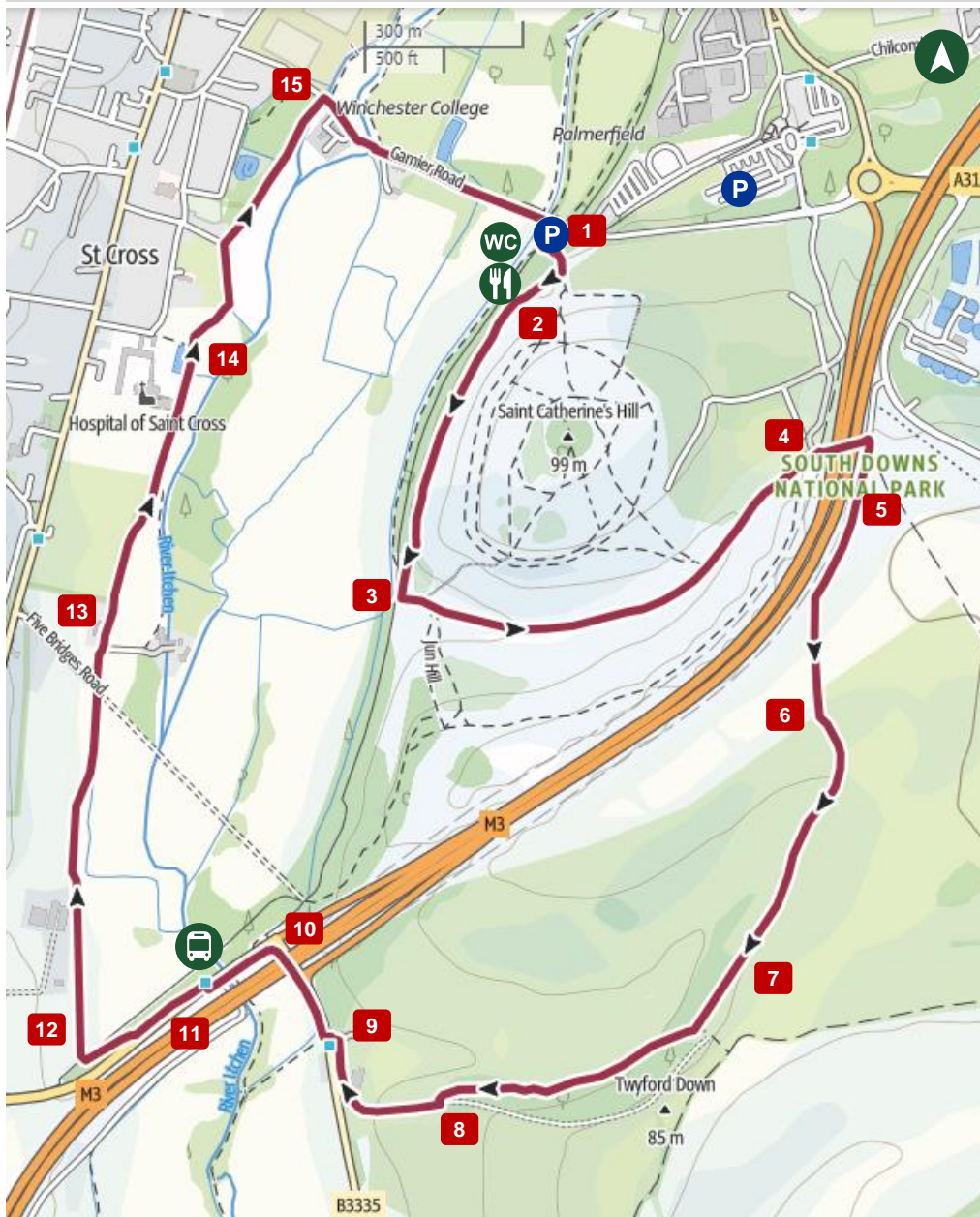


# Winchester Walk – St Catherine’s Hill

## SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

### WALK ROUTE:



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### FACILITIES AND REFRESHMENTS:

Handlebar Café – Garnier Road Carpark [handlebar.cafe](http://handlebar.cafe)

Hospital of St Cross – [hospitalofstcross.co.uk](http://hospitalofstcross.co.uk) - check opening times, there is a café with facilities for visitors.

### THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Respect everyone: leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect the environment: take your litter home.
- Enjoy the outdoors: plan ahead and be prepared.

