



Get out and walk

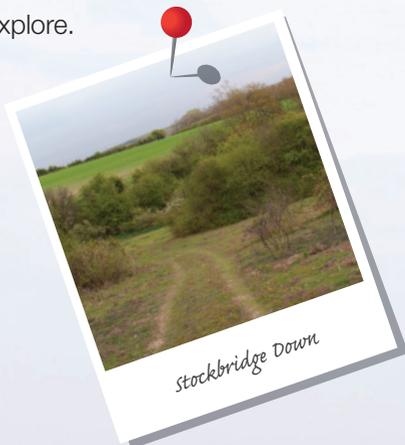
A visitors' guide to exploring Test Valley



Test Valley is fortunate not only to have the longest river in Hampshire, beautiful countryside and 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.



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 Cirencester 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

2.8 mile walk
1 hour 30 minutes

Facombe Circular Walk

Start/Finish **The Jack Russell Inn, SP11 0DS**

This 2.8 mile walk follows paths and tracks in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It encompasses woodlands, open views of the Downs and a pretty valley.

Transport:



the nearest train station is Andover.

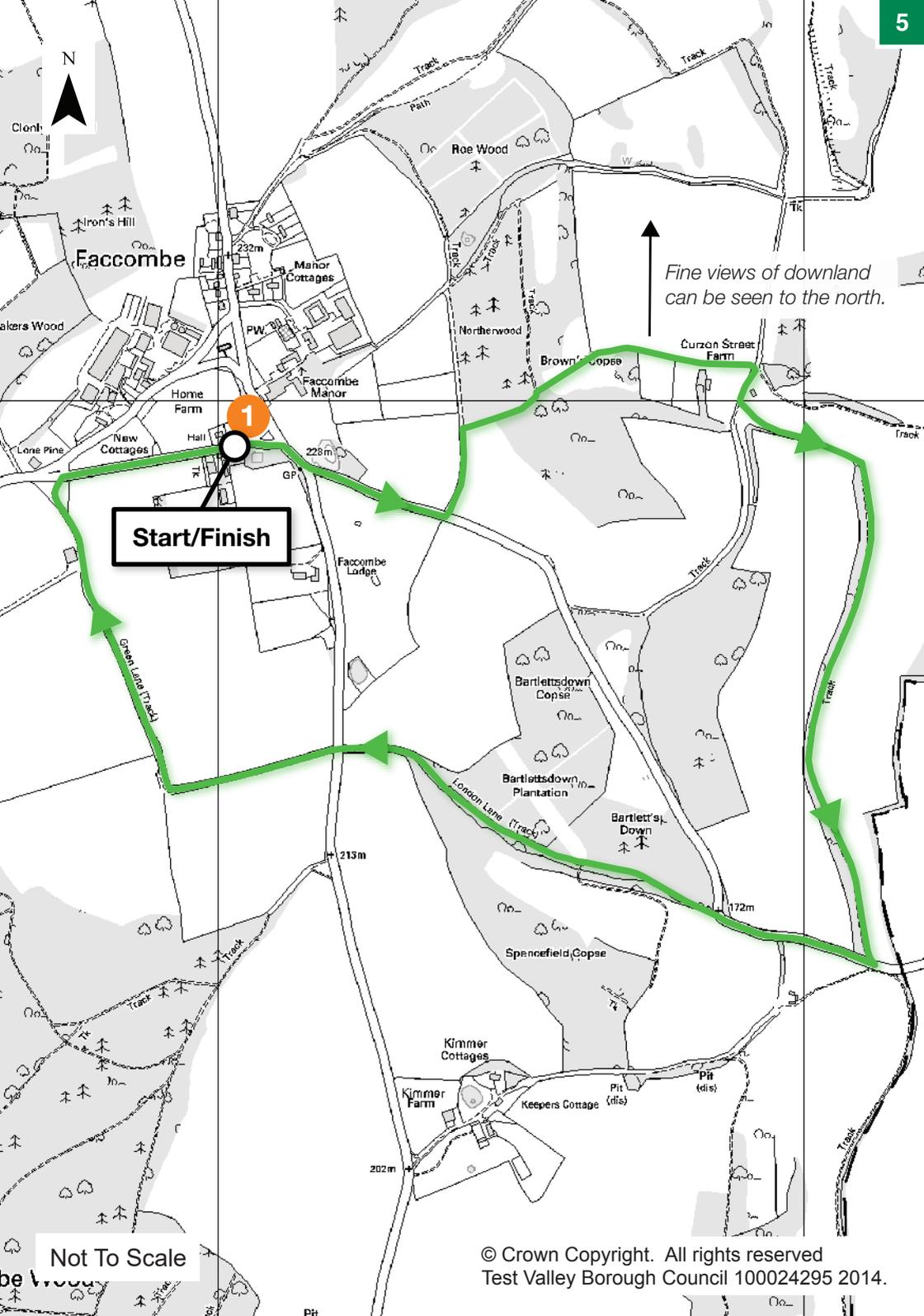
Refreshments:

