

Winchester

Winchester's pedestrianised streets and extensive dropped kerbs make it especially wheelchair-friendly. Winchester City Council and Winchester Shopmobility have devised this trail to help wheelchair users explore the historic city with confidence.



The Brooks shopping centre



Shopmobility



Short stay car park



Sunset over Abbey Gardens

Shopmobility

Winchester's Shopmobility service is available to anyone who has difficulty getting around. Young or old, resident or visitor, anyone can hire a shopmobility scooter or wheelchair for a small charge. Shopmobility operates from the Upper Parking Level of the Brooks Car Park, where there are 10 bays for disabled drivers' cars. Parking is free for customers using this service and Shopmobility is open Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm and Saturday (by prior booking only) 9.30am-4pm, tel: 01962 842 626. To exit the Brooks Car Park from the Shopmobility office, follow the yellow hatched path to the lift and go up to the Upper Shopping Level. From here a slope leads down to Middle Brook Street.

The trail

The trail passes some of Winchester's major visitor sites and is mainly on the level with just one ramp. The route is approximately one mile.

We hope you enjoy this trip around some of the historic and beautiful places in Winchester. The tourist information centre is pleased to offer further assistance and information.

Please let Shopmobility or the tourist information centre know if you have had any problems following the route.



From the Brooks Shopping Centre take the road between Marks and Spencer and Sainsbury's, Middle Brook Street 1. Take care here as buses come through every few minutes. Turn right and head up the High Street. 2



The High Street started life some 2,500 years ago as a route leading to a crossing point of the River Itchen. It was the main thoroughfare for Roman, Saxon and medieval Winchester and lays claim to being the oldest street in any English city. At the first corner on the left is the 'new' Market Hall, built in 1772.



Turn left into Market Street. 3 Keep on the right-hand side and turn right into The Square. 4 Take care at the corner, as the dropped kerb is quite steep. The Square is not pedestrianised, so there is occasional traffic coming through.



Originally part of the huge cathedral cemetery, this area was used for storing corn and wood and holding animal markets in the 14th and 15th centuries.



Continue along The Square, note the Winchester Provident Dispensary, and the plaque commemorating Alice Lisle to the left. Lady Lisle was executed outside the **Eclipse Inn 5** in Winchester market-place on 2 September 1685. She was found guilty of harbouring fugitives from the Battle of Segemoor.



Cross the road to the City Museum 6, one of the first purpose-built museums outside London. The museum is fully accessible to wheelchairs. In the 11th century the area to your right was part of the Royal palace built by William the Conqueror.



Enter the cathedral grounds and approach the impressive west window 7 via the diagonal path. The ground floor of the cathedral is accessible, with a stair lift to the east end.



Winchester Cathedral has been a place of worship for over 900 years, with fine Norman and medieval architecture, including the longest medieval nave in Europe, the tombs of the early English Kings, Jane Austen's grave and other treasures. The cathedral shop and award-winning café are accessible and worth a visit.



Take the narrow opening to the right of the west window which leads under the cathedral's flying buttresses 8 and into the Cathedral Close. Take care as pedestrians and cyclists do tend to turn the corner at speed here. Continue across the Cathedral Close 9.



The Close is a beautiful and tranquil area, containing many buildings associated with the cathedral including the **Deanery 10**, which has been continuously occupied since the 13th century. Pilgrims' Hall, adjacent to Pilgrims' School, dates from 1308 and has a fine hammer-beam roof. **Cheyney Court 11**, formerly the Bishop's court house, and the Porter's Lodge form one of the most picturesque groups of medieval buildings in the country.



Leave the Close via Prior's Gate 12 and turn left under the Kingsgate.



The **Kingsgate 13** is one of two remaining gates of the old walled city of Winchester. Above the archways is a small church.



Pass through the gate and turn left into College Street, crossing to the side of the street that houses the 'Cornflowers' gift shop (formerly Winchester College tuck shop).



