

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Main walk morning last checked | Main walk afternoon last checked | Short walk to Chawton last checked | Alt route from Chawton to Alton last checked |
| 20 October 2018 | 21 September 2019 | 19 April 2018 | 20 October 2018 |
| Document last updated: 23 October 2019 | | | |
| <p>This document and information herein are copyrighted to Saturday Walkers' Club. If you are interested in printing or displaying any of this material, Saturday Walkers' Club grants permission to use, copy, and distribute this document delivered from this World Wide Web server with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The document will not be edited or abridged, and the material will be produced exactly as it appears. Modification of the material or use of it for any other purpose is a violation of our copyright and other proprietary rights. * Reproduction of this document is for free distribution and will not be sold. * This permission is granted for a one-time distribution. * All copies, links, or pages of the documents must carry the following copyright notice and this permission notice: <p>Saturday Walkers' Club, Copyright © 2010-19 used with permission. All rights reserved. www.walkingclub.org.uk</p> | | | |
| The publisher cannot accept responsibility for any problems encountered by readers. | | | |

Alton Circular

Gilbert White's Selborne and Jane Austen's House

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Length: | Main walk | 20.4km (12.7 miles) |
| | a) Short walk to Chawton | 12.1km (7.5 miles) |
| | b) Alternative ending | Adds 2km (1.2 miles) |

Maps: OS Explorer OL 33 (formerly 133), OS Landranger 186

Toughness: 4 out of 10

Features

The quiet corner of Hampshire through which this walk passes seems like the kind of countryside in which nothing much ever happened. Yet in the late 18th and early 19th century it inspired two famous writers: Gilbert White (the celebrated naturalist) and Jane Austen (see **History** on page 2). After a section over wide upland fields to East Worldham, the walk first plunges into the delightful arcadia of woods, hangers and hidden pastures that surround Selborne, about which White wrote his famous Natural History.

From here, it crosses wooded Selborne Common and gentle ridges of downland to Chawton, the home of Jane Austen for the last eight, and most productive years, of her life. On the way you can reflect on Austen's remark in *Persuasion* that two villages only three miles apart 'will often include a total change of conversation, opinion and idea'. Even today Chawton and Selborne seem like different worlds.

Walk options

a) Short walk to Chawton: This follows a direct route from Alton to Upper Farringdon, joining the main walk route there. This makes a total walk of **12.1km (7.5 miles)**. This is a useful option if you want time to visit Jane Austen's House in Chawton, 9.3km (5.7 miles) into the walk. *To do this option, start with paragraph 110 on page 9.*

b) Alternative ending from Chawton to Alton. This route avoids the road walking through the centre of Alton, partly reversing the outward route of option **a)** in the process. It is somewhat afflicted by noise from the A31 in places, if the wind is in the wrong direction. It is **2km (1.2 miles)** longer than the main route, and so **4.8km (3 miles)** from Chawton to Alton railway station compared to **2.8km (1.8 miles)** by the main walk route.

Transport

Two trains an hour run between **Waterloo** and Alton (one hourly on Sunday; journey time about 1 hour 10 minutes). Take the first train after 9am from Waterloo to get to lunch in time, or to have time to visit Jane Austen's House on the short walk. For those driving, Alton station has a pay car park, or you can park anywhere in the centre of Alton and walk to the station to start.

History

Gilbert White would have remained just another obscure 18th century curate, and Selborne just another minor Hampshire village, but for *The Natural History of Selborne*, White's account of the wildlife in the area, which was published towards the end of his life in 1797, and has never been out of print since.

White was born in Selborne in 1720, attended Oriel College, Oxford, and after some attempts to have an academic career, was ordained as a clergyman in 1749. But he failed in his attempts to find a fixed appointment as a vicar of a parish and instead returned to his native village.

He took up residence in The Wakes, the house he had lived in as a child, and became curate (that is, the deputy for an absentee vicar) in the nearby village of Upper Farringdon. He stayed in this lowly post for the rest of his life, passing his time developing his garden and making observations about the nature around him.

In the latter respect he was not unusual among 18th century clergymen, but he stands out for his detailed observations, lively writing style, and above all his fascination for the ordinary nature around him, rather than exotic species and curiosities. As a result, he is now credited with being one of the first true ecologists.

All of the places that White loved can still be seen on this walk: Selborne Hangar and Common, with the Zigzag Path up it made by White and his brother; the wooded meadows of the Short and Long Lythe; Selborne church, where his grandfather (also called Gilbert White) features in the list of historical vicars just inside the church door; and Upper Farringdon church, where he served as a curate, and which has an impressively ancient yew tree by the church door.