1 The Jack Russell Inn, Facombe (01264 737315)

From the Jack Russell Inn turn left along the road 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 - it 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 the Jack Russell Inn.



Start/Finish

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

Not To Scale

2.5 mile walk 1 hour 15 minutes

Wildhern Circular Walk

Start/Finish Tangley Wildhern Village Hall, SP11 0JE

This 2.5 mile walk 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:

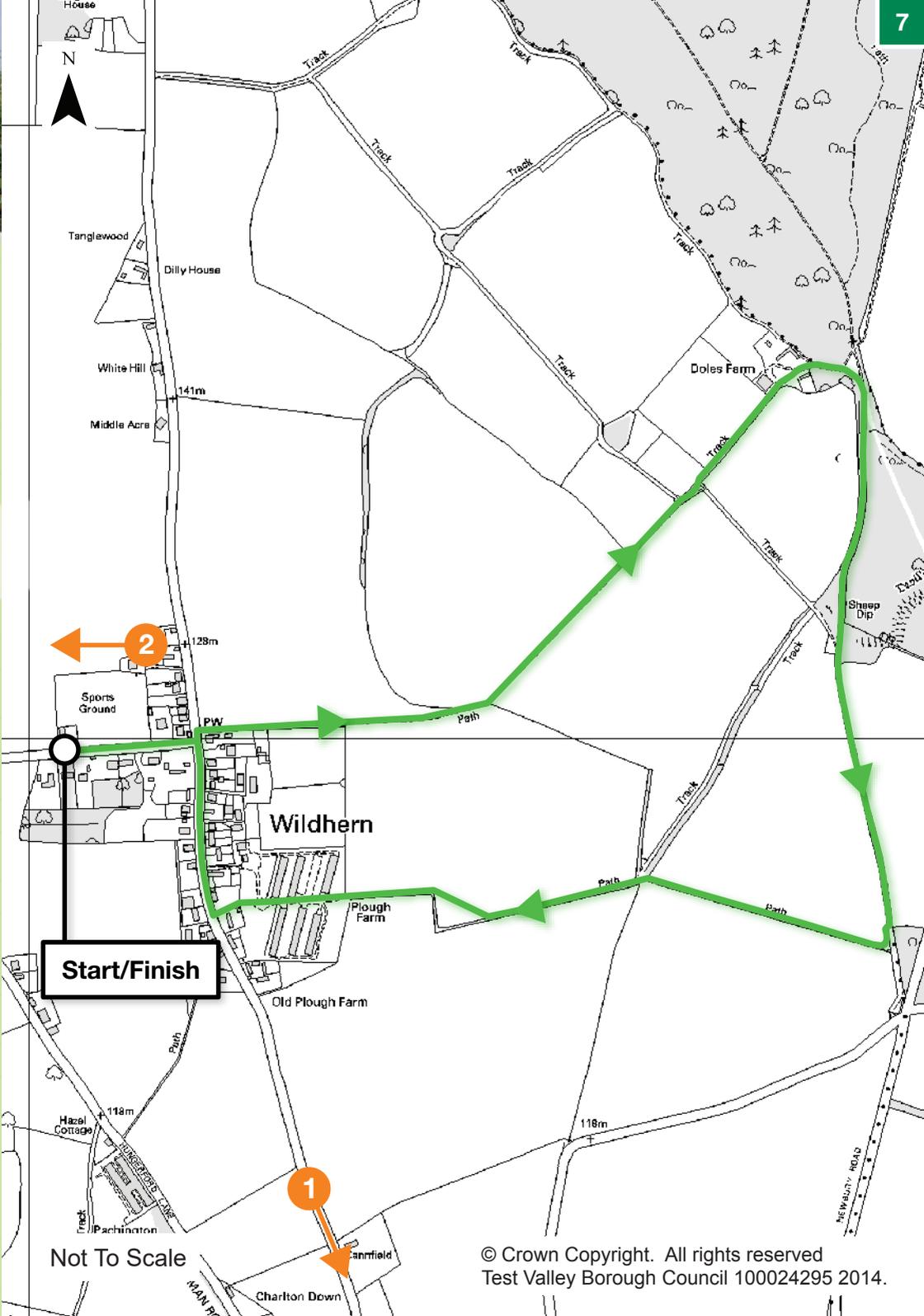
- 1 Hare & Hounds, Charlton Down (01264 735672)
- 2 Old Bell & Crown, Hatherden (01264 735321)

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.



