



06 HAMPSHIRE SELBORNE

▶ Distance: 5¾ miles/9.1km ▶ Time: 3-3½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



Selborne from the top of the zig-zag path.

PHOTO: FIONA BARTROP



CHOSEN BY...

FIONA BARTROP

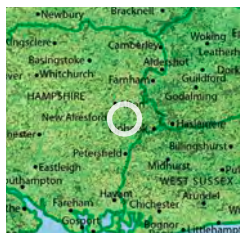
Selborne is synonymous with the great 18th-century naturalist, Gilbert White. His book, *The Natural History of Selborne*, has never been out of print since it was first published in 1789 and has inspired naturalists from Charles Darwin to David Attenborough and Chris Packham. White was born in the village 300 years ago, and worked as a curate in nearby Farringdon as well as Selborne itself. He lived at the house known as *The Wakes* and was a keen gardener. Both house and garden – which has been recreated using White's diaries and correspondence – are open to the public. The

house is also home to the Oates Collections where visitors can learn about the explorer and naturalist, Frank Oates, and his nephew, Captain Lawrence Oates, who accompanied Captain Scott on his journey to the South Pole in 1912. (An Oates descendant provided funds to purchase the property, which operates as an independent charitable trust.) This figure-of-eight walk explores the surrounding landscape which Gilbert White knew and loved, taking in Selborne Hill and the valley of the Oakhanger Stream, with an optional loop round Noar Hill Nature Reserve.

1 Start

From the car park entrance

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Selborne car park behind Selborne Arms, GU34 3JR, grid ref SU742335

Is it for me? Woodland and field paths, country lanes, roadside pavement. Noar Hill Nature Reserve (inc map): tinyurl.com/Noar-Hill-NR. Gilbert White tercentenary events: gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk and visit-hampshire.co.uk

Stiles 4

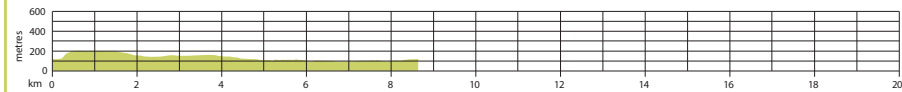
PLANNING

Nearest town Alton
Refreshments Selborne Arms (01420 511247), White's café/bistro at Gilbert White's House (01420 571063)

Public toilets Car park at start
Public transport Bus 38 from Petersfield to Alton via Selborne (stagecoachbus.com)

Maps OS Explorer OL33; Landranger 186

GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map OL33 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

follow footpath signed 'ZIG ZAG Selborne Common', soon going through gate into NT land of Selborne Common and head up Zig-Zag path, which White and his brother cut in 1753. Views improve as you climb. Seat on way up and another at top. Bear R up steps and follow path to kissing gate. Ignore path forking L and keep ahead along wide grassy path through trees across Selborne Common, ignoring paths that join from R. Keep L at fork passing clearing on R and continue to signposted path intersection (another nearby to L) and gate just beyond.

2 1¼ miles/1.9km

Turn L and descend bridleway Green Lane (track) to lane below. Cross and follow footpath diagonally across field to another lane. Bear R and L at junction.

3 2 miles/3.2km

Immediately after it for optional 1 mile/1.6km loop round Noar Hill Nature Reserve turn R along a track soon forking L to continue up to gate into Reserve, formerly medieval chalk workings, carpeted with beautiful chalk downland flowers in spring and summer. Carry on up path to the top (grid ref SU745317) and turn sharp L back down joining Hangers Way, turning R at road. Continue to road junction. Cross to the stile

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opposite and follow Hangers Way (HW), through field, then R passing behind Homestead Farm. Continue along HW eventually joining lane back to car park. L through village passing Gilbert White's House on L.

4 3½ miles/5.3km

Just beyond the house follow path across green on the R to churchyard entrance. Pass the church (mostly 12th century) on L, Gilbert White's grave on N side. Go through kissing gate at far end and, continuing on HW, follow the path gently downhill, cross the footbridge and carry on through Short Lythe and Long Lythe.

5 4 miles/6.3km

Go through kissing gate at far end of Long Lythe, open meadow ahead. Leaving HW (which forks L) keep ahead passing to R of pond and between two more. Follow path along edge of Coombe Wood to track/bridleway and turn R to Priory Farm. Continue along byway, which becomes Huckers Lane leading back to Selborne. L to car park. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON
OS MAPS ONLINE:

lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING