



Discover Winchester District's
MARKET TOWNS

Alresford, Bishop's Waltham and Wickham

visitwinchester.co.uk



Welcome

England's ancient capital of Winchester and its district has always been a very popular place to visit. It is a city steeped in history and culture that offers a wide range of attractions for all ages. Winchester is surrounded by beautiful countryside and is a gateway to the South Downs National Park. This area is also home to three of the most vibrant and picturesque market towns in Hampshire – Alresford, Bishop's Waltham and Wickham.





Contents

Welcome	2
Discover Winchester district's market towns	4
Alresford	6
Introduction to Alresford	8
Alresford through the ages	9
Alresford Map	10
Attractions	11
Shop 'til you drop in Alresford	12
Eating out and cafés	14
Top 7 trails in and around Alresford	15
The Alresford sleepover	16
Special events and attractions	17
Bishop's Waltham	18
A brief history of Bishop's Waltham	20
Bishop's Waltham Map	22
Attractions	23
What to buy in Bishop's Waltham	24
Tasty treats	25
Eating out and cafés	26
What's nearby Bishop's Waltham	27
A breath of fresh air	28
The Bishop's Waltham sleepover	29
Wickham	30
Introduction to Wickham	32
Wickham through time	33
Wickham Map	34
Highlights	35
Wickham fayre	36
Eating out and cafés	37
Walks around Wickham	38
The Wickham sleepover	39
Festivals	40
A tale of two market towns	41
The ultimate foodie itinerary	42
Visitor information	44
Getting to our market towns	45



Discover Winchester district's market towns

In this guide we will uncover some of the delights of Alresford, Bishop's Waltham and Wickham. Our market town communities and independent businesses are looking forward to welcoming you back to enjoy local life.

In this guide we will explain the historical significance of each town, highlight the must-sees and showcase places to shop, dine and stay. This guide is simply not big enough to list all the great independent shops and eateries in our market towns - so make sure you visit for yourself! We'll also suggest other ways to help you make the most of your time to fulfill your mind, body and soul.

As we all appreciate the chance to travel again and the opportunities it brings, we urge you to respect, protect and enjoy your visit to the Winchester district.

Whether you are planning a day trip, a sleepover or an extended stay, there is so much to see and do here that you'll have plenty of reasons to return again and again.



You'll find more great places to shop, eat and sleep plus ideas for days out at [visitwinchester.co.uk](https://www.visitwinchester.co.uk)





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 VISIT
WINCHESTER



Alresford

A beautiful market town with pastel painted Georgian houses and delightful riverside walks. Alresford is perfect for strolling, shopping and dining. It has an abundance of stylish boutiques, tempting cafés, cosy pubs and exciting restaurants.

sford





Alresford is a picture-perfect town just eight miles from Winchester. Pronounced 'Allsford', it's a wonderful place to while away a few hours or even a few days. It has plenty of stunning walks and trails, unique and specialist shops, old-fashioned inns, smart bistros and traditional tea rooms.

There are actually two Alresfords ...

The original settlement of Old Alresford is to the north of the River Alre and New Alresford is to the south – although it is far from new, having been established as a town by the Bishop de Lucy in the Middle Ages.

Alresford is famous for being the UK's **Capital of Watercress**. It has grown wild in the chalk streams and ditches in and around the town for centuries. Now meticulously farmed, approximately 1,500 tonnes of watercress is produced in Alresford every year, supplying supermarkets and greengrocers across the country.

Watercress features on many menus across the district and even in the local gin! It's also celebrated annually in the town at the lively **Watercress Festival** in May.



The watercress used to be transported from the town by steam train and the station has been wonderfully restored with a new museum. You can hop on board one of the powerful steam locomotives for the 10-mile trip to Alton along the Mid Hants Railway, known locally as the **WATERCRESS LINE**. They also have a calendar of themed journeys throughout the year including a Thomas the Tank Engine special.



Over the next few pages we'll detail just some of Alresford's must-sees and best eats, shops and sleeps.

Alresford through the ages

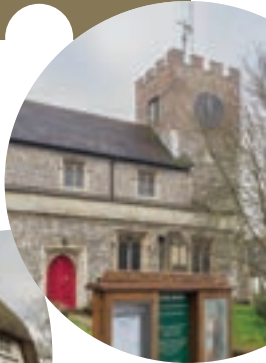
Alresford's crystal-clear chalk streams have attracted people for many centuries. There is evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman occupation on many sites in the area.

It was **Henri de Blois**, brother of King Stephen and Bishop of Winchester, who is credited with the idea of building the Great Weir and designing the town of Novum Forum, which soon became New Alresford. He died before the completion of the project and Godfrey de Lucy, his successor as bishop (1189–1204), finished Alresford's T-shaped town centre.

During the reign of **Henry VIII**, clothiers, dyers and tanners resided in Alresford. There were many fulling and corn mills and a fine example of a 13th century fulling mill still straddles the River Alre (sometimes spelt Arle). If you follow the riverside walk you'll discover this pretty thatched and timber-framed building, now a private residence.

Despite the abundance of water in the area, the town's history has been punctuated with fires. Many of the current buildings rose from the ashes of the great fires of the 17th century.

If you want to find out more about Alresford's history and inhabitants, pick up a copy of the 'Millennium Trail'. This is a self-guided walk that links together footpaths with illustrated boards around the town.



Alresford Map



The town of New Alresford is situated off the A31 between Winchester and Alton. Follow the brown and white tourist signs to the Watercress Line. There is on-street parking in Broad Street, West Street and Station Road and there are car parks at the Station, Perins School (Jacklyns Lane) and Arlebury Park Recreation Centre. All three car parks are Pay and Display (currently free on Sundays and Bank Holidays), but at the Arlebury Park car park the first two hours are free – please obtain a free ticket from the machine.



BY STEAM RAILWAY 10 miles from Alton Station. Tel: **01962 733 810** or go to watercressline.co.uk for running times.



BY BUS Regular services from Winchester, Southampton, Alton and Petersfield. Tel: **0345 121 0190** or go to stagecoachbus.com for information. Cango (rural bus service): Tel: **0845 602 4135** or visit hants.gov.uk. Winchester City Council has a network of



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS (EVCPS) across the district. Find the locations at winchester.gov.uk/parking/other-parking-facilities

FURTHER INFORMATION:

alresford.org | alresfordchamber.co.uk



Attractions

WATERCRESS LINE

Let off steam and travel through 10 miles of beautiful Hampshire countryside, where stations with period charm await you.

