

McVitie's Dark Chocolate Hobnobs: Where the Oats Come Through

From the teas.co.uk wiki

McVitie's Dark Chocolate Hobnobs: Where the Oats Come Through, in summary:

Same craggy oat biscuit and same 262g as the milk Hobnob, but the dark coating steps back and lets the toasted oats speak. It suits black coffee, a strong tea for dunking and the end of a meal.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in September 2026.

On a Hobnob, the coating chooses which part of the biscuit does the talking, and dark [chocolate](#) hands it to the oats. The pack's own nickname, The Oaty One, fits this version better than any other.

What is in a dark Hobnob

Rolled oats are the first ingredient at 30%, then the dark chocolate at 25% and wholemeal wheat flour at 16%, followed by sugar, palm oil, glucose-fructose syrup and raising agents. The coating is made from sugar, cocoa mass, vegetable fats and cocoa butter, plus butter oil, which is milk, and soya lecithin as the emulsifier.

So dark does not mean milk-free, and with wheat and oats both in the base anyone avoiding gluten should pass it by. The coating covers one face only, leaving the oat side bare to the tea. The pack is a single loose sleeve with no inner wraps, so once it is open the whole lot is exposed; fold it tight or move it to a tin.

Dark against milk, oats against wheatmeal

Next to the milk Hobnob the gap is wider than the label suggests. Milk chocolate leads with sugar and cream and pushes the oats to the back; dark arrives with cocoa and a little bitterness at the edges, and leaves room underneath for the toasted cereal, which has something of flapjack about it. Both packs weigh the same, so the choice is purely about taste.

The brand's Dark Chocolate Digestive makes the same coating choice on a different base. The digestive's wheatmeal reads dry, nutty and a touch savoury, while the Hobnob's oats taste toasted and eat with a chew, with more strength in the crumb. Pick the digestive for a drier, finer bite, and the Hobnob when you want

something to work at and a longer [dunk](#).

Dunking, coffee and cheese

The oat crumb takes a longer dunk than a digestive. Hold it chocolate side up, let the kettle rest for a minute before pouring, and take your time over the count. Then eat it straight away, because oats turn from chewy to paste in moments once soaked. A strong black brew is the right cup to dunk into, and delicate green or white teas are simply overwhelmed.

Black coffee is the pairing we would reach for first, since dark chocolate and toasted oat both have the depth to meet it. The biscuit also makes a good finish to a spiced meal, where something sweeter would cloy, and it will sit beside a blue [cheese](#), the oats tempering the salt while the dark coating keeps out of its way.

The packs we stock

- [McVitie's Hobnobs Dark Chocolate Biscuits The Oaty One, 262g](#) (barcode 5000168176819)

What the label says

Ingredients, as published: Rolled Oats (30%), Dark Chocolate (25%) [Sugar, Cocoa Mass, Vegetable Fats (Palm, Shea), Butter Oil (Milk), Cocoa Butter, Emulsifiers (Soya Lecithin, E476), Natural Flavouring], Wholemeal Wheat Flour (16%), Sugar, Vegetable Oil (Palm), Glucose-Fructose Syrup, Raising Agents (Sodium Bicarbonate, Ammonium Bicarbonate), Salt.

Typical values per 100g Per 100g

Energy	494 kcal
Fat	23.8g
of which saturates	11.9g
Carbohydrate	60.2g
of which sugars	30.7g
Fibre	6.3g
Protein	6.5g
Salt	0.66g

Ingredient and nutrition information for this product, as published on the manufacturer's label. The pack in your hands is the final word.

What to drink with it

- [L'Or Nespresso Compatible Espresso Supremo Aluminium Coffee Intensity 10, 10 Capsules](#): A black espresso from Nespresso-compatible capsules, the first thing we would pour beside a dark Hobnob.
- [Barry's Tea Gold Blend, 80 Tea Bags 250g](#): A hearty everyday tea to dunk into, with enough strength to stand up to the dark coating and toasted oats.

- [Twinings English Breakfast Decaffeinated 40, 109g](#): The after-dinner choice, a full [English Breakfast](#) cup with the [caffeine](#) taken out.

Elsewhere in the McVitie's range

- [McVitie's Club Layers Orange, 39g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Mint Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 Bars 154g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Orange Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 Bars 154g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Salted Caramel Flavour Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 x 22g](#)
- [McVitie's Dark Chocolate Digestive Biscuits, 266g](#)
- [McVitie's Digestive Pink Raspberry & Cream Flavour, Limited Edition, 232g](#)

The full range is on the [McVitie's brand page](#).

FAQ

Do dark chocolate Hobnobs contain milk? Yes. The dark coating includes butter oil from milk, so check the current pack if dairy matters in your house.

How are dark chocolate Hobnobs different from milk ones? Same biscuit and same weight, but the dark coating is less sweet up front and lets the toasted oats come forward.

How long can you dunk a dark Hobnob? Longer than a digestive. Keep the chocolate uppermost, let the just-boiled tea rest a minute, count slowly, then eat it straight away.

Can you eat Hobnobs with cheese? A dark Hobnob works with blue cheese: the oats temper the salt and the dark coating keeps out of its way.

What coffee goes with dark chocolate Hobnobs? A black coffee or an espresso, which dark chocolate and toasted oats can both stand up to.

Curator's note: Keep these for after dinner with a small black coffee. That is when the oats have room to show what they are. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: McVitie's Dark Chocolate Hobnobs: Where the Oats Come Through

Field	Detail
Brand	McVitie's
Packs we stock	262g
Category	Chocolate Biscuits
Dunkable	Yes, a slow count, chocolate side up
Best with	Black coffee, or strong tea for dunking
Occasion	After dinner

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