well be a better option anyway.



Local attractions

- **Marwell Zoological Park**, Colden Common, Winchester SO21 1JH. Tel 01962 777407 or see marwell.org.uk. Cost: £13.50/adult, £10/child, £11.50/seniors. Disabled access – fully accessible. Open all-year round
- **Light Infantry Museum**, Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester SO23 8TS. Tel 01962 828550 or see winchestermilitarymuseums.co.uk. Cost: Free. Disabled access – accessible. Closed on Mondays
- **Winchester City Museum**, The Square, Winchester SO23 9ES. Tel 01962 848269 or see winchester.gov.uk. Cost: Free. Disabled access – fine. Open from April to October

General information

NEAREST CLUB SITE: Morn Hill Caravan Club Site, Morn Hill, Winchester SO21 1HL. Tel 01962 869877
DISTANCE: 3.1 miles/5km
TERRAIN: Easy grassy paths
NUMBER OF STILES: 7
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: Ordnance Survey Explorer 132 – Winchester, New Alresford and East Meon
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy
REFRESHMENTS: Pubs in Easton
TOILETS: None

Tourist information

Winchester TIC, Guildhall, High Street, Winchester SO2 9GH. Tel 01962 840500.



DIRECTIONS

- 1** From the Cricketers Inn, walk past the pub's car park and almost immediately turn left next to an island with the single tree, signposted 'St Mary's Church'.
- 2** Walk past the church (and the adjacent house) before turning right down a narrow tarmac lane, but almost immediately veer left into a field with a set of football goals.
- 3** Go through the kissing gate and continue ahead through the next field. Walk over the stile and continue to the next gate. Head past this and continue along the footpath.
- 4** Where the path forks to the right, veer right and continue between some trees. Follow the path to the fences, and then follow the latter around to the right until you pass through a subway beneath the main road.
- 5** Where the fence on your right turns at 90 degrees, follow this to the right. Continue over the stile and then veer right through a brown wooden gate. Then turn

right to cross a wooden footbridge. Continue ahead.

- 6** Cross another small stream and continue along the footpath. Go through the metal kissing gate, cross another stream and continue, heading through another kissing gate.
- 7** Continue to a tarmac lane and almost immediately turn right through an old metal kissing gate following the footpath sign and 'St Swithun's Way'. There is a network of trodden footpaths here but continue straight on, past the dilapidated brick building to your left, and walk past a wooden shed.
- 8** At a lane turn right, walk past the house entrance, and after its final wall turn right again following the green arrow. Cross the stile and continue beneath the motorway via the subway. Continue along the footpath, past the wooden gate, following the arrows to the left and then to the right. Pass over a stile on the second turn.

- 9** At a wooden fence where a block of concrete stands, cross over the fence via its stile and continue straight ahead. Continue over another such stile, cross the lane, and keep straight ahead following the wooden arrow.
- 10** Pass through a wooden kissing gate, cross a stile and continue ahead. Follow the path around the gardens' perimeter. Having emerged at the lane, turn right following a wooden footpath sign down a small path to the right of Tumbledown Cottage.
- 11** Cross the wooden bridge, and then another small bridge, before heading through a gate at the end. Cross the field. Just before the thatched cottage go to the right before veering left through a metal gate with an arrow marked 'No 1' upon it.
- 12** Continue down the gravel track to the road. Turn right at the lane. Continue along the country lane, past the pub, and afterwards veer right to continue following the same lane. Return to your vehicle.