



Four walks around the village of Winterslow

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Introduction

The village of Winterslow is fortunate to have approximately thirty miles of footpaths within its boundaries. These are maintained and managed by Winterslow Parish Council, who endeavour to keep them clear and walkable throughout the year.

This small booklet includes four walks in and around the village, to showcase the diversity of landscape and features that define the countryside within our area.

Being set on a hill, there are panoramic views in many directions across the chalk downland to Porton, Clarendon and Farley, and even at one point in the village right across to the Southampton ports and Fawley Refinery.

One area of interest is Bentley Wood, which extends to over more than 657 hectares and covers an area 5km by 3km in its widest parts. In 1985 it was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by Natural England. The natural history of the area is rich in many species of butterfly, wild flowers and animals such as dormice – rarely seen.

All Saints Church was first documented in 1291, but the font dates from the late 11th Century. During the Reformation the church interior was whitewashed, and as a result a “Doom” painting over the Chancel arch was lost. It was rediscovered during a 19th Century rebuild, but lost again as a result of alterations. The tower was restored in 1851 at a cost of £95. The Church is usually kept locked.

The Primary School was opened in 1833 to accommodate 50 infants. By 1859 there were some 140 children on the roll – some from nearby parishes with no local school of their own.

The Village Hall was built in 1992, replacing the old Village Hall which was in Middleton Road.

The walks give the visitor a taste of what is on offer in Winterslow, but several visits would be needed to experience the full richness of the countryside and facilities available within the village.

All walks featured use the OS 1:25,000 Explorer 131 map – Romsey, Andover & the Test Valley. All walks are circular.

Please keep your dog under control at all times, particularly in the Recreation Ground.

The numbers in brackets throughout the walk descriptions refer to the footpath numbers on the maps and related way markers.

We hope you enjoy your time in Winterslow.

Winterslow Blue Walk

Start Grid Reference: SU 131 237329

Starting point: Winterslow Village Shop – a circular walk, or possibly back to the Lord Nelson Arms if lunch is required. Parking is available along the road near the shop.

Distance: 2.5 miles approximately, walk difficulty, Easy

Walk description: Particularly suitable for children and families.