Start/Finish

2

1

Not To Scale

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4 mile walk 1 hour 30 minutes

Abbotts Ann Circular Walk

Start/Finish
Abbotts Ann Church Car Park, SP11 7BH

This 4 mile walk 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 Mary's 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.

3 mile walk 1 hour 30 minutes

King's Somborne Walk

Start/Finish
King's Somborne recreation ground, SO20 6PP

This is a very attractive walk from King's Somborne playing fields, just off the A 3057. There are stunning views and a walk along the old railway line, now the Test Way, with a pub stop at 'The John O'Gaunt' at Horsebridge.

Transport:


The number 16 bus service Stockbridge - Winchester goes through King's Somborne. Parking is available at Village Hill Car Park SO20

6PP
Refreshments:


- 1 The John O'Gaunt Inn, Horsebridge (01794 388644)
- 2 The Crown Inn, King's Somborne (01794 388360)

Coming from the south, the car park is discreetly sign posted to the right as you enter the village. From the village hall, follow the path eastwards around the enclosed netball pitch, towards the hedges. There the route follows slightly left, then right, around the hedges, and up the hill along a path that runs parallel to the road. Climb the hill and at the top the old Roman Road meets from the left and where there are excellent views of the countryside. The walker crosses the A3057 (WATCH OUT FOR FAST TRAFFIC) to more views of the hills reaching down towards the Test River. Follow the path down to the road and turn right to Horsebridge and the 'John O'Gaunt' pub which one easily sees on the corner of the T-junction. Turning right out of the pub, an old mill and bridge over the river commands an interest. Continuing around the corner there, the Test Way/Monarch's Way crosses the road. Turn right to walk along the double Ways for 1 km until crossed by a gravelly track. (Here, turning left one can see the river).

Leaving the Test Way to turn right and up the hill the walk once more shows splendid views. This path, past How Park Farm, is on the Clarendon Way which follows the Roman Road between Winchester and Old Sarum. At the top of the hill turn right along a footpath which descends gently to the A3057 once again. Across the road, almost immediately, but slightly to the right, is the narrow path to the car park.



Houghton

Horsebridge

Start/Finish

King's Somborne

Compton Park

Compton Park

Furzedown

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4.5 mile walk about 2 hours

Braishfield

Start/Finish

Recreational ground, Braishfield, SO51 0PX

This is a 4.5 mile walk around the village of Braishfield, by Malcolm Price.

Transport:



Parking is available in the recreation ground near the Braishfield Pantry (07506 148700)

