



## Jane Austen's Chawton Park

A moderate walk through the woods and open countryside known to Jane Austen, with one long steep climb.

### Essential Facts

- Route distance: 12.6 km (7.8 miles)
- Approximate time: 3 hours 20 mins
- Approx. total ascent: 205 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: SU 708 375
- GPS Ref: SU 70862 37544
- Recommended O.S. Map: Explorer 132 & 133
- Toughness Rating: Hampshire 3

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

Up For A  
**CHALLENGE?**

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Full Info from the Great Walks web site

## THE ROUTE

Today's walk begins in the village of Chawton, just south of Alton. Leave the car park opposite Jane Austen's house and museum, **S**, then turn left along a no-through road towards Chawton House and St. Nicholas Church.

After 200 metres, turn right into Ferney Close. At the end of the close, veer left along a path to a stile. Cross into a field and follow the St Swithun's Way ahead. This long distance path follows an early pilgrimage route from Winchester to Farnham, Surrey. Continue to a further stile, crossing onto the A32.

Climb the stile opposite, and follow the left edge of the field to cross a further stile, also on your left. Continue along the path as it passes through a copse, turns right, and then left between fields. Your route now follows a dismantled railway track.

After 800 metres, turn right at the corrugated barn, continuing along the St Swithun's Way. The gravel path passes between fields then turns left before emerging at a junction. Turn right onto Woodside Lane at **A**

The road climbs steeply, passing Upper Woodside Farm with its gigantic garden urns, and impressive gateposts topped with chinese lions. Continuing to climb, the lane becomes a trackway, ascending through deciduous woodland, to meet a byway at **B**. Turn right and continue to the junction with Weathermore Lane, **C**.

Leave the St Swithun's Way, walking straight ahead along the unmarked path into woodland.

The footpath emerges onto a lane at Four Marks. It was at Four Marks that smallholdings were given to soldiers returning from the Crimean War. Cross to the footpath opposite and slightly right, then follow the path as it turns sharply right, and continues to a further lane. Cross to the footpath ahead, and keep ahead at all times, as you cross minor roads through the housing estates. The path finally emerges onto the A31. Cross the road and follow the road sign to Medstead.

The road crosses a railway bridge over the 'Watercress Line', then, where it bears left after 500 metres, **D**, you walk ahead onto a tarmac track. Ignoring the car park entrance to your right, continue ahead to follow the bridleway signs into Chawton Park Wood. After 100 metres, where the track turns right, walk straight ahead along the footpath until you reach a fork. Bear right, and follow the muddy 'off road cycle trail' as it continues in a northerly direction.

The wood opens to reveal lovely views before the path veers right shortly before an unmarked path junction, **E**. Turn right, continuing through the wood for a further 2 km.

You leave the woodland through a wooden gate and continue ahead along a footpath. You may be lucky to see a herd of deer behind the high wire fence to your left. After passing through a further two gates, your route emerges onto a metalled lane at Chawton Park Farm.

Continue to the junction, then straight on in the direction of Alton. After about 300 metres, turn right towards the Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre at **F**.



Chawton Church



A Hampshire Hog

Walk ahead for a short distance, then at the road junction between the cardiac centre, and 'The Charles Read Pavilion', take an unmarked footpath ahead. Follow the twisting path under the railway bridge. Continue ahead onto Moulters Lane for a short distance, then abruptly, turn right onto a footpath, signed Chawton. Continue through the subway, and follow the road back to the car park. **S**

### Refreshment

The Greyfriar Public House Chawton Tel: 01420 83841 Traditional home made meals. Lunch and Evening menu. Garden	Cassandra's Cup Café and Tea Room Chawton Tel: 01420 83144 Cream Teas. Home baked cakes. Hot snacks.
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The Greyfriar

## LOCAL INFO

**Jane Austen** lived in the village of Chawton for the last eight years of her life, between 1809 and 1817. It was here, at Chawton Cottage, that her novels were written, the countryside surrounding the village, greatly influencing her writing. Today the house is a museum and houses items owned by the author and her family, including her writing table.

