SPACE.INK

Anchor

Welcome to Wolvesey Castle
You are standing at the entrance to one of the greatest medieval buildings in England – the palace of the powerful and wealthy bishops of Winchester.
Throughout the medieval period the bishops of Winchester held one of the highest positions of power in the English church, as well as in national politics. They owned vast estates stretching from Somerset to London which brought them great wealth.
Although known today as a castle, Wolvesey was in fact a luxurious palace. The original approach was through a gate in the city wall, positioned roughly where you are standing. This led into an outer courtyard containing stables, barns, a great wool store, and the bishop's prison.
As you walk along the path towards the medieval palace remains, look to your right to see the city wall of Winchester. To your left is the remaining wing of a baroque house, built in the 1680s to replace the old palace. It is still the private home of the present bishop of Winchester.
Medieval bishop's palace
Modern bishop's palace (private)
YOU ARE HERE
Panels around the site provide information about the history of Wolvesey and its owners, the bishops of Winchester.
The gravel and grass surfaces of the site are reasonably level with steps in places.
Hyde Abbey
Castle
St Mary's Abbey
Wolvesey Castle
Cathedral
You are here
0 500 metres
0 1500 feet
Approximate extent of built up area
Monastic precincts
City wall
In the 12th century the south-east corner of Winchester, bounded by the old Roman city wall, was dominated by the bishop's residence, the cathedral and St Mary's monastery.
ENGLISH HERITAGE