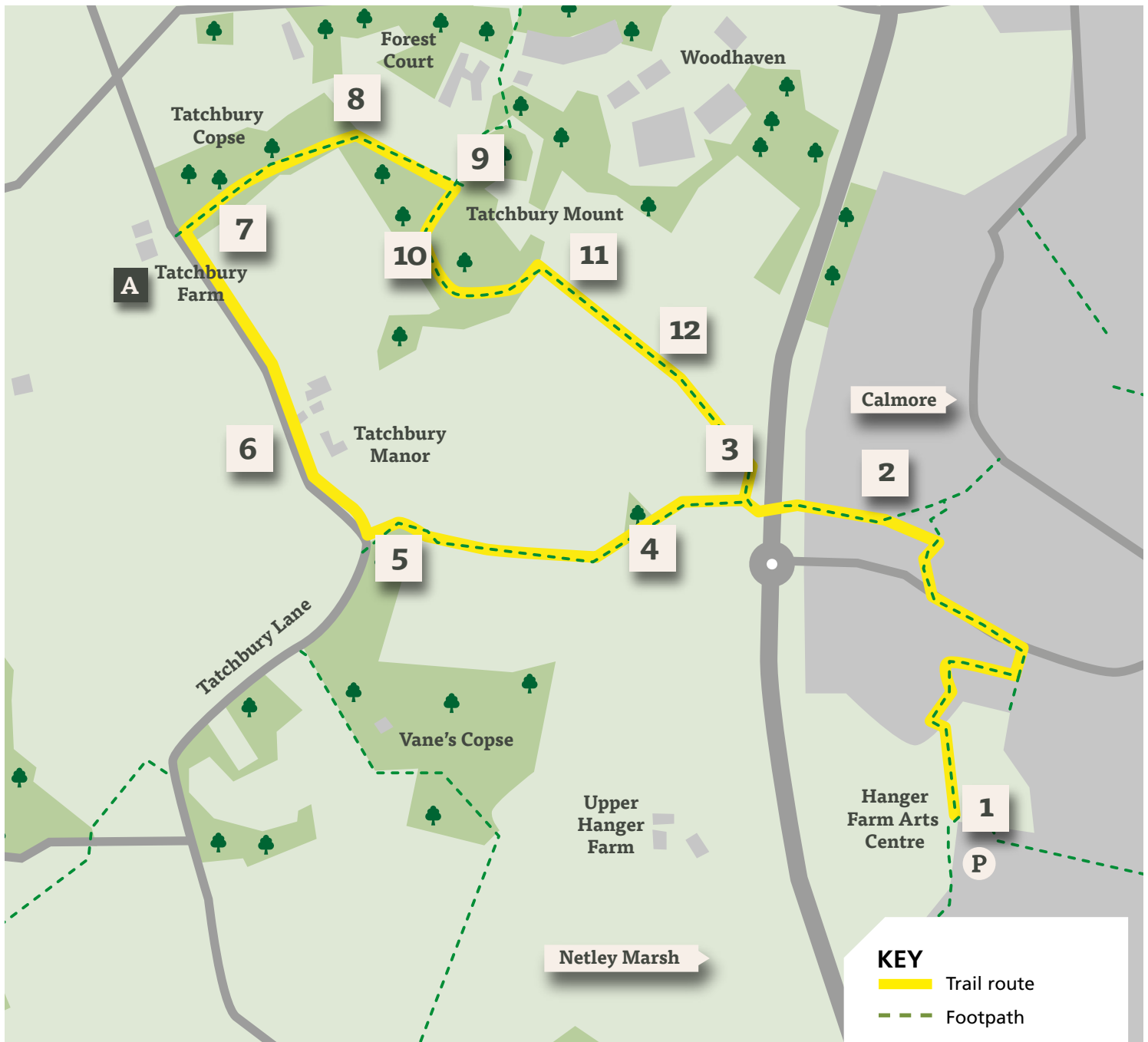




Tatchbury Mount Trail

Farms and forts



3 miles / 2 hours

Trail route summary

This trail starts at Hanger Farm Arts Centre, a restored Grade II listed timber framed barn, and heads up and around the Iron Age hillfort of Tatchbury Mount. Going past Morrison's through the houses you'll emerge from an underpass into the New Forest National Park where the trail takes on a completely different character. Modern noises drift away as you journey back in time along some of our oldest routes.