Village Shop



Recreation Ground

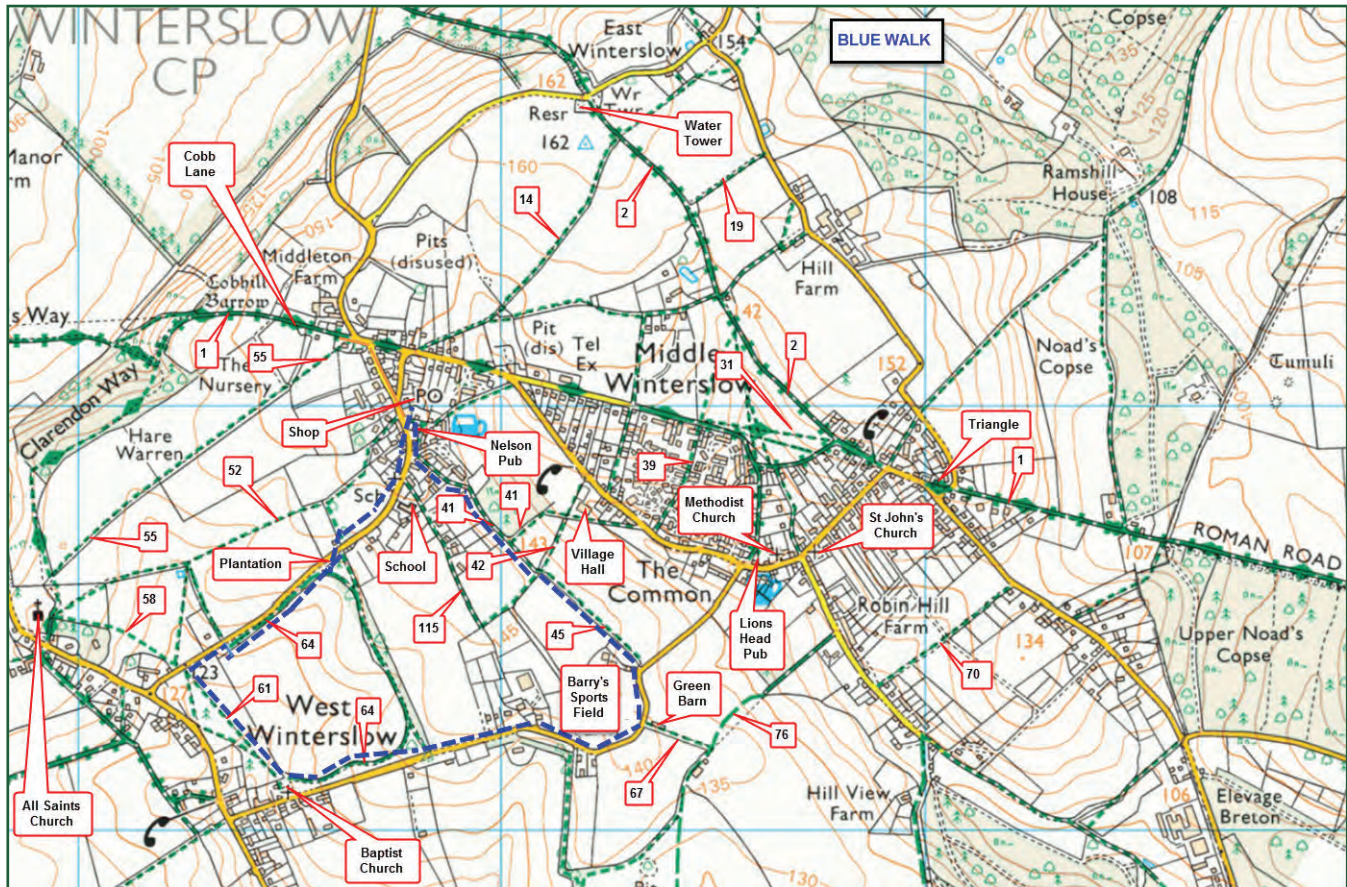
Start at the Village Shop and proceed along the road towards the school past the Lord Nelson public house. On the opposite of the road is the recreation ground – an ideal place to spend some time with the children on the play equipment - there is a wooden play trail and basket swing as well as things for younger children, or a game of football or tennis.

After this, and perhaps a picnic or drink, carry on down the road on the same side as the recreation ground until you reach the Plantation on the opposite side. This path (64) leads into the woods and turning right it is possible to walk parallel to the road in safety, coming out again onto the road for a short distance, just before the kissing gate, on the same side, leading into the field. Walking straight across the meadow, (61) continue to the kissing gate on the far side, bringing you out by the Baptist Chapel in Weston Lane.

Turning left in the car park, take the path through the wood (64), until emerging on Weston Lane, and then follow the road, passing the Green Barn on the right, Barry's Field sports field on the left, and slightly round a bend, there is a footpath leading off to the left. (45) Follow this, with superb views of the whole village on your right hand side, and continue straight on, picking up the tarmac path,(41) which will lead you directly back to the Village Shop just a short distance to the right. If you walk in Springtime, you will see the beautiful bluebell wood as you walk up the path to the shop - a sight not to be missed.

The Village Shop is open from early to late, seven days a week and sells a wide selection of provisions, drinks and ice creams.

Winterslow Blue Walk



Winterslow Purple Walk

Start Grid Reference: SU 131 237329

Starting point: Winterslow Village Shop – a circular walk, with the option to shorten the walk if desired. Parking is available along the road near the shop.

Distance: 4 miles approximately, walk difficulty, Moderate.

Walk description: Some road walking – high visibility vests would be useful.