There are three points of interest in College Street: the house where **Jane Austen died,* 14** the magnificent Winchester College and the bishop's palace of Wolvesey.



Jane Austen's house is where the great author lived the last six weeks of her life and died, on 18 July 1817. She is buried in the cathedral.



Winchester College 15 is believed to be the oldest continuously-running school in England. It was founded in 1382 by Bishop William of Wykeham, who also founded New College in Oxford, and old boys are known as Wykehamists.



At **Wolvesey Castle 16** are the extensive ruins of the medieval bishop's palace.



At the end of College Street continue straight on the path which leads beside the city wall towards the River Itchen. Turn left and follow the river along The Weirs 17.



The **River Itchen 18** is a fast-flowing clear chalk stream, world-famous for trout, and it rushes along here just outside the old city wall. The only surviving part of the city's Roman wall can be seen just before the bridge. City Bridge was the ancient river crossing place and entrance to the city. Behind the bridge is **City Mill 19**. Built in 1744, it has an impressive millrace, an attractive island garden and a National Trust shop. (Only the shop is accessible to wheelchairs).

* The house in College Street is not open to the public. Please respect the privacy of the residents.

Facilities for visitors with disabilities

Toilets

All public toilets in the city have accessible facilities. These are marked on the map and can be found at the Brooks Shopping Centre (Upper Parking level), Chesil Multi-storey Car Park, Abbey Gardens, Market Lane, Middle Brook Street, Jewry Street and Worthy Lane Car Park. The RADAR scheme is in use and keys are available for loan or purchase (£3) from the tourist information centre.

Parking

There are special bays for disabled visitors in all city car parks. Parking is free in all Pay & Display car parks but payment is required in the Pay on Foot barrier-controlled car parks. Drivers must display their blue badges at all times and park their vehicles within the parking bays.

The Brooks Car Park has a Shopmobility service and a free ticket to exit this car park can be obtained by all Shopmobility users. In Winchester disabled blue badge drivers may also park free of charge in residents' bays.

Public transport

For information on public transport in Winchester, please contact the Passenger Transport Group, tel 01962 846 983.

Tourism for all

Winchester City Council has recently carried out an accessibility audit with *Tourism for all* – a UK organisation dedicated to making destinations more accessible. Various attractions and service will be undertaking a series of initiatives to improve the experience in terms of accessibility. A major High Street refurbishment which includes accessibility-tested routes is also underway in conjunction with Hampshire County Council.

Accommodation

From 2010, visitors can search for accessible accommodation on www.visitwinchester.co.uk

Winchester Tourist Information Centre,
Guildhall, High Street, Winchester SO23 9GH
Tel: 01962 840 500

Email: tourism@winchester.gov.uk
Website: www.visitwinchester.co.uk

Winchester Shopmobility,
The Brooks Car Park, Winchester Tel: 01962 842 626

If you would like this leaflet in a larger format please contact the tourist information centre on 01962 840 500 or e-mail tourism@winchester.gov.uk

Telephone calls may be recorded for training and monitoring purposes.

The trail continues . . .



20 Take the ramp up alongside City Bridge **20** and turn left into the Broadway.



The Broadway is dominated by a **bronze statue 21** by Hamo Thornycroft of King Alfred the Great. Scholar, soldier, statesman, King Alfred restored Winchester after the Dark Ages and established it as a centre of power.



If you have time, take a short detour around **Abbey Gardens 22** on your left. There is always colour and interest here whatever the time of year. There is also a garden for the visually impaired to enjoy next to Abbey House, the mayor's official residence. The park and house were built on the site of an Abbey founded by King Alfred's wife, Queen Ealswith.



