



# Get out and walk

A visitors' guide to exploring Test Valley



**Test Valley** is fortunate not only to have the longest river in Hampshire, beautiful countryside, a host of charming villages but also 500 miles of rights of way and fantastic open spaces to explore.

**Danebury Hillfort** is owned by Hampshire County Council and **Chilbolton Common** by the Parish Council. **Stockbridge Down**, **Stockbridge Marsh**, **Plaitford Common** and **Mottisfont House** are owned by the National Trust.

**Broughton Down**, a local nature reserve and **Harewood Forest** add ecological and historical fascination and should not be missed.



Whether you are visiting Test Valley, or already live here, this guide will help you make the most of the countless opportunities to explore the area on foot. It will also point you in the direction for many other walks.



### DID YOU KNOW

**Test Valley has more Iron Age Hillforts than anywhere else in Hampshire?**

Scan the horizon from the vantage of Danebury Hill. On a clear day, it is said you can see at least 5 other hillforts, including Bury Hill to the north, Quarley in the west and Woolbury on Stockbridge Down to the east. All of these fascinating places are accessible to you. Imagine what it may have been like thousands of years ago when Test Valley was a very different place.

Its two Roman roads, **The Icknield Way** and **Portway**, cast striking lines on the map and are traced in today's landscape by footpaths, hedgelines and banks.

**The Icknield Way** runs from Winchester to Circencester and the Portway runs between London and Weymouth via Silchester, Old Sarum and Dorchester. The two cross at the former roman settlement of Leuco Magus, just east of Andover.

**The Harrow Way**, which runs east-west through Andover and is arguably the oldest road in Britain, is an ancient trackway that connects the Channel ports with the Devon coast.

**The following 6 walks**, chosen by The Ramblers, are intended to tempt you to get to know how easy and rewarding walking in Test Valley can be. There are three in the north and three in the south. All are on fairly level ground except for the Facombe walk which includes a steep grassy downhill slope. Walks vary in length between 2 and 5 miles and should take about 2 hours to complete.

**Waymark sign:**



*Have a go and tell us what you think, email:  
[dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk)*



**2.8 mile walk**  
**1 hour 30 minutes**

# Facombe Circular Walk

**Start/Finish** Facombe Village Hall, SP11 0DS

This route follows paths and tracks in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The walk encompasses woodlands, open views of the Downs and a pretty valley.

**Transport:**



the nearest train station is Andover.

**Refreshments:**



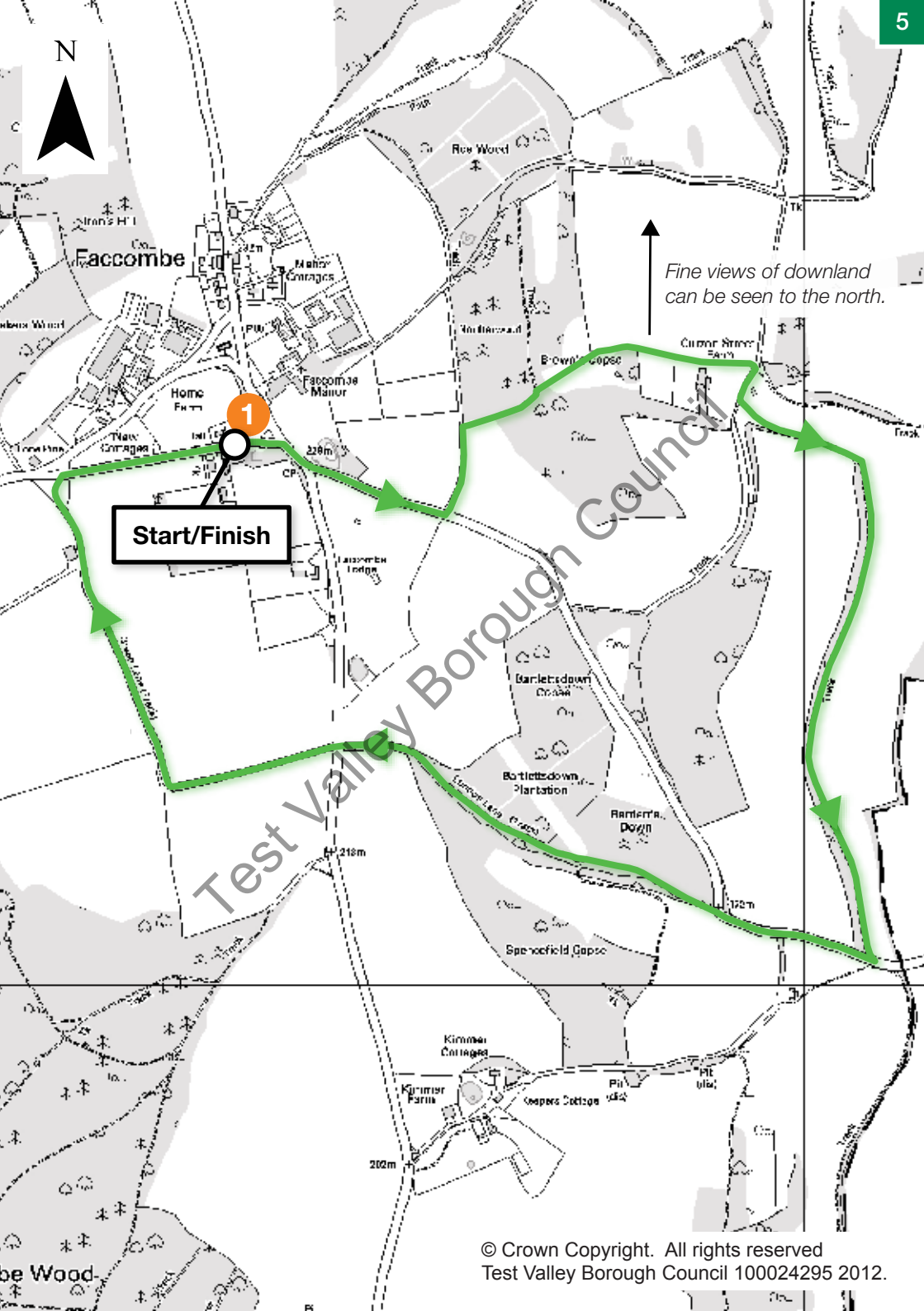
**The Jack Russell Inn, Facombe (01264 737315)**