BROAD STREET

One of the country's most beautiful streets, tree-lined Broad Street is a colourful wash of Georgian buildings hosting independent shops and eateries.

RIVERSIDE WALK

Stroll along the peaceful banks of the River Alre and see the timber-framed Fulling Mill built in the 13th century.

EEL HOUSE

Eel House sits beside the Wayfarers' Way in idyllic woodland about a mile and a half from the centre of Alresford. Straddling the clean clear waters of the tranquil River Alre, its purpose was to trap mature eels near to the start of their three thousand mile journey.

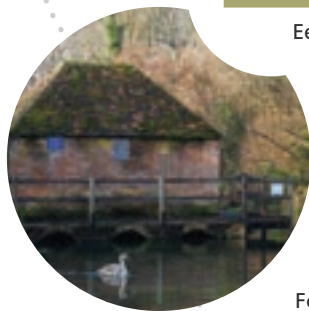
OLD ALRESFORD POND

Formed in 12th century as part of a project to dam the Alre stream, today it is home to wildfowl and otters.

THE ALRESFORD MUSEUM

Operating under the umbrella of the Town Trust, the museum is located in the old garage part of the Old Fire Station to provide a small exhibition area with the centrepiece being the vintage Tichborne Park Steamer Fire Engine. To visit the museum and other heritage sites across Alresford including Eel House and the Norman Bridge visit towntrust.org.uk

For the latest information about Alresford go to visitwinchester.co.uk/alresford



Shop 'til you drop in Alresford

The shopping opportunities in Alresford are plentiful. You'll find all the traditional shops of a market town, including butchers, fishmongers, bakers, and delicatessens. However, its range of sophisticated and stylish independent shops make Alresford stand out.

You'll find designer fashions, arts and crafts, gifts, antiques and clocks, as well as china and antiquarian books. There is also a market held on Broad Street every Thursday morning.

You'll find lots of great places listed under **@allthingsalresford** on social media.

Here are a few you might like to check out...



STYLING YOU

You'll be able to step out in style after a visit to Alresford. It's known for its exceptional range of luxe independent fashion boutiques which even boast members of the royal family as customers.

DELILAH

34 West Street

Individual and stylish ladies boutique, with the most gorgeous window displays.

HOUSE OF GALLET

19 Broad Street

The place for fashion hunters looking for new and preloved designer pieces at below high street prices.

MODA ROSA

35 West Street

An exclusive high-end fashion boutique whose style is classic with a contemporary twist.

HÊTRE

39 West Street

This delectable store is a treasure trove of carefully curated shoes, handbags and accessories.





STYLING YOUR HOME

ALRESFORD LINEN CO

7-9 Broad Street

A beautiful lifestyle store with on-site dry cleaning and laundry services (yes, really!)

FOWLER & SMITH

30 Broad Street

An eclectic mix of antiques, collectables, vintage, retro and contemporary items.

SUSIE WATSON DESIGNS LTD

16 West Street

High quality, hand-made products to adorn your home and garden.

LONG BARN HOME & GARDEN STORE

The Old Sheep Fair,
Bishop's Sutton Road

A sumptuous home and garden store and café set in three acres of lavender.



My Alresford

Alresford is a beautiful pastel-hued Georgian market town, perfect for strolling, sipping and shopping. There are many independent boutiques that I enjoy perusing here, from Hêtre's accessories and Moda Rosa's designer-wear, through to Alresford Linen's lifestyle offerings and Long Barn's immersive shop-come-café. I especially like to visit Alresford on a Thursday for the local market, which changes seasonally. Here you can pick up fresh flowers, vintage homeware finds and crisp cottons for your home and wardrobe.

Monica Welburn writes about lifestyle, fashion, beauty, travel and interior design on her very popular blog monicabeatrice.com. Find her on Instagram @MonicaBeatrice.

Eating out and cafés

Alresford has much to offer the visiting foodie. As well as traditional and gastro pubs there are some exciting bistros and award-winning tea rooms. It's a good job there are so many trails to walk off all that delicious fare.

PULPO NEGRO

28 Broad Street

If you are a fan of Spanish food, then the Bib Gourmand awarded Pulpo Negro is the place to be for modern Spanish tapas.

PARTY AT THE MILL

Station Mill,
Station Road

This is a great place for speciality coffee, pastries, cakes, brunch, salads and woodfired pizza. Expect fresh and vibrant flavours and seasonal ingredients.

NO. 32 BROAD STREET

32 Broad Street

Part of Fowler and Smith, serving breakfast and lunch daily using locally sourced, ethical and organic ingredients. They also have amazing cocktails, local wines and beer.

CARACOLI

15 Broad Street

Vibrant coffee shop and specialist food store serving coffee and tea, handmade cakes, savoury bakes and seasonal goodies as well as local cheese, wine, cooking accessories and food-related gifts.

TIFFIN TEA ROOMS

52 West Street

A traditional tea shop serving loose leaf and speciality teas, homemade cakes, light lunches, ice cream, confectionary and chocolates.

THE GLOBE

The Soke, (off Broad Street)

15th century pub with a garden and terrace on the banks of a small lake, serving up a modern British menu.





Top 7 trails in and around Alresford

Alresford's beautiful riverside setting amidst rolling chalk downland makes it perfect walking and cycling territory for everyone from the casual post-pub lunch stroller to the seasoned mountain biker.

MILLENNIUM TRAIL AND ALRE VALLEY TRAIL

Discover Alresford's history, inhabitants and wildlife on these two self-guided walks that link together footpaths with illustrated boards around the town.

THE WINCHESTER WATERCRESS TOUR

Pick and choose your stops from this self-guided trail through the Itchen and Meon Valleys. Take in scenic views of rivers, watercress beds and villages.

ITCHEN VALLEY CHURCHES TRAIL

Explore the landscape, history and local culture with this self-guided trail. It focuses on the architectural and historical identities of the churches along the river valley.

THE WAYFARER'S WALK

This route follows old tracks used by shepherds driving their animals to sheep fairs in Farnham and Alresford. There are five circular walks between four and six miles long.

