



# 04 HAMPSHIRE WATERSHIP DOWN

▶ Distance: 11 miles/17.7km ▶ Time: 5½-6 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



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FEATURE  
ON PAGE 58



Downland views on the descent from point 4.

PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP

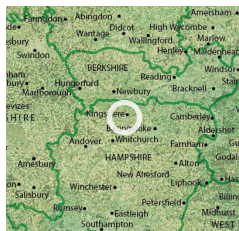


## CHOSEN BY... FIONA BARLTROP

Watership Down, the setting for Richard Adams' book of the same name, is to be found in the North Hampshire Downs, near the village of Kingsclere. In the novel, a group of rabbits leave their doomed warren in search of a new home which they find at Watership Down. This circuit leads you onto the chalk ridge via the village of Hannington, then along the top, passing a plaque in recognition of Richard Adams, 'a lover of Watership Down and its inhabitants'. Descending from the downs, the return is via the estate of Sydmonton Court and the village of Ecchinswell back to Kingsclere.

**1 Start** Turn R out of car park down Anchor Road to Swan Street Turn R, then R again along George Street/B3051. Fork R at George & Horn along Basingstoke Road, then fork R again along The Dell. When lane bends R keep ahead along brideway. Another brideway joins from R and after this at a fork bear R through gap in hedge and continue across fields, mast atop Cottington's Hill ahead to R. After a level stretch, track bears L uphill passing turning on R (shortcut to pt 3). Keep ahead at next junction following brideway south. After bending L then R you reach Meadham Lane. Turn R then turn L to T-junction. To visit Hannington turn L.

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Anchor Yard car park, Anchor Road – off Swan Street opp. church, RG20 5PQ, grid ref SU525586

**Is it for me?** Downland paths & tracks, field paths, country lanes. Stretches along two waymarked routes: Wayfarer's Walk and Brenda Parker Way. Shortcut option via Cottington's Hill to pt 3  
**Stiles** 2

## PLANNING

### Nearest towns

Newbury & Basingstoke

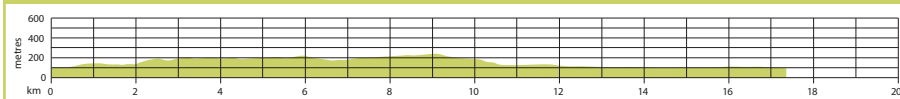
**Refreshments** The Crown, Bel & Dragon and George & Horn all in Kingsclere; The Vine, Hannington; Royal Oak, Ecchinswell

**Public toilets** Kingsclere

**Public transport** LINK bus, Basingstoke-Newbury via Kingsclere, Mon-Sat, www.stagecoachbus.com

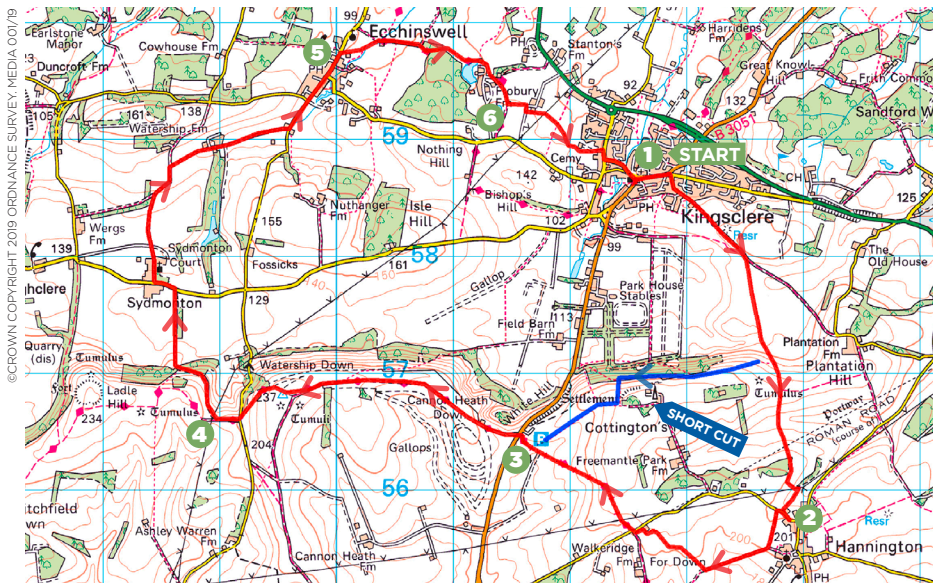
**Maps** OS Explorer 144; Landranger 174

## GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map 144 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)



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## 2 $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles/4.4km

Retrace steps to T-junction and keep ahead on footpath. At next junction go R along field edge, bearing round to L to reach gates and Meadham Lane again. Now joining Wayfarer's Walk (WW) keep ahead along Meadham Lane then soon turn R along byway which leads down to B3051 and White Hill viewpoint.

## 3 $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles/7.2km

Cross road and continue along track by gallops passing a fenced enclosure where a beech tree has been planted (Richard Adams' plaque on fence). Continue on WW descending to a lane. Cross and carry on for about 200m.

## 4 $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles/10km

Turn R at a pylon down footpath, L along lane and soon fork R along drive and R again before barn along path heading north. Continue along estate road passing Sydmonton Court on R. Carry on north until you reach a turning on R. This leads via Watership Farm to a lane, where you turn L to Echinswell. Walk through village to war memorial on R.

## 5 9 miles/14.5km

Turn R, ignore next R, and bear R over bridge at next junction now following Brenda Parker Way (BPW), a long distance path through North Hampshire,

commemorating a Ramblers member. Continue on BPW to an access road, going L then L again to follow path parallel to road.

## 6 10 miles/16.2km

Take next L leaving BPW and follow footpaths across fields back to Kingsclere. Turn R at road back to church and car park. **CW**

DATE WALKED


TIME TAKEN


YOUR RATING


**VIEW THE WALK ON  
OS MAPS ONLINE:**

[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

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