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Arbutnot Woods (1¾ miles) ●●●●

Bordering fields and woodland and using some roads, this walk can be extended by joining some of The Gully walk.

From the Swan Inn take Broad Lane towards Adbury. After about ¾ mile pass the white cottages on your left and look out for a kissing gate on your right. From here the footpath leads across a field and into Arbutnot Woods where it can become muddy after wet weather. Look out for a bridge over a small stream and then follow the path to the corner of a field. Go up the right hand side of the field and past the houses at Jonathan Hill where the path branches off to the right to come out near a pair of thatched cottages. Cross the lane (until 1835 the Winchester to Oxford road) and the green in front of the cottages and go down a slope to join the road, going right to return to the Swan.

Alternatively you can cross the road, taking care with traffic coming on your right, and follow the footpath sign until you join The Gully Walk which you can follow or you can divert by going straight ahead at the end of the uphill path and so to the B4640. Go right and return direct to the Swan using the roadside footways or follow the route taken by the rabbits in Richard Adams book "Watership Down" by diverting through the churchyard gate on your right, about 150 yards before the Swan.



The Gully (1½ miles) ●●●●

This walk explores the western side of Newtown Common and includes both heathland and a woodland walk.

From the car park on the corner of Jonathan Hill cross the road and follow the path for 150 yards or so and take the right fork leading downhill towards the gully, this part can be slippery in wet weather. In spring there is a large area of Yellow Skunk Cabbage which you may both see and smell. After crossing a small stream, follow the path through woods, turning right when you reach a gate marked "Private"; just before this you may notice the rare Purple Toothwort on your left. You should soon reach kissing gates on either side of a small field.

After the second set bear left at the end of an uphill, sunken path, passing cottages on your left. Follow the path through woodland, across heathland and a narrow, tarmac lane until you reach Sheepwash, an unmade up road. Turn left and follow

this downhill and over a footbridge by a ford. Follow this road as it climbs until you see a footpath branching off left just short of the brow of the hill and the Newtown to Burghclere road. Follow the path through mixed woodland, past occasional houses on your left, until you emerge on the corner opposite Jonathan Hill.



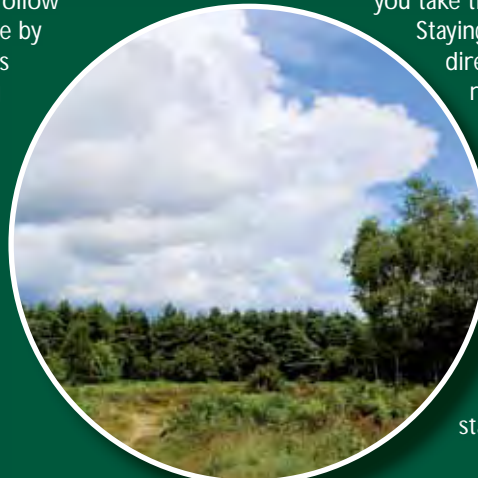
Heathland and Herbert (1¾ miles) ●●●●

This walk crosses the main heathland area of Newtown Common and then goes through the Herbert Plantation, a mixed woodland of oak, birch, alder and pine. Amongst the 35 species of plants usually associated with "ancient" woodlands in the Herbert Plantation you may find Common Solomon's-seal, Wood Sorrel, Wild Daffodil, Primrose and Wood Spurge.

Starting from the Jonathan Hill car park, head straight along the well used green track, parallel with the road, leading to the extensive, open heathland part of Newtown Common. Go straight across the tarmac road, Adbury Holt, and continue along the side of gardens of properties on your left (crossing Burghclere Common) after which you veer left to enter the Herbert Plantation through a staggered barrier. Visitors to the plantation are particularly reminded to keep to the paths, keep dogs under effective control and avoid leaving any litter.

Follow the path for a short distance until you arrive at crossroads with a handy seat. Take the straight path to the left and follow it until you come to a junction where you take the right hand path down through the woods.

Staying with this path and maintaining the same general direction, a stream should soon appear on your right. Carry on until the kissing gates with a sign about the Herbert Plantation and a rough track, which is the other end of Adbury Holt. Go left up the track and shortly after a house on your left, take the path which appears on your right and you rejoin Newtown Common. Following this path you shortly pass under overhead power lines and then go down to a small gully, which can flood sometimes, continue up the other side in the same direction and you will very soon arrive at your starting point at Jonathan Hill.



Enjoying the countryside

Hampshire boasts an extremely rich and diverse countryside and an extensive network of public paths which provide a range of opportunities for enjoying the great outdoors. Rights of way are linear routes, often ancient trackways through deep countryside; there are over 3,000 miles of these in Hampshire. The map in this leaflet may also show access to other areas of land, such as commons, woodland, recreation grounds or conservation areas, and your Parish Council may know of guided walks or events. Many people will be able to reach countryside within a few hundred yards of home, and the plants, trees and views along the same paths often change dramatically through the seasons. We hope that this leaflet will encourage you to explore and enjoy your local countryside.



Using local paths

Many rights of way cross private land, and we ask you to bear this in mind by keeping to the path and being responsible when using them. There are four types, as shown on the map key; please check which paths you are entitled to use (for example, cyclists cannot use footpaths). Wheelchairs, pushchairs and dogs are allowed on all types of right of way. Any permissive paths or areas marked are not rights of way, but the landowner has given permission for the public to use them.

To ensure that the countryside is protected for future generations be sure to:

- Be safe – wear suitable clothing and shoes and take care when crossing roads
- Plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them and take your litter home
- Protect plants and animals
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Maintaining rights of way

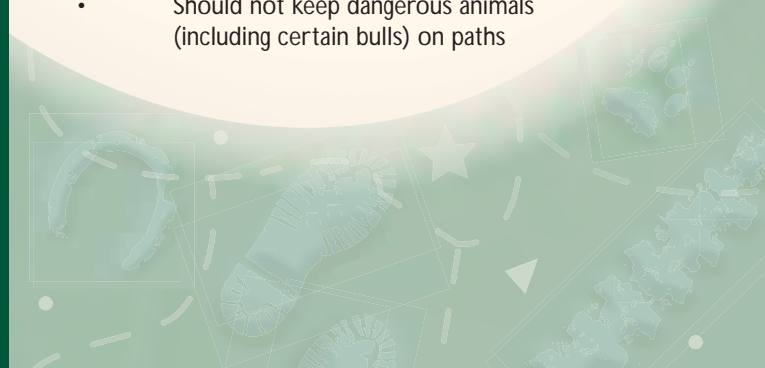
Hampshire County Council:

- Ensures that rights of way are not obstructed
- Maintains the surface in a fit condition for its intended use
- Maintains some bridges
- Signposts and waymarks paths
- Authorises stiles and gates
- Keeps the definitive map up to date



Landowners:

- Keep back side growth and overhanging vegetation
- Reinstate paths across fields after ploughing or planting crops
- Maintain most stiles and gates
- Should not obstruct paths or deter use of them
- Should not plough paths at field edges
- Should not keep dangerous animals (including certain bulls) on paths



Welcome to Newtown

The Parish of Newtown lies in the very north of Hampshire and adjoins the border with Berkshire at the River Enborne and the A339 and B4640 junction.



The medieval borough of Newtown was created by the Bishop of Winchester in the year 1218, forming part of his estate along with Highclere and Burghclere, and it was given the right (long since extinct) to hold a weekly market - approximately where the drive to Newtown House is situated.

In 1224 the bounds of the village were defined by a ditch nearly a mile long and you may see the remaining traces of this on your walks in Newtown.

St Mary and St John the Baptist, the village church which you will pass on the Arbuthnot Woods walk, built in 1865 by the church architect Henry Woodyer, is built in flint and features a square tower with a shingled broach spire. Notice the wild flowers, ferns, and buttercup on the column capitals typical of his style.

More recently Newtown came into national prominence when the common fell into private hands and residents were threatened with stiff charges to access their own properties. Subsequently a vigorous campaign against these charges, by residents and supporters, went through the law courts and ultimately and successfully to the House of Lords. The result was that the right to levy such charges, where residents had crossed a common for 20 years, was abolished, not just for Newtown but for the whole of England and Wales.

Newtown Common is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation with a wide range of heathland and woodland plants and animals. The mixture of open heath, together with areas of pine and oak woodland and birch scrub on the common gives a variety from which many species benefit. You may expect to see many types of bird, perhaps including the rarer species such as nightjars, Dartford warblers and wood larks. You may also see green woodpeckers feeding in the more open grassy areas while buzzards circle on thermals overhead.

Roe deer and muntjacs are quite numerous, adders and common lizards can be seen basking in the sun while the range of insects includes many woodland butterflies such as purple hairstreak and the spectacular silver-washed fritillary.

Three circular walks are described in this leaflet, but one other claim to fame for Newtown is that it has the densest footpath network of any parish in Hampshire so there are lots of other routes for you to explore.

Newtown Common is now owned by Hampshire County Council with Newtown Parish Council having responsibility for maintenance of its variety of habitats and landscapes for wildlife and people to enjoy.

Useful Contacts

Newtown Parish Council
and further copies of this leaflet:
ros.brandwood@btinternet.com **01635 48937**

Public Houses

The Swan,
Newtown, RG20 9BH **01635 40313**

The Carpenters Arms,
Burghclere, RG20 9JY **01635 278251**

Public Transport

National Travel Line **0870 608 2608**
www.traveline.org.uk

Cango (Hants Bus service) **0845 602 4135**
www.hants.gov.uk/cango

Newbury Buses
(op by Reading Buses) **01635 567 500**
www.reading-buses.co.uk

Countryside Information

Basingstoke Tourist Information **01256 814 681**

Hampshire County Council
Information **0800 028 0888**

Hampshire County Council
Rights of Way queries **0845 603 5636**

Walking in
Hampshire **www.hants.gov.uk/walking**

Cycling in
Hampshire **www.hants.gov.uk/cycling**

Enjoying Hampshire's
Countryside **www.hants.gov.uk/countryside**

Rights of way
maps on-line **www.hants.gov.uk/maps/paths**

OS Explorer Map no. 158 covers this area

Disclaimer: Published by Newtown Parish Council and Hampshire County Council, through the Small Grants Scheme. The routes described have been put forward by Newtown Parish Council. Whilst the County Council endeavours to maintain all rights of way to a high standard, additional resources are not allocated to routes promoted in this leaflet. Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this leaflet, Hampshire County Council is unable to accept any responsibility for accident or loss resulting from following the information contained within this leaflet.

Exploring Newtown