From the village hall (or the pub with prior agreement) turn left along the road. Walk past the Jack Russell Inn and fork right with the village pond on your right until you reach a T junction. Turn right keeping Facombe Manor on your left and, after 50m, take the left fork along the road towards Ashmansworth.

After 250m take the footpath on the left by the side of a large steel double gate. Follow the path keeping the hedge on your left for 200m. Then the path turns right with woodland on the left. Follow the path into the wood where it forks left steeply down through a field - can be a bit slippery when wet. Join the track down to a T junction with a track. Turn right along the track keeping the derelict Curzon Street Farm on your left.

Shortly after passing the farm building leave the track and follow the footpath to the left which leads down through a pretty valley. After just over 1km you reach a road. Turn right and follow the road uphill for 250m to a sharp right hand bend. Take the footpath straight ahead up through a wooded area - Spencefield Copse - climbing gently for 1km to a road. Cross over the road and pass by the side of a large double gate onto Green Lane. After 300m follow the path round to the right and, just beyond the barn, you reach a road. Turn right along the road back to Facombe village hall.

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*Fine views of downland can be seen to the north.*

**Start/Finish**

1

Test Valley Borough Council

2.5 mile walk 1 hour 15 minutes

# Wildhern Circular Walk

**Start/Finish** Tangley Wildhern Village Hall, SP11 0JE

This route follows field systems, woodland and passes derelict farm buildings.

## Transport:



the nearest train station is Andover, the Cango C6 bus service stops at Tangley (must be pre-booked by calling 0845 602 4135)

## Refreshments:

- 1 Hare & Hounds, Charlton Down (01264 735672)
- 2 Old Bell & Crown, Hatherden (01264 735321)

From the village hall turn left along the road or cut across the sports field. At road T junction turn left and almost immediately right onto the public footpath. Follow footpath past houses on right into field keeping hedge on left. After approximately 500m the path swings left and passes through a gap in the hedge line. The path runs between open fields on either side, then crosses a staggered track and, still continuing in the same direction, becomes a track between hedgerows.

On reaching the derelict buildings at Doles Farm continue round to the right towards a forest gate. Take the track which forks right before the gate and continue along the woodland track.

After leaving the wood the track continues between hedgerows. Just after reaching a small copse on the left side of the track and before reaching the main road turn right onto a footpath with a hedgerow on the left and field on the right. Follow this path, which on passing through the end of the field kinks slightly left and continues again with a hedgerow on the left.

After sharp right and left turns follow the path through the middle of Plough Farm and straight on between hedge and fence onto the road. Turn right and, at the chapel, turn left to return to the village hall.



