

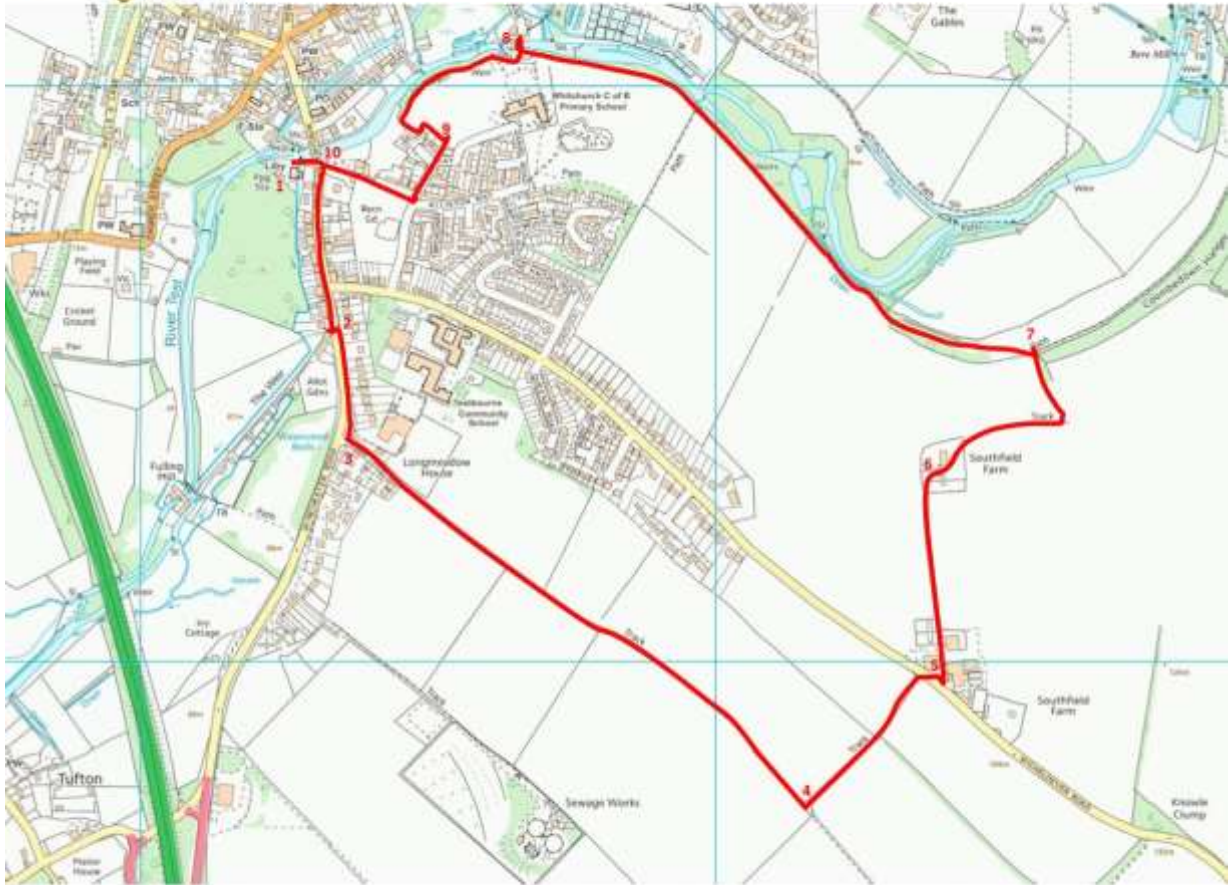


## FIELDS, THE HANGINGS & the RIVER TEST (2.5 miles – 1 hour)



ParishOnline

Whitchurch CP 



Date Created: 24-11-2016 | Map Centre (Easting/Northing): 448945 / 147587 | Scale: 1:11091 | © Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (0100052770) 2016

Start at the Winchester Street car park next to the Silk Mill (1).

At the entrance to the car park, cross over the main road and turn right to walk along Winchester Street passing a garage, the dentist's and the convenience store on the corner of Micheldever Road. Continue to walk south along Winchester Street (2) passing the allotments and the gates to the Millennium Meadow on the opposite side of the road.

Follow a curved turning to the left, passing the entrance to the Longmeadow Sports and Social Club, and then turn left into Webb's Farm Close (3), heading straight on and following a footpath uphill between hedgerows. When you emerge into fields at the top, take some time to enjoy the views.

Continue straight ahead along the path, until you reach a junction with a track between fields (4). Turn left along the track and follow it until you reach Micheldever Road. Carefully cross Micheldever Road (5) to reach the entrance to a small single track road running between barns at Southfield Farm (5). Continue along this small road passing two bungalows on your left.

The road ends as it bends to the right around Southfield Farm cottages – take the footpath straight ahead (6) and follow it downhill, bending round to the left and then eventually coming to a stile where there are waymarks for the Mill Trail (7). Expect to find livestock in the next field; **DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD.**

Cross over the stile and turn left, immediately passing through a gate and then follow the path to the right of Cowslip Bank, and through trees to a kissing gate.

Continue straight ahead with fields on your left before passing through a gap in the hedgerow and in to the bottom of Daniel Park.



Continue to follow the path until you exit at the bottom right hand corner and shortly after get to Town Mill and the footbridge over the main part of the River Test (8). This is a good spot to admire the mill and the river from the footbridge.

The present structure is 18<sup>th</sup> century, although there has probably been a corn mill on this site for at least a thousand years. In 1966 Ronald and Rosemary Eastman (owners of Town Mill) filmed a pair of common kingfishers at their underground nest on this stretch of the River Test. *The Private Life of the Kingfisher* screened in 1967 was the first BBC natural history film to be shown in colour.

Do not cross the river, but instead, turn back to follow the path around the perimeter fence of the school playing field. At the end, turn right (9), cross over the entrance to the cul-de-sac on your right and then take the path on your right opposite Alliston Way (keeping the beech hedge to your left) (10). In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the land to your right, now occupied by housing, was a hop garden.

The path continues after a kissing gate, running between flint and brick walls before emerging onto Winchester Street and opposite the car park entrance that marks the end of your walk.

Please take care when crossing the road.