

# WHITCHURCH DOG WALKING GUIDE



Whitchurch

## Dog Friendly Pubs

Well behaved dogs are made particularly welcome at the following local pubs.

**The Bell, Whitchurch;** Town centre CAMRA pub where dogs are made very welcome. [www.thebellwhitchurch.co.uk](http://www.thebellwhitchurch.co.uk)

**The White Hart, Stoke nr. St. Mary Bourne;** Dog friendly village pub with a pleasant outside garden open to the car park – dogs should be taken off the lead inside the pub. Not open every day, please telephone 01264 738830.

**The Watership Down Inn, Freefolk;** Pleasant outside patio and shady garden open to the car park. Clean, well behaved dogs are permitted in the bar area. [www.watershipdowninn.com](http://www.watershipdowninn.com)

**The Cricketers Inn, Longparish;** Pleasant outside garden open to the car park. [www.thecricketersinnlongparish.co.uk](http://www.thecricketersinnlongparish.co.uk)

## Further Information

<sup>1</sup> CLA Guidance Note: Dogs, Access and Public Rights of Way GN08-10 18/05/2010.

<sup>2</sup> Dogs in the Countryside: [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

<sup>3</sup> [www.nfus.org.uk/uploadedFiles/Campaigns/Disease%20in%20Livestock.pdf](http://www.nfus.org.uk/uploadedFiles/Campaigns/Disease%20in%20Livestock.pdf)

Dogs and horses: [www.bhs.org.uk/safety-and-accidents/common-incidents/dog-attacks](http://www.bhs.org.uk/safety-and-accidents/common-incidents/dog-attacks)

Dogs and cyclists: [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

## Happy Dog Walking!

This dog walking guide has been produced by the Whitchurch Association to promote responsible use of our open spaces, footpaths and bridleways and to provide information for local residents and visitors with dogs.

**Whitchurch** is an accredited **Walkers are Welcome** town, a scheme which aims to ensure excellent town and country walking facilities and footpaths.

## Introduction

The UK is a nation of dog lovers with an estimated 8.5 million dogs<sup>1</sup> in the country and 23% of households owning at least one dog<sup>2</sup>. It is little wonder then that dog friendly walking routes are in high demand, especially routes where dogs can be safely let off the lead.

This guide suggests dog friendly places to take your dog locally along with some friendly advice on what is expected of you and your dog.

The guide is divided into two parts.

**Part 1** gives general guidance relating to walking your dog in the countryside.

**Part 2** provides some information and guidance on local natural parkland and paths where your dog can be exercised safely.



## Part 1 – The Responsible Dog Owner

### *Clearing up after your dog.*

Most people these days are aware that it is socially unacceptable not to pick up after their dog, as well as the risks of dog faeces to human health. There is also evidence of the links between two specific diseases in livestock and the presence on grazing land of faeces from infected dogs. The two diseases are:

- **Neosporosis** – which can cause abortions in cattle and
- **Sarcocystosis** – which can cause neurological disease and death in sheep.

In both cases it has been proven that dogs are hosts to these diseases, but only a small number of infected dogs develop symptoms<sup>3</sup>. To be sure that your dog is not contributing to the spread of this problem, it is essential to clear up after your dog in all situations, whether on a footpath or in fields and dispose of the waste responsibly. Where dedicated dog waste disposal bins are not provided, litter bins may be used or waste must be taken home.

### *Restrictions.*

**Public Places:** Local Byelaws (Dog Control Orders) specify where and when dogs must be on a lead, and where dogs are not permitted. Check District Authority websites for information.

**Public Rights of Way (PRoW):** Dogs are defined as a ‘legal accompaniment’ on a public right of way. There is no general requirement for dogs to be kept on the lead however, if you or your dog departs from the PRoW you are trespassing and the landowner has the right to ask you to return to the designated path. The 1953 Act to protect livestock from dogs **makes it a criminal offence for your dog to ‘worry’ (attack, chase, injure or be at large among) livestock.**

**Countryside Access Land:** Since 2000 there has been a right to walk across most downland, heathland and registered common land. Walkers are made aware that they are entering Access Land by means of a notice placed at

points of entry. Legislations requires that dogs be kept on leads of less than 2m in length to protect ground nesting birds between 1<sup>st</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> July. It is also a requirement that dogs be kept on a lead at all times when in the vicinity of livestock.

**Permissive Paths:** Allowing walkers onto private land where they normally have no public access rights is termed permissive access. Landowners may grant such access as a goodwill gesture or as part of a formal stewardship scheme for which they receive payment. In both cases the landowner has the right to place restrictions eg. no dogs or dogs only on a lead.

## Part 2 – Where to Walk with your Dog

The farmland above Winchester Street and to the SE of Micheldever Road is largely arable and it is possible to take your dog off the lead. The same applies to the footpaths north of the railway line (west of Newbury Street).

You can expect to find animals grazing either side of the River Test on the Whitchurch Mill Trail on land belonging to Bere Mill. Dogs should be kept under close control and on a lead.

The Test Way long distance footpath from Andover Down, passing Harewood Forest to Longparish; the fields are largely arable and it is possible to take your dog off the lead, however much of the woodland is private land and dogs should be kept strictly to the public right of way. Expect to find animals grazing in the meadowland around the village of Longparish.

## Natural Parkland and Nature Reserves

**Whitchurch Millennium Meadow Nature Reserve.** Well behaved dogs may be taken off the lead in this fenced natural meadow.

**Daniel Park, Whitchurch.** Well behaved dogs may be taken off the lead in this natural unfenced area of parkland with the exception of the children’s fenced skate park.