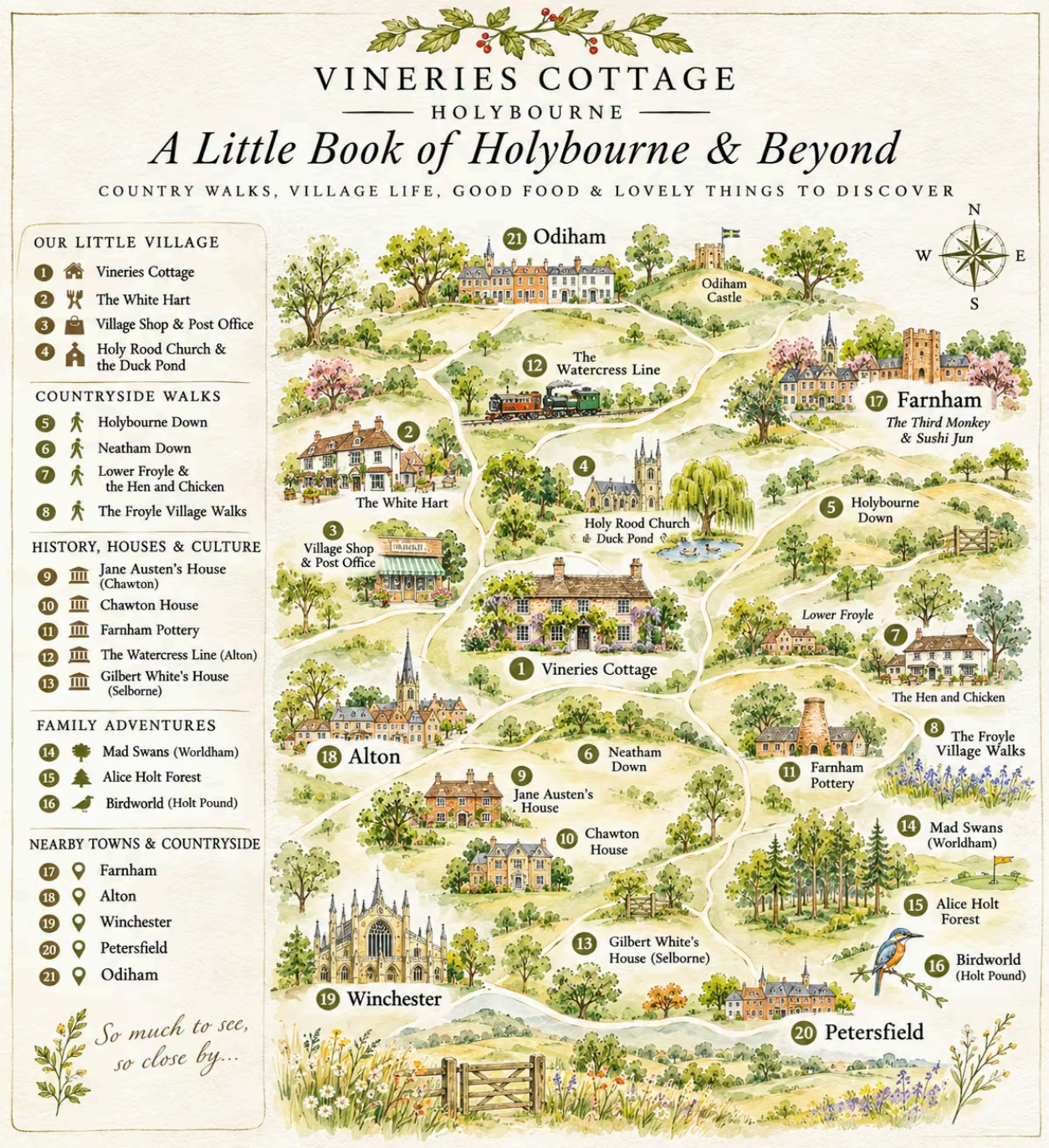
A Little Book of Holybourne & Beyond

Country walks, village life, good food & lovely things to discover



Illustrated orientation map, not to scale. Please use the linked walking directions for actual routes.

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Welcome to Vineries Cottage

We're so pleased you've come to stay.

Vineries Cottage is a rather special old house in a rather lovely corner of Hampshire. It has been here for centuries, and while its walls and beams have plenty of stories to tell, we hope you'll make a few of your own during your stay.

We've put together this little guide to share some of our favourite things about living here: the village pub, the tiny shop where you can pick up the morning papers, the church by the duck pond, the fields that change colour with the seasons, and the countryside walks that seem to end, rather conveniently, at a pub.

Whether you're here for a weekend or making yourself at home for a little longer, we hope you'll enjoy Holybourne as much as we have.

Make yourselves at home.

With love, from Vineries Cottage

THE VILLAGE

Our Little Village

The White Hart

For a proper English pub evening

Our lovely village pub, just along London Road. Perfect for a pint, a leisurely lunch or dinner when nobody feels like cooking. It is the sort of place that makes English village life so appealing: good food, a welcoming atmosphere and no need to get in the car. 139 London Road, Holybourne.

MORE INFORMATION https://www.whitehartholybourne.com/

Holybourne Village Shop & Post Office

For milk, newspapers and the little things you have forgotten

A real local treasure for everyday essentials, snacks, drinks or breakfast provisions. The Post Office is inside, handy for posting those postcards you promised to send. 130 London Road, Holybourne.

Holy Rood Church & the Duck Pond

For a quiet moment and a little history

Wander down Church Lane to discover Holy Rood, our old village church, beside the duck pond. Explore the churchyard and surrounding lanes, old walls and tucked-away corners.

