

Glossary

Aisle: passage alongside the nave or chancel, separated from it by piers or columns

Altar: the holy table, the religious focus at the east end of the church

Arcade: row of arches supported by piers or columns

Chancel: the eastern end of a church, where the altar is placed

Chancel arch: the arch separating the chancel from the nave or crossing

Chapel: a small area of worship, often dedicated to a particular saint

Choir: where services are sung, or more generally, the eastern arm of a church

Font: a container, generally of stone, which holds holy water for baptism; usually located near the west door

Lectern: a reading desk, often in the shape of an eagle, made to hold the Bible during services; usually made of brass

Nave: the western arm of the church, where the congregation stands

Pews: wooden seats or benches in the church. Pews only appeared at the end of the medieval period

Piscina: stone basin for washing communion or mass vessels

Pulpit: a raised stand from which the preacher addresses the congregation

Transepts: the crossing arms of the church, generally aligned north-south



Aisle



Pews



Piscina



Pulpit



Font

Accommodation in the Meon Valley

De Vere New Place,
Shedfield SO32 2JN
01329 836 503

Marriot Meon Valley,
Shedfield SO32 2HQ
01329 833 455

Marwell Hotel,
Colden Common SO21 1JY
01962 777 681

Meon Wood Annex
Wickham PO17 6JZ
01329 834 130

Rooksbury Park Caravan Site
Wickham PO17 6JR
0132 9 834 085

Old House Hotel
Wickham PO17 5JG
0132 834 870

Wallops Wood Escapes
Droxford SO23 3QY
01489 877 988

This is just a sample of places to stay. For further information go to www.visitwinchester.co.uk or contact Winchester Tourist Information Centre on 01962 840 500.

Refreshments

The route is served well by pubs, cafés, and restaurants. A few to mention are:

Greens Restaurant & Bar
Wickham
PO17 01329 833 197

Kuti's Wickham
PO17 5DJ
01329 835 353

Lilly's Wickham
PO17 5JT
01329 830 305

The Kings Head
Wickham
PO17 5JN,
01329 832 123

The Bakers Arms
Droxford,
SO32 8JT
01730 621 563

The Bucks Head
Meonstoke,
SO32 3NA
01489 877 313

The White Horse Inn
Droxford,
SO32 3PB
01489 877 490

Public Transport



For detailed information contact
My Journey Hampshire
www.myjourneyhampshire.com



CHURCHES

Discover the exceptional churches in the **Meon Valley** self-guided walks and cycle rides



Nestling at the heart of the Hampshire countryside, the Meon Valley is the gateway to the contrasting landscapes of rolling chalk hills and river valleys unique to this stretch of England.

This self-guided trail combines the superb scenery of the valley with the opportunity to discover some of the county's historically most important churches, offering the visitor an insight into the development of church architecture from Saxon to late Victorian times.

The churches, from the Norman All Saints' at East Meon in the north to the Saxon and later church at Titchfield in the south, are described individually on the inside of this leaflet. An additional leaflet is also available tracing a church trail within the Itchen Valley.



Winchester
City Council

The Meon Valley

The valley itself encompasses some of the most glorious countryside in Hampshire; spectacular landscapes offer stunning views – some unchanged for centuries – and the River Meon meanders from its source just south of East Meon through a series of attractive villages all the way to Titchfield Haven on the coast.

The trail
The total distance from start to finish is approximately 24 miles. Separate sections can be completed individually as shown within the guide. Alternatively why not try one of the circular walks or cycle tours. All routes can be found using OS Explorer map 119 Meon Valley.

Church information
Churches are generally open during daylight hours, although

this can vary. Remember to leave the building as you find it by closing doors and gates, and be sensitive to services taking place. Wheelchair access to some buildings may be restricted.

Making the most of the Meon Valley
To enhance your visit a list of suggested refreshment stops and overnight accommodation has been included in this leaflet.

