

Explore Bishop's Waltham and its local countryside



Bishop's Waltham lies at the junction of the chalk downs and coastal plain where the River Hamble rises. The countryside of unspoilt farmland and woodland benefits from a wealth of rights of way which lead to neighbouring villages as well as providing circular routes around the Parish.

The Palace, now in ruins, is the town's most notable feature, having been the seat of the powerful Bishops of Winchester in medieval times. Today the heart of the town is the vibrant High Street, which leads to the delightfully attractive St Peter's Street and thence to the Parish Church.

All three walks on this leaflet start from the town centre. The well managed wildlife areas of The Moors, Dundridge Meadow, Runnydown Copse and Claylands are very close.

For a cycle route from Bishop's Waltham visit [www.bishopswalthamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.bishopswalthamparishcouncil.co.uk)



### Useful Contacts

Bishop's Waltham Parish Council 01489 892323  
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[www.bishopswalthamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.bishopswalthamparishcouncil.co.uk)

### Refreshments in Bishop's Waltham

There are several pubs, restaurants and coffee houses in the town centre, and a number of country pubs, indicated on the map, all of which serve food.

### Public Transport

Traveline	0871 200 2233
Stagecoach	0871 200 2233
(No. 69) Winchester & Fareham	
Brijan's	01489 788338
No. 7 Waltham Chase & Southampton	
No. 8 Eastleigh & Botley Railway Station	

### Countryside Information

Rights of Way maps online  
[www.hants.gov.uk/maps/path](http://www.hants.gov.uk/maps/path)  
Enjoying Hampshire's countryside 0845 603 5636  
[www.hants.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside)

Updated 2013

Disclaimer: Published by Bishop's Waltham Parish Council and Hampshire County Council, through the Small Grants Scheme. The routes described have been put forward by the Parish Council. Whilst the County Council endeavours to maintain all rights of way to a high standard, additional resources are not allocated to routes promoted in this leaflet. Every care has been taken in the preparation of this leaflet, but Hampshire County Council is unable to accept any responsibility for accident or loss resulting from following the information.



# Exploring Bishop's Waltham



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## Enjoying the countryside

Hampshire boasts an extremely rich and diverse countryside and an extensive network of public paths, which provide a range of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. Rights of way are linear routes, often ancient trackways through deep countryside; there are over 3,000 miles of these in Hampshire. The map in this leaflet may also show access to other areas of land, such as commons, woodland, recreation grounds or conservation areas, and your Parish Council may know of guided walks or events. Many people will be able to reach the countryside within a few hundred yards of home, and the plants, trees and views along the same paths often change dramatically through the seasons. We hope that this leaflet will encourage you to explore and enjoy your local countryside.

## Using local paths

Many rights of way cross private land, and we ask you to bear this in mind by keeping to the path and being responsible when using them. There are four types, as shown on the map key; please check which paths you



are entitled to use (for example, cyclists cannot use footpaths). Wheelchairs, pushchairs and dogs are allowed on all types of right of way. Any permissive paths or areas marked are not rights of way, but the landowner has given permission for the public to use them.

To ensure that the countryside is protected for future generations be sure to:

- Be safe – wear suitable clothing and shoes and take care when crossing roads
- Plan ahead and follow any signs

- Leave gates and property as you find them and take your litter home
- Protect plants and animals
- Keep dogs under close control and clean up after them
- Consider other people

## Maintaining rights of way

### Hampshire County Council:

- Ensures that rights of way are not obstructed
- Maintains the surface in a fit condition for its intended use
- Maintains some bridges
- Signposts and waymarks paths
- Authorises stiles and gates
- Keeps the definitive map up to date



### Landowners:

- Keep back side growth and overhanging vegetation
- Reinststate paths across fields after ploughing or planting crops
- Maintain most stiles and gates
- Should not obstruct paths or deter use of them
- Should not plough paths at field edges
- Should not keep dangerous animals (including certain bulls) on paths

	Footpath		Nature Walk
	Bridleway		Heritage Walk
	Restricted byway		Country Walk
	By-way open to all traffic		
	Areas believed to offer public access		

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**Nature Walk**

3 miles (1 1/2 hours) – no stiles

**This walk visits Local Nature Reserves managed by Hampshire County Council and land owned by the Woodland Trust and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The route undulates, but includes a steep descent down steps. There are information boards along the way.**

From central car park pass chapel up Little Shore Lane, right at T-junction, then second left to gate on right into the Moors. Keep right to kissing gate to visit source of River Hamble at Sand Boils. Return to meadow and bear diagonally left then bear right to gate at wood. Follow permissive path through wood to second gate and after 150m turn left at cross-tracks along right edge of meadow.

At road turn right then left into West Hoe Lane. Turn left at junction and follow lane then path uphill, continuing across field into wood and down flight of steps. At cross-tracks, turn left along woodland permissive track to enter nature reserve.

After 200m turn left at bench and cross two fields diagonally right to kissing gate. Take right fork between houses and follow down Colville Drive. Turn left at bottom, then right to St. Peter's Church and continue down to car park.



**Heritage Walk**

4 miles (2 hours) – 13 stiles

**This walk takes in the history around Newtown, to the west of Bishop's Waltham. It is level countryside but can be muddy in winter.**

From Station Roundabout follow railway path through level crossing gates. The branch line to Botley ran 13 trains a day before closing in 1962. Join road and after 150m turn sharp right, then left around pylon, following path through kissing gate, then metal kissing gate on left. Turn right and follow stream. This is part of the Pilgrim's Trail, a medieval route from Winchester for pilgrims travelling to worship St Michael in Normandy. Cross Tangier Lane, named after the port of Tangier, being part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza, who passed this way from Portugal to marry King Charles II in 1662.



Follow path to stile, then right diagonally down to bridge, and continue to road. The tree line on left horizon is Park Lug, a boundary of the medieval deer park. Cross road and follow signed footpath to main road. Cross with care to short section of Roman Road that ran from Winchester to Portchester. Just before junction, turn right over stile and follow path across ponds to boundary track junction.

Cross into field and continue straight on, joining track, crossing road and then 4 stiles until arriving via a permissive path at Claylands Local Nature Reserve. The claypits date from Roman times, with the brickworks established in 1802. Follow path downhill to left and join road, then left at main road to return to roundabout.



**Country Walk**

5 miles (2 hours) – no stiles

**This walk explores the countryside to the north east of Bishop's Waltham. It is quite undulating and follows tracks for most of the way.**

From central car park head north up St. Peter's Street and through churchyard to Free Street. Turn left, crossing over to narrow byway just past Butts Dell house. Follow track, bearing right uphill at fork. Keep straight through Dundridge Meadow and, after bench, fork right to enter woods. Continue past steps and after 350m at cross tracks turn sharp left through two gates to lane. Turn right and after 150m turn left into field then bear diagonally right through gaps in hedges. Turn right at wood edge and at road take sharp left along bridleway between gates and follow uphill.

Cross road with care into Lime Kiln Lane. At T-junction follow path ahead. After barn turn left through gate and continue for 30m before turning right to cross field. At top turn left along restricted byway. Join road and at right bend bear left to footpath. Cross road to footpath between fence and hedge. Turn left at road then straight on down bridleway. At road turn left and cross bypass to North Pond Bridge. Turn right after last house (no. 5) then left to Bank Street and return to car park.

