



# Walking The Watercress Way: short circular routes



## WALK THE Watercress Way

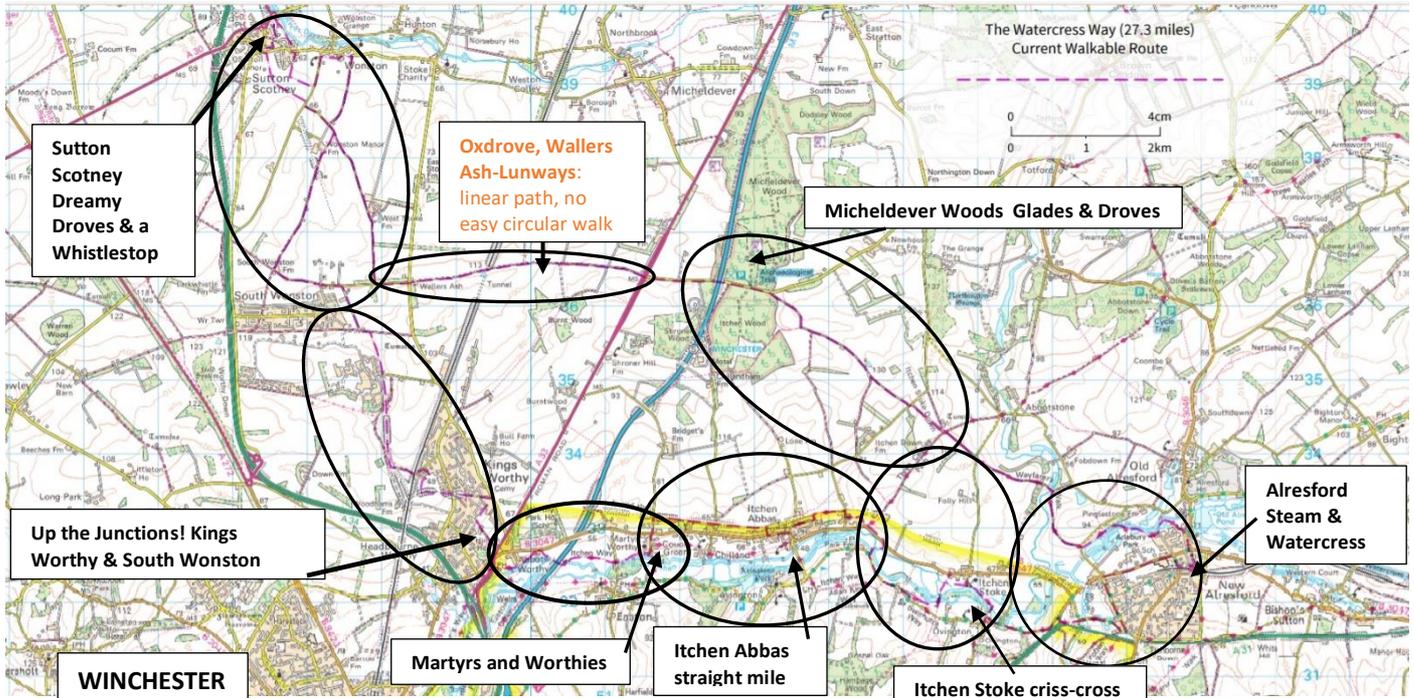
Walk the marathon length trail by joining up 7 shorter circular walks

The Watercress Way N.E. of Winchester, Hampshire, is waymarked for walkers.

Over a third of the route is in the **South Downs National Park**. It follows parts of the track bed of two Victorian railway lines closed mid C.20th, linked by historic rights of way including livestock droves. It intersects or follows many other famous routes: The Three Castles Path and St Swithun's Way, passing through the beautiful rolling chalk downland of the River Itchen, Dever and Arle.

Download the map & written guides, with modified routes for cycling and horse riding avoiding footpaths.

**7 Guided walks by the Watercress Way charity: maximum of 10 people in 2 socially distanced 'bubbles'. Email & phone data saved using Government guidelines.**



### Sections of the Watercress Way

- **Post code for parking emailed once a place is booked.**
- All between 2-4 hours and 5-8 miles, and can be shortened or extended
- **Check Facebook / email by 9.am on the day for any changes/cancellations**
- **Perhaps book yourself into one of our sponsor businesses for late lunch!**

### Dates

All start at 10.00 am

1. <b>Alresford Steam &amp; Watercress:</b> see the reopened heritage Watercress Line trains & glimpse the disused track in this pretty Georgian town with Norman roots. The River Arle's eels, fulling mills, historic droves, watercress beds and vineyards feature. Pubs & cafes galore: Station Buffet, Caracoli, Courtyard Café, The Globe, Swan, Bell, Cricketers, Horse & Groom.	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August
2. <b>Itchen Stoke Criss-Cross:</b> scenic views across the water meadows nature reserves (can be boggy!) and vineyards next to King John's Three Castles Path. Then back over the river to Ovington via Itchen Stoke's unusual church.	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September
3. <b>Itchen Abbas Straight Mile</b> includes the shady disused track bed of The Watercress Line, a nature reserve and beautiful parkland at Avington along the River Itchen. Nearby pubs: The Cricketers, Chestnut Horse & Plough	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> September
4. <b>Martyrs and Worthies:</b> Martyr Worthy-Easton-Kings Worthy villages along the River Itchen, nature reserves juxtaposed with fertile farmland. Nearby pubs: The Cricketers, Chestnut Horse & Plough	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> October
5. <b>Up the Junctions: Kings Worthy &amp; South Wonston:</b> includes the shady track beds of the two disused railways, the new conservation SINC at Worthy Down Halt, and runways and pill boxes of the 20 <sup>th</sup> C Worthy Down airfield built on Winchester's 19 <sup>th</sup> C racetrack. Nearby pubs: Cart & Horses, King Charles.	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> October
6. <b>Sutton Scotney Dreamy Drovers</b> follow the footsteps of 1000's of feet, paws and hoofs & visit the recently cleared railway bridge of the Didcot-Newbury-Southampton railway (the Hockley viaduct one!) Nearby pubs: Wonston Arms (no food) & Coach & Horses	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> October
7. <b>Micheldever Woods Glades &amp; Drovers:</b> bluebell clearings & droves made redundant by railways, now corridors teeming with wildlife for getting outside.	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> October

**Expect to see** cyclists & horse riders. Suitable for **children**, and **dogs** under control (livestock & wildlife). Tracks are mainly well drained on chalk, with gravel sections. Not all roads have pavements. Many kissing gates. Wear appropriate clothing (waterproofs, walking boots). Bring own drinks and food. Not all sections have toilets.

**BOOK A PLACE: EMAIL [info@thewatercressway.org.uk](mailto:info@thewatercressway.org.uk)**

**Please inform us if you cannot make the walk, and obviously do not attend if signs of COVID-19!**

**No cash please: donate online to reduce risk [www.thewatercressway.org.uk](http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk) Suggested minimum £5 for adults**

See [www.thewatercressway.org.uk](http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk) for more walks, cycle routes and horse riding routes. Become a **'friend'** & receive regular updates. **Help** fund the charity's work on increasing access to the old railways & conservation work.

We are on **TripAdvisor** and **social media**.



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