Further information

Alternatively, more detailed information about the Meon Valley, including local attractions, places to stay and refreshments, is available at www.visitwinchester.co.uk

www.saxonsinthemeonvalley.org.uk www.southdowns.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/sdnpa www.twitter.com/sdnpa

If you enjoy discovering the churches of the Meon Valley, then you may also like to try the partner to this leaflet – Itchen Valley Churches – which offers similar walks and cycle rides to the churches along the River Itchen. Available from Winchester Tourist Information Centre: 01962 840 500, email: tourism@winchester.gov.uk



The Meon Valley Trail has undergone maintenance and development to ensure it is more family friendly with improved signage and connections to trails to the west.

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Meon Valley Trail

To accompany this leaflet the South Downs National Park Meon Valley Trail is also available, offering beautiful walks. Available at www.hants.gov.uk

This trail leads you through some of South Hampshire's finest countryside – most of it inside the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. During the route you will see inspiring landscapes, shaped by thousands of years of human history. You may even be lucky enough to spot rare species such as the Adonis Blue butterfly, the nightjar or a water vole.

The Countryside Code

Respect. Protect. Enjoy



Respect other people

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the natural environment

- leave no trace of your visit and take home litter
- keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- plan ahead and be prepared
- follow advice and local signs

For more information visit

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside



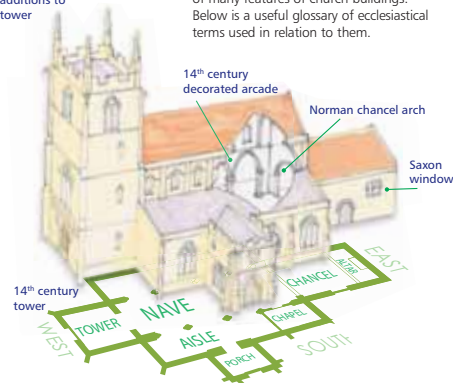
If you would like this leaflet in a larger format please email tourism@winchester.gov.uk or call 01962 840 500 to discuss your requirements.

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The architecture

15th century additions to tower

This diagram shows the standard locations of many features of church buildings. Below is a useful glossary of ecclesiastical terms used in relation to them.



Parish churches, with their richly varied range of styles and sizes, reflect an architectural evolution. They record the local artistry, skills and materials used by our forebears over centuries, making the parish church not only a place of worship but also a centre of village life. Their carvings, paintings, memorials and furnishings reflect how people lived, worked and worshipped.



The churches



**1 All Saints' Church,
East Meon SU 681 222**

One of the finest Norman churches in Hampshire. This cruciform church has a square, central Norman tower with decoration similar to that of Winchester Cathedral. The windows in the nave and south transept and the attractive west and south doorways are also Norman. The walls are of flint with stone dressing.

The Tournai marble font (above) was brought to the church in 1150 from Belgium and tells the story of Adam and Eve.



**2 St Nicholas' Chapel,
Westbury SU 6569 2396**

Originally a 'chapel of ease' for the parish of East Meon, this building has been deserted since the Reformation. All that remains of this late 13th century chapel today are ruins.



**3 St John the Evangelist,
West Meon SU 6398 2412**

This church, with its unusually narrow tower, was built in 1846 after its medieval forerunner fell into a state of disrepair. Designed by the famous architect George Gilbert Scott in the Gothic Revival style, the exterior largely consists of squared knapped flints, which were fashioned by the women in the village.

This is the resting place of Thomas Lord (right, founder of Lord's Cricket Ground) and Guy Burgess (double agent and leader of the 'Cambridge Ring' of Soviet spies).



Did you know?

A cricket trail is also available from Winchester Tourist Information Centre or download from:
www.visitwinchester.co.uk



**4 Church of Our Lady,
Warnford SU 6225 2266**

Although of Saxon origin, the Church of Our Lady generally has a simple early English style. The square Norman tower with its unusual circular bell openings was added in about 1130. Inside, the Neale tombs can be found on the east wall (both were exchequer officials under Elizabeth I and James I). Woodwork inside ranges from the 13th to 18th centuries and includes a medieval screen now used as panelling in the chancel.



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**5 St Peter and St Paul's
Church, Exton SU 6132 2107**

A medieval flint church which was much restored in 1847. A 13th century piscina can be seen in the south chancel.