White was buried in a simple grave, marked only with the letters GW, in the churchyard in Selborne. His house and garden is preserved as **The Gilbert White Museum** (tel 01420 511 275), which is open 11am to 5pm daily, except for the week after Christmas.

The museum also has a section on Captain Lawrence Oates of Scott of the Antarctic fame – the man who stepped out of the tent to die in a blizzard saying: "I am just going outside. I may be gone for some time". The reason is that, when the Gilbert White Society were trying to raise money to buy The Wakes in 1953, the Oates family offered to help on condition their family collection was exhibited too.

Though her novels are set elsewhere, **Jane Austen** was always a Hampshire girl at heart and she was devastated when her father retired in 1801 as vicar of Steventon, a small North Hampshire village, and moved his family to Bath. Jane hated Bath and wrote nothing during this period. Worse, when her father died four years later, she, her sister Cassandra and their mother were left with little money and no fixed home.

It was Jane's brother Edward who finally came to the rescue. He had been adopted by the wealthy but childless Knight family, and so had inherited (among other estates) the Great House at Chawton (now **Chawton House**, whose house and garden may be visited daily from early March to early December from 12.30pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, and from 11.30pm to 4.30pm weekends and bank holidays: last entry 4pm). Edward found his sisters and mother a house in the centre of the village, and they moved there in July 1809.

Jane was delighted by "our Chawton home", and immediately started writing again. *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion* were all written here, and it was while living in Chawton that she first won outside acclaim as a novelist when her youthful novels - *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* - were at last published.

Alas Jane's happiness at Chawton proved shortlived, as in 1817 she fell ill with a mystery illness, and died in Winchester, where she had gone for medical treatment. Because she was the daughter of a clergyman, she was buried in the north aisle of Winchester Cathedral. Cassandra and her mother remained in Chawton for the rest of their lives, however, and are buried in the churchyard around the back of the church of St Nicholas, which like the Great House is passed on this walk.

The house where Jane lived is now run by the Jane Austen Trust and is open daily to 4.30pm September to May and 5pm June to August. It contains various items connected with the author, including some of her jewellery and the table at which she used to write. She kept the hinges of the door to this room deliberately unoiled so that they would squeak as it was opened, giving her time to conceal her work if anyone came in.

Note that due to the relatively early closing time of the house, you will need to do option **a) the short walk to Chawton**, or take a bus or taxi from Alton - see **Transport** above - to visit the house.

Lunch & tea places

Three Horseshoes *East Wordham (01420 83211)* Situated 4km (2.5 miles) into the main walk, this is a possible early lunch stop, serving food from 12-2pm Tuesdays to Saturday and 12-4pm on Sunday

Selborne Arms *Selborne (01420 511247)*. Situated 10.2km (6.3 miles) into the main walk, this is pleasant rural pub with a garden, and is the suggested lunch stop. It serves food 12-2pm Monday to Saturdays and 12-3pm on Sundays. Dinner is from 7pm and the pub is open all afternoon for drinks at weekends.

White's Cafe-Bar *Selborne (01420 511275)*. This cafe, attached to the Gilbert White Museum but accessible without paying an entrance fee to it, serves quiches, jacket potatoes, soups and light bites from 10.30 to 4.30pm Tuesdays to Sundays and bank holidays,

The **Selbourne Tea Room** (01420 511033) is a cafe in Selborne open to 4.30pm Tuesday to Sunday, serving sandwiches, paninis and cakes. 20 metres away is a **delicatessen** serving pies and bacon baps.

The **Rose & Crown** in Upper Farringdon, 6.3km (3.9 miles) into the shorter walk and 14.6km (9 miles) into the main walk, is an upmarket pub that serves food 12-2pm Monday to Friday, 12-2.30pm Saturday and 12-3pm Sunday, and again in the evening at 6pm Monday to Saturday. It is open all afternoon for drinks at weekends, but closed 3.30pm to 6pm weekdays. Booking is advised on all days, but especially on Sundays.

Cassandra's Cup *Chawton (01420 83144)*. If you can get to before it closes at 4pm, this tea room opposite Jane Austen's House serves fine home-made cakes. An alternative tea stop in the village is **The Old Kitchen Tea Room** in Chawton House, accessible without paying admission to the house and grounds, but again only open until 4pm daily (from early March to early December).

Greyfriar *Chawton (01420 83841, www.thegreyfriar.co.uk)*. Opposite Jane Austen's House, this pub and its small garden another possible refreshment stop in Chawton, open all afternoon for drinks daily. It serves food from 1pm to 3pm and 6pm to 9pm Monday to Saturday and from 12pm to 5pm on Sundays.

Alton also now has a **Caffè Nero** open till 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 6pm weekends and a **Costa Coffee** open till 6pm Monday to Saturday and 5.30pm on Sundays.

Picnic: There are several fine places for a picnic on the section between East Worldham and Selborne, particularly the pasturelands around King John's Hill and the clearings in the Binswood. The Long and Short Lythe valleys on the last half mile into Selborne, as well as the hill leading up to the church, are also particularly enchanting picnic spots. A possible picnic spot is also mentioned in paragraph 138 on **a) Short walk from Chawton**, though the churchyard in Chawton might be even nicer.

WALK DIRECTIONS

For **a) Short walk to Chawton**, start with paragraph 110 on page 9.

Alton station to East Worldham (4km/2.5 miles)

1. Exit Alton station buildings through the main entrance on platform 1. Turn left along the edge of the car park.
2. In 60 metres, just after a sign points left to Hangers Way, descend steps to the road. Cross the road and turn left.
3. In 40 metres, pass under the railway bridge, and keep straight on up the main road, the B3004. Ignore side turnings.
4. In 200 metres, after a short steep climb, keep straight on at a crossroads, down Wilsom Road, following a sign to Bordon.
5. In 150 metres, a light industrial estate starts on your left, screened by trees in summer. At the end of this, in another 130 metres, ignore a turning left - Omega Park, but in 120 metres more, go left downhill on a tarmac drive, signposted Hangar Way.
6. In 50 metres this becomes an earth footpath and in another 100 metres curves right.
7. In another 100 metres you come to a stile. Cross this, go up an embankment and cross the busy A31 dual carriageway with care.
8. On the far side of the road, the onward path, not very obvious initially, is through a gap to the right of the electricity pylon. In 10 metres cross a stile and keep straight ahead on a path along a newly planted hedge, roughly following the line of pylons.
9. In 130 metres turn left through the field boundary to emerge in 20 metres into a higher field, where you go right, with the field boundary now on your right and a steep slope (**Neatham Down**) uphill to your left.
10. In 400 metres, at the far end of the field, go through a gap into the next field, a vast open expanse.
11. Go straight ahead across this field, heading for the right end of a clump of trees (**Monk Wood**) on the top of the ridge ahead, your direction east.
12. In 350 metres you pass under the first of two sets of electricity pylons, and 70 metres later keep straight ahead at a three armed footpath sign (*supposed to be four-armed but one arm is missing*), still heading for the corner of Monk Wood ahead.
13. In 220 metres more, when you reach the corner of Monk Wood, turn left along the far side of it, following a green arrow and a footpath sign.
14. In 40 metres, turn right at a two-armed signpost, to walk between two unfenced fields away from the woods towards more power lines and a clump of trees.
15. In 150 metres the path, now a track, goes into a wood.
16. In 200 metres you pass a house on your right. The track curves left here but your onward route is straight on across a very decayed stile. Beyond it, turn right onto a tarmac drive.
17. In 20 metres turn left at a footpath sign down an initially tarmac path.
18. In 40 metres cross a ditch on a plank bridge and turn right along a grass path with a field to its left.
19. In 130 metres pass through a gap in a wood fence into a large open field. Go straight ahead across this, heading towards the left-hand edge of the houses on the horizon.
20. In 500 metres you come to tarmac lane, where you go right.
21. In 40 metres, after passing three houses on the left, slant left up a tarmac path, with more houses on its left.
22. In 80 metres this path curves right along the side of the churchyard of **Church St Mary, East Worldham**, and turns into a lane.
23. If you want to visit the church (which contains a tomb once thought to be that of Philippa, wife of Geoffrey Chaucer, though this is now disputed) the entrance is 30 metres along on your left. If not, carry on down the lane for another 120 metres to the main road, the B3004.
24. *For an early lunchstop, turn right here for 200 metres to the **Three Horseshoes** pub.* Otherwise, turn left onto the B3004.

East Worldham to Selborne
(6.2km/3.8 miles)

25. In 100 metres the road starts to descend and you can glimpse an extensive vista of fields ahead of you.
26. In 120 metres more, just before the Old School House on the left-hand side of the road, there are two concrete tracks across the road to the right. Take the right-hand, or upper one following a Hangers Way sign.
27. In 70 metres you pass a large corrugated barn on your left and after this you can see the rounded shape of **King John's Hill** to your left, with a large pond in front of it.
28. 80 metres after the barn turn left through a kissing gate to the left of a metal fieldgate, following a footpath sign, onto a grassy path that slants downhill towards the right-hand end of the pond.
29. In 250 metres, at the bottom of the field, and just BEFORE a metal fieldgate into the next field, turn left towards King John's Hill, passing through a kissing gate. The pond is now on your left.
30. In 50 metres, at the end of the pond, pass through a gap in a fence and veer right along a line of trees.
31. In 150 metres pass through a kissing gate to the left of a metal fieldgate into a wood. Curve left with the path, and in 50 metres, at a three-way junction, turn right downhill on a broad path between the trees.
32. In 250 metres pass through a kissing gate to emerge into an open field. Keep to the left-hand edge of this.
33. In 80 metres cross a plank bridge with a kissing gate at either end. Carry straight on across a field towards a line of trees.
34. In 250 metres pass through a kissing gate and across a plank bridge into **Binswood**. Beyond, the Hangers Way is the right fork through a thicket, but this can be muddy and can be avoided by skirting to the left around the thicket on a grassy path. Do not take one of the two paths forking left, however: instead beyond the thicket veer slightly right, your direction due south, along a partly wooded strip.
35. In 200 metres you emerge on the right-hand edge of a much larger clearing.
36. In 40 metres **the path curves right into the field boundary** towards a kissing gate to the right of a metal fieldgate, reached in another 40 metres. Pass through this and carry on down a woodland path beyond.
37. In 100 metres **turn left off the track** following a path across a plank bridge, marked by a green Hangar Way arrow on a post.
38. In 60 metres turn left onto a gravel track, following a Hangers Way sign.
39. In 150 metres pass through a kissing gate and go half right following a green arrow.
40. In 200 metres pass through another kissing gate and carry straight on into a wood on a gravel track between tall pine and oak trees.
41. In 150 metres, about halfway up this path, **turn left at a footpath post**, following a green arrow.
42. In 80 metres you come out into a clearing, with a large brown pond to your right. Follow the edge of this for 100 metres, eventually curving round to the right with it, and then carry on up a path into the wood.
43. In 70 metres turn left at a T-junction with a track, and in another 40 metres, at a track crossroads, turn right directly uphill.
44. In 80 metres, at a track T-junction, turn left uphill.
45. In 350 metres, with a house visible to the right, go right at a track T-junction, and 30 metres later pass through a fieldgate and onto a tarmac lane, where you go right, uphill.
46. In 80 metres, at a three-way lane junction, go left, following the Hangers Way sign.
47. In 30 metres you pass a house, High Candovers. 20 metres beyond it, fork right on a gravel track.
48. Stay on this track, ignoring ways off, with a wooded slope - a **hanger** - to your right.
49. In 150 metres there are fields to your left. After another 500 metres the open fields end to the left and there are woods both sides.
50. After 400 metres in the woods, **you see an open field to your RIGHT**

through a metal gate. Cross the somewhat hidden stile to the left of it and go left, diagonally downhill, across the field beyond, passing to the right of a mini-pylon.

51. In 230 metres, in the far right hand corner of the field, carry on along an earth track.
52. In 250 emerge into an open field and turn left downhill towards a large pond.
53. In 150 metres, just before a metal fieldgate and the pond, turn right through a kissing gate and keep straight on on a faint grassy path to merge with the upper edge of the field, ignoring a gate into the wood directly uphill to the right.
54. In 180 metres go through a wooden kissing gate and keep straight on along a clear earth path. After 50 metres you emerge onto the right-hand edge of a fine valley, the **Long Lythe** mentioned by Gilbert White.
55. Keep along this clear path. In 400 metres it plunges into a wood. In 50 metres, just after a kissing gate, ignore a path to the right up a valley and pass through a second kissing gate to keep straight on along the main path.
56. In 200 metres you pass a house on your left, and in 40 metres you cross a wooden bridge over a stream. Beyond this, take the path forking right, passing just to the left of an oak tree and bench in 40 metres.
57. After this the path climbs steeply uphill and as you climb, the **Church of St Mary Selborne** - in whose churchyard Gilbert White is buried - comes into view on the hilltop ahead.
58. In 80 metres, at the top of the hill, enter the churchyard by a kissing gate. Cross the churchyard to exit its far end in 80 metres, and walk straight ahead across the **The Plestor**, the village green.
59. In 40 metres you come to the busy B3006, and turn left.
60. In 50 metres on the right is the entrance to the **Gilbert White Museum**, whose tea room, the **White Cafe-bar**, is a possible lunch stop. Beyond on the right you pass a **delicatessen** in 60 metres and then in 20 metres the **Selborne Tea Room**, with before coming in another 40 metres to the **Selborne Arms**.

- **If you want to end the walk in Selborne** and get the bus back (Monday to Friday only), the **bus stop** is just beyond the Selborne Arms, which is also the side of the road to be standing on for buses to Alton.

