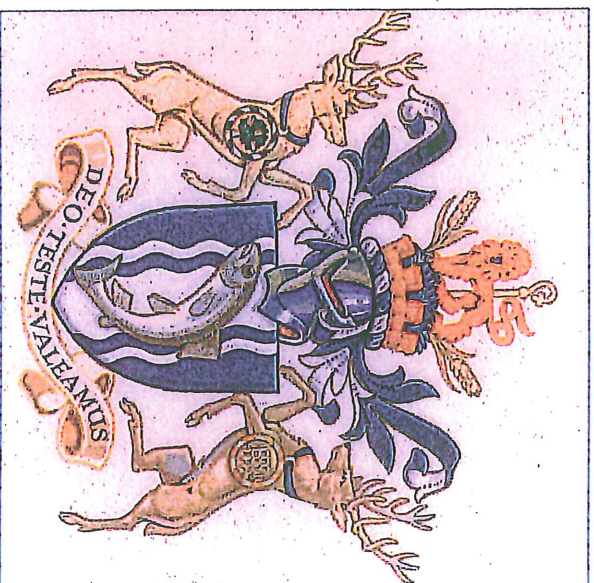


# TEST VALLEY COAT OF ARMS

The **Armorial Bearings** consist of the full Achievement of Arms: shield, crest, supporters, motto and badge. The Shield represent the basic character of the whole area, also reflected in the Badge, while the Crest and Supporters relate to the individual constituent areas through their former arms or devices.

Above the closed helm is the mural or crenellated crown from the crest of Romsey, from which rises the grassy hill with the red lion standing on it which comes from the Andover shield. Behind the lion stands the crosser from the arms of Romsey which refers to Romsey Abbey, and in the wider context, to other monastic foundations in the Borrough area. Growing from the grassy mound are two stalks of wheat representing the former Rural Districts of Andover and Romsey and Stockbridge. The Crest thus unites symbolically all the four constituent areas.



Above the **Shield** is the closed helm proper to Civic arms, with its crest-wreath and decorative mantling or tournament cloak in the basic colours of the shield, green and white. On the wreath stands the Crest.

The shield displays, on a green background, a broad white wave and two narrow ones representing the River Test and its tributaries over which leaps a brown trout, symbolising the name and character of Test Valley.

The **supporters** pursue the same theme. On the left is a golden 'Hart Royal' (a stag with twelve points) from the crest of Andover, collared with a green ribbon from which hangs a crest-wreath or 'torse' of the Andover colours, green and white, enclosing the oak tree from the Andover shield which is also appropriate to the Andover Rural District. Balancing this supporter is the Hart from the Romsey arms in its natural colour, also wearing a green ribbon with a torse in the Romsey colours, red and gold, enclosing the gold portcullis from the ancient seal and the shield of Romsey. This was also used by the Romsey and Stockbridge R.D.C.

The motto **DEO TESTE VALEAMUS** is based on a suggestion from a school in the Borough and may be translated as  
**'with God as our witness, let us be strong.'**