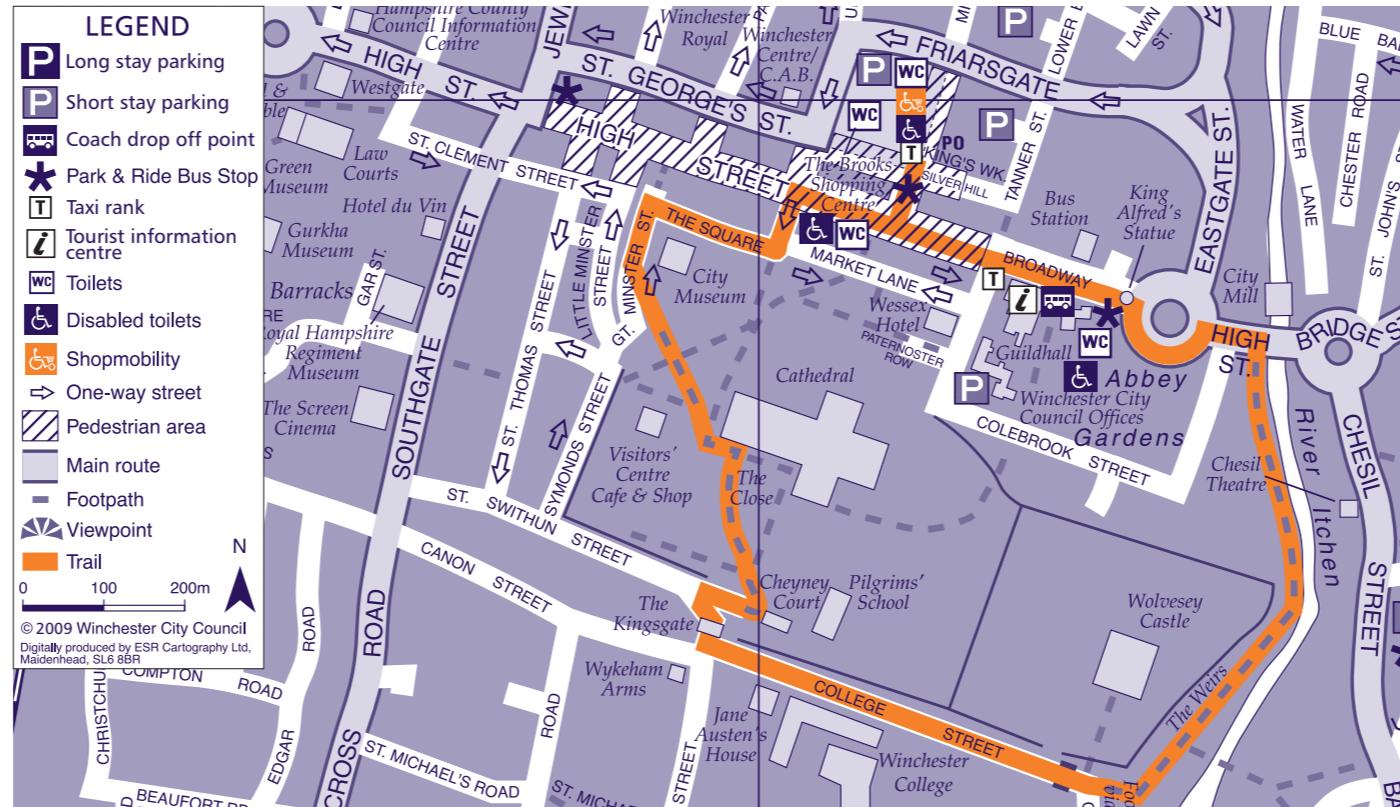
23 Leave Abbey Gardens by passing between the Mayor's residence **Abbey House 23** and the Guildhall.



To find out more about Winchester, call into the **tourist information centre 24**, which is on your left after the Guildhall steps. Access to the Courtyard Café is via the tourist information centre – why not call in for a bite to eat or a cup of tea?



25 Once back in the **High Street 25**, turn right at Marks & Spencer. This leads you back to the Brooks shopping centre.



Winchester

Visitor trail by wheelchair

