

## History

The Harroway is an ancient track way which forms part of a long distance route to Salisbury plain. It may take its name from the personal troops of the Saxon kings, the 'hirð', or from the harrow used to break up the ground for planting seed after ploughing. It was used as a drove road, to move herds and flocks of farm animals around the country without passing through towns and villages in the days before railways.

Court Drove was also a drove road, probably for more local animal movements. It takes its name from the Manorial Court of the Bishops of Winchester, which sat at Court Farm in Overton.

The railway line you cross runs from Waterloo to Salisbury and Exeter. The line was opened in 1854.

Jack Mills Lane is named after the local policeman instrumental in validating that the route had been used as a right of way and hence this usage could continue.



## How to find us

This walk begins near Overton Primary School, OS Explorer 144 map reference: SU511500.

**Road:** At the traffic lights in the centre of the village take Kingsclere Road (B3051), turn left at St Mary's Church and bear right into Court Drove.

**Train:** Overton train station is on the South West Train London to Exeter line. Turn right out of the station into Hilltop Road, left into Kingsclere Road. At the bottom of the hill and before the church take the public footpath up the field to the right.

**Bus:** Overton is on the Stagecoach route 76/86 between Basingstoke and Andover/Winchester. Alight at the Community Centre. Take Kingsclere Road north and follow the road route, as above.



## Acknowledgements

We thank Overton Parish Council and members of the Overton Society and Overton Biodiversity Society for their support in the production of this leaflet

# WALK INTO THE AONB

## OVERTON HERITAGE AND NATURE TRAILS



**3 mile (4.8 km) walk into the  
North Wessex Downs Area of  
Outstanding Natural Beauty**

**Rough walking on unmade tracks  
and footpaths.  
Dogs must be kept on a lead.**

**Allow around 1.5 to 2 hours**

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## Walk into the AONB heritage and nature trail

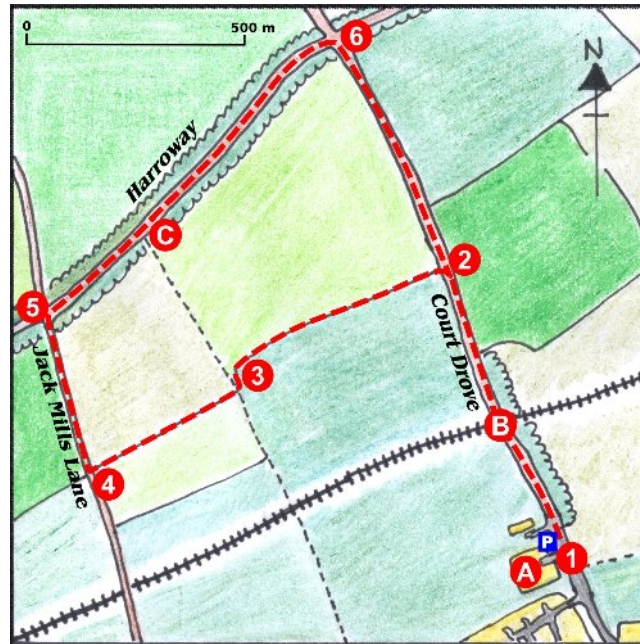
1. From **Overton School (A)**, in **Court Drove**, with the school on your left, follow the lane northwards. Watch out for vehicles in this section. View the ancient hedgerows on either side. Pause on the **railway bridge (B)**; ahead and to the left and right is the North Wessex Downs AONB.

2. About half a mile after the bridge, past several field openings, look out for an opening in the hedge on the left with a track running left beside a tall hedgerow. Follow this track (a permissive path courtesy of James and Jackie Crosbie Dawson) along the left of the tall hedgerow, running roughly south-west, for a further third of a mile to another hedgerow. Stop and take in the view across arable fields to the left and back to the railway.

3. Follow the track as it bears left and then right through a gap in the hedge, crossing a narrow footpath. Pass through onto another permissive path which continues along a farm track, still roughly south-west for a quarter of a mile.

4. As the track bears left, turn sharp right and follow the path northwards (which is a public right of way known as Jack Mills Lane) between two hedgerows for just under another two-thirds of a mile. Continue uphill to the junction with a byway, a broad track known as the Harroway.

5. Turn right onto the Harroway. Watch out for off-road vehicles. After about a third of a mile you will pass a **public footpath on the right, C** (which can be used as an alternative route back to point 3). **Keep going straight ahead on the Harroway** and after another third of a mile you will reach the crossing with Court Drove.



6. Turn right into **Court Drove**, a path between 2 hedgerows, and walk at first downhill and then on an undulating track for about a mile southwards back to the railway bridge and the school.

### What to look out for:

- ♦ Partridge, Woodpigeon and Hares between points 2 and 3
- ♦ Red Kites and Buzzards, particularly from point 4, looking up towards the Harroway
- ♦ Depending on the season, other birds such as Blue Tit, Yellowhammer, Wren, Dunnock, Pheasant, Chaffinch, Meadow Pipit, Skylark and Grey Partridge
- ♦ A variety of butterflies in summer including Red Admiral, Large White, Gatekeeper and Marbled White

- ♦ Several Spindle trees between points 4 and 5 with their distinctive orange and pink four-lobed fruit in autumn; also Black Briony trailing in the hedges and Old Man's Beard (wild clematis) climbing over them



- ♦ Roe Deer and Rabbits

- ♦ In the spring and autumn Blackthorn (sloes), Dog Rose, Elder, Bramble and Hawthorn with their blossom or fruit

- ♦ Herb Robert, Rosebay Willowherb, Ground Ivy, Bugle, Speedwell, Scabious, Lesser Celandine, Wood Anemone, Mallow, Mayweed, Field Poppy, Purple Vetch, White Campion and wild clematis