With your back to the Village Shop, turn right, walking along the road, past Knights Close – three linked bungalows on the right hand side of the road, to Middleton Road. Cross Middleton Road with care, and proceed diagonally to the right, looking for the Footpath sign on the left hand side of the road near a gravel entrance to houses.

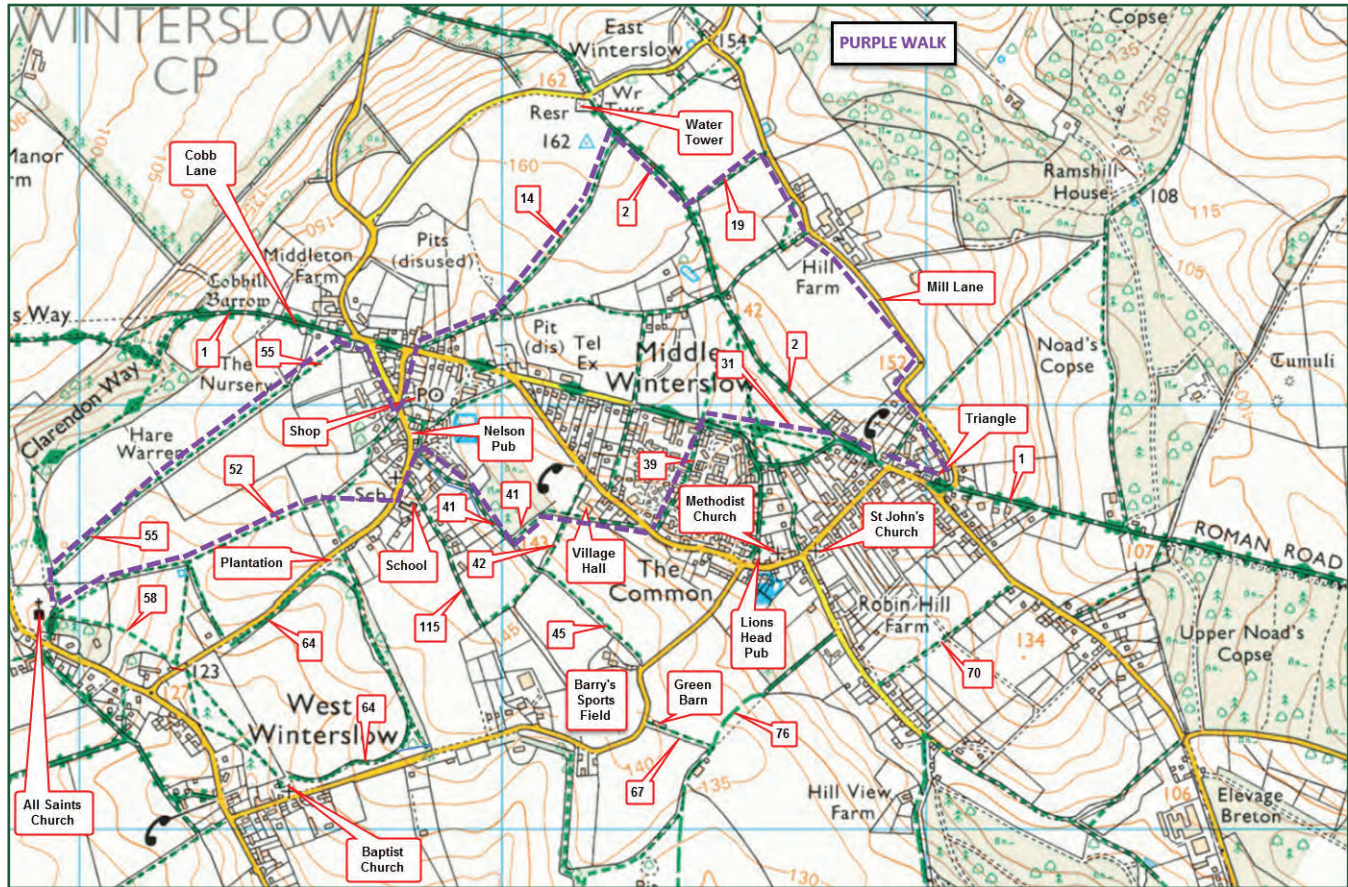
Bear right on to the footpath walking along a narrow path between fence and a hedge, until coming to a kissing gate – go through into the field and follow the path (14) along the side of the field to the next kissing gate on the opposite side. Ignore the kissing gate to the right and go through into the next field and across it (14) until the wide byway (2) is reached. Ignoring the path opposite the bench, turn right down the byway and continue walking until the sign pointing to the footpath (19) is seen on the left. A kissing gate will be found up the bank at the top. Pass through and into the field, (19) walking straight across the grassy area between crops / field to Mill Lane. Once in Mill Lane, turn right. Walking along Mill Lane, past Hill Farm, and approaching a sharp bend in the road, take a few minutes to stand and admire the view, which on a clear day enables distant views of the Fawley Oil Refinery chimneys on the coast. Binoculars would be even better.