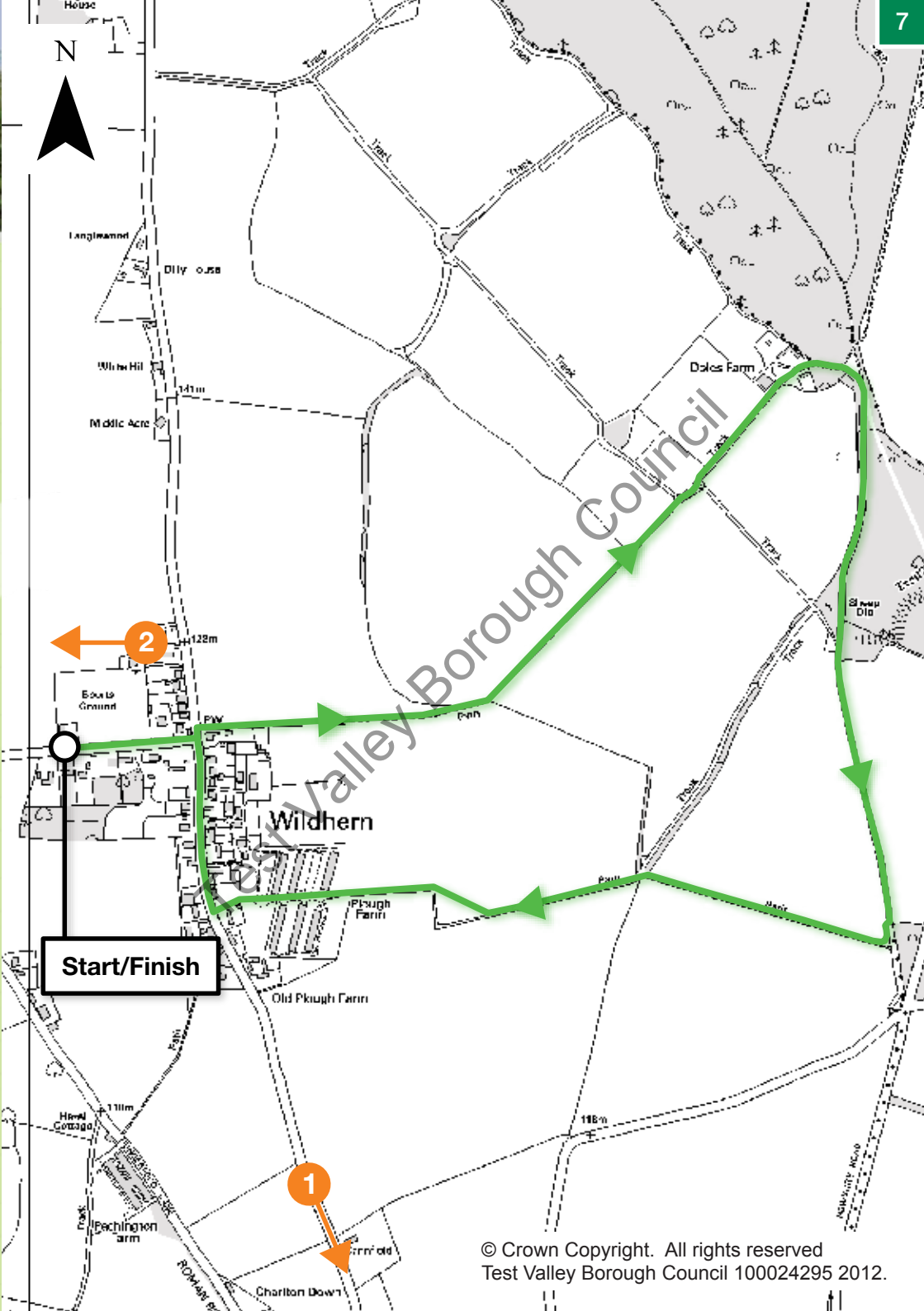
Test Valley Borough Council

2



Start/Finish

1



4 mile walk 1 hour 30 minutes

# Abbotts Ann Circular Walk

**Start/Finish**

Abbotts Ann Church Car Park, SP11 7BH

This route follows tracks and paths around the Abbotts Ann Estate including an ancient drove probably used for taking sheep to Weyhill Fair.