THE ITCHEN WAY

A 27-mile route from the source of the River Itchen near Hinton Ampner to the port of Southampton. Explore Hampshire's beautiful countryside at leisure on shorter circular walks.



ST SWITHUN'S WAY

The 34-mile St Swithun's Way runs between Winchester and Farnham, weaving its way east through the Itchen Valley.

You can collect maps and trail guides in outlets around the town or download them via visitwinchester.co.uk/brochures.

You can also check out the walking pages at alresford.org and hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryside/walking

The Alresford sleepover!

Whether you are looking for a romantic cosy inn or an inexpensive family camping experience, Alresford has both and everything in between.



THE SWAN HOTEL

11 West Street,
Alresford SO24 9AD
A charming 18th century three-star hotel in the centre of Alresford.
swanhotelialresford.com

THE BELL INN

12 West Street,
Alresford SO24 9AT
17th century coaching inn with six character en-suite rooms.
bellalresford.com

THE BRICK HOUSE

The Brick House, Cheriton,
Winchester SO24 0PR
A beautiful B&B in a Victorian house that started life as a pub, in the heart of the South Downs National Park.
brickhousecheriton.co.uk



WATERCRESS LODGES AND CAMPSITE

Bighton Hill, Ropley SO24 9SQ
A self-catering holiday retreat overlooking the South Downs three miles from Alresford.
watercresslodges.co.uk



HOLDEN FARM CAMPING

Cheriton, Nr Alresford SO24 0NX
Rural family campsite in the South Downs National Park.
holdenfarm.co.uk

AVINGTON PARK FARM COTTAGES

Park Farm, Avington, Hampshire SO21 1BZ
Five-star self-catering architect designed 'eco build' accommodation on a working farm.
avingtonholidays.co.uk

Special events and attractions

THE ALRESFORD WATERCRESS FESTIVAL

This nationally acclaimed event in May attracts thousands of visitors annually. The town is transformed into the site of a huge street festival which usually hosts over 80 stalls showcasing the very best local food and drink. There is also plenty of entertainment from musicians and street performers and plenty to excite the little ones.

For more information visit watercressfestival.org

THE GRANGE FESTIVAL

A summer festival like nothing you have seen before. Experience world-class opera in a spectacular English country house setting. The Grange is a magical estate hidden away in the Hampshire countryside near Alresford, famed for its Greek Revival architecture and overlooking an ornamental lake.

To find out more about the summer performances and to book tickets visit thegrangefestival.co.uk

HINTON AMPNER

Once a haunted Tudor manor of the Stewkeley and the Stawell families, Hinton Ampner was adapted into a Georgian villa in 1793. This National Trust property boasts a magnificent 20th century garden and beautiful views. The gardens and wider estate are perfect for picnicking, wildlife spotting and walks.

nationaltrust.org.uk/hinton-ampner

AVINGTON PARK

Privately owned stately home in beautiful, secluded grounds, open May to September – check website for opening times and tours. Tea bar serves homemade cakes and locally made ice cream.

avingtonpark.co.uk



Add some sparkle to your trip

The warm climate and chalky terrain of the South Downs National Park is similar to that of the Champagne region and the area around Alresford has become home to several vineyards producing high-quality English sparkling and white wine. These include multi-award winning Hattingley Valley, Raimes and The Grange who all welcome visitors.

Each year there are several events celebrating Hampshire's sparkling wine, for more details visit vineyardsofhampshire.co.uk

A historic market town with a foot in the South Downs National Park. Take a meander around the impressive ruins of Bishop's Waltham Palace and the medieval high street and enjoy a vibrant array of shops and eateries.

Bishop in Waltham

Top's tham





A brief history of Bishop's Waltham

Just twelve miles south of Winchester, nestled in the Hampshire countryside and at the head of the Hamble River is Bishop's Waltham. With a foot in the South Downs National Park and located at the midpoint of a long-established route between Winchester and Portsmouth, the town has been appreciated as a place to stop, relax and refuel for hundreds of years. **TONY KIPPENBERGER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BISHOP'S WALTHAM SOCIETY, TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE TOWN'S HISTORY...**



Archaeological finds show that hunter gatherers made flint tools by the river 7,000 years ago. Evidence of Bronze and Iron Age as well as Roman dwellings shows continual occupation up to the Saxon settlement of Waltham. The town's Saxon name ('wald' meaning forest and 'ham' meaning settlement) is important. It signifies both that it was a Royal estate and that it was settled by Anglo Saxon migrants as early as 450 to 550 AD, not long after the last Roman legions left.

Waltham's Saxon history is shrouded in mystery, but a Benedictine church existed here in 700 AD – just 60 years after Christianity came to Wessex. In 904, King Alfred's son, Edward the Elder, granted the Royal estate of Waltham to Denewulf, Bishop of Winchester, in exchange for the strong Roman fortifications at Portchester.



Waltham must have been a significant settlement because, as described in the Anglo Saxon Chronicles, the Vikings sailed from the Isle of Wight to attack it in 1001. Just 85 years later, the Domesday Book shows that Waltham had recovered to be the

11th largest settlement in Hampshire, with a population of about 700 with over 300 oxen needed to plough its land.

After the Norman Conquest, William the Conqueror's grandson, Henry of Blois, was made Bishop of Winchester and in 1158 began to build a Palace at Waltham. It became one of the Bishops' greatest residences and in the medieval and Tudor periods no fewer than fourteen Kings and Queens stayed there – including Richard the Lionheart, Edward III, Henry V, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

During the English Civil War, after the Battle of Cheriton, it was occupied by Royalist cavaliers who were forced to surrender by stronger Parliamentary forces. After three days it was set to the torch. This partial destruction of the Palace resulted in

today's picturesque ruins. These are near the heart of the town and free to visit. You will also find Bishop's Waltham Museum in a 17th century original farmhouse within the Palace grounds. The town's street pattern, with its many independent shops, still reflects its medieval layout.



The impressive ruins of the Palace are near the heart of the town. They are free to visit and it is where you will find a 17th century original farmhouse, the home of Bishop's Waltham Museum.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM TODAY

The town boasts a beautiful and well-preserved medieval High Street that is home to a vibrant selection of shops, cafés and restaurants.

