

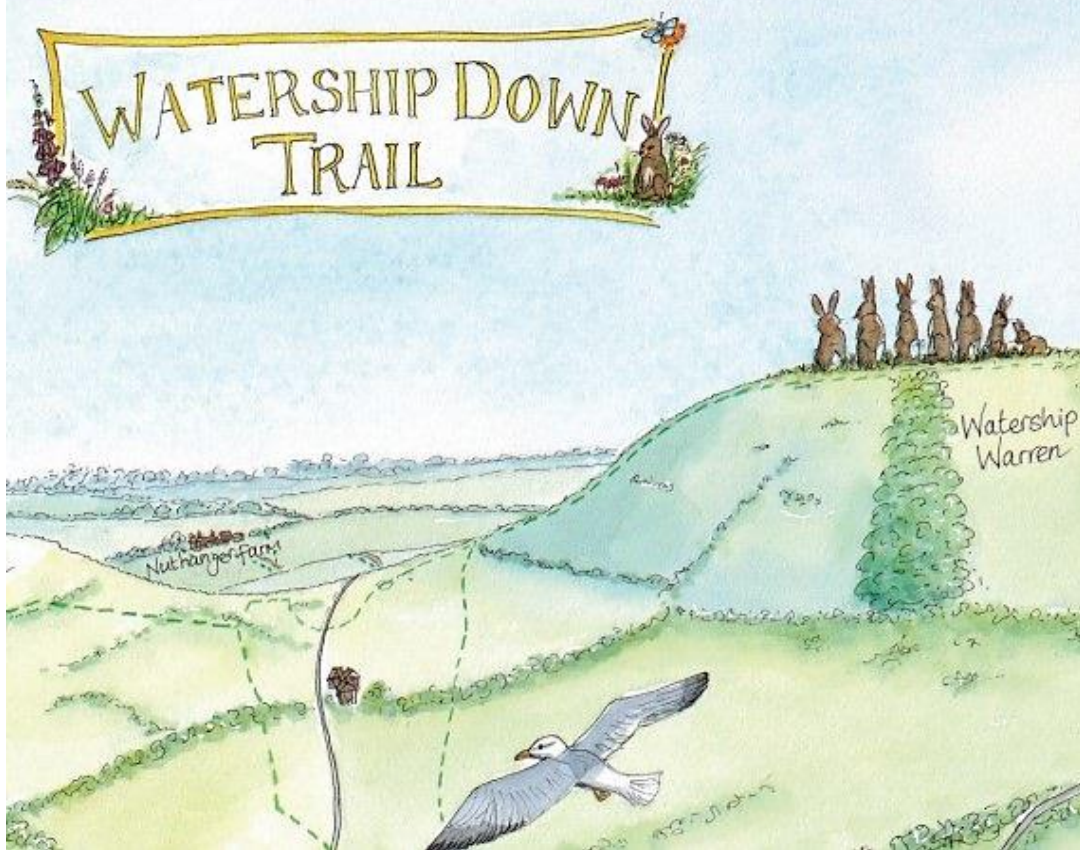


24 Mile Circular Walking Trail
Download route at www.whitchurch.org.uk/what-to-do



Watership Down Trail

Explore the landscape that inspired the modern classic



Watership Down Trail *Walk Explorer Guide*

Watership Down Trail

Explore the stunning North Wessex Downs landscape that inspired the modern classic Watership Down.

The trail will lead you through the stunning North Hampshire landscape that author Richard Adams, a Whitchurch resident so loved to wander and where he told his tale of the rabbits of Watership Down. The book's original ideals of friendship, environment and justice still has resonance and meaning today.



Follow the waymarked signs on a 24 mile circular walking trail starting from Whitchurch Railway Station.

Your route will take you past ancient broad leaf woodland, across wide sweeping downland and up to the high chalk ridge and the top of Watership Down. Listen out for the skylarks hovering above the open fields, heralding your arrival.

Along the trail you will pass some of the actual book locations; the ancient Harroway where Efrafa is located at the 'crossing point of two bridle paths', Nuthanger Farm, Watership Down and Hampshire's famous River Test chalk stream where the rabbits made their way to safety on a raft.

Walking trail: www.whitchurch.org.uk/what-to-do
Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 144 (Basingstoke, Alton & Whitchurch)



Ann Dillon © NWDAONB Partnership

"He reached the top of the bank in a single powerful leap. Hazel followed; and together they slipped away, running easily down through the wood, where the first primroses were beginning to bloom."

The North Wessex Downs

The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is undoubtedly among Britain's most beautiful landscapes.

The third largest of our protected landscapes, covering an area of 1,730 square kilometres, this is a visibly ancient landscape embracing the high, open arable sweeps of the chalk downs, dramatic scarp slopes with their prehistoric monuments, secluded wooded areas and sheltered chalk river valleys.

The North Wessex Downs form a surprisingly remote, expansive and tranquil landscape in the heart of southern England, the Downs are somewhere to be treasured and enjoyed by all; a truly special place, protected for you.



“Out on that almost trackless expanse of billowy Downs such a track is in some sort humanely companionable; it really seems to lead you by the hand.”



Discover Whitchurch Hampshire

Gateway to the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Whitchurch is Hampshire's smallest town and something of a hidden gem.

Nestling in the upper reaches of the famous River Test chalk stream, Whitchurch is the southern Gateway to the glorious North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a nationally protected landscape of tranquil countryside, of sweeping chalk hills, valleys and pastureland offering peaceful walking trails and quiet country lanes for cycling.



Come and discover everything that Whitchurch and the North Wessex Downs has to offer. Just 1 hour 30 minutes from London Waterloo and with good road links, Whitchurch is the perfect place to visit for just a day, or as a base for a longer stay in North Hampshire.

Visiting Whitchurch

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 144 (Basingstoke, Alton & Whitchurch)

Rail enquiries: www.southwesternrailway.com

Bus enquiries routes 76 & 86: www.stagecoachbus.com

Around & About Whitchurch: www.whitchurch.org.uk

North Wessex Downs AONB: www.northwessexdowns.org.uk

Accommodation: www.whitchurch.org.uk/places-to-stay-eat-drink

Public Toilets: Bell Street car park



This leaflet has been produced to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the North Wessex Downs a Nationally Protected Landscape and the 50th anniversary of the publication of the modern classic, Watership Down, a favourite read the world over.