**Transport:**



the nearest train station is Andover, the Stagecoach buses no.77 and 87 call at Abbotts Ann by the Eagle Pub and the post office

**Refreshments:**

- 1 The Eagle Inn (01264 710339), village shop,
- 2 Poplar Farm Inn, Abbotts Ann (01264 710424)

From the church car park turn right and follow the road north for 50m. Then take the footpath to the left passing St Marys church continuing on to the road at the village shop. Turn right and then left on the road to Monxton. Within a few yards turn left again onto Dunkirt Lane. Follow the lane past the houses into the countryside where it becomes a track. Continue along, passing Great Wood on the right, to Dunkirt Barn.

Turn left onto a footpath which, on reaching a hedgerow, turns slightly right to run parallel to the hedge. The field to the right contains the site of a Roman villa, mosaics from which are exhibited in the British Museum. The path follows the hedge as it turns sharp left and 400m later turns sharp right still following the hedgerow. A left turn brings into sight the small hamlet of Abbotts Ann Down.

On reaching the junction of the path turn left away from the hamlet along a track with arable fields to the left and woodland to the right. After approximately 700m the track enters an arable field. The track across the field ends at a stile. From the stile the path continues along The Drove back towards Abbotts Ann passing the Bulberry playing field on the right. On reaching the road turn left and then right through a gate, along a footpath at the left side of a thatched cottage. Follow the path past the cottage and other houses, cross the playing field continuing on between fences and hedges to Manor Close. Manor Close leads to Church Street and the church car park.



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*Occasionally deer can be seen on the arable land either side.*