You can burn off any indulgences on the surrounding miles of walking and cycling trails. For a gentler pace, take a wander through the nature reserves or discover the former Botley railway line.

The friendliness of Bishop's Waltham combined with its strong sense of community has resulted in a calendar bursting with events. It holds a summer carnival as well as vintage markets, music and arts festivals and an annual Christmas Fayre.

To find out what's going on during your visit see lovebishopsaltham.com/events and visitwinchester.co.uk/events/

Bishop's Waltham Map



BUSES Buses run between Bishop's Waltham and Southampton (X10), Eastleigh (X9), Winchester (69) and Fareham (69) every day, and to and from Petersfield (X17) Wednesday only. For timetables see myjourneyhampshire.com



TRAINS The nearest train station is Botley from which you can take an X9 bus to Bishop's Waltham.



CAR If using a Sat Nav use the postcode SO32 1AA to get to the High Street. From Winchester take the B2177 towards Bishop's Waltham/Wickham.

There are two car parks offering free parking for one hour. Two hours free at Jubilee Hall.



Winchester City Council has a network of **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS (EVCP)**s across the district. Find the locations at winchester.gov.uk/parking/other-parking-facilities



FURTHER INFORMATION
Scan the QR Code to visit lovebishopsaltham.com



Attractions

THE HIGH STREET

The beautiful medieval buildings are home to an enticing array of independent shops, restaurants, delicatessens, hostelrys and coffee shops.

ST GEORGE'S SQUARE

This is all that survives of the original marketplace. The proud Jubilee Clock was donated by the people of Bishop's Waltham. The stone below this is the last remaining part of the original market house which was used to lock up petty criminals.

THE PONDS

The vast fishpond was created for the early Bishops of Winchester, resident at the medieval palace. Today the pond is used by the town's fishing club and attracts a variety of wildfowl and wildlife. You can walk above the pond via a boardwalk.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM PALACE

Bishop's Waltham's most impressive cultural and historical asset is located near the heart of the town.

You can explore the extensive remains, including the ruins of the Great Hall, and the grounds are ideal for a family picnic. For more details and opening times see english-heritage.org.uk

BISHOP'S WALTHAM MUSEUM

Delve into the archives of the town's history and uncover local information and artefacts from days gone by. Housed in The Farmhouse at Bishop's Waltham Palace, the museum is free of charge. bishopswalthammuseum.com

ST PETER'S CHURCH

A place of worship for over 900 years featuring artefacts from various eras. The core structure is of Norman origin and later additions include the Saxon font, a Jacobean pulpit and the 14th century iron clock from the Bishop's Palace. To arrange a visit, call the Parish Office on **01489 892 197**. See stpetersbw.org.uk

For the latest information about Bishop's Waltham check out visitwinchester.co.uk/bishops-waltham



What to buy in Bishop's Waltham

Bishop's Waltham is home to an abundance of independent shops and businesses which are popular with locals. You will certainly receive a warm welcome too as you browse and shop.

Many of the shops are run by enthusiasts and artisans so you are bound to find something special to treasure. It's also great to know that your purchase helps to fuel the local economy and allows unique high streets like Bishop's Waltham to prosper and grow.

SPECIAL GIFTS AND BEAUTIFUL THINGS

If you are looking for extraordinary gifts, then **TASHINGA** on the High Street is the place for you. They offer a diverse and unique range of items to suit all tastes and budgets.

For British, Fairtrade and locally made gifts check out **DISTINCTIVE DESIGN** on Cross Street who also have a vast array of second-hand antiques and collectibles.

At **STUDIO 4 GIFTS** on the High Street, you'll find a large selection of cards, gifts for all ages, toys and soft toys for babies and kids, jewellery, pretty socks, clothes and scarves.

For stylish and functional homewares pay a visit to **INTERIOR FOCUS** on the High Street who also offer an interior design service.

For the largest magic shop in the UK visit **MERCHANTS OF MAGIC**, or for an award-winning card shop visit **BEST WISHES**, both in Brook Street.

SUITS YOU

At **LUVVIT** on the High Street you'll find women's clothes and accessories, on trend gifts and accessories for home, for friends, or for pure self-indulgence!

Also on the High Street is **BOUTIQUE ME** offering affordable, stylish clothing for all occasions along with a very friendly and personal service.

For popular designer brands at affordable prices check out **LABEL DRESS AGENCY** at The Old Forge on Brook Street. Here you'll find wedding outfits, evening, cruise and casual wear.



Tasty treats

If it's food and drink you are after there are some rather good outlets in Bishop's Waltham from shops to delis and cafés to restaurants.

At **THE ANVIL: JUST IN CASE**

at Symes Corner on Bank Street you'll find two great shops under one roof.

The Anvil is a daytime tearoom whose menu includes virtually all gluten free dishes. Meanwhile Just In Case is a wine shop which also features a great range of malt whiskies and vodkas along with friendly and knowledgeable service and maybe a few tasters!

SWEET CORNER is a traditional sweet shop located on the High Street. They have a fantastic range of 'old-school' retro sweets and American imports that taste amazing. They also sell high-quality handmade chocolates.



HAMPSHIRE-BASED FOOD BLOGGER TIM McMINN RECOMMENDS...

Based in the town centre is **ANYFISH**, run by Peter Atkinson, a fishmonger who has been part of the Bishop's Waltham community for a considerable number of years. Not only selling fresh and sustainable fish sourced from the waters around the UK and the Mediterranean, but they also even have their own local smokehouse in a converted barn. They smoke salmon and kippers, but also ham and duck.

Tim McMinn @culinarychatter culinarychatter.com

Eating out and cafés

Bishop's Waltham caters for all tastes from cosy pubs with roaring fires to fabulous cafés, delis and restaurants. Here are a few places to whet your appetite.

ANATOLIAN

Winchester Road, Waltham Chase

A stylish family-run Turkish restaurant, passionate about their roots and the food they represent. You'll find traditional Turkish charcoal flame-grilled foods, side dishes and wines to give you a tasty Turkish experience.

NO. 60

High Street

Family-run coffee shop and wine bar with a continental feel. Serves light breakfast, lunch and evening snacks. Drinks include local artisan coffee, speciality teas and a good selection

of wines and beers.

JOSIE'S

High Street

Josie's was the first of a family-run group of independent coffee shops. They are open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch, cakes and delicious coffee!