The Cornfields

Our favourite sort of afternoon

Follow the public footpaths out of the village for hedgerows, farmland and big skies. The landscape changes from spring green to late-summer gold, then to autumn colours and winter stillness. Please stay on marked rights of way and leave crops undisturbed.

ON FOOT

A Few Favourite Walks

01 The Little Holybourne Wander

Easy village stroll · allow 30–45 minutes

Start at the cottage, wander towards Holy Rood Church and the duck pond, explore the village lanes and return along London Road, perhaps stopping at the White Hart. This is a suggested wander, not a waymarked trail.

02 Anstey, Neatham & Holybourne

Circular walk · approximately 2.8 miles / 1 hour 15 minutes

A published walk from Anstey Park, passing the River Wey, Neatham and Holybourne, with sections of St Swithun's Way. Follow the publisher's directions rather than the decorative map.

VIEW THE ROUTE https://www.walkalton.org.uk/walking-routes/anstey-and-holybourne-circuit

03 Neatham Down & the Six Hills

Longer countryside walk

A more demanding published route including Neatham Down and views from the ridge. Check road crossings, footwear and current conditions.

VIEW THE ROUTE https://www.walkalton.org.uk/walking-routes/six-hills

04 Holybourne Down & Upper Froyle

Country views · approximately two hours on the published loop

A circular route published by Froyle Parish Council, starting at Lower Froyle Village Hall and taking in Holybourne Down, Spollycombe Copse and St Swithun's Way. Expect a steep descent.

VIEW THE ROUTE https://www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk/3-long-loop-to-holybourne-down-approx-2-hours

05 Froyle & Holybourne, with a pub stop

Longer walk · approximately seven miles

The Edward Thomas Fellowship publishes a moderate Froyle and Holybourne walk, with the Hen and Chicken and White Hart listed as refreshment possibilities. Confirm pub opening times before setting out.

VIEW THE ROUTE https://edward-thomas-fellowship.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/8.-Froyle-and-Holybourne.pdf

06 The Froyle Village Walks

A choice of shorter and longer loops

Four walks published by Froyle Parish Council, including Lower Froyle, historic churches and a wildlife pond. Choose the route that suits the weather and your walking companions.

VIEW THE ROUTES https://www.froyleparishcouncil.org.uk/walks

TO THE TABLE

Good Food & Lovely Places to Eat

The White Hart · Holybourne

Our village local

The easiest evening out, with no need to drive. Confirm kitchen opening times before visiting.

MORE INFORMATION https://www.whitehartholybourne.com/

The Hen and Chicken · Upper Froyle

A countryside pub stop

A traditional inn to consider after walking around Froyle. Check its current food service and booking details.

MORE INFORMATION https://www.henandchicken.co.uk/

The Third Monkey · Farnham

For a dinner out

One of the Farnham restaurants we wanted to share with guests.

MORE INFORMATION https://thirdmonkeyfarnham.com/

Sushi Jun · Farnham

For a change from pub food

Another Farnham restaurant on our list.

TO LINGER OVER

History, Houses & Curious Places

Jane Austen's House · Chawton

For literary lovers

Visit the house where Jane Austen lived during her final years and wrote or revised some of her best-loved novels.

MORE INFORMATION https://janeaustens.house/

Chawton House · Chawton

For historic interiors and gardens

An Elizabethan manor with a strong literary connection, beautiful grounds and a history of women's writing.

MORE INFORMATION https://chawtonhouse.org/

Farnham Pottery · Wrecclesham

For makers and ceramics

A historic pottery site associated with workshops, ceramics and traditional craftsmanship.

MORE INFORMATION https://www.farnhampottery.co.uk/

The Watercress Line · Alton

For a nostalgic railway outing

Travel through Hampshire countryside on a heritage railway. Check running dates and seasonal events.

MORE INFORMATION https://watercressline.co.uk/

Gilbert White's House & Gardens · Selborne

For nature and history

A lovely village and the former home of the pioneering naturalist Gilbert White.

MORE INFORMATION https://gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk/

DAYS OUT

For Families & Days Out

Mad Swans · Worldham

For a little friendly competition

Golf, driving range, padel, shuffleboard and darts, with food and drink options. Check current facilities and booking arrangements.

MORE INFORMATION https://www.madswans.com/south-downs

Alice Holt Forest

For woodland adventures

Forest trails and outdoor activities for families and walkers.

MORE INFORMATION https://www.forestryengland.uk/alice-holt-forest

Birdworld · Holt Pound

For animal lovers

A family outing with birds and wildlife. Check opening dates and ticket details.

MORE INFORMATION https://www.birdworld.co.uk/

A LITTLE FURTHER

A Little Further Afield

Alton

Our nearest market town

The train station, Waitrose, independent shops and cafés, and a handy base for exploring Jane Austen country.

Farnham

For old streets, independent shops and a leisurely lunch

A handsome Surrey market town with a lovely arts-and-crafts tradition. The Third Monkey and Sushi Jun are in Farnham, not Alton.

Winchester

For a historic city day

Cathedral, winding streets, independent shops and the Great Hall. Particularly atmospheric in the festive season.

Petersfield

For market-town charm and countryside

A friendly town close to the South Downs, with cafés, shops and nearby walks.

Odiham

For Georgian charm and an afternoon that turns into lunch

One of those wonderfully pretty Hampshire towns with a handsome historic high street, independent shops and cafés. Wander towards the Basingstoke Canal and the ruins of Odiham Castle, also known as King John’s Castle.

Practical notes

This is a personal guest guide, not a walking-navigation service. Routes, access, business details, opening times and booking arrangements may change. Please check the linked route publisher and venue websites before travelling. The illustrated map shows broad geographic relationships rather than individual footpaths, road routes or travel times.