Carry on along Mill Lane to reach the junction with Tytherley Road, and the green area of grass known as The Triangle – a good place to sit on the bench to rest and have a snack.

Leaving The Triangle, continue right along Tytherley Road and straight across on to The Flashett – an unmade up road. At the end of The Flashett, is a “no HGV” sign, and at this point go through the wooden gate entrance and into the field. The path (31) continues quite clearly across the field, leading to the far side and another similar gateway onto The Causeway, another partly unmade up road, and part of the longer Clarendon Way from Winchester to Salisbury. At this point look left and the footpath will be seen almost opposite to the left. (39) Follow the tarmac path straight down past the houses, across the road, and then between the road signs where the tarmac path continues until reaching the main Middleton Road at the bottom. Cross over the road.

At this point, almost directly opposite is another tarmac footpath, marked with a cycleway sign, (41) leading up a slight incline past the back of the Village Hall.

Winterslow Purple Walk



As stated in other walks, it is possible to visit Truffles Coffee Shop any weekday morning between 10.00 -12.00 for a warm welcome, cup of coffee and a cake. Possibly after a break, continue to follow the path all the way back to Middleton Road again. At this point it is possible to turn right and return to the Shop where you started the walk.



The School

However, to continue the walk, turn left, going past the school and crossing over the road to the recreation ground on the opposite side, and head straight across the recreation ground towards the skate park and swings, looking for the kissing gate in the corner on the left. Go through the kissing gate, along the shingle path and emerge onto the open field. Follow this path (52) directly across the field towards All Saints Church. At this point, if you do not wish to see the Church, go through the kissing gate to your right, which will lead you on a path that will take you across the same field but heading further over, (55) and ending at a kissing gate at the far end, (approx. half/ mile). (If you visit the Church, retrace your steps back to the kissing gate and follow the route as directed.) On reaching this kissing gate on the far side of the field, go through into the meadow, and walk across, bearing slightly left to the next kissing gate which can be seen on the opposite side of the field. After going through this, along a shingle path for a short way, you will emerge in Cobb Lane.



Entrance to Cobb Lane

Turn right onto the road and then right again following the sign to the Shop and walking along The Flood to reach Middleton Road once more and turning right. Seeing the Village Shop on your left hand side, you have completed your walk.

Winterslow Red Walk

Start Grid Reference: SU 131 238328

Starting point: Lord Nelson Arms

Distance: 5.5 miles approximately, walk difficulty, moderate

Walk description: A walk showcasing and contrasting panoramic views with bridle and woodland paths.



Start at The Lord Nelson PH. Proceed left and then down Yarmley Lane, (just before the School). At the end of Yarmley Lane follow the footpath (115) to a “crossroads”. Continue straight down the track, (42) which will take you to Truffles, the Village Hall morning coffee shop – open from 10.00 – 12.00 weekdays and Bank Holidays.