STAINERS BAKERY

High Street

Another family-run business is Stainers Bakery. The business has been baking since 1899 and today serves the community and beyond with its traditional bakery, tearoom and wholesale business.

THE BARLEYCORN INN

Lower Basingwell Street

A delightfully quirky traditional pub where nothing matches but everything matters! The pub has a beautiful summer garden and a cosy winter fire. You'll find perfect pints, excellent wines and delicious pub grub.

GIORGIO'S MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT & BAR

High Street

Born from Greek-Cypriot parents, George brings his heritage to Giorgio's serving up the most authentic dishes in his atmospheric Mediterranean restaurant.



What's nearby Bishop's Waltham?

Bishop's Waltham is ideally placed for some outdoor adventures for all ages. Here are some great places to visit time and time again...



MARWELL ZOO

The 140-acre park is home to an incredible range of exotic and endangered species, including giraffes, Amur tigers, snow leopards, white rhinos, penguins and a two-toed sloth in its lush state-of-the-art Tropical House. Guests can get close to the wonders of the natural world and learn about a variety of animals during its daily talks and animal feeds.

marwell.org.uk

MARWELL RESORT

One of the south's leading outdoor and indoor activity centres. A family resort offering a wide range of year-round activities for children and adults, such as archery, clay pigeon shooting, quad bikes and a rope course. Their experienced, qualified team deliver activities of your choice in a challenging but safe environment. marwellresort.co.uk



ON YOUR BIKE AND OFF THE ROAD...

Head north from Bishop's Waltham on country lanes through Upham to pick up the bridleway running north to Cheesefoot Head, a high point with clear views across to the Isle of Wight. Pick up the South Downs Way here and follow it southeast until you reach another high point at Beacon Hill Nature Reserve. Leave the South Downs Way and take the long, fast road descending past the vineyards into Droxford village, then return westward to Bishop's Waltham along the unsurfaced gravel roads of Green Lane and Jervis Court Lane.

Andy Key runs **Bicycle Beano**, a Winchester-based cycling holiday company that arranges group tours and bespoke cycling weekends.



A breath of fresh air

Our guide to Bishop's Waltham walks and trails...

Bishop's Waltham lies on the southern edge of the South Downs National Park and walkers in this area are blessed with a choice of landscapes to enjoy. Paths that climb out of the town and meet the South Downs Way up on the open chalk hills to the north are popular here, while on the southwest of the town, where the chalk gives way to clay and gravel, flatter oak and beech wooded walks make for a gentler excursion. This unique position ensures a wide variety of opportunities for leisure walks around this delightful medieval town.

Richard Eve, Chair of Winchester Ramblers Group ramblers.org.uk/winchester



STROLLING ROUTES

There is an interactive QR trail walking you through the sites of Bishop's Waltham. Scan with your smart phone to access historic information and make the town come to life.

THE MOORS NATURE RESERVE

An area of semi-natural woodland, fen, grassland and open water designated as a Site of Scientific Interest. The reserve is a wetland of national importance for its wildflowers and unusual habitat. A good spot to see kingfishers, little grebes and emperor dragonflies.

hants.gov.uk/thingstodo

CLAYLANDS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Formerly the site of an old clayworks, today you can stroll through the lush, grassy meadows and woodlands and relax by the ponds home to one of the largest populations of great crested newts in the country and many species of butterfly.

hants.gov.uk/thingstodo

BISHOP'S WALTHAM NATURE WALK

3 miles; 1½ hours; no stiles

An undulating route that includes some steep steps. This walk takes in the sand boils at the source of the Hamble, local nature reserves, plus meadows and woodland.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM COUNTRY WALK

5 miles; 2 hours; no stiles

A rolling countryside trail which follows clear tracks for most of the way and takes you across Dundry Meadow, through woodland and fields.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM HERITAGE WALK

4 miles; 2 hours; 13 stiles

This circular walk follows the footsteps of the pilgrims who travelled along the medieval route from Winchester to worship St. Michael in Normandy.

You can pick up free guides for these three walks from the map notice board in the centre of the Basingwell Street Car Park in the town centre, or download a copy from hants.gov.uk/walking or visitwinchester.co.uk

The Bishop's Waltham sleepover

THE CROWN INN

The Square

A characterful 16th century coaching inn whose rooms are furnished to a very high standard. Each room is named after French ships or French Admirals with a gentle nod to The Crown's rich history. Enjoy a drink and a range of excellent dishes, crafted with care from fresh, local ingredients.
crowninnbishopsaltham.co.uk



FAIRLAWN

Station Road

A relaxing B&B in an idyllic setting between the historic palace ruins and the South Pond. The stunning surroundings make it perfect for escaping for relaxing countryside walks whilst being just a two-minute walk from the centre of town.

fairlawnbandb.co.uk

Bishop's Waltham is just four miles from Wickham and there are more hotels listed on page 39 within easy reach of both market towns or check out visitwinchester.co.uk/where-to-stay for more accommodation across the district.



Wick

A picturesque market town nestled in the heart of the Meon Valley. Enjoy countryside walks and stroll around the vast medieval market square with its enticing independent shops and delicious places to eat and drink.

Cham





The charming market town of Wickham is sixteen miles from Winchester and just four miles from Bishop's Waltham. It's a town which combines ancient history, unique shopping, quality produce, delicious dining, beautiful countryside and miles of walks and cycle rides.

Wickham is nestled in the heart of the picturesque Meon Valley countryside and has been a meeting point for people and commerce since Roman times. At the heart of this historic town lies the handsome Wickham Square – the second largest medieval market square in England. At almost two acres, Wickham Square is always alive with residents and visitors.

The nearby naturally formed water meadows form a tranquil oasis in the middle of the village, offering a peaceful place to walk, picnic or simply spend some time by the water's edge.

One of the village's most impressive buildings is St Nicholas Church which dates back to 1120 and sits perched on a very large sacred mound.

Find out how to make the most of your visit with our guides and tips over the next few pages. You'll find details of just some of the independent shops and eateries but we recommend visiting to really enjoy what is on offer...

If you've an eye for a bargain or simply like to browse, you should make time for a visit to Chesapeake Mill. It is filled to the brim with exclusive collections of antiques, home furnishings, art and jewellery. Why not stop for a drink in the tearoom and soak up the surroundings of this extraordinary Grade II listed mill which was built in 1820 incorporating timber from the US Frigate Chesapeake, captured by the British HMS Shannon in 1813.



