

## Welcome to our Parish!

**The Parish of Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green stretches from the River Enborne, just below Greenham Common, southwards to the North Downs.**

Ecchinswell is believed to have derived its name from the word Eikena meaning Oaks in Latin, describing 'the well by the oaks'. The village was called "Eceleswelle" in the Domesday Book and the land was used "for supplies for monks of Winchester". More recently it was a self sufficient village including two pubs, a post office, a village shop, bakery, blacksmith, petrol pumps, watercress beds, and mill.

Sydmonton, mentioned in the Domesday Book as "Sidemanestone", is a scattering of houses and farms including Sydmonton Court, set at the foot of the Downs. To the west is Ladle Hill, the site of an unfinished Iron Age hill fort and Bronze Age barrows.

Bishops Green was originally a settlement of small farms on the edge of Adbury Park but grew dramatically in the late 1950's. It was further enlarged by homes built for the American Officers based at Greenham Common during the Cold War.

The parish offers numerous rights of way to explore the rolling hills, wooded tracks and open fields. Look out for an abundance of flora and fauna, including Great Crested Newts in the village pond, hares on Watership Down, Red Kites soaring overhead, bluebell woods, banks of cowslips and numerous other wild flowers.

## Useful Contacts

### Public Houses

The Royal Oak

01635 298280

### Public Transport

National Travel Line

0870 608 2608

Cango

0845 602 4135

Newbury Buses

01635 567500

### Tourist Information

Basingstoke Tourist

Information Office

01256 814681

Hampshire County Council

Information Centre

0800 028 0888

Enjoying Hampshire's countryside:

[www.hants.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside)

Rights of way maps on-line:

[www.hants.gov.uk/maps/paths](http://www.hants.gov.uk/maps/paths)

OS Explorer Maps no. 144 and 158 cover this area

Disclaimer: Published by Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Parish Council and Hampshire County Council, through the Small Grants Scheme. The various walks are suggested routes which have been put forward by the Parish Council. Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this leaflet, the Publishers are unable to accept any responsibility for accident or loss resulting from following the information contained within this leaflet.



Hampshire  
County Council

ES&BG

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council



# Exploring ECCHINSWELL





Ladle Hill

## NUTHANGER (2 mile walk) ● ● ●

**Includes a steep ascent with wonderful views to Watership Down**

With the Royal Oak pub on your left leave Ecchinswell on the Ecchinswell Road towards Sydmonton. Pass a field and after the house on the left (numerous ducks, chickens and peacocks) turn left up a footpath. The path narrows and then goes up quite steeply (mind the fallen tree above the path) between a field and woodland. Pass the stables on the right, up to a tarmac drive at the top of the hill. Continue around to the left and at the entrance to Nuthanger Farm (as described in Richard Adams book "Watership Down") turn right and then quickly left. Look right for views of Watership Down. At the end of the line of trees turn left and head downhill, keeping to the left. At the end of the Nuthanger Copse the path continues between two rows of trees. A wide grassy strip takes you to the road. Turn left and walk down the hill to Ecchinswell Brook. Cross the pedestrian bridge, through Digweeds, and follow the footpath to the road. Turn right back to the Royal Oak Pub.



## WAR MEMORIAL WALK ● ● ● (1 3/4 mile walk)

**A gentle country walk with beautiful views**

From Ecchinswell Village Hall cross the main road, follow the footpath to the left of the war memorial, bear right at the two wooden bridges crossing the stream, over a stile, then left to the corner of the field. Follow the path straight ahead to the gravel track.



Turn left following the track across the field; on your right is Northwood Copse, a bluebell wood. As the road passes over the stream turn left. Left at the next sign and cross the stream, then right and follow the footpath around the edge of the field. Cross the stile and bridge over the

stream (large house with ponds to your right) and then another stile. Keep to the right side of the field and cross the stile at the corner. At the road turn left and then immediately left down a wooded path. Straight ahead, and hidden behind an oak tree is the next stile. Keep to the right hand side of the field past two oak trees. Cross the stile at the right corner of the field and then bear left for approx 20m. Turn right through the metal gate and cross the field; to your left is St Lawrence's Church. Go through the gate and left onto the Ecchinswell Road. After approx 300m you are back at the Village Hall.



## SYDMONTON COMMON ● ● ● (2 1/4 mile walk)

**A walk through woodland, down quiet country lanes and across farmland**

From the centre of Bishops Green, walk north down the Ecchinswell Road to the old yew tree. Turn left, cross a stile and through a gate, and follow the narrow path between the fields and over the footbridge to Sydmonton Common. Take the track straight ahead through the mixed woodland. Just before the end of the pine trees on the right, turn left down a narrow mossy path through the woods. As the path meets a track turn left up to the junction with a tarmac drive. Turn right and then left onto the lane; at the double metal gates on your right you will see distant views of Watership Down. Keep on this lane until you reach a T-junction, turn right and then shortly left. Cross over two stiles (the former Rising Sun Inn is on your right) and take the footpath across the field. Cross the stile and turn left onto Hyde Lane to the T-junction. Turn right down the lane until you reach a footpath sign on your left. Cross the stile, then over the railway sleeper bridge and follow the path up the slight hill keeping the woodland on your left. As you leave the farm you arrive back in the centre of Bishops Green.



Sydmonton Common





Footpath

Bridleway

Restricted Byway

Byway open to all traffic

Areas believed to offer public access



Enjoying the countryside

Hampshire boasts an extremely rich and diverse countryside and an extensive network of public paths which provide a range of opportunities for enjoying the great outdoors. Rights of way are linear routes, often ancient trackways through deep countryside; there are over 3,000 miles of these in Hampshire. The map in this leaflet may also show access to other areas of land, such as commons, woodland, recreation grounds or conservation areas, and your Parish Council may know of guided walks or events. Many people will be able to reach countryside within a few hundred yards of home, and the plants, trees and views along the same paths often change dramatically through the seasons. We hope that this leaflet will encourage you to explore and enjoy your local countryside.



Using Local Paths

Many rights of way cross private land, and we ask you to bear this in mind by keeping to the path and being responsible when using them. There are four types, as shown on the map key; please check which paths you are entitled to use (for example, cyclists cannot use footpaths). Wheelchairs, pushchairs and dogs are allowed on all types of right of way. Any permissive paths or areas marked are not rights of way, but the landowner has given permission for the public to use them. To ensure that the countryside is protected for future generations be sure to:

- Be safe – wear suitable clothing and shoes and take care when crossing roads
- Plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them and take your litter home
- Protect plants and animals
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



Maintaining rights of way

- Hampshire County Council:
- Ensures that rights of way are not obstructed
  - Maintains the surface in a fit condition for its intended use
  - Maintains some bridges
  - Signposts and waymarks paths
  - Authorises stiles and gates
  - Keeps the definitive map up to date
- Landowners:
- Keep back side growth and overhanging vegetation
  - Reinstate paths across fields after ploughing or planting crops
  - Maintain most stiles and gates
  - Should not obstruct paths or deter use of them
  - Should not plough paths at field edges
  - Should not keep dangerous animals (including certain bulls) on paths

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