Returning back up the track, take a left turn leading across the top of the field,(45) with fine views of the village, until you meet Weston Lane. At this point turn right and carry along the road for a short distance until you see the Green Barn on your left.

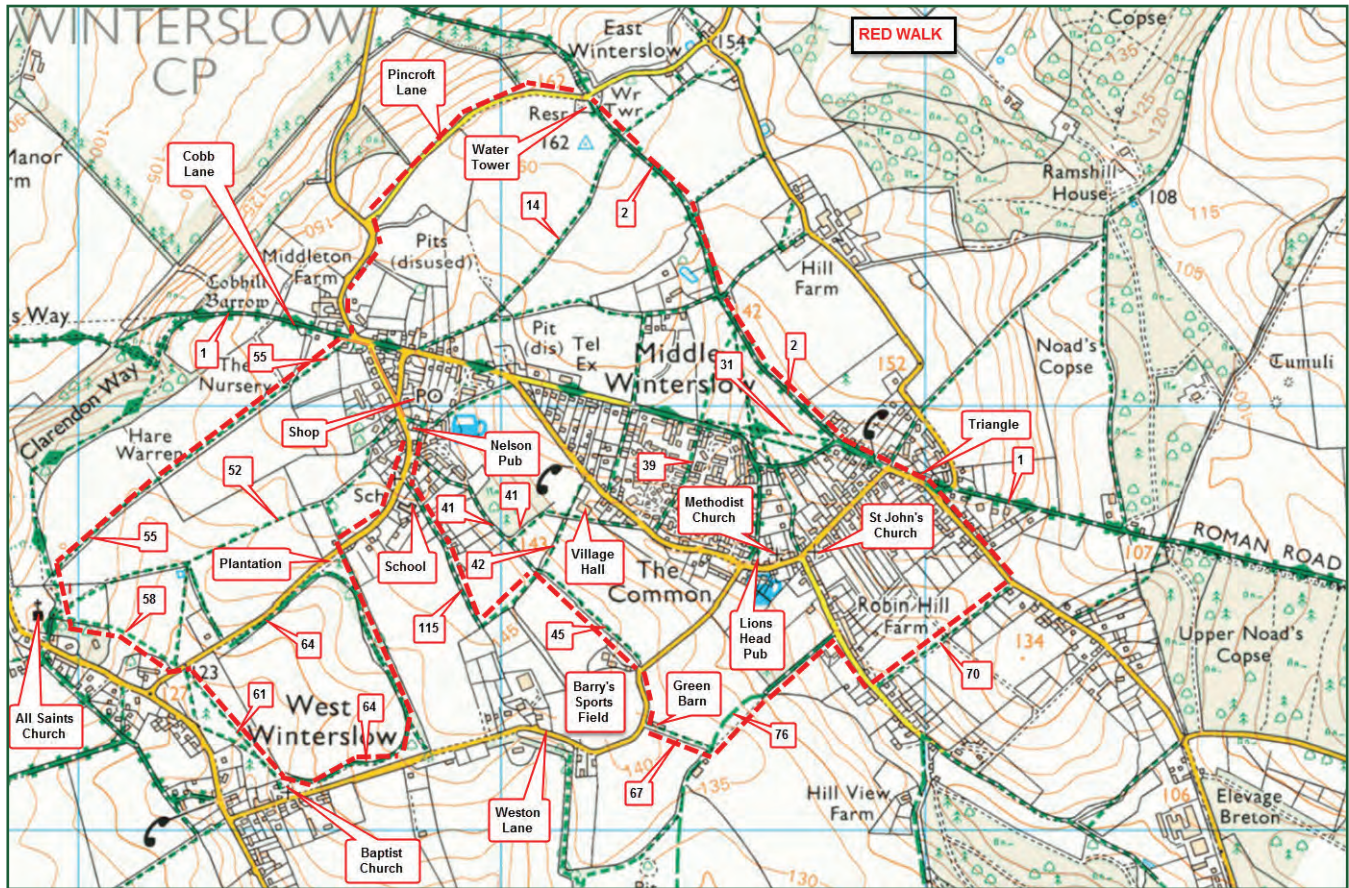
Turn onto the footpath again here, (67) going through the gate beside the green barn until you see a path leading down the field to the left, (76) bringing you into Witt Road. Turn right, passing the allotments, and then left up The Lynchett (70) to the top of the village – Tytherley Road.