Wickham through time

Formerly spelt 'Wykeham', the village's name derives from the Anglo Saxon 'wic', meaning 'creek', and 'ham', meaning 'home', suggesting that the earliest settlers were attracted to the location as it featured a ford which crossed the River Meon. A 'dip hole' with steps down to the river, which enabled villagers to draw water, can still be seen in Bridge Street.

Wickham is mentioned in the Royal Charter of 826, when a Saxon settlement was thought to be well established on the east side of the river. By 1086 Wickham was deemed significant enough to feature in the Domesday Book and in 1269, the Lord of the Manor was given the rights to hold a market and a fair here. The Square, still a thriving centre of trade, preserves its medieval characteristics – many buildings have narrow frontages on long plots of land.

River, road and rail links have all played a major part in the village's continuing development. A major crossing point between two Roman roads (from Winchester in the west to Chichester in the east and from Portchester to Southampton), there may well have been a Roman settlement here. The branch railway, opened in 1903, linked London with the Isle of Wight and local strawberry growers used the line to send their best fruit to London. The line was closed in 1955, the disused track now forms part of the Meon Valley Trail.



No history of Wickham can be complete without a mention of the village's most famous resident, William of Wykeham, who was born just outside of Wickham in 1320. Twice Lord Chancellor and a Bishop of Winchester, William is credited with being the founder of Winchester College and New College Oxford, as well as building a significant part of Windsor Castle.

More details of Wickham's fascinating past can be found at wickhamsquare.co.uk/about-wickham



Wickham Map



Winchester City Council has a network of **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS (EVCP)s** across the district. Find the locations at winchester.gov.uk/parking/other-parking-facilities



Highlights

WICKHAM SQUARE

The magnificent Wickham Square has 15th century cottages and beautifully preserved Georgian houses. First time visitors are always impressed by the architectural details.



WICKHAM WATER MEADOWS

These naturally formed water meadows, covering an area of approximately eight acres, form a tranquil oasis in the middle of Wickham.



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Dating back to 1120, this brick and flint church is thought to stand on the site of an earlier chapel and sits on a very large, almost circular, sacred mound.

stnicholaswickham.org.uk



CHESAPEAKE MILL

This extraordinary Grade II listed mill incorporates timber from the US Frigate Chesapeake, captured by the British HMS Shannon in 1813.

thechesapeakemill.com



For the latest information about Wickham check out visitwinchester.co.uk/wickham

Wickham fayre

Shopping in Wickham is a unique experience. Surrounding its large market square are many Grade II listed buildings housing a collection of enticing, independent shops alongside some more familiar names and traditional stores that have been serving residents and visitors for generations.

In Wickham you will find gifts galore. Here are six places you'll find something a bit special...

BAY TREE GIFTS

Bay Tree Walk, The Square

Promising something a bit different, browse a beautiful collection of jewellery, accessories, homeware, wellbeing, books, cards and eco gifts.



WARWICK LANE

The Square

Here you'll find gifts, household items, an antiques market, fashion, hair salon and an art gallery. Set over two floors in an Edwardian shop-fronted shopping centre.



HEMING & CO

The Square

An Aladdin's cave that has been serving the public for more than 100 years. Selling many wonderful products ranging from kitchenware, giftware, hardware and pet care.



MEON VALLEY BUTCHERS

The Square

A multiple award-winning, traditional artisan butchers and bakers specialising in top quality, locally and ethically produced meat.

CONFISERIE VERDONK THE WICKHAM CHOCOLATE SHOP

Bay Tree Walk, The Square

Beautifully gift-wrapped boxes of Belgian chocolates, with over 100 flavours to choose from. Other delicious products include Dorset fudge, retro sweets and Italian nougat.



J'ADORE LA MAISON

The Square

Home to an eclectic mix of quirky and interesting gifts, haberdashery and hand painted furniture. They are also stockists of Annie Sloan Chalk Paint™.

Eating out and cafés

There is a variety of great places to eat and drink in Wickham which mix the best of local produce and international cuisine.

THE KING'S HEAD

The Square

A beautiful former coaching inn at the centre of Wickham which has made a name for itself with great home-cooked food, excellent real ales and welcoming staff.

GREENS RESTAURANT & BAR

The Square

Owners Frank and Carol Duckworth have been welcoming guests since 1985, serving fresh, simple, flavoursome food, locally sourced when possible.

KUTI'S OF WICKHAM

Fareham Road

A delicious menu of sophisticated Indian and Bangladeshi dishes that includes fresh fish, duck, venison, lamb, poultry, vegetarian options and inventive fusion food.

WICKHAM COFFEE HOUSE

Warwick Lane Shopping Centre, The Square

Upstairs at Warwick Lane Shopping Centre you'll find authentic Italian Fairtrade coffee and a delicious range of home-made cakes, European style paninis and deli style salads.

THE SQUARE COW

The Square

There is great food and drink to be found in this local pub which is full of heart. Housed in a beautiful open hall and timber-framed building where history is preserved throughout.

THE OLD TEA HOUSE

The Square

The place for food that is hearty and wholesome. Dine downstairs by a roaring log fire or upstairs with views across The Square. The terrace is popular with dog walkers and cyclists.

There are plenty more foodie offerings nearby Wickham, including the family-run Westlands Farm Shop. They maintain a very strong ethical and sustainability ethos, especially when it comes to the conservation of wildlife and the reduction of plastic waste. On their farm they rear Hereford cattle which, alongside a large selection of other local meats, can be purchased at their butchers counter. They also sell a selection of fruit and vegetables that they have grown on the farm.



Tim McMinn @culinarychatter
culinarychatter.com

Walks around Wickham



THE CHAIR OF WINCHESTER RAMBLERS, RICHARD EVE, TELLS US ABOUT WALKING AROUND WICKHAM:

Wickham lies towards the south of the area on the River Meon, one of the most unspoilt chalk streams in the world and home to otters, voles and kingfishers. This ancient market town is close to many beautiful walks, including part of the Pilgrims' Trail which passes through the nearby Forest of Bere.