**Start/Finish**

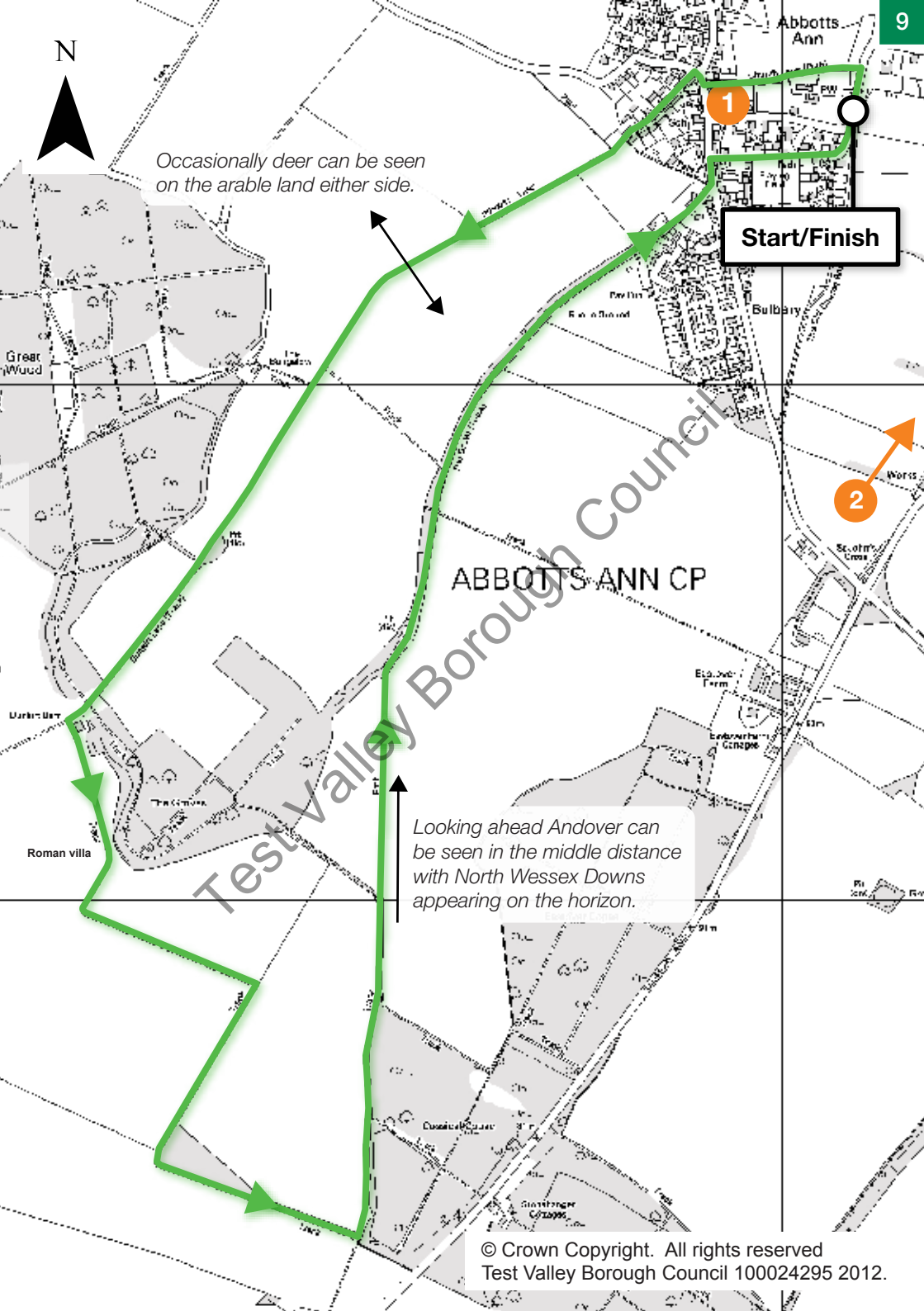
1

2

ABBOTTS ANN CP

Test Valley Borough Council

*Looking ahead Andover can be seen in the middle distance with North Wessex Downs appearing on the horizon.*



4.25 mile walk about 2 hours

# Lockerley Circular Walk

**Start/Finish**

Butt's Green, SO51 0JG

A 4.25m walk passing through pleasant countryside with fine views.

**Transport:**



the nearest train station is **Mottisfont & Dunbridge**, the no.36 Wilts and Dorset bus runs a limited service in this area.

**Refreshments:**

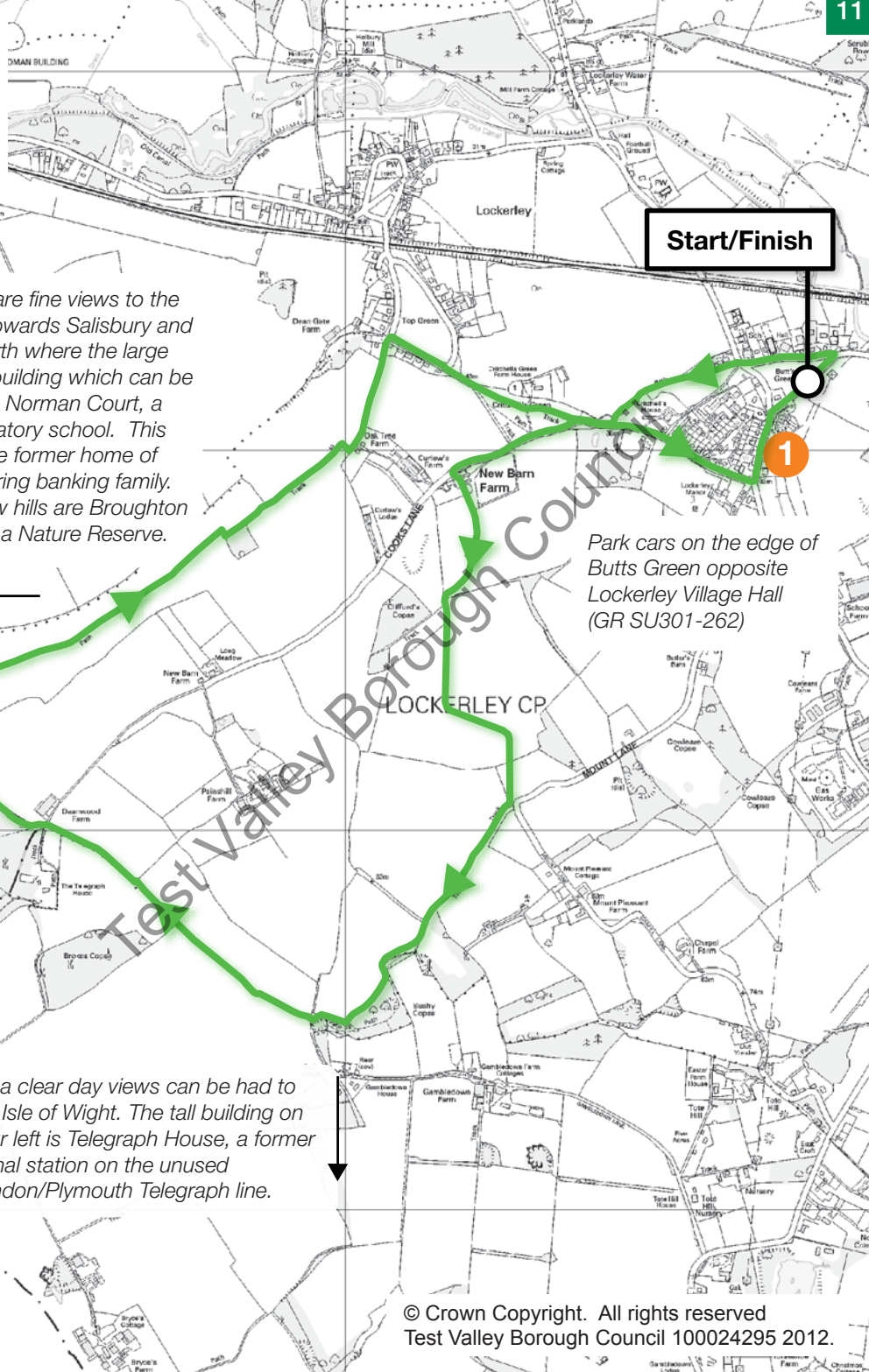
1 The Kings Arms (01794 340332)