Trail Stats:

Trail length	3mi (4.8km)
Time to walk trail	2 hour
Starting point of trail	Hanger Farm Art Centre
Car parking	Hanger Farm Art Centre
Bus Stop	West Totton, Morrison's; Check myjourneyhampshire.com .
Terrain (hilliness)	Mostly flat, with some shallow to medium inclines.
Surface type/s	Pavement, unsurfaced path with some muddy patches. Short section on road.
Stiles / gates information	Some stiles, gates and narrow wooden footbridges.
Notes	Do check yourself for ticks on your return to the car.

Try our Mobile Walking App **New Forest National Park Walks** to help keep you to this Historic Routes trail.

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Trail route directions

From Hanger Farm Arts Centre head northeast. Follow the path across fields to enter the housing development, then immediately cross the parking area on your right to reach the footpath into Mansergh Way. Soon this path goes left to join Michigan Way; turn left again and follow the pavement uphill past Morrison's superstore. When you reach the bus stop, cross Michigan Way at the pinch-point and continue straight on into Oleander Drive to rejoin the original route. Turn left along Oleander Drive and soon you will see Hazel Farm, which is in the Corylus Court development. Cross the road here to reach the gravel path that goes west towards and through the underpass.

The route now runs clockwise, heading west along the footpath and farm track to the road, then north along the road as far as Tatchbury Copse where the trail turns east through the wood. The trail then runs along an access track southeast past an old walled garden on the site of the former Tatchbury Mount Estate. The route then skirts round the southern earthworks of the hillfort before exiting running southeast along the edges of fields and back towards the underpass. The trail route then follows your original route back to Hanger Farm.



“An artist impression of what the 7th century Anglo Saxon hamlet of Hangra may have looked like. Over the centuries the spelling of Hanger has changed with the area also being known as Hangre, Hangere and Hangra which in old English (Anglo Saxon) means “wooded slope”.

© NFNPA. Illustration by Alan Duncan

1. Hanger Farm

Hanger Farm has likely been occupied and farmed for over 900 years, being first recorded in Saxon times. It developed into a 187-acre dairy farm and important part of the Tatchbury Mount Estate, remaining in use as a farm until the 1950s.

After its decline as a farm, Totton and Eling Town Council led a project in 2005 to turn the Grade II listed barn, dating from the 17th Century, into the Arts Centre.



Hazel Farmhouse. Now a private home.

© NFNPA

2. Hazel Farm

Hazel Farm was one of three dairy farms in the Tatchbury Mount estate. In the 1940s-50s the shire horses working at Hanger Farm, Prince and Blossom, were stabled at Hazel Farm and would have walked the route (minus the modern diversion around Morrison's) at least twice a day.

The farm complex, once known as Tatchbury Farm, became a Conservation Area 1986 prior to the building of the housing estate. It was noted for its brick farmhouse of Flemish bond with purple header bricks, having three bays with a central front door and chimney stacks at either end.

3. Underpass – New Forest National Park boundary

When the Totton Bypass was built in 1991 Hazel Farm was still in use so the large underpass was built to allow farm machinery to pass through. From this point west you are in the New Forest National Park and the route gradually turns back to something closer to the original



Top: Hanger Farm barn today.

© James Pardon

Middle: Hanger Farm House. c1927

© Hampshire Records Office. 21M95/G15

Bottom: Hanger Farm House. c1927

© Hampshire Records Office. 21M95/G15

ancient trackway with ditch and bank on both sides, marked on maps since 1791.

After you exit the underpass we suggest you continue west, walking the trail clockwise. This right of way leads onto Tatchbury Lane which is safest to walk from south to north.