However, its greatest walking asset is the 11-mile long Meon Valley Trail which follows a disused railway line along the picturesque Meon Valley, past quaint village pubs and north into the heart of the Downs. Well used by locals, this is my favourite way to explore the local countryside and find somewhere handy to stop for a welcome lunch.

You can find a detailed guide to the Meon Valley Trail at visit-hampshire.co.uk

MEON VALLEY TRAIL

Wickham marks the start of the Meon Valley Trail which stretches north for nine miles along the route of the old Meon Valley Railway, towards the village of West Meon.

Here it connects with the South Downs Way and Wayfarer's Walk, enabling you to create an extended circular route.

The route is level and passes by various hamlets and country pubs making it a path to be enjoyed at any pace. Park in Station Close car park for fast access to the trail and additional facilities.



NORTH FIELDS

This countryside trail will take you on a circular route to the north of Wickham. Reasonably level, it takes about an hour and a half but may be heavy going for pushchairs and wheelchairs. A great route for cyclists. Park in the Community Centre car park to begin the route.

THE MEADOWS MEANDER

An hour and a half level walk, taking in the scenic water meadows and views of a local vineyard. There is a picnic area situated by the water meadows and steep steps in the water meadows can be avoided by finishing the walk via Wickham Square. Park in Station Close car park.

THE WICKHAM WANDERER

For walkers this five-mile circular route takes in both local woodland and a visit to Wickham's historic St Nicholas Church. Park in Station Close car park for access to the walk. Further facilities and a picnic area are available courtesy of the Forestry Commission.

HEYTESBURY FARM RAMBLE

A circular path which explores the terrain to the south of Wickham, this walk is approximately three miles long and takes in woodland, farmland and rural lanes as well as urban roads. Park in the Recreation Ground car park for access to the walk.

See visitwinchester.co.uk/wickham for more information

The Wickham sleepover

If you're visiting Wickham then why not stay
a while in one of the nearby hotels?



MEON VALLEY HOTEL, GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Sandy Lane, Shedfield

Set in 225 wooded acres, this secluded hotel has a pool, spa and gym, with good motorway access. There is a championship golf course and tennis courts.

britanniahotels.com/hotels/meon-valley-hotel-country-club



NEW PLACE

Shirrell Heath

Ornate wrought-iron gates welcome you to a charming hotel which seamlessly blends traditional and modern spaces. Set in 32 acres of landscaped gardens, including a Grade I listed manor house which houses a restaurant and bar. There is also a gym, pool, croquet lawn, and cricket pitch here.

www.newplacehotel.co.uk

ROOKESBURY PARK CARAVAN SITE

Hundred Acres Road, Wickham

This site is set in tranquil parkland on the valley floor, with the magnificent Forest of Bere at its edge. A good choice for those with children. Part of the caravan park is reserved as a children's play and picnic area. For more information, please see caravanclub.co.uk



Festivals

Events and festivals are a big part of Wickham life and residents are looking forward to welcoming them back. Here's a flavour of what you can expect to see in a typical year...



MAY DAY

Local Morris dancers "greet the dawn" at the start of the day and perform once again in the early evening, this time joined by school children and several other Morris groups.



WICKHAM HORSE FAIR

This traditional event sees the travelling community sell and race ponies and horses and a fun fair fills The Square.

WICKHAM DUCK RACE

Traditionally in June, raises funds for local organisations such as the primary school and scouts. Everyone is welcome to turn up and join in the fun!

BOXING DAY RALLY

The village gets filled with vintage cars and motorbikes of every era. Get there early and be prepared to park a little distance away as this event gets more popular every year.

THE WICKHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL

With a definite folky feel, this intimate festival in a large field to the north of The Square attracts big names and music lovers from across the country – usually held in early August. wickhamfestival.co.uk

TASTE OF WICKHAM FESTIVAL

A day out for all of the family with children's entertainment, food, craft, alcoholic beverages, demos, gifts, jewellery and a whole host of other products and services. tasteofwickham.com



A tale of two market towns

If you are staying in the Wickham area you'll also be close to Bishop's Waltham, so why not combine the two and have more time to explore local attractions including Marwell Zoo, Marwell Resort and Old Winchester Hill (see our Bishop's Waltham section from page 18 for more details)? You'll also be close to Fort Nelson and The Forest of Bere.



FORT NELSON

For those who like their guns big, head to Fort Nelson, home to the Royal Armouries' national collection of artillery. Showcasing great guns from across the ages and around the globe, the museum brings history to life – including free daily gun firings and a lively events programme. You'll also get panoramic views over the Meon Valley and The Solent. The museum is open daily and admission is free. royalarmouries.org

FOREST OF BERE

Escape from any trace of modern life with a trip to this ancient woodland. At 350 hectares, West Walk is the largest remaining fragment of the former forest – ideal for a complete day out with plenty of walking and cycling trails, adventurous playgrounds for children and several quiet picnic areas.

forestryengland.uk/west-walk/
forest-ber-trail-west-walk



The ultimate foodie itinerary

A TASTE OF THREE TOWNS

From the brown trout swimming in the River Itchen, to the English sparkling wine vines growing around the South Downs and the watercress growing in the beds around Alresford, Winchester's market towns make for a great foodie break. We have put this itinerary together so you can sample the flavours of all three of our market towns...

DAY 1

Start your tour of our market towns in **Wickham** with a coffee and a pastry overlooking the magnificent Wickham Square. Take a wander around to admire the beautiful architecture and pop into **Confiserie Verdonk** The Wickham Chocolate Shop for some deliciously sweet treats. If you have an eye for a bargain don't leave Wickham without a visit to **Chesapeake Mill**. Browse and shop the huge variety of antique and traditional vintage lifestyle accessories.



Head to **Bishop's Waltham** for lunch where there are plenty of places to choose from. You can enjoy a light café lunch, a traditional British pub fare or maybe something Mediterranean. Walk off your lunch with a stroll around one of the nature reserves and **Bishop's Waltham Palace**. There are also some great shops in town for some tasty treats to take home.

Time to head off toward the town of **Alresford**. En route why not pop into the **Flower Pots Brewery** in the village of Cheriton? Their beers are award-winning and you can sample them in their on-site pub,

The Flower Pots Inn. This is a good spot for dinner too.