The east stained glass window (above) is an excellent example of an abstract Arts and Crafts design dating from 1891.



**6 Corhampton Church
SU 6100 12032**

This Saxon building retains more original features than any other contemporary church in Hampshire. These features include the thin walls, the tall narrow chancel arch, long-and-short stonework at the exterior corners, and the altar stone on the north side of the sanctuary. Under the Yew tree (which is thought to be as old as the church) are the fragments of a Roman coffin.

Medieval wall paintings, which include an image of St Swithun, were uncovered in 1968. These can be seen on the walls of the chancel arch.



The remains of St John's House, a rare surviving 13th century aisled hall, are to the east of the building.

There is a circular Saxon sundial in the south porch and outside are traces of scratch dials, a primitive form of sundial to regulate service times.



7 St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke SU 61157 20215

A 13th century parish church with a striking Welsh-border style tower. Inside there is a Norman font, a Jacobean pulpit and, on the north wall, a 17th century baroque sculpture of Jacob wrestling an angel. The 13th century chancel has its original lancet windows and a medieval painting of a consecration cross.

There are Gothic arches of the Early English period in the nave arcades and chancel.



8 St Mary and All Saints' Church, Droxford SU 60774 18210

Medieval building with strong Norman characteristics, including the chancel arch and north and south doorways. Inside the large square pillars once formed part of the outside walls of the original church building. You will also find medieval arches, 13th century chapel windows, and a Jacobean communion rail and altar table. The church was greatly restored during Victorian times when it was refitted throughout, although the original structure was retained.

The 16th century flint tower (above) has a curious square stair-turret with later brick battlements.

9 St Peter's Church, Soberton SU 6095 1679

Built c1180-90 and restored in 1880. The striking perpendicular tower (left) was created in the 16th century when the original was altered. Outside the south transept there is a stone sarcophagus, probably of Roman origin, found locally. Inside there is a large wall monument (1736) at the east end of the north aisle as well as several 17th century baroque wall monuments.

On the east wall of the south transept are the remains of some impressive wall paintings. The colour has disappeared but clear black outlines of parts of the design are still visible.



10 St Nicholas' Church, Wickham SU 5759 1144

The main structure was built in 1120 on what is thought to be the site of a former chapel. The present church was greatly restored in the late 19th century. Much of the present interior is Victorian, including stained glass with the best example being the east window.

Interesting features include a Norman west door with its zig-zag arch (from the earlier building) and a 13th century piscina in the Lady Chapel. The south chapel has a fine late 16th century wall monument to William Uvedale.

In the south transept there is an impressive and detailed alabaster tomb from 1615 (Sir William Uvedale and his wife).

The 13th century arch between the chancel and south chapel is considered by many to be the best feature of this church.



11 St Peter's Church, Titchfield SU 5408 0578

The lower part of the west tower (originally a porch) contains some of the oldest Saxon work in Hampshire and includes a course of red Roman bricks.

It is thought that this church may have been built under the influence of St Wilfrid who was carrying out missionary work in this area between 682- 686AD.

The wrought iron gates in the fine Saxon west entrance date from 1651.

Impressive 16th century monuments to the first and second Earls of Southampton (Wriothesleys) can be found in the south chapel.

Thomas Wriothesley was Lord Chancellor of England to Henry VIII.



Walk distance

23.9 miles/38.4km

Further information on each church can be obtained inside the buildings, often together with material for children and walkers.

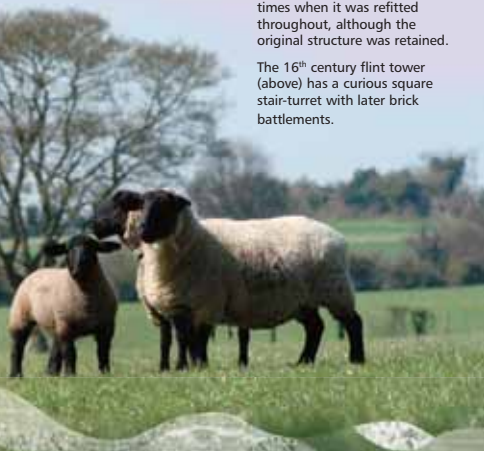
Did you know?

