

McVitie's Original Hobnobs: How an Oat Biscuit Differs From a Digestive

From the teas.co.uk wiki

McVitie's Original Hobnobs: How an Oat Biscuit Differs From a Digestive, in

summary: An uncoated biscuit built on rolled oats, coarse and craggy where a digestive is fine and dense. It dunks well with a quick, still dip, travels without melting and wants a strong, plain tea beside it.

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

Rolled oats lead the ingredient list, and they decide everything about a Hobnob: the craggy top, the long chew and the toasted cereal taste. It is a different biscuit from a digestive, not a variation on one.

Oats first, wheat second

The published ingredients are brief. Wholegrain rolled oats make up 39% and wholemeal wheat flour 23%, followed by palm oil, sugar, partially inverted sugar syrup, raising agents and salt. There is no caramel in that list, yet the biscuit tastes faintly of it; that depth comes from syrup and oats browning together in the oven. The allergen statement lists wheat and oats (gluten).

Set it beside a digestive and the contrast is plain. A digestive is a wheatmeal round with a fine, close crumb that snaps. A Hobnob is open and irregular, breaking into large pieces and asking to be chewed with the back teeth, with a nutty, toasted flavour that stays after the last bite. The Oaty One on the pack marks it out from the chocolate-coated Hobnobs.

The quick, still dunk

Hobnobs take tea well, but the open oat crumb draws liquid fast, so the window is shorter than a digestive's. Give the freshly poured tea a minute to settle, then go straight in and straight out. Do not swirl: movement is what breaks an oat crumb, far more than the seconds it spends in the mug.

Because there is no [chocolate](#) on either face, the sweetness sits underneath the oat rather than on top, and nothing masks the cereal note. That makes it an easy partner for a strong, plain [black tea](#) with milk, and just as good with a short black coffee. It is also the Hobnob people crumble for cheesecake and crumble

toppings.

The Hobnob that travels

Uncoated, it survives the places chocolate [biscuits](#) do not: a warm kitchen, a car glovebox, a lunchbox in summer. Nothing melts onto fingers and nothing blooms pale. The trade-off is air. An open oat crumb takes on moisture faster than a coated one, so reseal the inner wrapper properly or move the 255g pack into a tin, and think in days, not weeks.

If a few have just begun to soften, three minutes in a low oven brings back some of the crunch. For a household avoiding gluten, this is not the one: the brand's Gluten Free Hobnobs are its gluten-free option and are listed separately.

The packs we stock

- [McVitie's Original Hobnobs Biscuits - The Oaty One, 255g](#) (barcode 5000168034928)

What the label says

The published ingredient list for McVitie's Original Hobnobs Biscuits - The Oaty One, 255g (barcode 5000168034928) says it contains wheat and oats (gluten). Check the current UK pack before purchase; formulations and allergen advice can change.

Ingredients, as published: Wholegrain Rolled Oats (39%), Wholemeal Wheat Flour (23%), Palm Oil, Sugar, Partially Inverted Sugar Syrup, Raising Agents (Sodium Bicarbonate, Ammonium Bicarbonate), Salt.

Typical values per 100g Per 100g

Energy	472 kcal
Fat	20.2g
of which saturates	8.8g
Carbohydrate	61.8g
of which sugars	22.9g
Fibre	6.5g
Protein	7.4g
Salt	0.8g

Ingredient and nutrition data for this barcode: Open Food Facts (openfoodfacts.org), ODbL. The pack in your hands is the final word.

What to drink with it

- [Yorkshire Tea Original Loose Leaf Tea, 250g](#): A strong [loose leaf](#) pot with milk, left a minute off the boil for the quick, still [dunk](#).
- [Yorkshire Tea Caramelised Biscuit Brew, 40 Tea Bags 112g](#): Its toasted, biscuity notes meet the syrupy oat depth halfway.

- [Clipper Fairtrade Everyday Tea, 80 Pack 232g](#): A plain everyday black tea that leaves the oat flavour front and centre.
- [L'Or Espresso Ristretto Coffee Pods, 10 Pods 52g](#): A small, strong coffee for the mid-morning Hobnob, bitter enough to set off the gentle sweetness.

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

What is the difference between Hobnobs and digestives? Hobnobs are built on rolled oats and eat coarse, craggy and chewy, with a toasted cereal flavour. Digestives are wheatmeal biscuits with a fine, dense crumb.

Is there caramel in Original Hobnobs? No caramel is listed. The caramel-like depth comes from the sugar syrup and oats baking together.

Are Original Hobnobs gluten-free? No. The published allergen statement lists wheat and oats (gluten). McVitie's Gluten Free Hobnobs are the brand's gluten-free option.

How do you dunk a Hobnob without it breaking? Let the tea cool for a minute, then dip straight in and out without swirling. Movement breaks the oat crumb faster than time does.

Can you revive soft Hobnobs? Partly. Three minutes in a low oven restores some crunch to biscuits that have only just started to soften.

Curator's note: This is the Hobnob to buy if you want the biscuit rather than the chocolate. Strong tea, a still hand, and let the oats do the talking. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: McVitie's Original Hobnobs: How an Oat Biscuit Differs From a Digestive

Field	Detail
Brand	McVitie's
Packs we stock	255g
Category	Biscuits
Allergens (as published)	It contains wheat and oats (gluten).
Dunkable	Yes, a quick dip with no swirling
Travels well	Yes, nothing to melt

Field

Detail

Best with

Strong black tea with milk or a short black coffee

More from the tea wiki

- [Tea and Biscuits](#)
- [Biscuit Dunking Physics: The Real Science](#)
- [Tea Pairing Principles: Reason, Don't Memorise](#)
- [Tea With Cake: The Pairing That Never Fails \(If You Get It Right\)](#)
- [Tea and Food Pairing: The Five Principles](#)

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