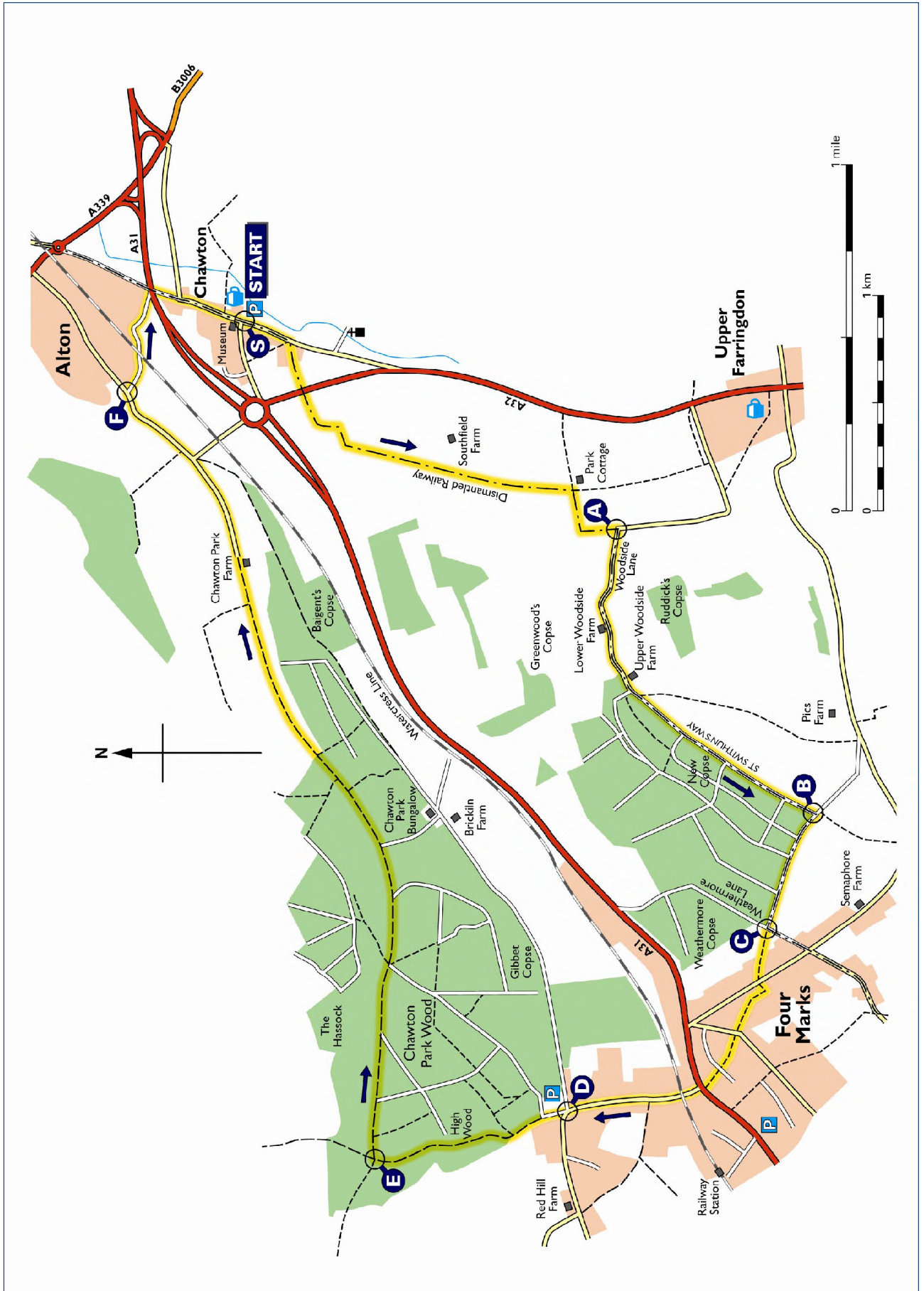
Jane's brother, Edward Austen Knight, owned Chawton House, a very large Elizabethan manor in the village.

Having inherited the estate from the childless Thomas Knight, Edward was able to provide a home, Chawton Cottage, for the author, her mother, and sister Cassandra. Jane became ill and had to move to Winchester to receive medical attention. She died there, and was buried in the Cathedral. Her mother and sister, on their deaths, were buried in the village Churchyard. Their graves can be visited as can the Church of St. Nicholas, which stands on the working Chawton Estates. The original building was mostly destroyed by fire in 1871, but later rebuilt.

Chawton House Library, at the same location, houses a collection of writings from 1600 to 1830.

### JANE AUSTEN'S CHAWTON PARK G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
CHA S	S	SU 70850 37555	112
CHA A	A	SU 69870 35803	129
CHA B	B	SU 68533 34905	204
CHA C	C	SU 68008 35115	226
CHA D	D	SU 67164 36035	221
CHA E	E	SU 66942 36933	207
CHA F	F	SU 70528 38088	122



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	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..