You can discover the Meon Valley by watching aerial video footage, for more information visit www.saxonsinthemeonvalley.org.uk



Did you know?

St Wilfrid established christianity throughout the Meon Valley between 682-686AD, leading to the foundation of many of the churches on the trail.



The walk - church to church

- 1 All Saints', East Meon to
- 2 St Nicholas' Chapel, Westbury
- 2.6 miles/4.2 km

Follow the footpath uphill across the fields north-west of the church, joining the road at Chalk Dell Cottages. Cross the road and rejoin the footpath on the other side, across the fields towards Drayton.



1 All Saints' Church, East Meon SU 6806 2228

2 St Nicholas' Chapel, Westbury SU 6569 2396

Area of the East Meon to West Meon cycle route - see 'The circular routes' map for details



Area of the Three Churches, Hill Fort walk and cycle routes - see 'The circular routes' map for details



The path continues to the right of the farm, through some gates and then to the left, where it meets the road.

Turn left here following the road for a short distance until you come to Halnaker Lane on the right. Take the uphill track past Drayton Cottages and after a short distance you will approach a wood on your right.

Turn right along the footpath with the wood on your left. Turn left into the woods at the top of the hill and bear right onto a wide track.

Turn left off this track and continue along the path as it skirts Horsedown Farm, following it past Westbury House to the road and then turn left. The remains of the chapel can be seen on the left.

- 2 Westbury to 3 St John the Evangelist, West Meon
- 1.7 miles/2.74km



From the chapel follow the road west and take the first right along Vinnells Lane.

Continue along the lane until you come across a footpath on your left, opposite Garretts Farm. Follow the path over two fields and across the dismantled railway.



7 St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke SU 61157 20215



At a fork in the footpath take the right hand route heading north-west towards the A32. *Take care crossing this busy road and rejoin the footpath on the other side.*

At the next road turn left then take the first right into Headdon View. From there pick up the footpath on the left leading to Church Lane; cross over to arrive at the church.

- 1 West Meon to 5 St Peter and St Paul's, Exton
- 3.96 miles/6.37km

From the church, go through the cemetery picking up the path the other side of the stone wall.



Head west across the fields until you reach the road. Turn left and follow Lippen Lane as it passes the watercourse beds.

Take the first left and follow the road for a short distance as far as the pub and the junction with the A32. *Take care when crossing this busy road* and continue the walk along Old Winchester Hill Lane, opposite, as far as the Meon Valley Railway path.

Turn right onto the footpath and continue until the South Downs Way crosses the railway. Descend to your right onto this path towards Exton.

At the point where a track crosses the path turn right, continue over the footbridge and follow the track until it meets the A32.

Cross the road and continue down the lane opposite. Follow the lane around to the other side of Church Lane and you will see St Peter and St Paul's on your right.

NB: Due to road safety concerns walking to the Church of Our Lady, Warnford is not recommended.

- 3 St John the Evangelist, West Meon
- SU 6398 2412

4 Church of Our Lady, Warnford SU 6225 2266

5 St Peter & St Paul's Church, Exton SU 6132 2107

6 Corhampton Church SU 6100 12032

8 St Mary & All Saints' Church, Droxford SU 60774 18210

9 St Peter's Church, Soberton SU 60959 16797



5 Exton to **6** Corhampton Church 0.8 miles/1.29km

Returning to Church Lane, continue to the end then follow a right-left dogleg into Allens Farm Lane. At the turn in the lane take the footpath across the field leading to Corhampton Church, emerging at the roadside between some farm buildings.

Corhampton to St Andrew's Meonstoke 0.3 miles/0.4km



From the church turn left along the A32 and cross over to Allens Farm. At the end of a row of houses take the narrow tarmac path on the right leading to St Andrew's Church.

7 Meonstoke to **8** St Mary & All Saints', Droxford 3.96 miles/6.37km

Follow the path in front of the church leading to Bucks Head Hill. Turn left and follow the road to the roundabout.