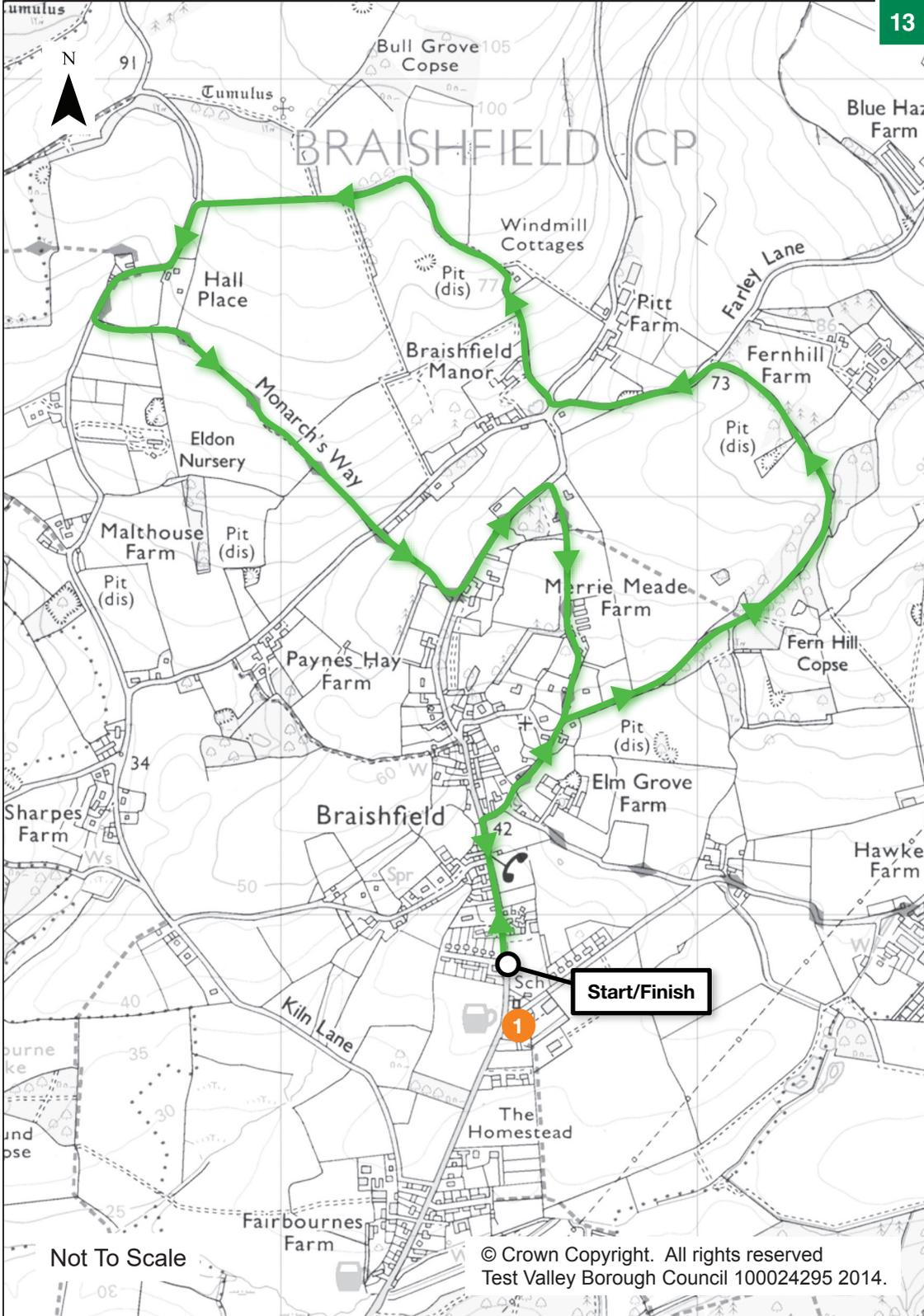
Refreshments:

1 The Wheatsheaf Inn (01794 368652)

Turn right from the car park and, crossing Braishfield Road with care, continue to the war memorial on the right. Here cross the road and walk along Dummers Road and the Monarch's Way, to the duck pond. Bear left towards the church. Immediately after the church, follow a finger sign to the right, up a gravelled path. This path definitely has the air of usage since ancient times and on a sunny autumn day the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.25km) walk has glowing beauty. Continue forwards, ignoring left and right paths, until we reach the metalled Farley Lane. Turn left here and walk for 300m to the King's Somborne Road, where, after a slight right turn, cross the road, to a way marked path up a wide track. This takes us past Braishfield Manor on the left, to the hilltop to an area of popular horse rides.

Following this wide track for nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, it is possible to see hills on the Isle of Wight on a good day, watch out for a double fingerpost on the left directing the walker between hedges until Eldon Lane is reached. Turn left as the lane bends right. notice the ancient Hall Place. After 100 metres watch out for a stile on the left. Picking up the Monarch's Way, go into the field and follow the hedge on the right, to the kissing gate. Over a new stile, following the hedge on the left, to meet a road, where the footpath opposite must be taken.

This footpath is narrow and climbs for a short time to descend to the Braishfield Road again. Turn left, watching for traffic, the next path is rather secretively hidden on the right hand side, after Combe Willows House but before Wyndhams. Following a lovely pathway to a gravel road, we turn right where we rejoin our earlier route. From the village duck pond, into Drummers Lane, and a left turn takes us back to the car park and village hall.