4. Section of footpath within woodland, near sleeper bridge, lots of Bluebells (seasonal)

This section of the trail passes by a small copse on its northern side and is the most intact section of this ancient trackway. Banks and ditches are clearly visible on both sides with the main open way in-between.

This would have been a busy lane with horse or cow-drawn carts taking produce to market or fodder

to livestock out in the fields and forest. People would walk to their daily jobs, while livestock such as cows, sheep or pigs would be moved from farm to pasture and home again. In spring and summer, this section of the trail is lined with bluebells and other seasonal native flowers: a real indicator of its ancient past.

Below: An artist impression of this track in use during Medieval times.

© Wessex Archaeology, by Jennie Anderson



6. Tatchbury Manor on road section

Do take care while walking along the road.

Tatchbury Manor House is located to the east of Tatchbury Lane and not to be confused with the now demolished Tatchbury Mount 'mansion'.

It is likely that a high-status house, in one form or another, has stood here for hundreds of years. The present edition probably originates from the 17th century with subsequent additions. The current structure might even incorporate parts of a 13th century manor house, possibly one of King John's hunting lodges.



A. Tatchbury Manor Farm

Tatchbury Manor Farm, members of the New Forest Marque, has been farmed by the Hunt family for over 100 years. Fourth generation farmer, Sarah Hunt is a proud member of Hampshire's farming community, producing quality pork from her herd of free-range pigs.

In years gone by, the farm was home to a milking herd and there are still signs of the old farm including the granary, the old barn and a disused well. The old milking parlour is now the farm shop.

Find out more at newforestmarque.co.uk.

Left: Tatchbury Manor House c.1980s

© Keith Godwin

Right: View along trail in Tatchbury Copse.

© NFNPA

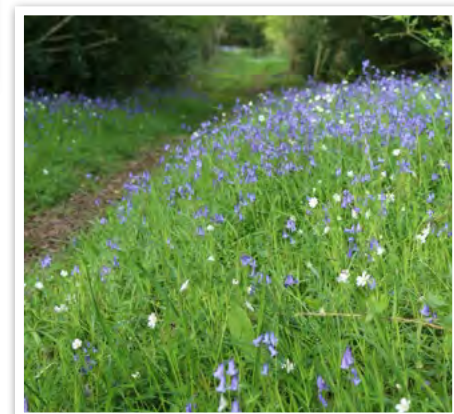
5. Lost Medieval Settlement

Before the gate joining Tatchbury Lane look north for the white building in the distance; Tatchbury Manor which is the only remnant of a lost medieval 'village' first recorded in AD903. Exploring local history here can be tricky as there are two 'Tatchburys' to consider, Tatchbury village here and the more recent Tatchbury Mount estate.

An entry in the Domesday Survey states that Tatchbury had become part of the New Forest before 1086. But another entry in the survey recorded Tatchbury as abandoned with no inhabitants. Perhaps Tatchbury village was 'destroyed' during the creation of the New Forest in the late 11th century. By 1475 Tatchbury village disappears from all records.

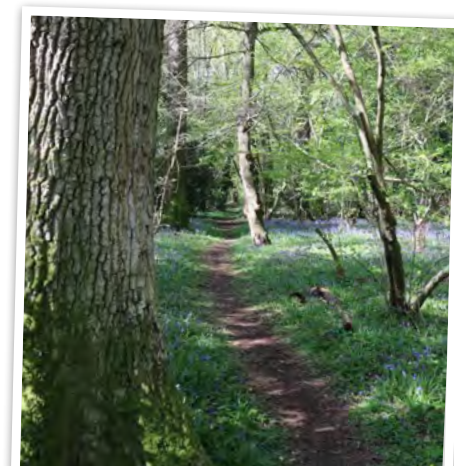
Below: Bluebells alongside path.

All © NFNPA



7. Tatchbury copse, lots of Bluebells (seasonal)

Tatchbury Copse is a calm and tranquil woodland with a dazzling show of bluebells in spring.



