



## Gilbert White's Selborne

Spectacular views, wild flower meadows and woodland – all in countryside familiar to the pioneering naturalist Gilbert White

### Essential Facts

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Route distance:       | 10.3 km (6.4 miles) |
| ▪ Approximate time:     | 3 hours 30 mins     |
| ▪ Approx. total ascent: | 300 metres          |
| ▪ Start point Grid Ref: | SU 742 335          |
| ▪ GPS Ref:              | SU 74209 33541      |
| ▪ Recommended O.S. Map: | Explorer 133        |
| ▪ Toughness Rating      | Hampshire 2         |

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

Up For A  
**CHALLENGE ?**

Take a Great Walk and HELP  
your favourite charity with

A Donation

An Individual Walk  
A Team Effort

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

## THE ROUTE

This route starts near the centre of Selborne, on the B3006 south of Alton.

Leave the public car park behind the Selborne Arms, **S**, returning to the entrance. Turn right onto the well marked Hangers Way; ignore the footpath to your right. Carry on, keeping left where the road continues ahead. Follow the route, (map indistinct), along the gravel track to a fork; keep right. The Hangers Way continues along a narrow footpath, marked by a green arrow.

Remain ahead as the path continues past a wild flower meadow. Cross the stile into a field enjoying lovely views to your left as your route climbs to a gate. Carry on ahead, along the easy to follow route as it continues through fields to reach a hedgerow stile at Homestead Farm, **A**; do not cross. A yellow arrow, obscured on the fence, directs you left along the field boundary. Cross the difficult stile onto the Lane. Continue ahead over the T junction to reach **B**, after 300 metres. Turn left onto the bridleway heading towards Noar Hill.

Remain ahead at all times, as the gravel track climbs gradually. Your route continues past verges abundant with wild summer orchids to reach **C**. Keep the same direction, taking the marked muddy Hangers Way into the trees. Continuing to climb, ignore side paths, to follow the route around the hilltop past open grassland to the right, glimpsed through the trees, and steep wooded banks to your left. At the path junction on Noar Hill Hanger, keep ahead.

Reaching the path junction, **D**, leave the Hangers Way as it turns south. Continue for a few metres to a further finger post. Ignoring the first track to your right, veer right along the adjacent narrow footpath. The lovely woodland path emerges onto a field at a yellow marker. Follow the arrow right, keeping to the right boundary.

The path emerges onto a lane, cross to the marked bridleway opposite. Enjoy the views to your right over open countryside as you enter Bridleway Copse. Reaching a further lane, **E**, carry on for a few metres; turn left onto the marked footpath. Cross the field on the well trodden path, to emerge through the hedgerow onto the road. Continue onto Green Lane opposite.

Carry on ahead. The gravelly track climbs to a gate and a sign welcoming you to Sheepdown, Selborne Common. Continue uphill along the track to reach path junction **F**. Keep ahead for a few metres to reach a second finger post; maintain your direction ignoring all side paths.

Your route which can be muddy, continues north for about 800 metres. At the T-junction, **G**, turn right. A yellow arrow directs you. The woodland path continues east to follow the perimeter of the common, before heading north; blue arrows point direction. Ignore side paths. Carry on along the impressive path cut into the steep side of Coneycroft Hill.

The marked path climbs to emerge onto a large field. Bear right. Follow the right boundary hedgerow, noting the many tree and plant species before re-entering the wood. Continue along the path heading downhill to reach the road into Selborne. Turn right. Follow the lane to **H**.

Leave the lane turning right onto the No-through road and marked footpath. Carry on to the junction. Turn right. Follow the track as it continues gently uphill to reach the sign 'Selborne Common' after 150 metres.



Above Selborne



A Cottage in Selborne



A Country Path

Turn left to take the very steep path up Selborne Hanger, famous for its impressive beech trees. Keep ahead at all times ignoring side paths.

At the metal bench **I**, you have the choice of two paths back to Selborne.

For the direct route, after enjoying spectacular views over the village, veer left through the wooden poles to descent the steep hanger. Reaching the National Trust contribution box, turn left through the kissing gate. Continue along the path back to the car park, **S**.

Alternatively, take the famous zig-zag path, cut by Gilbert White and his brother in 1753. From **I**, continue ahead along the lovely woodland path. Veer left at the junction; shortly keep left down the stepped pathway. Reaching the wishing stone, turn left to take the zig-zag path downhill. Breathtaking views over the village and RAF Oakhanger in the distance can be enjoyed. Join the main route turning right at the National Trust box. Continue to the car park, **S**.

### Refreshment

The Selborne Arms  
Traditional Pub  
High Street, Selborne  
Tel: 01420 511247  
Snacks and meals

Tea Parlour  
Tea Room  
Gilbert White's House,  
Selborne  
Tel: 01420 511275  
Teas and Snacks

The Pheasant  
Public house  
Farringdon  
Tel: 01420 588255  
Bar food & restaurant  
meals



The Selborne Arms

## LOCAL INFO

**Gilbert White** the pioneering naturalist was born in Selborne in 1720. Ordained in 1747 after studying at Oxford, he later became curate at St Marys Church, Selborne.

Living in a village surrounded by stunning countryside, Gilbert White was able to study and record the plants and animals of the locality in the finest detail. His book 'The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne' is one of 'the' most published books.

He died in 1793, and was buried in St Marys Church yard; a small footstone can be seen today.

**GILBERT WHITE'S SELBORNE  
G.P.S. WAYPOINTS**

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF		CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
SEL S	S	SU	74209	33541	125
SEL A	A	SU	73818	32630	158
SEL B	B	SU	73835	32315	155
SEL C	C	SU	74232	32017	192
SEL D	D	SU	74265	31497	191
SEL E	E	SU	73463	32126	155
SEL F	F	SU	72902	32790	203
SEL G	G	SU	72858	33600	172
SEL H	H	SU	73705	33892	111
SEL I	I	SU	73708	33368	198



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

## Safety First

**Safety should always** be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

**Lead a group** of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

**Weigh up the capabilities** of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

**Ensure** all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

**Emergencies** are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

**Refreshment**, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

**On tougher walks** it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

**All our walks use legitimate routes:** Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

**Road** walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

**Occasionally** you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

**It is courteous** to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

**Mutual respect** for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

**Dogs** should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

## Walking Our Routes

**Our walks** are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

**On mountain, moorland and open heathland** walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

**Take care** to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

**Consider conditions before setting off.** Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

**When navigating the route** look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

**All our routes are carefully checked** before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

**The approximate time** given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

**Total ascent** is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

**GPS users** can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

**Remember that GPS** is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

### TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Hampshire & New Forest** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Hampshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Brecon Beacons..