Find the footpath opposite the nearby Lockerley Garage, and next to a bungalow, this path is between hedges, and then across a field to a stile onto Critchells Green. Walk on to Cooks Lane. Follow this for a short distance to New Barn Farm. Turn left following the path between barns, over a stile and cross a field, heading up towards trees and then to find a stile in the tree lined boundary hedge across a field (at 11 o'clock). The path now descends onto a corner of Mount Lane.

Turn right here onto a track between hedges through a small gate. At a junction of paths, carry straight over a stile across a short section of field through a "v" gate behind an oak tree, then through a spinney. Walk through a second spinney leading onto a farm track, turn right and then almost immediately left over a horse jump stile. Follow the field boundary to a stile, carry on to the corner of the field.

On reaching the gate of Telegraph House (on your left) carry on straight ahead crossing over the lane into Gatmore Copse. You are now in Wiltshire. Follow the track through trees until another track between fields on the right is reached. On turning right follow this path until a crossing of several paths is encountered.

Turn right here to follow a downland ridge path towards trees, then through a stile to a descending path between hedges and finally leading out onto Top Green. Turn right to follow the road and a short track onto Critchells Green. Carry on across the Green to Cooks Lane, follow this lane towards Lockerley turning left at the end, passing "The Kings Arms" on the right and on to Butts Green and your parked car.



**Start/Finish**

**1**

*There are fine views to the west towards Salisbury and the north where the large white building which can be seen is Norman Court, a preparatory school. This was the former home of the Baring banking family. The low hills are Broughton Down, a Nature Reserve.*

*Park cars on the edge of Butts Green opposite Lockerley Village Hall (GR SU301-262)*

*On a clear day views can be had to the Isle of Wight. The tall building on your left is Telegraph House, a former signal station on the unused London/Plymouth Telegraph line.*

**4.5 mile walk**  
about 2 hours

# Michelmersh Circular Walk

## Start/Finish

Michelmersh Parish Church, SO51 0NS

A 4.50m walk crossing between the sides of the valley passing through Mottisfont, where the Abbey is now in the care of the National Trust. Using the Test Way, a long distance path running between Eling and Inkpen Beacon on the Hampshire/Berkshire boundary.

## Transport:



the nearest train station is Romsey, the no.36 Wilts and Dorset bus runs a limited service in this area.

## Refreshments:

- 1 Annie's Tea Room (01794 340556) or
- 2 The Bear & Ragged Staff (01794 368602)