8. Original access track to Walled Garden

Leaving the woods, the trail enters the remains of the Tatchbury Mount estate. This track led to the walled gardens of Tatchbury Mount Mansion, which was to the northeast. The open grassed areas to the southwest of the track were once cultivated gardens.

Section of Map of Tatchbury Mount Estate. c1927

© freshford.com



9. Walled garden (site of)

Just before the trail joins the wooded section going around the hillfort you may be able to see (to the south) a concrete pad believed to be the remains of a heated glasshouse, used to grow plants and fruits throughout the year. To the west you may be able to make out a small brick building built into the

lower bank of the hillfort, this was the 'boiler room.' There is a set of concrete steps beside the building granting access from the mansion that once stood within the hillfort.

Defensive earthworks on the NW side Tatchbury hillfort.

© Keith Godwin



10. Best view of the Hillfort defensive earthworks

The banks you are walking on and beside are what remains of the Iron Age (800BC to AD43) hillfort known as Tatchbury Mount hillfort.

The hillfort sat on Tatchbury Mount, a prominent clay hill on the north eastern edge of the New Forest. The hillfort defences completely enclosed the hilltop, forming an oval shaped for roughly the size of two and a half football pitches. Opinions differ over whether Iron Age hillforts had defensive or ceremonial functions. Due to the extensive disturbance to Tatchbury Mount hillfort, little evidence remains of how it was used.

The entire site was landscaped in the 18th century when the manor house and gardens were built. The original entrance from the north is now the road access to the site of the mansion, demolished in 2006.



Views of Tatchbury hillfort as it may have looked.

© Department of Historical Studies, University of Gothenburg. Illustration by Rich Potter



11. Hillfort, hill top view

Emerging from the trees you can start to appreciate the hillfort's location with clear views southeast across Totton and the Lower Test Marshes to Southampton Docks, almost five miles away and beyond. From within the fort, atop its defences, and without the trees one could have seen far into the distance from all sides.

In 1933 the Hampshire Mental Welfare Committee acquired the house and estate for use as a residential hospital. The hospital

developed to the northeast, with villas just outside the earthworks.

During the Second World War this area was a centre for naval gun crews from defensively equipped merchant ships. Many of them needed to convalesce after being wounded or simply needed rest and recuperation after working on the Atlantic convoys.

The National Health Service took over the site in 1951, by which time there were 400 patients and 50

nurses and carers. As the hospital modernised, the mansion house ceased to be used. In the late 1960s the farmland was sold and in 2006 the mansion house within the hillfort was demolished.

View from Hillfort over Southampton Water and the Test Marshland

© NFNPA

Tatchbury Mount Manor.

© Courtesy of mossclan.co.uk



12. Myth or Legend. / Anglo Saxon battle.

To the north, parallel to this hedge line are the remains of a Roman road which meets the northern entrance to the hillfort. To the south our Roman road is now Calmore Road and continues south to the coast, at what is now Lepe Country Park.

As we walk down the hill pause by a large oak tree, beside the path.

In the Dark Ages, around AD508 somewhere in this location, it is said, a huge battle took place between Natanleod, a British king, and Cerdic with his son Cynric, 'Saxon invaders'. The name of this British

king became the name for this area, Netley Marsh.

Recorded in the Anglo Saxon Chronicles:

AD508. This year Cerdic and Cynric slew a British king, whose name was Natanleod, and five thousand men with him. After this the land was named Natley, from him, as far as Charford.

Some scholars have suggested Natanleod never really existed, that this battle never happened or if it did, was it here or somewhere else.

The truth has now been lost. No one will ever know if this story is fact, fiction, myth or legend. Have a read of our 'account' of the battle. What do you think?

A dramatized account of the Battle of Netley March has been produced. You can download the written version or the audio book version to listen to whilst on your walk. Visit this trail's webpage for more details: newforestnpa.gov.uk/historicroutes

Visit this trail's webpage via newforestnpa.gov.uk/historicroutes to discover more trail history, including folk songs and audio stories. Enjoyed finding out about the rich history of the New Forest? Discover more at nfknowledge.org