Turn left here, following the road past the Triangle (a good place to stop and eat sandwiches on the bench) and straight along to The Flashett. This is part of the Roman Road and Clarendon Way, from Salisbury to Winchester.

Carry on along the Flashett to the end where it becomes a footpath, and then a byway, (2) following straight on for some distance to Pincroft, a small road at the end. Turn left past the water tower and follow the road along the brow of the hill, with amazing views looking beyond Porton Down and the old Pheasant Hotel towards Salisbury Plain.

Re-enter the village at the end of Pincroft, turning left along the road for a short distance until Cobb Lane is seen on your right. A short way along Cobb Lane, on the left, pick up the footpath (55) leading across fields to the 11th century Church of All Saints, and the churchyard with distant views of Firsdown.

Winterslow Red Walk



If you wish to visit the Church, go up the steps before the kissing gate, across the grass, keeping to the right, and through the next kissing gate beside the wide wooden gate. After seeing the Church retrace your steps past the wooden gate, across the grass to the second kissing gate and down the steps. Then turn immediately right at the bottom of the steps and continue along the path by the side of the hedge, turning right through either the first or second kissing gate in the hedgerow, and follow the path across the field (58) to the kissing gate visible on the opposite side, opening out onto the main road through the village. Turn left along the road for a very short distance and across the road to the next kissing gate, then across meadowland, following the path,(61) to the Baptist Chapel on Weston Lane.



Baptist Chapel

The final part of the walk, after turning left, will take you back through the Plantation, following the path (64) through the woods and turning right on the road, past the recreation ground on the left and the school on the right, to finish at The Nelson public house.



Village Hall

Winterslow Orange Walk

Start Grid Reference: SU 131 228325

Starting point: Car park for All Saint's Church

Distance: 8-9 miles, walk difficulty, Moderate

Walk description: A walk with long reaching views and downland, contrasting with woodland paths in Bentley Wood.

This walk starts at the car park for All Saint's Church which is to be found as you come up Church Hollow into the village from Dunstable Crossroads and Firs Road, turning right at the top of the hill, signposted to Byway and Back Drove. Parking will be found a short distance up the unmade up road, signed Church Parking. After parking it is worth walking a short distance to the right and turning up the footpath (97) beside the farm cottage to see wonderful views across the valley towards Firsdown and Clarendon Park.