Take the left turn and after a short distance turn right then take the footpath just before Stoksbury Farm, heading in a south-westerly direction.

Join the Meon Valley Trail where it meets the footpath, continuing until you reach the road.

Turn right here onto Mill Lane and after a short distance take the footpath on the left. This path leads south then west, crossing the River Meon and finally passes the church at Droxford.



Area of the Wickham Wander walk - see 'The circular routes' for details

10 St Nicholas' Church, Wickham SU 5759 1144

8 Droxford to **9** St Peter's, Soberton 1.1 miles/1.77km

Return along the same footpath, over two bridges then join the Wayfarer's Walk heading south. Continue until you arrive at the road bridge.

Turn left here and *follow the road with care* until arriving at the church.

9 Soberton to **10** St Nicholas', Wickham 4.4 miles/7.08km

Follow the footpath from the church south across the field.

At the end turn right along a short lane leading to a footpath which crosses the dismantled railway path.

Turn left onto this footpath and follow it all the way to Wickham when the church spire will come into view.

Leave the railway at this point and turn left onto Bridge Street.



Take care when crossing the A32 to arrive at the church.

11 Wickham to **11** St Peter's, Titchfield 5.9 miles/9.5km



Leaving St Nicholas', cross the B2177 and turn left into School Road.

Take the footpath off to the right a short way along the road and follow it until it meets the A334, Fareham Road.

Cross here and continue into Mayles Lane.

Take care along this lane as there are no verges.

After approximately one mile take the track leading off to the left through a wooded area, following it until it joins another track.

Head south, then take the path leading off to the right after about 0.3 miles/0.4km.



Turn right as the path joins another footpath near the railway. Follow this over the railway and then take the path almost immediately to your left leading to the Meon Valley Trail.

Continue along the track through the subway under the motorway. Climb the steps on the right and follow the path until it emerges between a group of houses.

Continue along the path directly in front of you running behind a row of houses, cross the road then follow the bridleway as it continues past a school.

NB This section follows a fairly steep downward slope.

At the bottom of the hill, continue along the bridleway under the railway line and along a track (*caution: this section can be very muddy*), until it finally meets a road (Fisher's Hill).

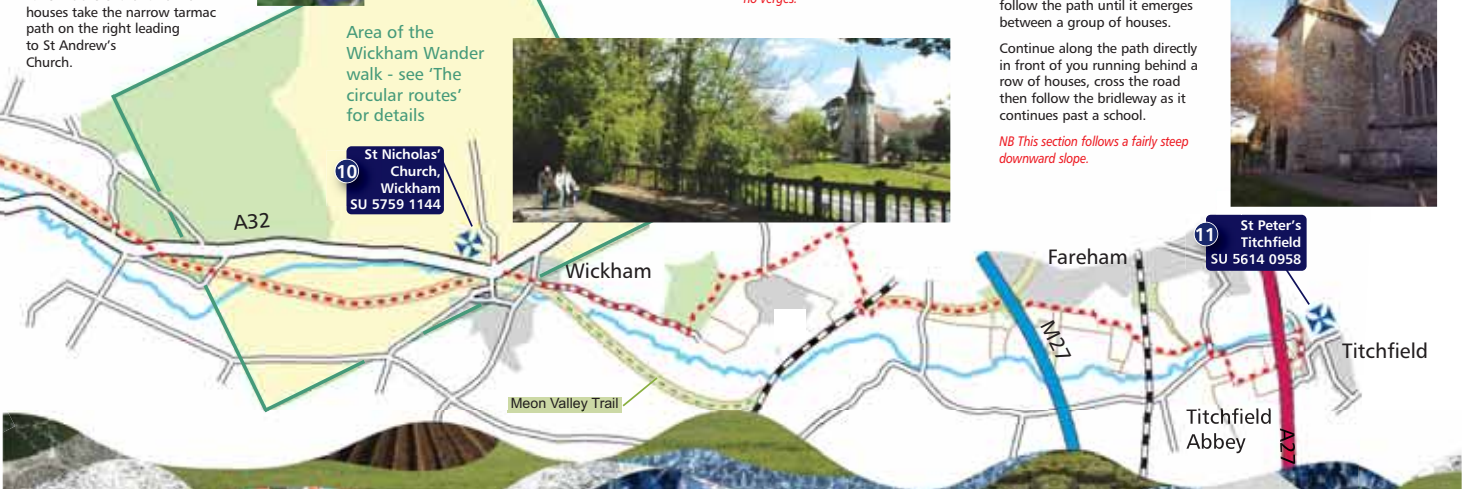
Turn right and follow the road to the junction. Cross the road and continue along the pavement for a short distance then turn right into the Abbey Garden Centre, following the path past the glasshouses and the remains of Titchfield Abbey.

