

Discover Bishop's Waltham

Bishop's Waltham

Bishop's Waltham is an historic market town with a long and varied history. Set in the glorious Hampshire countryside, it is at the mid point of a long-established route from Winchester to Portsmouth that cuts through chalk downs and the ancient Forest of Bere. The town has a very independent high street and there are many pubs and cafés if you want to stop for a drink or a bite to eat.

Marwell Wildlife

A visit to Marwell Zoo is a chance to get close to the wonders of the natural world – and play a big part in helping to save them. From ring-tailed coatis to poison arrow frogs, bird eating spiders to Amur leopards, cotton-top tamarins to meerkats and giraffes, there are more than 170 species to see and over 140 acres of beautiful parkland to explore. www.marwell.org.uk

Bishop's Palace

Built by Henry de Blois in 1135, Bishop's Waltham Palace was used by the Bishops of Winchester as they travelled through the diocese. Although the palace was destroyed in 1644 after the English Civil War, the ruin is maintained by English Heritage and is a scheduled ancient monument.

St Andrews Church

St Andrews Church is a 13th century church that features two unique stained glass windows which left a lasting impression on Vincent van Gogh.



© Clock close-up – Robert Shields

The deeply religious artist wrote about their unique designs in a letter to his brother.

Stephen's Castle Down

An area of open access, Stephen's Castle Down is an area of chalk downs and is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation because of its variety of rare plants.

Meon Valley

The Meon valley was settled by a Jutish clan from Europe called the Meonwara. Over the years the population was slowly converted to Christianity by St Wilfrid, and now has a number of fine churches along its length which are easily accessible along the Meon Valley Trail.

South Downs National Park

The South Downs National Park is Britain's newest National Park, rich in landscape, culture and wildlife. Discover ancient woodland and enjoy spectacular views as you explore the open downs and heathlands. Within these landscapes lie bustling market towns and peaceful rural villages, historic houses and the remains of ancient settlements.

Many thanks to Bishop's Waltham Parish Council who have provided information for this publication and helped to create this cycle route. Thanks also go to the Volunteer Ranger Service, which has helped to clear the vegetation and maintain the route.

Cycle ride around Bishop's Waltham

Starting at Bishop's Waltham Palace, the route winds its way to Upham. Keep going to see some interesting fauna at Marwell Wildlife. Passing St Andrews Church in Owslebury, the route continues to the south of Stephen's Castle Down. Excellent views of the Meon Valley can be seen before the decent into Droxford. There are a number of good pubs and short cuts if you need to reduce the length of the trail.

Discover another way to visit the South Downs National Park. Go to www.traveline.co.uk or call **0871 200 22 33** to find public transport information. For train timetables, visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or call **08457 484950**.

Contact us

South Downs National Park Authority

Tel: 0300 303 1053

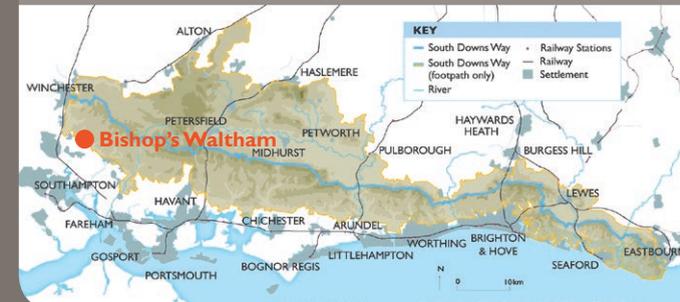
Web: www.southdowns.gov.uk

Twitter: @SDNPA Facebook: SDNPA

Please follow the Countryside Code:

Leave gates as you find them and keep dogs under close control or on a lead.

Where in the South Downs National Park:



Details correct at time of going to print. Please be aware that routes are shared with other users (vehicles, pedestrians, dogs, horses etc) and users of the SDNPA Walk and Ride Leaflet Series do so at their own risk. We do not accept any responsibility for loss, damage or injury, however caused, arising directly or indirectly from use of this leaflet. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013.



Cycle ride around Bishop's Waltham



© Cyclist – Robert Shields

Leave your car at home, take the train

© Palace ruins – Mac Didymus





Route Instructions

Please note, the route shown is the most challenging. To make it easier, try the route the other way around.

- 1 From **Botley Station**, take **B3035** link route for 3 miles to **Bishop's Waltham**.
- 2 At roundabout by **Crown Inn** turn left on to **B2177**, past **Palace** ruins and just after Station Roundabout turn right on to bridleway (**Pondside Lane**).
- 3 Continue for half a mile to crossroads then turn left. At next crossroads continue straight on along **Cross Lane**.
- 4 At 'T' junction bear right uphill towards **Upham** and left at 3-way junction (pond on left); continue past church and follow sign downhill to **Lower Upham**.
- 5 After ½ mile turn right onto **Popes Lane**.
- 6 Where **Popes Lane** goes sharp right, continue straight ahead along bridleway with woodland on your right.
- 7 At 'T' junction turn right along bridleway and continue north, picking up bridleway sign.
- 8 After one mile, turn left at next 'T' junction along metalled road in woodland.
- 9 Continue to **Lower Baybridge Lane** and turn left.
- 10 At T junction turn right, towards **Owslebury**. (To avoid a difficult muddy section, stay on this road to **Ship Inn**, **Owslebury** and continue at 13). Otherwise pick up bridleway on your left immediately after the right turn.
- 11 Follow bridleway around **Marwell Wildlife** going straight on at staggered cross track and across entry road to **Marwell Wildlife**, continuing along edge of **Marwell Car Park**.
- 12 Follow bridleway through woodland and turn right up to **Owslebury**. This can be very muddy.
- 13 At **Ship Inn** continue along road and turn right at **Baybridge Lane**.
- 14 Road will eventually lead downhill through yew tree wood, at bottom of which is staggered cross road. Go straight across signed **Woodcote**.
- 15 Take 2nd small track to right after **Woodcote Farm** and follow to **Big Path Farm** taking track to left of farm buildings and continuing up steep hill to road junction.
- 16 Turn left and in 200m take bridleway to right along top of **Stephen's Castle Down**.
- 17 At road turn left and downhill, then turn left and right into **Limekiln Lane** to arrive at main road, **B3035**.
- 18 Cross road with care and follow bridleway to **Dundridge Lane**.
- 19 Turn left and at 5-way junction bear right down **Hackets Lane**. Turn right at **Union Lane** into **Droxford**.
- 20 Turn right at main road then right onto **Swanmore Road**.
- 21 After 400m turn right at post box up small road joining another lane at the top.
- 22 After 200m turn right down small track by **Mayhill Cottage** to junction with road.
- 23 Go straight then left and bear right into **Jervis Court Lane**.
- 24 At main road, turn right to return to **Bishop's Waltham**.
- 25 Return to the station via **B3035**.



© St. Peter's Church - Nigel Auckland