

Walk Highlights

The old arched crossing of **Mansbridge** is over 150 years old and would have been present when barges were in use on the Itchen Navigation. The bridge used to carry road traffic, but today is reserved for walkers. Bargemen often had to take on ballast when returning down the Navigation to ensure their barge would fit under the low bridges.



Mansbridge © Dennis Bright

Riverside Park is a great place to see water birds, including moorhen, coot, little grebe, ducks and greylag geese. The river here and Mansbridge Reservoir are public fishing areas. On the opposite bank, the fen has been restored by the Wildlife Trust to provide a great place for nesting birds, rare plants and insects.



Riverside Park Ducks © Dennis Bright

From medieval times until the 1930s, corn was ground at **Woodmill** by great stone mill wheels powered by the fast-flowing River Itchen. William Taylor III, who patented the first power circular saw, moved his business to Woodmill in 1781. In the five years before the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, the Taylor factory at Woodmill cut more than half a million timber blocks for the Royal Navy.



Woodmill © Dennis Bright

The Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project is a Heritage Lottery Fund project managed by the Wildlife Trust, preserving an internationally important chalk river system for future generations. Find out more about the Itchen Navigation at:

www.itchennavigation.org.uk



Hampshire & Isle of Wight
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Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

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BARGEMAN'S WALK Mansbridge



© Dennis Bright

Distance:
2 miles / 3km
Walking time: 1 hour
Terrain: flat,
easy access

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Bargeman's Walk



Follow the start of the bargeman's journey up the Itchen Navigation across old river crossings, past a historic mill and medieval church.

From Swaythling Station, turn right down Wessex Lane, then left onto Westbrook Way. Go over the footbridge and turn right down path to Monk's Bridge. Turn right to join the route near point 8.

- 1 From Woodmill Lane, follow the Itchen Navigation path through the park and golf area.
- 2 At Mansbridge, cross over the bridge and turn immediately right into Mansbridge Meadow. Stick to the right hand side of the meadow which takes you into a wooded area.
- 3 Follow the path to the wooden footbridge to take a look at Mansbridge Lock. Retrace your steps off the footbridge and take the first path on the right which leads to Mansbridge Reservoir.
- 4 Turn right when you meet the reservoir to make a full loop around it and follow the track into the car park.
- 5 Cross straight over the car park, taking the footpath out the opposite side back into Mansbridge Meadow. Head back towards Mansbridge and turn right after passing under the A27.
- 6 Turn left onto the first pavement that you come to (Octavia Road).
- 7 Where the road bends, take the footpath straight on (at the corner of the play area).
- 8 At St. Mary's Church, South Stoneham, turn right down St. Mary's Close. Turn left at the end onto Wessex Lane.
- 9 Turn left again at the end of Wessex Lane and cross over the road to follow the pavement to Woodmill.