Take the footpath off to the left and follow it, over a stile and through a field until it reaches the A27.

Cross using the pedestrian controlled crossing a little to the left, turn right into Mill Street and at the end turn left then right into Church Path, which leads to St Peter's Church.



11 St Peter's Titchfield SU 5614 0958



The circular routes

Wickham Wander 5.27 miles/8.48km

Begin the walk at the free car park to the north of Wickham Square 1. From here turn right along the disused railway line for a short distance to view and visit St Nicholas' Church. Continue along the Meon Valley Railway path to the bridge 2.



Descend to the road, turn left and at the roundabout 3 bear right uphill. About 300 yards (275m) from the roundabout, cross the A32 (*great care needed*) to Castle Farm Lane. Follow the lane for 700 yards (650m) to a pair of cottages 4. Continue to a T junction 5, turn left and follow the road past the cottages to a fingerpost 6. Follow the footpath across a large field, under the electricity lines (part of Wickham Common) to a poorly surfaced track which leads to the B2177 7. *Cross with caution* and join the Pilgrims' Trail mid-way along Hundred Acres Road, *taking care as there are blind corners and obstructed views*, until you reach the Forestry Commission car park (toilets, children's playground, picnic tables) 8. From the car park follow the gravelled tracks downhill and through the woods as far as the A32 9.

Take care when crossing the A32 then continue along Kingsmead a short distance to the right, for about 250 yards (225m) to the railway bridge 10. Descend to the disused railway line, and turn immediately left beneath the bridge. Follow this route back to the car park 1.



Scale 1:25,000

Key for all maps:

Walk route

Cycle route

Combined route

Other footpaths

Church

Public convenience

Parking

Meon Valley Trail

Church

Public convenience

Parking

Meon Valley Trail



East Meon Cycle 9.6 miles/15.5km

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From the car park west of East Meon village A ride towards the centre of the village along Workhouse Lane. Just after the Post Office turn left into Church Street. All Saints' Church can be seen straight ahead.

After visiting the church, turn right towards West Meon, and after 330 yards (300m) take the first lane on the right, signposted to Privett B. Follow the lane uphill for 1 mile (1.6km) to a T-junction C. Turn right downhill to Drayton Farm D. At the junction, turn right towards West Meon. After about a mile (1.6km), St Nicholas' Chapel can be seen on the left E.

Continue for a mile (1.6km) to West Meon F. *Take care crossing the A32* and turn right to St John's Church. From the church, return to the A32 and go towards Warmford. After 300

yards (275m) turn left into Station Road G and proceed uphill to the car park H.

Follow the Meon Valley Railway path south west to Hayden's Farm I. Turn left on Old Winchester Hill Lane and proceed uphill for 1.1miles (1.75km) to the road junction J. Leave the road and join the South Downs Way. Follow the track downhill to Whitewool Farm K.

