

Wherwell, Chilbolton Trail



**HAMPSHIRE
COUNTRYSIDE
SERVICE**

Distance: | 4.7 miles

Start: | Playing Field Car Park

Wherwell is one of the most picturesque villages in the Test Valley, and boasts some of the finest timber framed thatched cottages in the county. It is situated on the banks of the River Test, famous for its Trout fishing. Wherwell is separated from its neighbouring village of Chilbolton by the River Test and the Chilbolton Cow Common. The Common, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, is home to over 100 different plants and grasses, as well as many wild birds. North of Wherwell is Harewood Forest, the largest area of woodland within Hampshire, outside the New Forest. It provides an excellent woodland habitat for wildlife, including roe deer and buzzards

Directions

Begin the walk from the playing field car park, next to the school. Turn left onto Longparish Road, continue past the War Memorial and the White Lion Inn and proceed down Fullerton Road.

Take the path signposted left across the wooden 'Long Bridge' and over the River Test. Follow the path across the Common and over the next footbridge before turning left alongside the river bank.

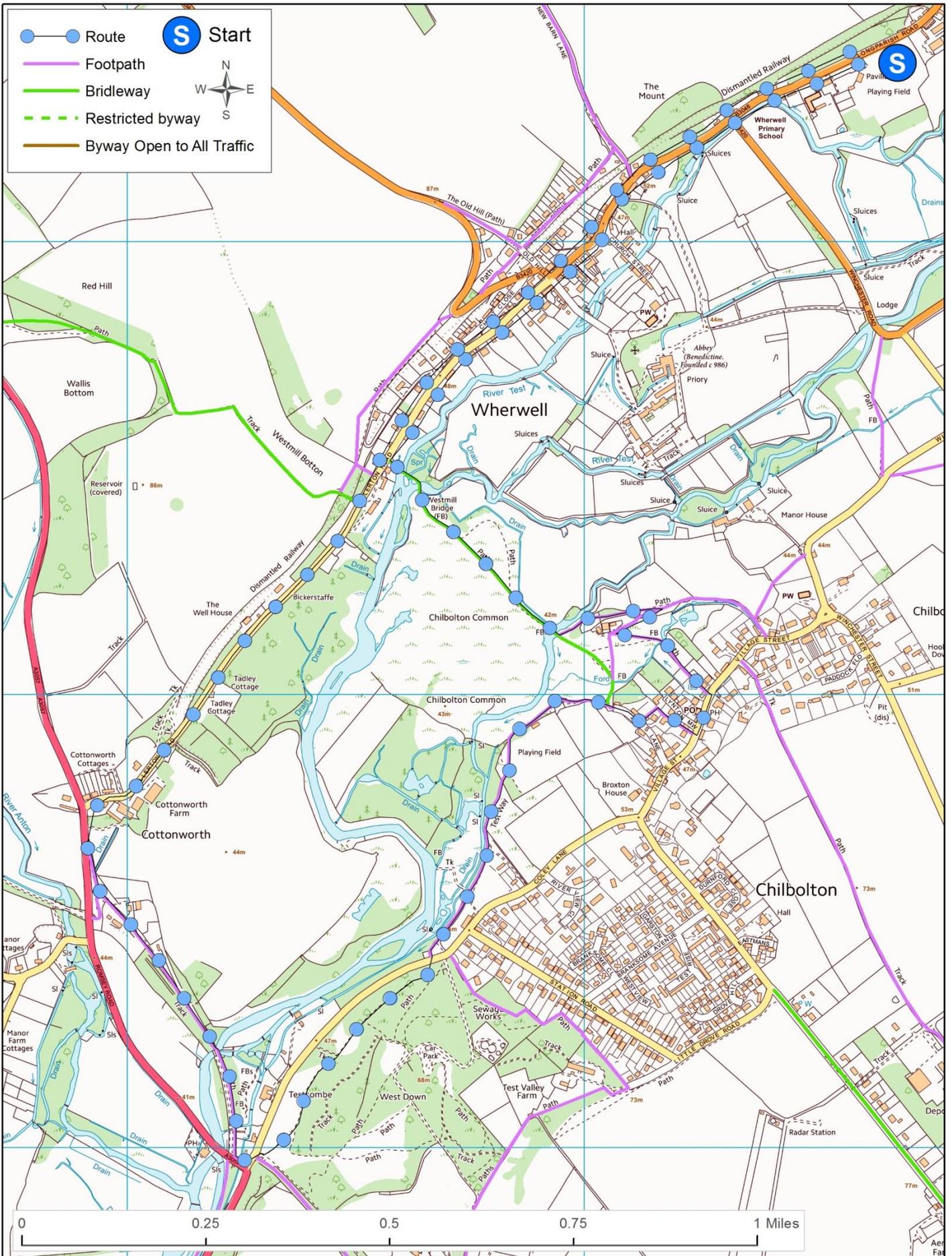
Pass through the first of three kissing gates, following the path behind the cottages to the next gate. Turn right and continue to the last of the gates, then cross the Common bearing slightly left towards a stile. After crossing the stile, continue along the path to the village telephone box.

Turn right and continue along the road past the Pub on the left. Look out for a small footpath on your right between the houses and follow it back to the Common. Cross the cattle grid and walk straight on past the cottage on your left, following the Test Way. Take the path bordering the Playing Field through a gate and follow it along the edge of the playing field through another gate. The path then follows the river and climbs uphill towards a road.

Cross the road and immediately turn right through a gate to follow the Test Way signs up onto the edge of West Down. Keep the woodland and the fence on the left as you follow the track along the hillside. At the end of the path go back down the hill, through a gate and across the road still following the Test Way signs.

Keep bearing right alongside the wall to follow the old railway track back to Fullerton. At the road junction, where you will spot the Cottonworth sign, turn right. Take the first turning on the right, onto Fullerton Road, and follow it for approximately one and a half miles, through Wherwell village and back to the playing field car park.

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