

## Hockley Viaduct through history...



**1885** – Didcot, Newbury & Southampton Railway opened the extension to a new station at Winchester (Chesil) but finances could not be raised for the continuation to Southampton. The London & South Western Railway built a 1.5 mile line from Winchester to their main line in Shawford.



**1891** – the LSWR, engineer WL Galbraith, built the Hockley Viaduct. It was constructed of concrete and brickwork arches and parapets. Consisting of 33 arches, it is over 600 metres long and 12 metres high.



**1914** – in WWI, the viaduct was on the main supply route to France.

**1942** – In WW2, the railway line was closed to passengers and used for military traffic for the invasion of Europe. In the year prior to D-Day, 16,000 trains crossed the Viaduct's single track to join the Southampton line.



**1960** – the last passenger service used the viaduct in March.

**2007** – The Friends of Hockley Viaduct Trust was established.



Nicola Henshaw was commissioned by Winchester City Council to produce interpretive artwork that reflects the history of Hockley Viaduct and marks the restoration of Viaduct Way. Nicola tells stories through wood and other media to create work that is both functional and sculptural. She draws on local stories remembered and reinvented by local people through lively workshops.

Opened in 1891, the Hockley Viaduct was part of the Didcot to Southampton railway.

It closed to passengers in 1960, and to freight in 1966 as part of the national programme of closures proposed by Dr Richard Beeching. Winchester City Council acquired the viaduct in 1968. Until recently, the viaduct was in a state of disrepair. It has now been repaired to begin a new life as part of the National Cycle Route Network Route 23, for walkers and cyclists to enjoy. Take the Viaduct Way and enjoy some scenic views from a lovingly restored local landmark.

### The green way to tour Winchester

Winchester's bike hire scheme  
You can hire bikes from:

Bespoke Biking, The Brooks Shopping Centre. Tues - Sat: 9:30 - 5pm Tel: 01962 962 441



Winchester City Council would like to thank The Friends of Hockley Viaduct, Nicola Henshaw, and the following organisations...



...for their contributions to this leaflet and the creation of The Viaduct Way. Thanks also to Pru Hatton from Winchester Museums service.



If you would like this leaflet in a larger format, please contact the tourist information centre

**01962 840 500**  
[tourism@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@winchester.gov.uk)  
[visitwinchester.co.uk](http://visitwinchester.co.uk)

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Produced by Winchester City Council  
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# VIADUCT WAY

Walk or cycle to Winchester's restored historic railway

"The dandelions are gliding into the woods, I leap up and try to make a grab for them - but I miss every time."

Becky Witheyman, Compton All Saints Primary School.



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**Approx 2.6 miles - 1 hour**  
Begin at the Victorian **Guildhall** Winchester **1**; turn right onto Broadway, passing **King Alfred's Statue** **2**.



When you draw parallel with **Winchester City Mill** **3** on your left, turn right on to the river path. Follow the path along the river eventually bearing to the right on to **College Street** **4**.



On your right is the present-day **Bishop's Palace** **5**. Beyond lie the ruins of the extensive palace of the medieval bishops, known as **Wolvesey Castle** **6**.



Turn left into College Walk and then right into Domum Road, keep a look out for the **Viaduct Way route markers and information boards** **7** designed by local artist Nicola Henshaw and inspired by pupils at All Saints Primary School Winchester.



The route now follows the newly laid path up the ramp onto the old railway embankment with the Itchen Navigation below. The River Itchen is famous for its trout, moorhens and wild flowers. The angler Izaak Walton, who is buried in the **Cathedral** **8** once fished along this stretch of the river.



Continue along the path until you pass under a small bridge, bringing you out into the **Garnier Road car park** **9**. Here turn left and continue to follow the path along the Itchen Navigation (see the information board **9**).



Through the trees on the right you will be able to see the **Hospital of St Cross** **10**. Founded in 1132, the hospital is home to 25 Brothers and continues to provide refreshment for travellers.



Take in the fantastic scenery and have a rest on the inscribed stone seat **11**.



As you continue along the path look out for the stone barge and the remains of the old **St Catherine's lock and mill** **12**. While you are here why not take a detour up St Catherine's Hill to see the spectacular **views of the city** **12a**. Take a rest on the **railway bench** **13** before you walk up onto the viaduct. The slats have been intensively burnt to create track and sleepers with natural oak ballast in between.



At the end of the pathway go straight over the cross roads and up the ramp (signposted Cycle Route 23) onto the **Hockley Viaduct** **14**.



Before renovation, the viaduct was a mass of wild flowers. See how many of the 103 painted **dandelion heads** **15** you can count as you cross the viaduct.



