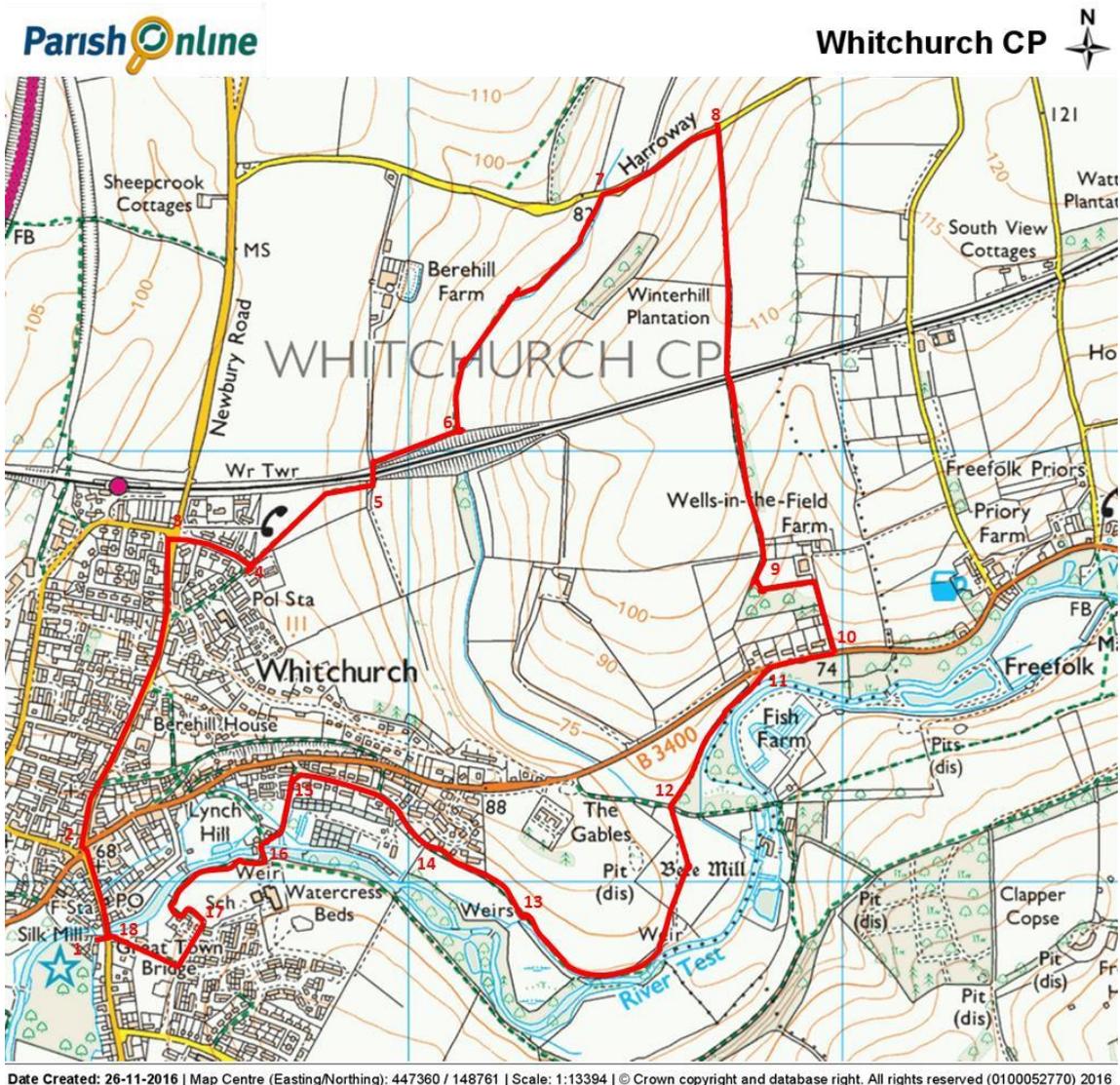




THE HARROWAY, WELLS-IN-THE-FIELD & the RIVER TEST – (4.2 miles – 90 minutes)



The walk begins at the Winchester Street car park next to the Silk Mill. (1)

Leave the car park and turn left along Winchester Street crossing over the River Test at Town Bridge. Whitchurch Silk Mill on your left dates from 1815 and is the oldest surviving silk mill in the country still weaving in its original Regency building. Continue along Winchester Street until you reach the town square.

Cross over to the corner of Newbury Street, to the right of the baker's shop (2). Take a minute to read the plaque on the front wall of the baker's shop commemorating the Salvation Army's victory at the High Court in London when the Right to Peaceful Protest was won for the country. Walk up Newbury Street passing a number of attractive period buildings until you almost reach the crossroads at the brow of the hill and, crossing carefully using the traffic island, head to the right along Bere Hill (3).

At the end of Bere Hill, look for the kissing gate off the corner to the left (4). Pass through the gate and walk down the field in the direction of the bottom left-hand corner towards a second kissing gate (5). Immediately on the left you pass through a third kissing gate and continue under the railway bridge. Turn immediately right and pass through a gate to follow the footpath down the right hand edge of a very large field.

The footpath turns to the left at the bottom of the field (6) – follow this along until you reach the far right hand bottom corner of the field (7) – passing through the gate you emerge onto *The Harroway*. Dating from Neolithic times, *The Harroway* long distance byway is one of the oldest long distance trails in the country. Turn right and, keeping an eye and an ear out for traffic, walk along *The Harroway*, which then rises uphill. Before you reach the crest, you will see a footpath fingerpost and a path off to the right, running along the left side of a field (8). Follow this path on and up, eventually over the railway line and onwards between a hedgerow on the left and a field fence on the right.

You emerge next to a paddock on the left – the path runs around the paddock (9), turning to the left as you follow it down and emerging out onto an access road. Turn right and carry on until you reach the B3400 at Wells-in-the-Field (10). Cross the road carefully and follow the pavement to the right. The water table is particularly high here, hence the name and you can see typical meadow plants and insect life throughout the year. Where the pavement end you follow a footpath down to the left through trees (11).

Continue to follow this path (ignoring the new path on the right) keeping the river to your left until it emerges on Bere Mill Lane (12), cross straight over and go through a gate into a field. You can expect to encounter livestock (usually sheep) in this field; **DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD**. Follow the path ahead and slightly to the left to the hedgerow at the field boundary, and go through a kissing gate.



The path skirts round to the left and along the bottom of another field to the left of a fence. When the path reaches a gateway on the right (13), turn left past the gate, down a short slope and then immediately right onto the footpath, which continues with a fence and a field on the left and hedgerow on the right. At the end, pass through a gate and carry on between trees until you emerge by a wooden house at the end of The Green (14).

Proceed along the Green, bearing left at the junction and within a few yards, turn left on a path between the houses (15), following it through trees and across small footbridges until it emerges at Town Mill (16), where there is a footbridge over the main part of the River Test. Cross over the bridge and bear right to follow the path around the perimeter fence of the school playing field, turning right at the end (17) and then taking the right turn in front of some houses, opposite Alliston Way.

The path continues after a kissing gate, running between walls before emerging at Winchester Street, immediately opposite the Gill Nethercott Centre car park entrance (18).

Cross the road carefully and then you are back at your starting point.