

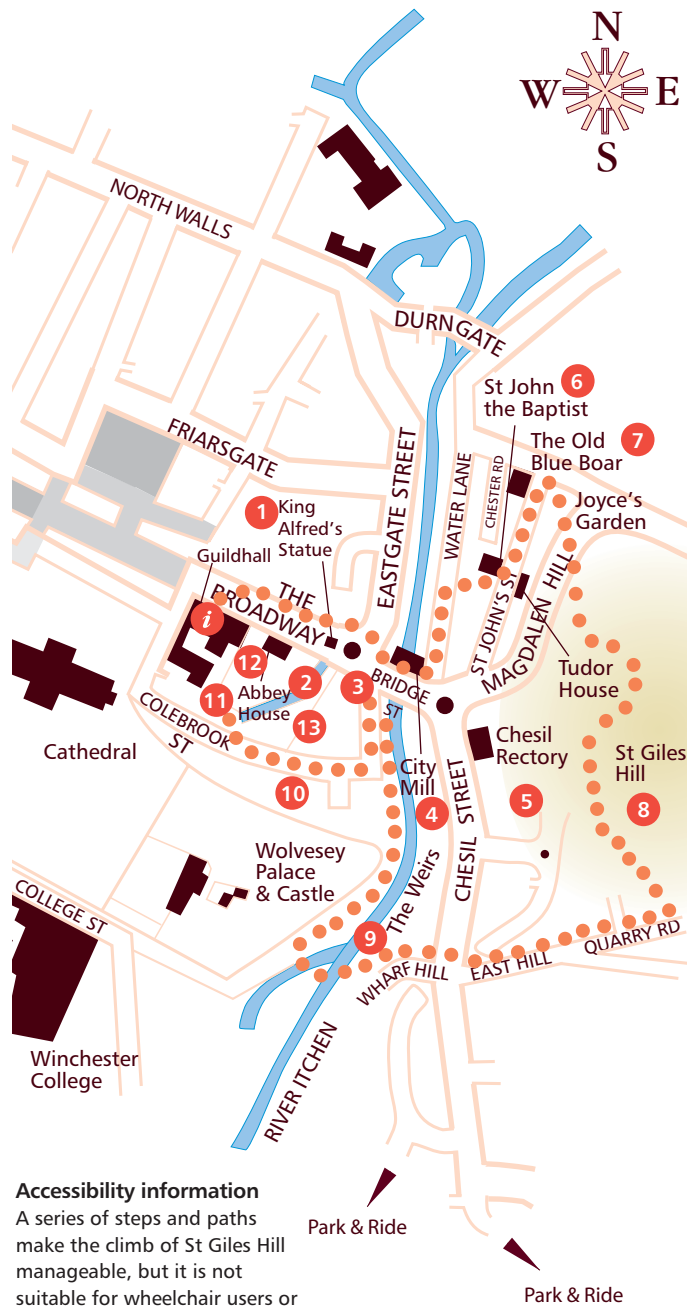
SUNSET

A romantic walk through picturesque Winchester

Has all that walking whetted your appetite? Polish off the evening in one of Winchester City Centre's Hampshire Hospitality Award-winning eateries* and you know you are in good hands.

1. The 'quality assured' marque means the eatery delivers an all-round excellent eating experience, from the quality and presentation of the food to the hospitality and service.
2. A 'superior quality assured' marque is awarded to businesses who have outstanding standards across the board.
3. An eatery with the 'local produce award' is showcasing the best of Hampshire's local produce.

* The eateries listed below were all awarded a Hampshire Hospitality Award in 2009/10. For the most up-to-date list including pubs, cafes and restaurants across the Winchester District please see www.visitwinchester.co.uk/site/things-to-do/food-and-drink



Accessibility information
A series of steps and paths make the climb of St Giles Hill manageable, but it is not suitable for wheelchair users or people who find steps difficult.

A detailed map of Winchester city centre is available at the tourist information centre.

Bangkok Brasserie
72-74 St George's Street
01962 869 966



The Black Rat Restaurant
88 Chesil Street
01962 844 465



The Chesil Rectory
1 Chesil Street
01962 851 555



Corner House
71 North Walls
01962 827 779



El Sabio Tapas Bar & Restaurant
60 Eastgate Street
01962 820 233



The Forte Brasserie & Tea Rooms
78 Parchment Street
01962 856 840



Gandhi Indian Cuisine
163 High Street
01962 863 940



Hutton's Brasserie
Winchester Hotel,
Worthy Lane
01962 709 988



Loch Fyne Seafood Restaurant
18 Jewry Street
01962 872 930



The Old Vine
8 Great Minister Street
01962 854 616



Winchester Royal Hotel
St Peter Street
01962 840 840



'The sunset caught me, turned the brush to copper,
Set the clouds to one great roof of flame above the earth.'

Elizabeth Coatsworth

The 'Sunset' walk is a self-guided circular trail of approximately 1¼ miles through the beautiful and historic eastern part of Winchester.

Encompassing St Giles Hill, The Weirs and Abbey Gardens, the walk passes some of the city's oldest buildings and most exquisite scenes.