### INFORMATION:

#### DURATION:

5.5 miles / 2 - 3 hours

#### PARKING:

Park and Ride – [winchester.gov.uk/parking/park-and-ride](http://winchester.gov.uk/parking/park-and-ride)

Garnier Road – free but can be very busy.

Five Bridges Road – a dead end road, free unofficial parking but can also be busy.

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

69 and E1 Stagecoach Bus stops at the A3090 Hockley Link layby, near the entrance to the viaduct.

#### TAKE THE LEAD

**Please keep your dog on the lead around livestock and wildlife. Always bag and bin your dog’s poo. Any bin will do!**

#### KEY

-  Parking
-  Bus Stop
-  Toilets
-  Food outlet

Visit [southdowns.gov.uk](http://southdowns.gov.uk) for more walking routes and information.

## DIRECTIONS:

1. From the Garnier Road car park walk under the old railway bridge and through the gate into St Catherine's Hill nature reserve. Start to walk up the hill then turn right at the 3-way finger post a short way up the slope.
2. Follow the path along the hillside until you reach a four-way fingerpost. (For a shorter walk you can follow the steps up onto St Catherine's Hill at this point and walk a signposted circular route of the iron age ramparts. This will return you to the Garnier Road car park via steps on the other side of the hill. Otherwise continue to point 3.)
3. Turn left and follow the bridleway (called Plague Pits Valley).
4. At the top of the bridleway go through the gate and turn right to cross the footbridge over the M3. On the other side turn right through the gate into 'The Dongas' which is part of St Catherine's Hill nature reserve.
5. Follow the footpath arrow which tracks the fence line to your right. Continue until you reach another gate that directs you across the arable field.

There are lovely views either side as you walk across to Hockley Golf Course. This is a working golf course, you only have permission to walk along the right of way.

6. From this point please follow the yellow footpath arrows using the next few instructions to make your way to the Golf Course main entrance. Follow the yellow footpath arrow to the next post with a golf course sign and yellow arrow. From here you can see the next post - walk across to it.

At the next post, follow the path down to the edge of the fairway where the next post, sign and arrow is. This is the only point where you have to cross the fairway, take care and cross when safe to do so. On the other side, follow the arrow / fingerpost along the only track available.

7. At the fork of paths continue straight ahead remaining at the same level. Then at the 3-way post take the left-hand path down the slope into the scrubby woodland. At the bottom continue to follow the footpath arrows and walk left through the trees. Keep walking and you will see the car park appear in the distance.
8. At the cross paths walk straight ahead then follow the post with a footpath sign and continue on the track to the car park and pedestrian exit.

9. At the exit turn right to cross the B335 at the traffic lights. Follow the pavement under the motorway towards the pedestrian crossing.
10. Use the crossing to cross the road and then turn left. Follow the hard standing and then the pavement to walk towards the laybys.

(Detour – if you turn right after crossing the road and walk along the tarmacked surface to a crossroads on the left there is a route that takes you over the viaduct. This does not join up with the rest of the walk so you will need to back track to continue the walk.

During the winter the route across the field away from the viaduct can be very water-logged. If too wet you can instead continue to walk past the entrance to the Viaduct and continue on the tarmacked surface to reach the same crossroads in point 17.)

11. Follow the pavement as it steers you away from the road, then follow the fingerpost guiding you down past the hedge. Continue to follow the path slightly downhill to the base of the viaduct and continue as it takes you along, underneath and out the other side into a field. From here you have great views of the viaduct and St Catherine's Hill.
12. Continue on the footpath, which can be wet and boggy in some areas, until you reach a gate and the crossroads of Five Bridges Road. Head straight across following signs for The Hospital of St Cross.
13. To the right of the small barns is a kissing gate, go through and walk the length of the path. From this gate all the way through until Garnier Road you are in an area called St Cross Meadows.  
  
Please ensure you stick to the right of way and keep your dog on the lead and away from grazing livestock.
14. When you reach the corner of the wall for the Hospital of St Cross make sure you take the right-hand fork to continue along the footpath. Through the next gate you will find St Faith's Meadows on your right which is part of the wider St Cross meadows.
15. Turn right onto Garnier Road and use the pavement to walk back to the car park where you started.

If you spot any issues on any of the paths along this route please report them at [www.hants.gov.uk/reportaproblem](http://www.hants.gov.uk/reportaproblem)