Selborne to Upper Farringdon (4.4km/2.7 miles)

61. To continue the walk, turn right out of the Selborne Arms (or carry on past it if not stopping) and then turn right off the road just after the pub, up a tarmac lane with a red phone box on the corner.
62. In 30 metres take the footpath straight ahead between the two forks in the lane, signposted to Selborne Common, a path fenced off from an open field to the left.
63. In 300 metres pass through a wooden kissing gate, and fork left up the first in series of steps. This is the famous **Zigzag Path** cut by Gilbert White and his brother in 1753.
64. Follow the zigzags all the way to the top, ignoring all side paths - a long climb but with increasingly fine views.
65. At the **very top** of the zigzags, with a large stone and a metal bench 10 metres to the left, turn right onto an earth track.
66. In 130 metres pass through a kissing gate to the left of a wooden fieldgate, ignoring a path forking right.
Selborne Common was much more open in Gilbert White's time, and has only become more overgrown since grazing stopped in the 1950s. The National Trust is now trying to restore it to its former appearance, which accounts for the cattle you may see munching the trees.
67. Stay on the car-wide path across the common, ignoring all ways off, for 750 metres until you come to a large open space to your right (200 metres across: much larger than earlier, small clearings on the route).
68. **Ignore** a large track forking left here and instead follow a faint grass path **straight ahead** (maybe very slightly right) along the left-hand edge of the clearing.

If you have any problem following the next three paragraphs, the aim is to

get to the western edge of the wooded common and then follow a bridleway northwards downhill along it (paragraph 72).

69. In 80 metres pass through a **gap** between two clumps of trees (the right-hand one has a pond hidden in it) and **beyond veer half right**, gently downhill.
70. In 80 metres the path enters the wood
71. In another 80 metres the path veers left to a wooden gate to the right of a fieldgate. Pass through this and keep straight on along a level path, passing a footpath post in 10 metres.
72. In a further 200 metres, at a three way footpath post, turn right onto a bridleway. Follow this downhill.
73. In 350 metres exit the wood into a field and turn left along its top edge.
74. In 130 metres, in the field corner, **veer left** passing an overgrown water trough to find a path that descends a bank for 20 metres to a T-junction with a track. Turn right on this track.
75. In 400 metres pass to the left of a metal fieldgate and turn left on a tarmac lane.
76. In 120 metres go right through a gap in the fence and straight on across an open field. In 70 metres you pass under mini-pylons and start to climb.
77. In 220 metres more cross a stile into a wood. Follow the path as it slants slightly to the left up through the wood.
78. In 80 metres you emerge into an open field. The right of way carries on diagonally uphill across the field, your direction 310 degrees (the same direction as the path you have just been on), but this way is often blocked by crops.
 - **If the right of way is NOT blocked by crops**, cross the field to its upper far corner and then veer right through an overgrown strip to come to a track. Turn right on this and then curve right with it, downhill, with a field to your left, and refer to paragraph 81 opposite.
 - **If the way across the field IS blocked by crops**, turn right uphill along the field edge and carry on with the next paragraph.
79. In 150 metres, at the **upper edge** of

the field, you will find a track just **inside** the trees (*ie, not the grassy field edge before the trees*), where you turn left.

80. Follow the track to the corner of the field and stay on it as it veers right, downhill, with a field to your left.
 81. 200 metres further on pass under electricity pylons. 250 metres after these, at a three-armed footpath sign, (and 200 metres before you get to a second set of pylons), fork right off the bridleway across the open field, your direction 340 degrees.
 82. Head for the village of Upper Farringdon, which can soon be seen in the valley below, or just to the left of a mini-pylon in the middle of field.
 83. In 450 metres, in the far corner of the field, you come to a road. Turn left (in fact, more or less straight ahead) into the village of **Upper Farringdon**.
 84. In 230 metres you come to a road T-junction, where you go straight ahead, down Crows Lane. The **Rose and Crown** pub, a possible refreshment stop, is on your right.
- Upper Farringdon to Chawton (3km/1.9 miles)**
85. In 300 metres, at a T-junction, go left down Church Road.
 86. In 80 metres **All Saints Church, Upper Farringdon** (where Gilbert White was curate) appears to your right: slant right up the path towards it and turn left in front of the church door to visit **an amazing old hollowed-out yew tree** on the right. Carry on beyond the tree on a path through the churchyard to emerge onto a gravel track.

