North Wessex Downs AONB

The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) includes some of England’s finest and most ancient landscapes - from chalk downland and river valleys to arable farmland, ancient woodland and world-famous historic sites. The AONB is ideal for walkers, cyclists and riders to enjoy panoramic views along open chalk escarpments, as well as rights of way through woodland and alongside rivers and parts of the Kennet and Avon Canal. Visitors can follow routes that include the Ridgeway National Trail, the White Horse Trail and the Wayfarer’s Walk, taking in attractive rural towns and villages that offer opportunities to enjoy local produce and hospitality.

For further information about the North Wessex Downs AONB, please visit www.northwessexdowns.org.uk

Transport options

There is a regular train service to Newbury station.

East Woodhay is served by the following bus services:

- **Line 7** Newbury - Andover via Wash Water, Woolton Hill, East End, Ball Hill, Higclere
- **Line C21/C22** Newbury - Burghclere - Woolton Hill - East End - Ball Hill - Newbury

For further details please visit www.traveline.org.uk or call 0871 200 22 33

OS Explorer map no 158 covers this area.

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The Furze Bush Inn

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The Furze Bush Inn provides formal or informal dining come rain or shine.

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The Country Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

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WALKS IN THE HAMPSHIRE
PARISH OF EAST WOODHAY

2.6 - 5 miles/4.2 - 8 km

3 easy walks on local footpaths

Some slopes
History and Geology of the Parish of East Woodhay

The parish of East Woodhay in the North West corner of Hampshire comprises the village of Woolton Hill and the hamlets of Ball Hill, East End, East Woodhay, Gore End, Hatt Common, Heath End, Hollington and North End. It lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the land rises from the river Enborne in the North, the natural boundary with West Berkshire, to Pilot Hill (at 286m the highest point in Hampshire) on the South West boundary.

East Woodhay grew up as a cluster of small hamlets in woodland clearings around the parish church of St Martin’s. In Victorian times a number of big houses were built and the population grew, requiring the building of a new church, St Thomas’ Woolton Hill, and two schools. The countryside is an attractive combination of open chalk downland, wooded valleys, fields and hedges, criss-crossed by an intricate network of lanes, bridleways and footpaths.

We hope that these three walks will provide an introduction to the parish of East Woodhay and encourage you to venture further afield and explore more of our ancient rights of way which are shown on the footpath map in this leaflet.

Occasionally a footpath may lead through fields with sheep or cattle and you should keep children and dogs under close control. However, if you are not confident walking past cows, especially when they are with young calves, it may be wise to change your route and choose a different path or quiet lane.

Directions and guide

Walk 1 - purple route - A pleasant footpath and road walk close to Woolton Hill. One descent and one climb; no stiles; boots needed in winter. (Grid Ref. 428617)

1. From Trade Street Woolton Hill take the footpath to the right beside Coopers Cottage, near the bus stop. This descends quite steeply between gardens and then passes through a wetland area using a board walk. Pass through kissing gate at the end; through a small meadow which is covered in wild daffodils in the spring, to another gate and then cross the field diagonally to your right to kissing gate. Follow the board walk through a wooded area and then beside the garden of Garvards House, to come out into Fullers Lane.

Walk 2 - orange route - A Circular walk from St Martin’s Church East Woodhay through the older parts of the parish with lovely views up to the hills, quite level with 9 stiles. (Grid Ref. 405615)

1. From St Martin’s Church car park, cross the road to gravel drive and go through the pedestrian gate to the right of main gate. Follow the footpath between hedges and banks until it turns up to the right and cross the stile into the field. Follow the footpath across the field along the post and rail fence on the right; cross the stile by the field gate. There are two footpath arrows here; take the direction of the arrow pointing to the
left and follow the path to the wide opening in the hedge.

2. Pass to the left of banks and ditches which are believed to be the remains of a medieval hunting lodge, referred to locally as ‘The Bishop’s Palace’ diagonally across to the corner of the field where a stile leads into the road. Turn left in the lane and follow it to the junction; turn left and pass East Woodhay Village Hall on your right. After about 100 yards, take the footpath on the left between a field and a wood; follow the path to the right into the wood and just before the path comes out into an open field, follow the footpath sign to the left. This path quickly joins a stony, downhill track; follow this straight ahead into the dip and up again as it emerges into the open. Halfway up the slope turn right and cross a footbridge, through a kissing gate, turn left and up the field to the stile and come out onto the road.

3. You have now reached the hamlet of North End where there are some very pretty half timbered cottages. Turn right along the road; then left down a gravel drive by the sign for Cottage Farmhouse. Continue ahead onto grassy footpath, over stile and straight on to the road. On reaching the road turn left and walk along this quiet lane for about 1/4 mile.

4. Turn right down the tarmac drive to Hayes and Woodlands Cottage where you will enjoy lovely open views up to the hills. As you enter the farmyard, follow the direction of the yellow way marker and bear left and then straight on between farm buildings. At the end of the farmyard, turn left and follow the grassy path. A few yards before the end of the path turn right over stile and follow footpath, then walk down the track to a stile into the road.

5. Cross the road to the stile immediately opposite and follow the footpath diagonally down the field and over a stile into the next field. You have a fine view here of East Woodhay Rectory built in 1828. Follow the line of the footpath up to the corner of the flint and brick garden wall and climb over the stile into the road. Turn left and return to the church car park.

Total distance: 2.7 miles

Walk 3 - red route - An undulating Walk with 9 stiles. (Grid Ref. 430616)

1. Starting from Woolton Hill Church Hall walk up Church Road. Note the small memorial stone on the right recording the gift of the field to East Woodhay Parish. Follow the road to the entrance to Hollington House, turn left and follow the long driveway to Hollington Farm on your right.

2. Cross over stile and follow the track which can be very muddy at times. Cross 2 more stiles and follow the track downhill. At the bottom of the hill, cross another stile and take the grassy path half right diagonally across the field. Halfway up the hill stop and look back at Hollington House. Cross the stile and continue to your right along a shady path to Westridge Lane.

3. Turn right along the lane to Alma Farm, cross another stile on the right and follow a path between fences to a stile leading into a copse. After a short climb, the path veers left and then downhill to a valley. Please keep your dogs close to you as this is pheasant country and the footpaths pass through private land.

4. Following the yellow waymark signs take the footpath to the left of the track through quiet woodlands to another stile onto a field with beautiful views of the Downs, and one last stile onto Hollington Lane. Turn right and walk down the lane to the cross roads. (You can turn right on the lane and walk back to Woolton Hill past Tower House and Hollington House in 1 mile.)

5. Turn left on the bridleway next to the entrance to Brick Kiln Farm and pass Jones Farm. Stop at the brow of the hill and take in far reaching views on both sides. Then follow the track downhill, across a muddy patch at the bottom and up to the junction with a wide track. Turn right along this track and arrive at East End opposite St Martin’s School.

6. Walk through East End, turn left at the triangle with the war memorial and take the first right down Fullers Lane. At Garvards House, follow the footpath sign on the right along the path and boardwalk to Trade Street, turn left, then right to return to starting point.

Total distance: 5 miles