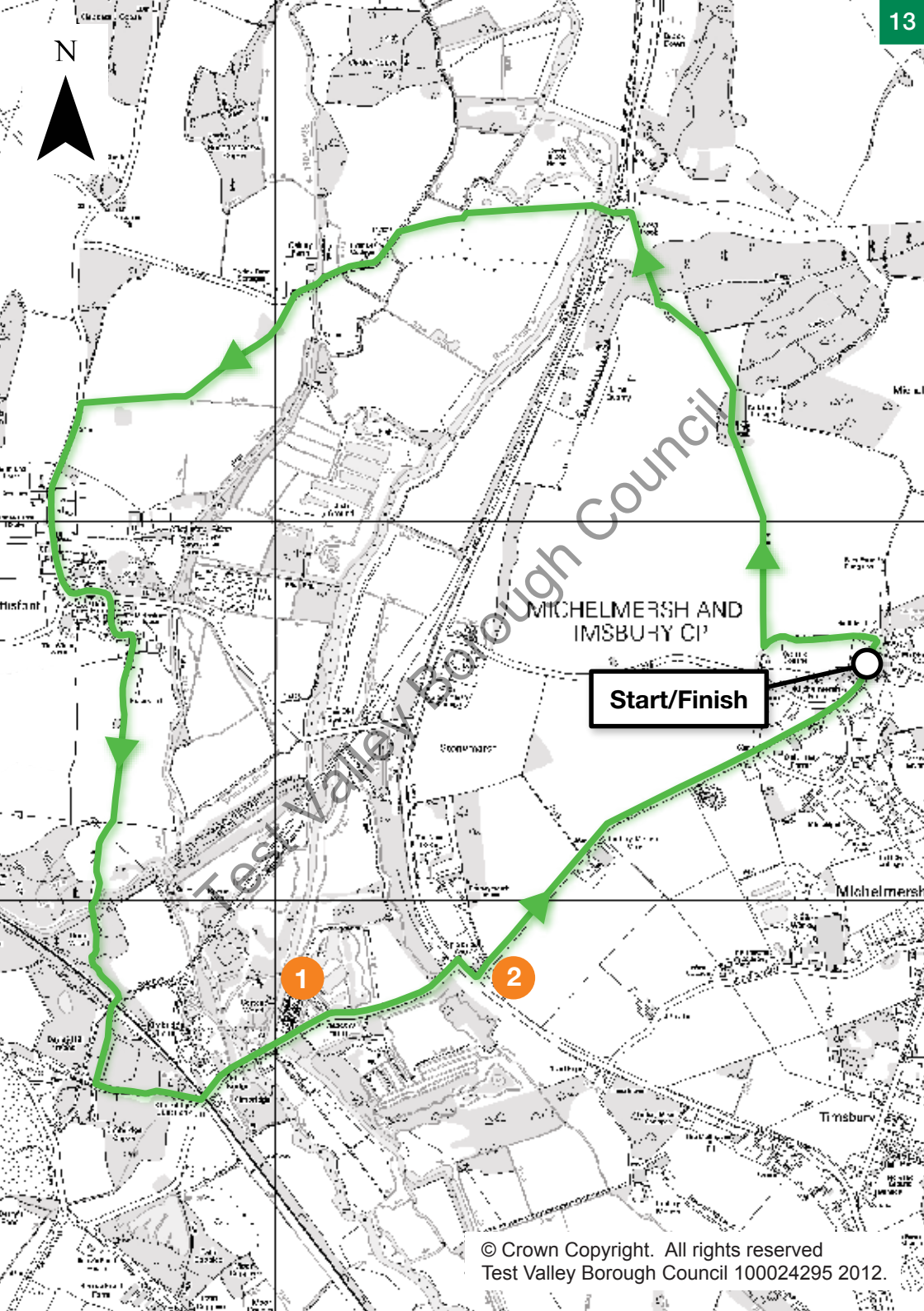
Start at Michelmersh Church, GR 346-266. There are fine views here westward up through the Dun Valley. Use the path opposite the church, follow a field edge, turn right onto a broad path between fields, walk through the remains of Park Farm. Follow the path across a field to a kissing gate. Be careful walking down the steep slope. Cross over a field to the main road. Walk over a river bridge opposite, proceed to Oakley Farm on the Test Way.

Follow the Test Way signs through Mottisfont and past the church, crossing over the river Dun and pass the remains of a conveyor belt over the railway onto Kimbridge.

Leave the Test Way at this point and join the Monarchs Way back to Michelmersh.

There is now an uphill section back to the start.





**Start/Finish**

**1**

**2**

**3.25 mile walk**  
about 2 hours

# Romsey Circular Walk

## Start/Finish

Tourist Information Office, Church Street, SO51 8BT

A 3.25 mile walk passing by the Redbridge and Andover canal, completed in 1794 serving the Test Valley for 65 years. Walking by the Fishlake Stream and a tributary of the Test.

## Transport:



Romsey train station and bus station are located very near to the route (as shown on the map).

## Refreshments:

there are plenty of pubs/cafes/shops in the centre of Romsey

Start at the Tourist Information Office, Church Street. Walk through King Johns garden. Proceed to the Railway station. Walk through the tunnel, follow the road past the industrial estate coming out alongside the canal. Carry on for about a mile until a path junction is reached. Take the left hand path, walking on until it comes out by the Fishlake Stream. Cross over the bridge and follow around the edge of a lake, turn right onto a drive to the main road.