*Ahead left here is the red brick **Massey's Folly**, erected by a vicar of Upper Farringdon of that name, who did the brickwork himself, along with two local labourers. The purpose of this building was never made clear. One story is that it reflected his love for the daughter of an Indian civil servant. The building, which lies empty to this day, was not Massey's only eccentricity: he also apparently used to sometimes deliver sermons from behind a screen. This presumably is the same Reverend Massey who is buried on the left just before the church door.*
 87. **The onward route**, however, is to go

right up the gravel track and in 20 metres ignore a footpath to the left.

88. In another 40 metres, at a T-junction, go left on a tarmac drive, passing to the right of a barn on stilts in 30 metres.
89. Pass another barn and some new houses left, and in 120 metres you come to a gravel track crossroads, with a playground with a high wire fence to your left. Go right here, uphill.
90. Keep straight on along this track, at first uphill and then downhill into a wood.
91. In 500 metres, where the wood ends, keep on along the left-hand edge of an open field.
92. In another 200 metres, where the track turns right along the far edge of the field, go straight on into a wooded area.
93. In 80 metres cross a stile and keep straight on downhill, diagonally across a field towards a metal trough in its far corner.
94. In 300 metres, in the far corner of the field, do **not** cross the stile to the busy road (the A32), but cross over a stile to the right to follow a path parallel to the road.
95. In 200 metres cross another stile.
96. In 170 metres, where your way is blocked by metal barriers, go left across a stile into a wooded area, and turn right again to resume your former direction, parallel to the road.
97. In 30 metres, you emerge onto the old Gosport Road, now blocked off to traffic.
98. Carry on along this road all the way to the centre of **Chawton**. In 200 metres you pass a metal barrier in the road, and 30 metres after this you can turn right along the drive to **Chawton House** and its **Old Kitchen Tea Room**, or to visit **St Nicholas's Church**, in whose churchyard Jane Austen's mother and her sister Cassandra are buried (round the far side of the church, against the hedge between the churchyard and Chawton House).
99. Otherwise ignore this turning and stay on the road for a further 450 metres until you come to a T-junction with a Give Way sign. The red brick building on the far side of the junction is **Jane**

Austen's House. The **Cassandra's Cup** tea room is opposite and **The Greyfriar** pub next door.

- On Mondays to Fridays you can end the walk here by taking the bus from the **bus stop** five metres beyond Jane Austen's House.
- For **b) Alternative Ending across the fields from Chawton to Alton (4.8km/3 miles** to Alton railway station versus **2.8km/1.8 miles** by the main walk route) switch to paragraph 149 on page 10.

Chawton to Alton station (2.8km/1.8 miles)

100. Carry on past Jane Austen's House (left) and the Greyfriar pub (right) down the main road of the village.
101. In 250 metres, where the road curves right, go straight on up a dead end road.
102. In 80 metres, where the road ends, go down concrete steps to the left-hand side of it, to cross under the A31 in an underpass.
103. On the far side of the underpass, go straight ahead down a wide empty road (the former main road, now bypassed).
104. In 500 metres you come to a roundabout. *Major construction work was taking place at this junction in September 2019 and it is being remodelled substantially:* your onward route is under the rightmost of two railway bridges, which should bring you out along the right-hand edge of a large triangular green, with houses on its far side, on a main road that takes you into the centre of Alton.
105. In 700 metres, by the White Horse pub left, and where the main road swings right uphill, keep straight on along the **High Street**.
106. In 250 metres on the left you pass **Caffe Nero**, and in another 70 metres the **Swan Hotel** on the right. 50 metres beyond this on the right is **Costa Coffee**, all three being potential late tea stops.
107. In another 200 metres, at the top of a hill, you come to a mini roundabout, and keep straight on.
108. In another 150 metres, at the end of the shopping zone and with the Magistrate's Court to your right, you come to a larger roundabout. Go

straight on, passing the Alton House Hotel right in 120 metres.

- 109.** 40 metres beyond the hotel, turn right up Paper Mill Lane. The entrance to **Alton Station** is 40 metres up on the left.

Alton to Upper Farringdon direct (6.3km/3.9 miles)

This is the start of a) Short walk to Chawton.

