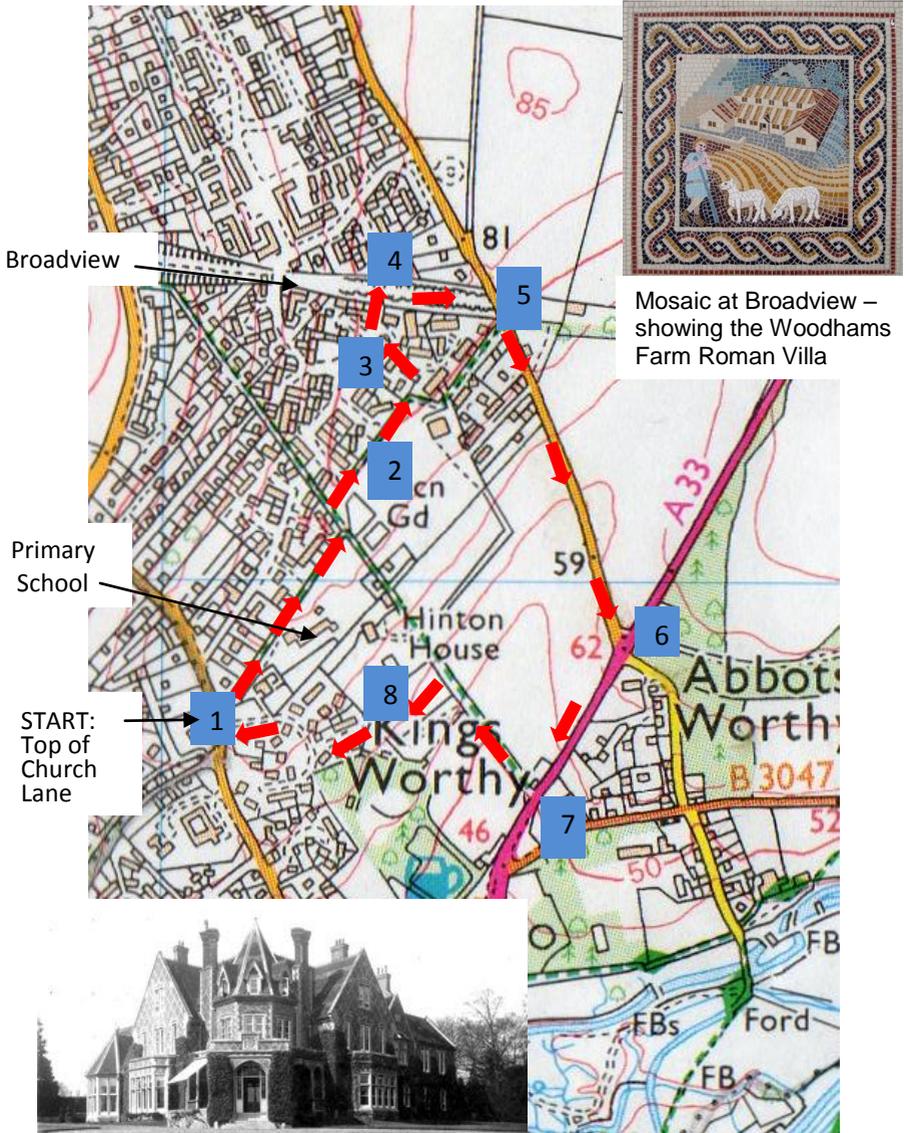


Worthy Walk 6 : A Walk in the Park

The walk this time is written with people pushing buggies in mind; it starts and ends by the school. The walk is entirely on surfaced paths. Total length is just over 1.5 miles but could be shortened or lengthened at your discretion.



Kingsworthy House

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Worthy Walk 6 : A walk in the Park

1. Start at the Nations Hill end of the footpath that runs beside the school fence and head towards Eversley Park. *This path follows the line of the old pack horse route known as the Whiteway, on account of its chalk surface. This led from Winchester to Basingstoke and was an important route until it was usurped by the opening of the Turnpike road from Popham to Winchester in about 1760.*

2. Once in Eversley Park go past the play area and keep to the path beside the top hedge until you cut through into Gillingham Close. *The Recreation Ground is named after an eminent Victorian, Lord Eversley, who lived at Abbots Worthy House and was an early advocate of public access to open spaces and footpaths.*

3. In Gillingham Close turn left, walk to Wesley Road and turn right. Almost immediately you are in Broadview. *If you cross the road you can study the detail of a mosaic showing an artists impression of the roman villa which was excavated on the far side of Springvale Road. The mosaic was completed in 2005 by the late David Johnston who, amongst other things was an historian, archaeologist, artist and mosaicist. Look out for other mosaics around the village.*

4. *It may be difficult to believe, but this grassy strip of Broadview was once a deep cutting on the Mid Hants Railway from Alton to Winchester. As you stand with your back to the mosaic you are looking at the deepest part of the cutting, mostly dug by hand in the 1860's. The line opened in 1865 and closed in 1973 when the cutting became a very convenient place to deposit vast quantities of chalk excavated during the construction of the nearby M3 motorway. The whole of Broadview was grassed over and gifted to the Parish Council for use as an open space in 1993. More recently, a 'missing link' in the footpath network has been completed and we can now cross the road again and walk the length of Upper Broadview to Lovedon Lane.*

5. When you reach Lovedon Lane turn right, over the old railway bridge and down to the Basingstoke Road. *To the left the row of fir trees show the line of the old railway which goes under the A33 and to Alresford via Itchen Abbas. Attempts are being made to clear parts of the line for use as footpaths and cycle routes – if this interests you, find out more by contacting County Councillor Jackie Porter, jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk.*

6. *As you approach the Basingstoke Road you will notice a large house straight ahead. This was one of several Rectories around the village (not all in use at the same time!) – one wonders what living in such grand style did for the relationship between clergy and parishioners?*

Turn right on to the footpath beside the A33, *which is a relatively quiet road nowadays but prior to the 1980's all the traffic from London to Southampton came along here and on to the Winchester by pass.*

7. Take the first right hand turn and walk up Hinton House drive. *To the left is a field of grass and scrub which was the site of Kings Worthy House, its lodge and gardens. This was a grand Victorian residence, home of Richard Turnor a great local benefactor (Reading Room and Almshouses), but eventually became the haunt of squatters and drunks until it was burned down in the 1960's. If you would like to know more, why not come to Alix Hickman's talk at the local history group – contact derek.brockway@virgin.net for details.*

8. Turn left into Hinton Park, a good place for a picnic, before walking through the Hinton Fields houses and on to Church Lane very near where you started this walk.

With thanks to Derek Brockway and members of the Worthys Local History Group.