

Discover Cheriton

Cheriton has a claim to be Hampshire's prettiest village. Its church sits upon an ancient barrow and the River Itchen, which rises nearby, runs through the village beside its thatched cottages. The highest part of this trail goes along the South Downs Way. Here there are excellent views and you might even spot Red Kite birds flying nearby.

The River Itchen

One of the three main sources of the River Itchen lies just to the south of Cheriton. The Itchen is considered to be one of the best chalk streams in Britain and is renowned for the quality of its fly fishing. The crystal clear waters are due to years of filtration through the porous chalk of the South Downs. The Itchen journeys for 28 miles, passing Winchester and finally entering the sea at Southampton Water.

The Battle of Cheriton

A decisive event in the first English Civil War, the Battle of Cheriton took place on 29th March 1644 in the fields to the east of Cheriton. The Battle was between the Royalists led by the Earl of Forth and the Parliamentarians under Sir William Waller. The Parliamentarians won the battle, halting the Royalists' advance to Winchester and forcing King Charles I's troops on the defensive, leading to their eventual defeat in 1645.

Hinton Ampner

While exploring the area, walkers can see Hinton Ampner House & Garden. A fine example of 20th century design, the gardens were largely designed and planted by the last owner of the estate, Ralph Dutton. The house was remodelled in a neo-Tudor style by Dutton's Grandfather in the 1800s but was almost destroyed in the 1960s by fire. Ralph Dutton rebuilt the house again, this time in a neo-Georgian style. The gardens were started in 1930 and have been evolving ever since. The whole estate was gifted to the National Trust on Ralph Dutton's death in 1985.

For more information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk. In Hinton Ampner village there is a small church, which dates from the 12th century. It contains lovely stained glass and two poignant memorials to children.

Kilmeston

At the hamlet of Kilmeston is historic Kilmeston Manor. During the early 19th century the Prince Regent stayed here.

Bramdean

Bramdean church dates from the 12th century, with Victorian additions. The 'Church in the Wood' on Bramdean Common is a charming tin church originally built for the charcoal burners who made their living on the common (late 19th century).

Refreshments

Milbury's Inn is a traditional English pub with an unusual feature: a 365ft deep well in the bar area. Tel 01962 771248

The Fox in Bramdean has a plaque outside to commemorate the fact that the Prince of Wales stopped there for refreshment in the 1780s. Tel 01962 771363

The Hinton Arms is on the A272, a short distance from New Cheriton crossroads and Hinton Ampner Lodge. Tel 01962 771252

The Flower Pots Inn in Cheriton is a popular pub that brews its own beer. Tel 01962 771318

Bramdean Common is also a popular picnic spot.

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.

Walking near Cheriton

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**.

There is no public parking in these villages, so please arrive by bus if possible. There is currently no Sunday service, so please check transport options before you travel.

If you enjoyed this walk, you could try the 'Battle of Cheriton Walk'. Just visit www.visitwinchester.co.uk and search for 'Cheriton Walk'. To find out more about the battle, visit www.battleofcheriton.co.uk.

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.

Walking near Cheriton



Leave your car at home, take the bus



Cheriton

Distance: 10miles/16km

Time: 4+ hours

Alternative routes:
Short cut 5miles/8km,
2-2.5 hours

Bus: 67 (Velvet Bus)

Access: Some hills

Key:

- Public house
- Church/chapel
- Walk
- Footpath
- Bridleway

Route Instructions

1 From the bus stop at the centre of **Cheriton**, take the signposted path to the church. Once through the church gate turn immediately right and follow the grass path, with a brick and flint wall on the right, to the end of the churchyard. Proceed straight ahead through the kissing gate to **Hill Houses Lane**. Turn left (**Itchen Way**) and after about 100 yards turn right through a gate and continue along Itchen Way.

2 The footpath leads you into fields alongside a hedgerow on the right. Beside the hedgerow flows the juvenile **River Itchen**. Continue alongside this hedge and river until you reach a gate under a lone, tall pine.

3 Take the track from the gate down to **Cheriton Mill** to join the road beyond. Turn right (**Wayfarers Way**) and walk to the road junction and then up Prite Lane (a green lane) opposite. Where this track ends, turn right onto **Hinton Lane** (a track) and head south-east, keeping left when you meet a fork in the track.

4 This is **Broad Lane**, one of several green lanes east of Cheriton which featured in the 1644 Battle of Cheriton in the English Civil War. Continue across **Badshear Lane** and **Cheriton Track**. Near its end, close to **Primrose Cottages**, you will find a panel describing the battle.

5 Where the track ends, cross the **A272** road and walk up the lane to the rear gates of **Hinton Ampner**. If you wish, you can visit the charming estate church. Your path (part of the **Wayfarers Walk**) is on the left. It skirts the edge of the estate before rising across parkland towards **Kilmeston village**.

Shortcut: As you skirt the Hinton Ampner estate, turn right where you meet a path crossroads (waymarked 'Itchen Way'). This path takes you in front of Hinton Ampner House and ends at a minor road where you turn right. Head north on this minor road, which leads back to a crossroad of the A272. Cross over and continue north through the village of Cheriton and back towards the church.

6 To continue on the main route, go straight ahead towards **Kilmeston** until you emerge at a lane. Then cross to a **Wayfarers Way** footpath and continue on to another lane. Then turn right on the road and head for the road junction. Opposite, enter a kissing gate and proceed through three more kissing gates, then for over a mile proceed initially through two large fields before slowly rising to finally join the **South Downs Way**. Turn right at the roadside and head west using the road for a lot of the way. Excellent views north can be seen from this junction of paths.

7 When you reach the **Milbury's Inn**, turn right and then after 100 yards turn left into a quiet lane following the **South Downs Way**. Leave this lane at a sharp right bend and continue ahead along the South Downs Way (**Holden Lane** track). Follow it all the way to the A272 road, then cross and walk up to reach a short stretch of downland. Turn right at the gate along the South Downs Way.

8 Follow the hedge on the right to a gate where, at a sharp bend, you finally leave the South Downs Way. Pass through the gate to join a restricted byway. This leads through a copse and keeping left at the fork it becomes **Honey Lane**.

9 After a while, turn right at the junction with a small road, with a pond on the left, and then continue on to **Hill Houses** and back down to **Cheriton**.



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