Look out for the **benches** **16** in the recesses of the viaduct that were designed by Nicola Henshaw. The wording is from a poem written by a pupil at Compton All Saints Primary School.

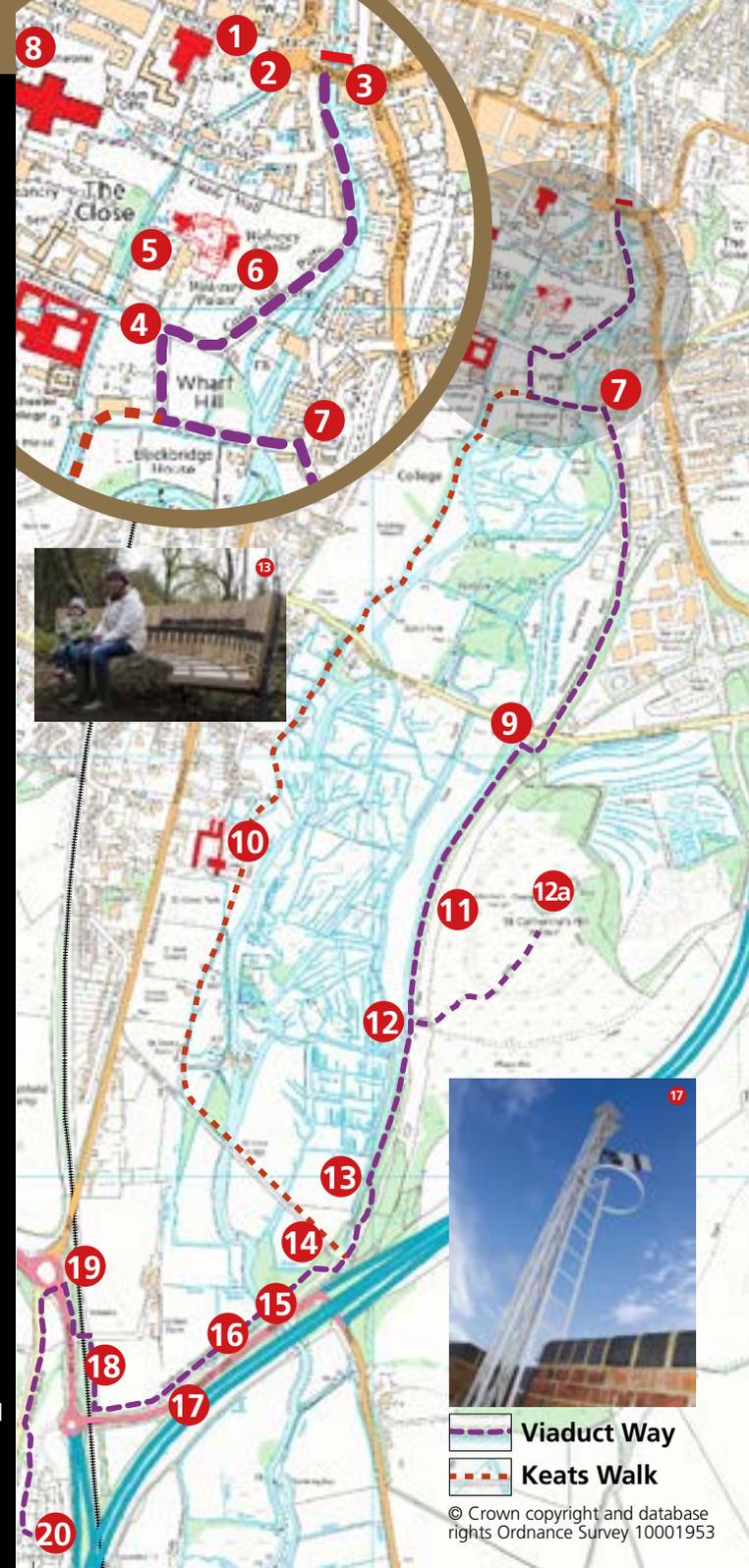


As you make your way along the viaduct you will pass the newly restored **railway signal** **17**. Look back towards the city for some magnificent views of the landscape.

At the end of the field look back at the **view** **18**. Turn left and go across the railway bridge, then join the path on your right. Keep following the path to **Bushfield Roundabout** **19**.

Go straight across the arm of the roundabout. Follow the path up to Otterbourne Road which will lead you to **South Winchester Park & Ride** **20**.

If you would like to walk back to the city centre by an alternative route, passing the Hospital of St Cross **10** go back to the crossroads just beyond **14** and turn left. This connects the Keats Walk - a leaflet is available from the tourist information centre.



**Viaduct Way**  
**Keats Walk**