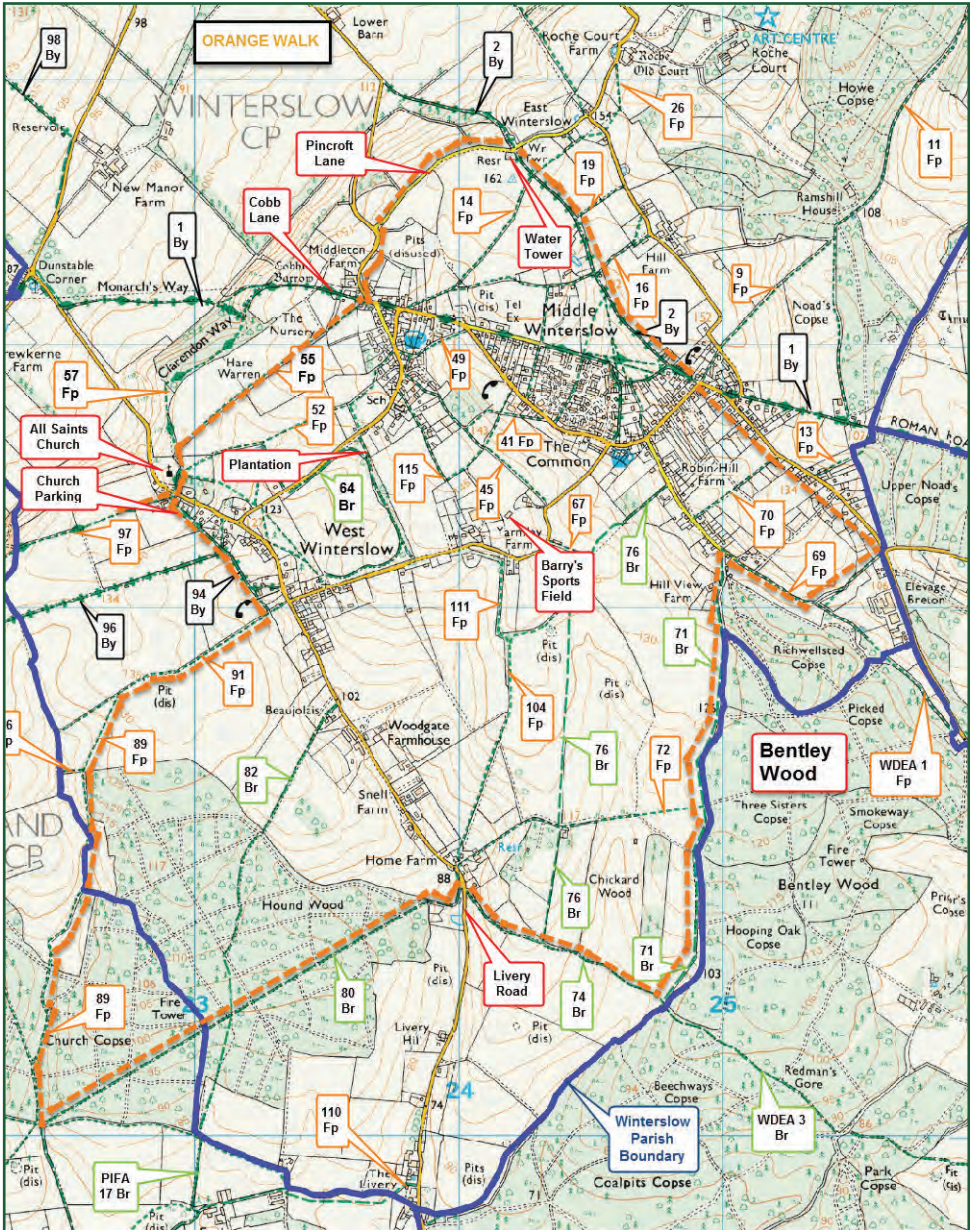
All Saints Church

Setting out on the walk, cross back over the road towards All Saints Church. Go through the kissing gate to the right of the Church, walk round the edge of the church and to the next kissing gate, and down the little steps. See a kissing gate ahead to the right, go through into the field, following the footpath straight across the fields (55) towards another kissing gate at the end of the field, passing through this and across a meadow to a further kissing gate on the opposite side.

Going along a short level path, you will emerge in Cobb Lane. Proceed right along Cobb Lane, onto the road and turn left, following the road until the signpost is seen indicating East Winterslow along Pincroft Lane. Continue along Pincroft, possibly stopping at the seat for a rest and a chance to enjoy the far reaching views towards Porton, then continue past the water tower on the right for a short distance, and turn right along the byway (2) a short distance along from the water tower.

Keep going along the byway, passing over the chalky rise in the path, and seeing on the right hand side, a seat, if you need a rest. Then continuing along the byway, go straight across the concrete road until you reach Red Lane and the Flashett. This is part of the Roman Road between Salisbury and Winchester, known as the

Winterslow Orange Walk



Clarendon Way. Facing you along the road, Tytherley Road, is a large triangle of grass with a seat - ideal for a snack break if you haven't already had one. Continue down Tytherley Road for about half mile until you reach the riding stables on the right hand side, then just past the stables turn right along the footpath (69) for a short way, and then turn right again when emerging to an open field in front of Bentley Wood opposite. Continue right along the path (69) until you reach Witt Road.