Walk back to Romsey. Turn left up Fishlake Road cross over the bridge, picking up the Fishlake path again through the Industrial Estate. Cross over Duttons Road to an estate road opposite, follow this round to pedestrian crossing, follow the road into Priestlands Estate. Take the left turn pass Romsey School, follow the road until the river is reached, turn onto the riverside path which leads into Holman Drive. Note the former fulling mill, now apartments. The riverside gardens used to be managed as a nursery by a well known TV garden celebrity.

Turn into Mill Lane and School Lane, walk past the Abbey back to the start.



**Start/Finish**

ROMSEY CP





## Further information



***Traveline*** (*bus information*): **0870 6082608**  
***Met Office*** (*weather information*): **0870 9000100**  
***Romsey Tourist Information Centre***: **01794 512987**



### ***Walk the Water Ways of Romsey***

A guide to the town's many streams, 2006, by Phoebe Merrick  
 ISBN 978-0-9527286-1-0

### ***Best Tea Shop Walks in Hampshire***

1998 by Margaret and Barrie Howard  
 ISBN 1-85058-621-7

### ***Walks in Mysterious Hampshire***

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Every part of England, Scotland and Wales is covered by 403 maps specially designed for walkers, off-road cyclists, horse riders and all involved in outdoor activities.

### ***OS Explorer 131 - Romsey, Andover & Test Valley***

Publication Type: OS Explorer B2  
 ISBN: 9780319240939  
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 Cost: £7.99  
 Map Scale: 1:25,000



The cycling and walking maps can be found electronically on the Test Valley website at:

[www.testvalley.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=7139](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=7139)



**TEST VALLEY HEALTH WALKS**

Many people are "struggling for breath" in Test Valley. If you would like a gentle way to improve your fitness, to make your heart and enjoy your local parks and open spaces the come along to one of the following weekly walks.

**Monday** - 1.1pm Romsey Health Walk  
Meet at the Hersey Sports Centre (01263 8447)  
Meet with nearest Ministry of the coast

**Tuesday** - 1.30pm Farnham Health Walk  
Meet at The Ligna-Ara Centre (01263 4161) for some  
walk to hear the live 'Sunday of water' hour

**Wednesdays** - 10.30am Yellow Health Walk  
Meet at the town centre (01263 8881) on the line  
Walks of the North. Contact number: 01263 8881  
at the town hall & Swan's Farm (01263 8881) on the hill.

**Thursday**  
1.30pm Farnham Health Walk  
Meet at South Hants (01263 8881)  
Meet with the Ministry of the coast.

**Friday** - 1.30pm Farnham Health Walk  
Meet at South Hants (01263 8881)  
Meet with the Ministry of the coast.

**Saturday**  
10.30am Yellow Health Walk  
Meet at the town centre (01263 8881)  
Meet at the town centre (01263 8881)

All walks are approximately 1 hour and are  
supported by a local Health Walk Leader.  
There is no charge to come on the walks.

For details of all the walks and for further information please look at our website  
[www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk) or contact Louise Blake on 01794 527368

Try to walk for at least 30 minutes 3 or more times a week.

# Further informa- tion

*Traveline* (bus information):  
**0870 6082608**

*Met Office* (weather  
information): **0870  
9000100**

*Romsey Tourist Information  
Centre:* **01794  
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## walk 4 life

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**Test Valley Health Walks** are 8 walks across the beautiful countryside of Test Valley.

From Hurstbourne Tarrant to Valley Park, the walks are fun, free, friendly and led by



**The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity, working to safeguard the footpaths, the countryside and other places we go walking, and to encourage more people to take up walking.**

We work to promote walking for pleasure, health, leisure and transport to everyone of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in towns and cities as well as in the countryside.

To find out more about the Ramblers, information about more walks and details of membership contact:-

Andover, Telephone 01264 351991, [www.andoverramblers.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.andoverramblers.hampshire.org.uk)

Romsey, Telephone 023 80 731279, email: [tom.radford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tom.radford@hotmail.co.uk),  
[www.romselynet.org.uk/ramblers/ramblers.htm](http://www.romselynet.org.uk/ramblers/ramblers.htm)

In Hampshire, [www.hampshireramblers.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.hampshireramblers.hampshire.org.uk)  
Nationally, Telephone 020 7339 8500, or [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

The walks in this booklet have been carefully surveyed for accuracy by members of the local Ramblers groups. However, you should be aware that changes to footpaths can occasionally occur.

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Produced by David Gleave, TVBC

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