

# The Mill Trail:

An attractive circular walk of up to 7 miles (shorter circuits are available)

This is one of three Basingstoke Heritage Trails

## The Mill Trail

Here at the Western End the Mill Trail creates a mini-circuit. (see Map). Leaving the Silk Mill, walk along the road, away from the town centre until you reach a road named The Weir. Take this road, then at the old Fulfilling Mill, turn in front to follow the riverbank path to the Church, then along Church Street to the town centre. Then you can either return back here, or else continue back uphill to the Rail station; or even carry on following the waymarks along the rest of the Mill Trail



▲ Whitchurch in the Regency Era



▲ Whitchurch Silk Mill

## Whitchurch Silk Mill

The Silk Mill is the only mill along the upper reaches of the R. Test still in productive use – but even this is mainly dependant on electric power.

The Mill building dates from 1800 and started producing silk soon afterwards. Its beautiful silks are used in costumes, fashions and interiors. Royalty have traditionally been amongst it many customers.

As well as manufacturing silk, the Silk Mill encourages visitors and schools. It opens at 10.30am from Tuesdays to Sundays.



▲ The River Test at the Old Fulfilling Mill

## River Test

From the Fulfilling Mill you can walk alongside the River Test back towards town. This walk is one of the very few places on the upper Test where you can get full access to the riverbank. Look for the brown trout swimming amongst the water crowfoot and watercress that grows in the pure river waters.

**The Mill Trail is a waymarked walk along the River Test which includes several river crossings which creates several separate circuits. This Trail features:**

- A start point at Whitchurch Station, or alternate start points at Laverstoke or Whitchurch Silk Mill
- An attractive walk along the River Test which passes five different historic mills, The Silk Mill is the only one remaining in manufacturing use; the others are now residential properties.
- Short cuts to create walks of either, 2, 3.5 or 4.5 miles

**Interpretation panels are located at key points along the trail which describe the various features of interest en route**

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