Bear left along the short distance of Witt Road, reaching the outside of Bentley Wood – do not go in. Instead, take the first footpath on the right, (71) following the woodland and continue straight on for approx. one mile, with Bentley Wood to your left, ignoring the wide track going both ways across the footpath, and keeping going until the next footpath on the right, (74), opposite a sign marked Bentley Wood, turning right along here and walking on a wide grassy track, past an open field and Chickard Wood visible across the field. This footpath winds down to Livery Road. Ignore any footpaths leading off main path.

Emerging at Livery Road, facing you is a house with large gravel parking area – the Shooting Box. Turn to the right, taking the path marked Bridleway, a short distance along the road, walking to the back of the Shooting Box and coming out on the wide, straight bridleway leading through Hound Wood (80) and finally passing over the parish boundary with Farley and reaching an iron gate a little further along the path. Pass round the gate and come down the path to a T junction.

Turn sharp right at the junction along the wide track leading back into the woods and keep following this track – do not deviate to left or right at any point (89). Pass an old railway carriage on the left and continue very slightly uphill until open fields are visible ahead, reached through the gateway.

Continue straight ahead along a grassy pathway, (89) keeping the hedge to the right of the path and open field to the left. Ignore the first path to the right, and keep walking straight on with the copse to the right. The path then bears right into the trees, marked by a FP sign on a tree, go through the trees into the field. Another FP sign can be seen on the post on the left hand side at the edge of the field. A clear path is visible leading diagonally up and across the field towards the wood. (89) Follow this, and at the top of the field carry on left, along a grassy wide path along the edge of the wood, until turning right through the hedge line at the top of the field, following the path through a little wood for a few yards before emerging on an open field (89).

Carry on across the field, heading for the line of telegraph poles on the opposite side of the field. The path should be clear to see, even if planted with crops. Reaching the telegraph poles, turn right along a wide grassy path on open downland, (91) which will take you back towards Winterslow Looking to the left, in the distance can be seen a grassy mound, covering an old pill box, erected in the 2nd WW to confuse the enemy, by lighting fires, to represent Porton Camp and encourage them to drop bombs there rather than on the actual camp.

Following the downland path, there are far reaching views towards Pitton, Farley and Southampton. Listen for the skylarks. Finally in front of you will be Winterslow village and heading downhill reach the metal gate at the bottom of the field and go left beside it (do not use the stile ahead of you) and follow the path,(94) bearing left at the old hay barn along the byway, and ignoring the path to the left. Nearly back now – keep going until you see the car park ahead.

It is possible, if you wish, to follow a shorter route to return through the village along Witt Road. On reaching the T Junction with Gunville Road turn left, instead of right, and then follow the road through the village passing the pond on the corner of Western Lane and latter the Village Hall with its tennis courts; were Truffles is located and available for light refreshments in week day mornings.

If it is a weekday, between 10.00 -12.00, Truffles Coffee Shop is open in the village hall, serving drinks and cakes – well worth stopping for! Turn into the village hall car park and take the footpath (41) at the back of the village hall which comes out again by the village shop. Cross the road and almost opposite the shop will be seen a footpath going down beside a house, which if followed will lead out across the back of the recreation ground (52) and across the fields to the church, where the walk started. Cross over the road back to the car park.

As this is a long walk, it might be wise to carry water in the summer, and bring a hat and possibly a map. In winter, paths may be muddy – so be prepared with suitable footwear. As our woods contain many private tracks and paths not shown on the map it is sensible to stay on the main tracks as indicated. It is also a good idea to carry a mobile phone to alert emergency services should anyone fall, injure themselves or get lost in the woods.

THE COUNTRY CODE

Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home

Leave gates and property as you find them

Keep dogs under close control

Consider other people



We hope you have enjoyed your time in Winterslow.