BRAISHFIELD CP

Monarch's Way

Start/Finish

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3.25 mile walk
about 2 hours

Romsey Circular Walk

Start/Finish

Visitor Information Centre, Church Street, SO51 8BT

This 3.25 mile walk passes by the Redbridge and Andover canal, completed in 1794 and 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 Visitor Information Centre, Church Street. Walk through King John's Garden. Proceed to Romsey Railway Station noticing the WW1 memorial commemorating 100 years since the start of the Great War at the Station Approach. Walk through the tunnel, follow the road past the Industrial Estate coming out alongside the canal. Under Fishlake road notice the splendid mural. Carry on for about a mile into and around the new Fishlake Meadows nature reserve, managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. 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

Not To Scale



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Further information



Traveline (*bus information*): **0870 6082608**
Met Office (*weather information*): **0870 9000100**
Romsey Visitor 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
 1998 by Laurence Main
 ISBN 1-85058-604-7

Pub Walks in Hampshire
- 40 Circular Walks Around Hampshire Inns
 1990 by Mike Power
 ISBN 09514502 -1-2

Village Walks in Hampshire
 1999 by Anne-Marie Edwards
 ISBN 1-85306-5609

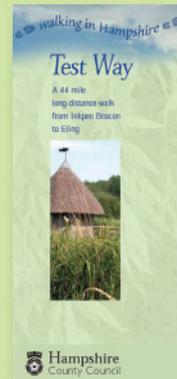
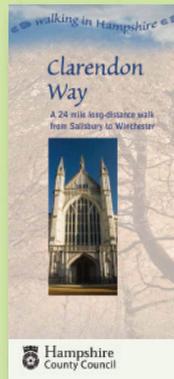
Pub Strolls in Hampshire and the New Forest 2006
 by Anne-Marie Edwards
 ISBN 185306-618-4



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
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 Map Scale: 1:25,000



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

www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/cyclingandwalking




TEST VALLEY HEALTH WALKS

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

Mondays - 11am Romsey Health Walk
Meet at the Romsey Sports Centre (SO51 8AF).
Away walk around Monday of the month.

Tuesdays - 11am Andover Health Walk
Meet at The Light Arts Centre (SP19 1AN). An 'away' walk is held the last Tuesday of each month.

Last Tuesday of the month
- Hurstbourne Tarrant Health Walk
Meet at the parish car park (SP11 9AK).

Wednesdays - 1.30pm Willow Health Walk
Meet at Willow village hall (SO51 6BR) on the last Wednesday of the month. Canada common (SO51 6DH) on the middle two & Dandy's Ford (SO51 6DT) on the last.

Thursdays
- 11am North Saddlesey Health Walk
Meet at North Saddlesey Village Hall (SO22 9DT).
Away walk last Thursday of the month.

Fridays - 10am Stockbridge Health Walk
Once a month walk at Clensbury Ring and Stockbridge Down. Meet at Stockbridge Town Hall (SO22 6HE).

Saturdays
- 10.30am Valley Park Health Walk
Meet at Cleveland Bay (SO43 4BT).

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

For details of all the walks and for further information please have a look at our website www.testvalley.gov.uk or contact Laura Blake on 01794 527923.

Try to walk for at least 30 minutes 5 or more times a week.



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 qualified Walk Leaders. Walks last up to an hour, and are about 1 mile long.

For more information visit www.testvalley.gov.uk (community and leisure pages).

Walk4life is part of the Change4life movement that has been set up to encourage families to eat well, be more active and live longer. On www.walk4life.info you can search, download,

walk 4 life record and map walking routes in your local area.



The **Defra country walks** scheme provides for new permissive access. Visits are normally free of charge and the new access is usually available for ten years, but you will need to check the 'access ends' date on each site.

There are at least 26 of these walks in Test Valley.

<http://cwr.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Module=CountryWalks&County=HAMPSHIRE>

Linking the wonderful open spaces of forests and nature reserves within the Borough is a network of rights of way. These range from informal tracks to our four **long distance walks**:

Test Way runs 44 miles from Inkpen Beacon in the north down to Eling on Southampton Water.

www3.hants.gov.uk/longdistance/testway.htm

Clarendon Way, a 24 mile walk between Winchester and Salisbury cathedrals.

www3.hants.gov.uk/longdistance/clarendon-way.htm

Monarch's Way, a long-distance footpath that follows the escape route taken by King Charles II in 1651 after being defeated at the Battle of Worcester.

Brenda Parker Way a 78 mile long distance path which is broken into nine sections and crosses the rich and diverse north Hampshire countryside between the towns of Aldershot and Andover.

www.brendaparkerway.hampshire.org.uk

www.northhampshiredownramblers.org.uk



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.org.uk

**Romsey, Telephone 023 80 731279, email: tom.radford@hotmail.co.uk,
www.romseynet.org.uk/ramblers/ramblers.htm**

In Hampshire, www.hampshirerambblers.org.uk

Nationally, Telephone 020 7339 8500, or 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.

Acknowledgements:

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Produced by David Gleave, TVBC

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