- 110.** Exit Alton station buildings through the main entrance on platform 1. Turn left along the edge of the car park.
- 111.** In 60 metres, just after a sign points left to Hangers Way, descend steps to the road. Cross the road and turn left.
- 112.** In 50 metres pass under the railway bridge.
- 113.** In a further 80 metres turn right up Waterside Court, a cul-du-sac.
- 114.** In 20 metres turn right at a T-junction and in 15 metres, just beyond flats 28-33, turn left up a tarmac path.
- 115.** In 30 metres pass through metal barriers and turn left on a car-wide tarmac path. **King's Pond** is to your right.
- 116.** In 80 metres curve right with the tarmac path towards a road ahead.
- 117.** In a further 40 metres, **40 metres before the road**, turn right on a narrower tarmac path. Kings Pond is still to your right (hidden by trees in summer but visible after 30 metres or so).
- 118.** This path follows the edge of the pond right to its far end in 330 metres, where you come to a tarmac path T-junction with the railway embankment directly ahead. Go left here to get to a road in 40 metres.
- 119.** Cross the road and go straight up concrete steps.
- 120.** There are two flights of steps. 60 metres after the top of the second flight ignore a tarmac path to the right.
- 121.** In a further 80 metres, at a T-junction, go right along a fenced path between garden fences.
- 122.** In 40 metres this brings you to a residential road, where you go left uphill.
- 123.** Ignore side roads until in a further 400 metres you come to the crest of the hill. The pedestrian pavement and houses end at this point. Ignore a tarmac lane forking right to keep downhill on the road under trees.
- 124.** In a further 100 metres fork right down a tarmac driveway, opposite a wood-sided house.
- 125.** In 40 metres fork left off the driveway onto an earth path, following a bridleway sign.
- 126.** 100 metres later emerge from the trees to carry on between hedges.
- 127.** In 200 metres cross a track and go straight ahead up an embankment, which in 10 metres brings you to the A31.
- 128. Cross this busy dual carriageway with great care.** On the far side turn right for 10 metres and then left down the bank on a track (a bridleway, but the signpost has fallen over).
- 129.** In 80 metres turn right on a tarmac driveway. (Despite the 'Private Road' sign this is a public right of way). In 30 metres pass a metal fieldgate to carry straight on along the lane.
- 130.** In 350 metres you pass a white house to your right.
- 131.** In a further 200 metres keep straight on, ignoring a tarmac lane that leads left uphill in front of a stone wall, and a footpath to the right indicated by a three armed footpath sign.
- 132.** In 60 metres a large open field starts to the left.
- 133.** In 450 metres you come to a road, which is busier, with faster traffic, than it sometimes appears at first.
- 134.** Turn right for 30 metres along the road and then, just before white barriers on either side of the road, turn left over a stile, marked by a rather decrepit footpath sign.
- 135.** Keep to the left-hand side of the narrow field beyond. In 80 metres pass between gateposts and keep straight on, with a ditch to your right.
- 136.** In 360 metres, at the top of the field, your way is blocked by a wire fence. Go right over the ditch on a small earth bridge and then in 20 metres go left over a stile to continue in your former direction, with the ditch now to the left.
- 137.** In 40 metres, where the ditch and the field edge get close to each other, at

the far end of a wood on your right, turn left over the ditch on an earth bridge with a decaying wooden railing, and on the far side turn right to resume your former direction, with the ditch now on your right-hand side.

138. In 130 metres the ditch curves away right into thickets. Keep straight on across a stile to the right of a metal fieldgate. (This point makes quite a nice **picnic** spot.)
139. Keep straight on up the left-hand edge of this very long field. In 600 metres, at its far end, cross a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate, and keep on up a grassy track.
140. In 150 metres, at a T-junction with an earth track, go left, following a two-armed footpath sign.
141. After 180 metres you come to a road, where you go right.
 - **If you are NOT planning to visit at the Rose and Crown pub in Upper Farringdon**, you could stay on this road, heading towards Farringdon church, whose tower you may be able to see in the distance. In 750 metres you come to a junction with Crows Lane to your left: keep straight ahead here and continue with the directions in paragraph 86 on page 7.
142. Otherwise, **to go to the Rose and Crown**, in 350 metres turn left up a gravel track towards Stapley's Farm, following a footpath sign.
143. In 200 metres, just before a white farmhouse, turn right at a two-armed footpath sign. Pass between a barn left and a wooden shed right and then to the right of a green corrugated shed.
144. In 70 metres cross a stile and go straight on along a fenced path between fields
145. In another 70 metres, cross a double stile and turn left along the edge of the next field.
146. In 130 metres cross another stile and turn right along the right-hand edge of a field, with a barbed wire fence now to your right.
147. In 230 metres, at the end of this field, go left with the field boundary.
148. In 80 metres, 10 metres before the field ends, turn right up a path between a wall and a hedge to reach the road in 60 metres. The **Rose and**

Crown pub is immediately to the right here.

To continue the walk, turn right on the road and switch to paragraph 85 on page 7.