DAY 2

Wake up in the beautiful market town of **Alresford**. If it's a Thursday start with a wander around the market. Work up an appetite for lunch with a walk along the watercress beds or view them from a trip on **The Mid Hants Railway – Watercress Line**.

Back in the town and time for lunch in one of the delectable cafés.

In the afternoon visit a local award-winning vineyard – choose from **Hattingley Valley, Raimes or The Grange**. Visit their websites before you travel to pre-book a tour and tasting.

Back in Alresford for dinner and there are some mouth-watering places to choose from. **Pulpo Negro** featured on ITV's Saturday Kitchen with James Martin and **Party at The Mill** serves cocktails, small plates and pizzas. There are some wonderful pubs too for a cosy supper.



DAY 3

Time to head home, but not before checking out **Long Barn**. In amongst the lavender fields it's a great café offering a wide selection of foodie treats to take home.



For a full list of eateries make sure you pick up a copy of our market town maps from Winchester Visitor Information Centre or download from visitwinchester.co.uk

Visitor information

Planning a trip is just a click away, visit our website visitwinchester.co.uk to help shape your visit today.

GET IN TOUCH

Guildhall Winchester,
The Broadway, SO23 9GH
01962 840 500
tourism@winchester.gov.uk
visitwinchester.co.uk



WINCHESTER VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE AND GIFT SHOP

Our team of knowledgeable staff will give you a warm welcome and help you plan your visit. Choose from a wide range of leaflets and brochures for some inspiration on things to do across the district. You'll also find details of events and guided tours as well as a great range of souvenirs and local gifts.

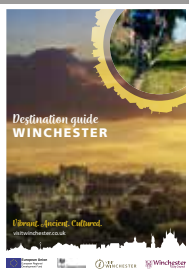
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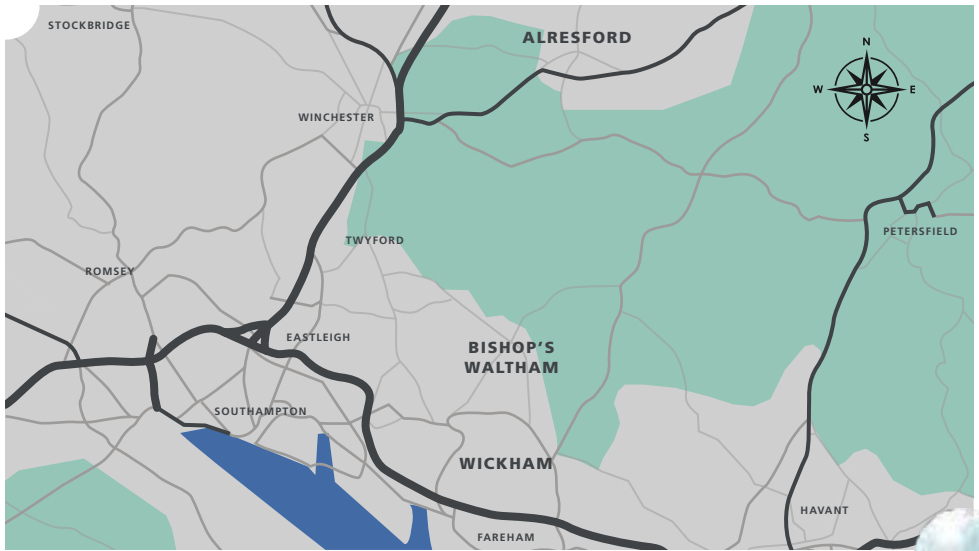
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Follow our trails online at visitwinchester.co.uk/trails or pick up hard copies from the visitor information centre.



For more inspiration and to plan your trip, take a look at our destination guide which is available from Winchester Visitor Information Centre and online at visitwinchester.co.uk.





GETTING TO OUR MARKET TOWNS

ALRESFORD

Car: Situated off the A31 between Winchester and Alton. Easily accessible from the M3 and A34. Follow the brown and white tourist signs to the Watercress Line.

Bus: Regular services from Winchester, Southampton, Alton and Petersfield.

Train: 10 miles from Alton Station, which has direct links to London.

WICKHAM

Car: Two miles north of the M27 (junction 10) near Fareham and less than 10 miles from both the M3 and A3. Alternatively, for a scenic route, take the A32 from Alton and head south through the beautiful Meon Valley. Journey time from London approx. 90 minutes.

Train/bus: Nearest station is Fareham, then take the 69 bus to Wickham from Monday to Saturday. The same bus route takes you to Winchester.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM

Car: From Winchester take the B2177 towards Bishop's Waltham/Wickham. From Wickham take the B2177 towards Bishop's Waltham/ Winchester and from Corhampton take the B3035 towards Bishop's Waltham. All easily accessible from the M3, A32 and M27.

Bus: Buses between Bishop's Waltham and Southampton (X10), Eastleigh (X9), Winchester (69) and Fareham (69) every day, and to and from Petersfield (X17) Wednesday only.

Train: The nearest train station is Botley, then take an X9 bus to Bishop's Waltham.



Winchester City Council has a network of Electric Vehicle charging points (EVCPs) across the district. Find the locations at winchester.gov.uk/parking/other-parking-facilities.

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01202 338 421 | bluestarbus.co.uk

SOUTHAMPTON AIRPORT

03444 817 777 | southamptonairport.com

EYE-OPENERS

Public art, crafts and galleries in and around Winchester



Winchester is rightly famous for its rich heritage but it's also home to some stunning public art, contemporary visual art and crafts, as well as being the place of work for a number of gifted artists and craft makers. This guide has been written to help you find and enjoy some of Winchester's diverse visual attractions. Most are freely accessible, although an entrance fee is payable in some cases.



VISIT
WINCHESTER

visitwinchester.co.uk

New public art trail launched for Summer 2022

Winchester is rightly famous for its rich heritage but it's also home to some stunning public art, contemporary visual art and crafts, as well as being the place of work for a number of gifted artists and craft makers.

Look out for a new self-guided trail that will take you on a creative journey across the Winchester district – find public art, pop into local galleries and discover local crafts and meet the makers.

EYE-OPENERS will be available from Winchester Visitor Information Centre and online at visitwinchester.co.uk

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This guide aims to support and promote a safe public environment for a local area's economy in response to the impact of Covid-19.

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If you would like this leaflet in a larger format please contact the visitor information centre.



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