The walk is a photographer's joy and will delight at any time of the day, however, the panoramic view of the city from St Giles Hill is arguably at its best as the sun sets.

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



www.visitwinchester.co.uk

Sunset: a romantic walk through picturesque Winchester

The walk begins in the Broadway, originally a Roman thoroughfare, which is dominated by a bronze statue of **King Alfred the Great** **1** erected in 1901.



1 The King of Wessex drove back the Danes and reinvigorated the city after the Dark Ages. Known as the founder of the kingdom, King Alfred made Winchester his seat of power, introduced laws, stimulated scholarship and encouraged use of a new language which became 'English'.



2 **Abbey House** **2**, beside the Victorian Guildhall, dates from 1680 and is the Mayor's official residence. The house and Abbey Gardens are built on the site of an abbey, known as Nunnaminster (and later St Mary's Abbey) on land granted to Eahlswith, King Alfred's queen.

Walk towards the Eastern Hill, known as St Giles Hill, pausing at City Bridge with the River Itchen flowing fast beneath you.



3 This was the main **river crossing** **3** into Winchester. Here, the City Bridge and the East Gate allowed access to and from the Roman, Saxon and medieval city. It is said that a miracle was performed here in the 9th century by Bishop (later Saint) Swithun. A lady bringing eggs to market broke them as she crossed the river at this spot, but Swithun came to her aid and made the eggs whole again.



4 The **City Mill** **4**, owned by the National Trust, was built in 1744. There has been a mill on this site since the 10th century.



5 The area beyond the bridge is known as 'The Soke'. In the Middle Ages the bishop had jurisdiction over this area and many citizens moved here to avoid the City's higher taxes.

Notice to the right a timber framed house, the **Chesil Rectory** **5**, which dates from 1450 and is now a multiple award-winning restaurant.

Take the first left into Water Lane and follow the path by the river, looking back to see the island garden at the rear of the City Mill. Look out for otters at dusk! After 45 metres turn right between numbers 40 and 41 Water Lane and follow the path up into the churchyard of St John the Baptist.



6 **St John the Baptist** **6** is one of Winchester's oldest parish churches. It was built in the 12th century and retains a medieval air with wall paintings inside on the north wall.

The church was used by Winchester College before their chapel was built in the early 15th century.

Leave the churchyard and turn left into St John's Street, noticing to your right 'Tudor House', once the city's workhouse.



7 St John's Street was on the medieval pilgrims' route to Canterbury from the city. Further uphill you will see **The Old Blue Boar** **7**.

Dating from the 14th century, some believe it to be Winchester's oldest house.

Turn right and cross over Joyce's Garden and busy Magdalen Hill, entering St Giles Hill a few metres further down. Ascend the hill and make your way across the wide green space at the top. On the lower side you will find the viewpoint.



8 At **St Giles viewpoint** **8** there are seats to enjoy spectacular panoramic views of Winchester.

Use the information panel to pick out St Catherine's Hill, the river and canal, The Hospital of St Cross, Winchester College, Wolvesey Castle, Winchester Cathedral, King Alfred's statue, the High Street and the Westgate.

In the Middle Ages St Giles Fair was held here. It started as a local event but grew into a semi-permanent fair with traders from all over Europe selling cloth, wine, iron and 'strange beasts and birds, apes, bears and ferrets.'*

From the viewpoint, follow the hill round and up the steps to the south-east corner and descend to Quarry Road. Turn right following the signs to Riverside Walk, crossing Chesil Street, until you reach Wharf Mill (an award-winning conversion of industrial premises to flats). Turn right.



9 You are now following a riverside walk known as **The Weirs** **9**, next to the medieval city walls. Just before City Bridge is one of the only visible parts of the city's Roman wall.

By the Roman wall ascend the steps into a small garden. Turn left through the garden into Colebrook Street.



10 **Colebrook Street** **10** marked the boundary of St Mary's Abbey. It is said that two historic figures once lodged in the street. In the 17th century, Nell Gwynn, Charles II's mistress, took up residence. And in the early 19th century the poet John Keats wrote his ode 'To Autumn' during a stay in the city. The poem was inspired by a walk through the Water Meadows to the Hospital of St Cross.

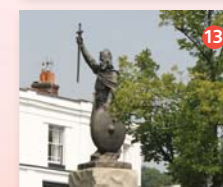
Turn left and follow the road round until you reach the entrance in the wall on your right into Abbey Gardens.



11 The entrance to Abbey Gardens is through an 18th century temple façade which was built as a frontage for the **Abbey Mill** **11**, whose mill stream you cross.



12 Excavated foundations of the abbey church can be seen in Abbey Passage, next to the Guildhall. Tucked into the corner of Abbey House is a **scented garden** **12** for blind people.



13 The walk ends here in **Abbey Gardens** **13** in sight of King Alfred's statue where it began.

Winchester City Council would like to thank Colin Cook of Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association and Richard Whinney for their help with the historical detail in this leaflet. Produced by Winchester City Council February 2010 Ref No. CUS0182-0329

www.visitwinchester.co.uk

*A History of the County of Hampshire, Volume 5 (1912)