Alternative ending from Chawton to Alton (4.8km/3 miles)

*This is option **b**), a more rural ending, which avoids Alton town centre. It does, however, repeat the early part of option **a**) **Short Walk to Chawton** in reverse, and depending on wind direction can suffer a bit from traffic noise from the A31.*

149. Turn right out of **The Greyfriar** pub or **Cassandra's Cup** tea rooms, or left out of **Jane Austen's House**.
150. 70 metres beyond the pub, just before you come level with a thatched cottage to the left, go right up an easy to miss signposted footpath between hedges.
151. In 50 metres pass through a metal kissing gate and keep straight on across a field.
152. In 100 metres pass through a gate hidden behind a clump of trees and keep on in the same direction.
153. In 50 metres pass through a kissing gate into a wood. In another 30 metres the path starts to climb a hill.
154. At the top, in another 40 metres, ignore a two footpaths forking right and instead go straight on through a gate. Beyond, go half left, heading somewhat to the left of the farm buildings ahead.
155. In 200 metres go through a kissing gate, across a track and through a gap in the hedge (with the remains of a stile). Beyond follow a fence as it veers half right.
156. In 70 metres go across stile. Keep straight on along a wire fence.
157. In 130 metres cross a stile and veer left towards a hedge.
158. In another 120 metres cross a stile at the left-hand end of a wide gap in the hedge and keep on in the same direction (slightly right from the stile) across the next field.
159. In 130 metres, in the far corner of the field, cross a double stile and veer left across another field corner.

- 160.** In 100 metres go through a metal fieldgate and veer left, following the left-hand edge of a field with a line of tall trees to your left.
- 161.** In 150 metres follow the field boundary left for 20 metres and then right again to resume your former direction.
- 162.** In 170 metres more, in the corner of the field, ignore a metal fieldgate to the left and go through the one straight ahead. Go left onto a concrete track.
- 163.** In 100 metres, where the track turns right, go straight ahead for 10 metres on grass to a gate in a wooden fence and out onto the main road.
- 164.** **Cross this road with care** (though it looks quiet at times, at others traffic comes quite fast) and go straight ahead over the grass and through a narrow gap in the field boundary. Cross one track and pass through a gap in the fence to turn left onto a second track leading towards metal barns.
- 165.** In 250 metres, just past the barns, turn right up a path between wooden fences.
- 166.** In 40 metres go up three wooden steps and down a grassy strip between a high hedge left and a barn right.
- 167.** Keep along this strip, with high fences and then farm machinery to your right.
- 168.** In 250 metres there are wire field fences left and right, and in 200 metres the fence ends right and you keep on along the left-hand edge of a field.
- 169.** In 50 metres, where the hedge ends, curve slightly right for 50 metres more to cross a footbridge. 10 metres beyond this cross a stile and go left onto a tarmac lane.
- 170.** Keep on along the tarmac lane. In 200 metres you pass a white house to your left, and in 350 metres you pass around a metal fieldgate.
- 171.** 30 metres beyond this, at a crossroads, where the fence ends left and right, go left up a track.
- 172.** In 80 metres this brings you up an embankment to the A31 dual carriageway: **cross this with care.**
- 173.** On the far side go right for 10 metres to find an easy-to-miss gap, where there is a path down the bank.
- 174.** Descend the bank to cross a grassy strip and go straight ahead between hedges.
- 175.** In 200 metres you enter a wooded gully and in 100 metres more, you merge with a tarmac drive. In 40 metres go left uphill on a road.
- 176.** In 120 metres, at the top of the hill, a pavement starts to the right. Keep straight on, now slightly downhill.
- 177.** In 300 metres you pass Crowley Drive to the right and in 70 metres, at the top of a hill, The Ridgeway to the left.
- 178.** 50 metres beyond The Ridgeway, turn right along a signposted footpath between wooden garden fences.
- 179.** In 40 metres, 10 metres before the path comes to a residential road ahead, turn left downhill on a path with a wooden fence to the left and trees to the right.
- 180.** In 120 metres you come to steps, which you go down to reach the road 100 metres later.
- 181.** **If light is fading**, you can turn right on this road until you come to a crossroads, and go left to the station. **The recommended route**, however, is to cross the road and walk straight ahead along a tarmac path, with a railway embankment on your left.
- 182.** In 40 metres turn right past a concrete bollard onto a tarmac path. A water channel can be seen to your left, which soon broadens out into **King's Pond.**
- 183.** In a further 330 metres go left at a path T-junction on a car-wide tarmac path around the top of the pond.
- 184.** In 120 metres, as a block of flats ends right and as the tarmac path starts to curve left along the far shore of the pond, go right through metal barriers on a tarmac path.
- 185.** In 30 metres this brings you to a road, where you go right for 15 metres and then left at a T-junction.
- 186.** In 20 metres more turn left on the main road. In 80 metres pass under a railway bridge. 50 metres beyond this cross the road and climb the steps onto the forecourt of **Alton station.**