Turn right into Coombe Lane for 500 yards (460m), then turn left

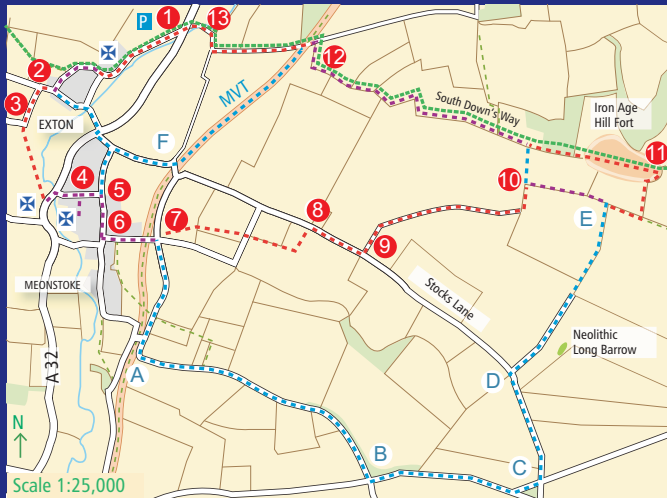
L to follow the South Downs Way uphill. After 0.5miles (0.8km) turn right M and continue for a further 0.5 miles (0.8km) along the South Downs Way to Coombe Cross N.

Turn left and follow the lane downhill past Hockham and Duncombe to Garston Farm O. From the farm, continue along Coombe Road, then turn left into Chapel Street, left again into Workhouse Lane to return to the car park.



Three churches and a hill fort walk and cycle

The Walking Route 5.7 miles/9.2km



From the informal car park **1**, take the lane past Manor Farm to Exton. Turn into Church Lane and St Peter and St Paul's Church is on the right. After visiting the church, turn right, and follow Church Lane to its junction with Beacon Hill Lane **2**.

Turn right then left along Allens Farm Lane. At the sharp bend **3**, follow the footpath past Exton Farm to Corhampton Church. From the church turn left along the A32 for 110 yards (100m), then with great care cross the A32 into Allens Lane **4**.

Just beyond the cottages, turn right along the narrow tarmac path to St Andrew's Church. Return from the church to Allens Lane, turn right, then right again into Rectory Lane **5**. Follow the Lane for 250 yards (230m), then turn left into Pound Lane **6**.

At the crossroads just past the railway bridge **7** take the footpath leading behind the houses to emerge on Stocks Lane **8**. Turn right along Stocks Lane for 330 yards (300m) to Harvestgate Farm **9**, then turn left into Mill End Lane. After 0.7 miles (1.1km) turn right **10** and



follow the footpaths to the east end of Old Winchester Hill **11**, an Iron Age hill fort.

Follow the South Downs Way across the middle of the hill fort, then downhill to the disused railway line **12**. Pass under the railway, and continue over a footbridge **13** to arrive back at the A32 and the car park.



The Cycling Route 7.75 miles/12.43km

From the informal car park **1**, take the lane past Manor Farm to Exton. Turn into Church Lane and the church of St Peter and St Paul is on the right. After visiting the church, turn right, and follow Church Lane to its junction with Beacon Hill Lane **2**.

Turn left and proceed to the A32. Cross the A32 to Stocks Lane, then turn right in Rectory Lane. At **3** turn right into Allens Lane. Proceed to the end of the lane, and at the shop turn left on to the A32. Corhampton Church is 110 yards (100m) away on the right.

Return to Allens Lane and just past the cottages **4** turn right along the narrow tarmac path to St Andrew's Church. Return to Allens Lane, turn right, then right again into Rectory Lane **5**. Follow the lane for 250 yards (230m), then turn left into Pound Lane **6**.

At the crossroads just past the railway bridge **7**, turn right into Fry's Lane. *Take great care at the sharp bend into New Road*

8. Continue along New Road for about a mile (1.5km) to the crossroads **9**. Turn left and go uphill for 950 yards (870m) to **10**. Turn left and left again into Stocks Lane.

Turn right approx. 745 yards (630m) downhill **11**, and go uphill towards Old Winchester Hill. Just below the hill fort **12** turn left along the track, and after 490 yards (450m) bear sharp right **10**, join the South Downs Way 220 yards (200m) ahead **11**.

Turn left and follow the South Downs Way downhill for about a mile (1.5km) to the Meon Valley Railway path **12**. Turn right and continue along the track to the junction with Sharvards Lane **13**. Turn right into Stocks Lane, re-cross the A32 and return through Exton to the car park.

