

Dean to Mottisfont & Dunbridge			Salisbury to Dean		
1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check	1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2016	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021	08 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	05 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2024	
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## Dean to Mottisfont & Dunbridge (or from Salisbury)

**Start:** Dean Station

**Finish:** Mottisfont & Dunbridge station

Dean Station, map reference SU 256 270, is 12 km east south east of Salisbury, 22 km north west of Southampton, 39m above sea level, and in **Wiltshire**, right on the boundary with Hampshire; Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station, map reference SU 318 261, is 6 km east of Dean Station, 26m above sea level and in **West Hampshire**.

**Length:** 27.7 km (17.2 mi), of which 6.9 km (4.3 mi) on tarmac or concrete.

**Cumulative ascent/descent:** 438/451m.

For a shorter walk, see below **Walk Options**.

**Toughness:** 7 out of 10

**Time:** 6 ½ hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 11 ½ hours.

**Transport:** Dean and Mottisfont & Dunbridge stations are on the Bristol Temple Meads to Southampton Central (via Salisbury) Wessex Main Line. Journey times to Dean are from 108 minutes Monday to Saturday (hourly service in each direction: either changing at Salisbury or at Southampton Central) and from 120 minutes Sundays. Journey times from Mottisfont & Dunbridge are from 110 minutes Monday to Saturday and from 118 minutes Sundays. Buy a Mottisfont & Dunbridge return.

**Saturday Walkers' Club:** Take a train no later than 9.20 hours.

**OS Explorer Map:** 131 (Romsey, Andover & Test Valley)

**OS Landranger Map:** 184 (Salisbury & The Plain) and 185 (Winchester & Basingstoke)

### Walk Notes:

This walk explores woods and rolling chalk hills in the Dun, Wallop Brook and Test Valleys of remote West Hampshire. Rising out of the Dun Valley through varied woods and along field boundaries and farm tracks (some tarmacked), the walk takes on a very different aspect upon approaching the steep sided chalk downs near Broughton, with splendid views north east across the Wallop Brook valley. After lunch in Broughton you follow the rim of the wide valley south easterly to cross the meadows of the Test River, Hampshire's longest and finest chalk stream. The Test – popular with swimmers in the summer – is a prominent feature of the afternoon, as its several arms are crossed twice.

In between you climb again, up to the hills along the easterly side of the Test Valley, walk through some quiet woods and past scenic side valleys to then steeply descend back to the Test Meadows. The finish is through the NT-owned Mottisfont Estate, past Mottisfont Abbey, a historical priory, and its grounds, as well as the 12<sup>th</sup> century St. Andrews church, one of the few Grade I-listed churches (on a short diversion).

A shorter route, cutting out parts of the afternoon, is described.

An alternative start from Salisbury broadly follows the Clarendon Way and enables a visit to the New Art Centre at Roche Court, an art gallery & sculpture park, en route.

### Walk Options:

A **Shortcut** reduces the walk by 5.1 km (3.2 mi), the ascent/descent by 111m and the rating to **5/10**.

**Bus 16** (Houghton to Winchester) stops in Broughton, Houghton and King's Somborne (Mon-Sat only, with a lunchtime service and a late afternoon service (the latter on Sat only!)).

You can **start from Mottisfont & Dunbridge**, reverse-walk the route to just before Broughton (map-led) and combine it with the shortcut for a **Mottisfont & Dunbridge Circular** (25.5 km, 380m ascent, **6/10** rating), lunch would be in King's Somborne or Houghton.

Both long and short versions of this walk **can be combined with** the afternoon route of **SWC 58** (Mottisfont & Dunbridge to Romsey) **to form an epic Dean to Romsey** walk.

**Make a two-day trip of it** by staying at The Mill Arms in Dunbridge and explore Mottisfont Abbey & Gardens and walk – all or part of – SWC 58 on the second day.

**Start in Salisbury**, broadly following the waymarked **Clarendon Way** to where it crosses the walk route, **just before Broughton**, and pick up the walk there (adds 9.5 km/5.9 mi and 20m ascent), or finish in Dean (24.9 km/15.5 mi; 6 out of 10). This route allows an extension to the **New Art Centre at Roche Court** (adds another 2.9 km/1.8 mi). Pitton and Winterslow, the lunch stops on this route, are served by buses 87, 88, PR7 (Salisbury – Winterslow). See pages 11-16 for directions.

### Lunch

**Salisbury Start** (details last updated 19/09/2024)

**The Silver Plough** White Hill, Pitton, *Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 1DU* (01722 712 266, <http://silverplough-pitton.co.uk/>). The Silver Plough is located 8.9 km (5.6 mi) into the Salisbury Start Option of the walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-21.00 Mon- Fri and all day Sat-Sun.

**The Lord Nelson Arms** Middleton, Winterslow, *Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 1QS* (01980 862 218, <http://www.the-lord-nelson.co.uk/>). The Nelson is located 250m off-route, 12.9 km (8.0 mi) into the Salisbury Start Option of the walk. Open 17.00-23.00 Tue, 12.00-14.30 and 17.00-23.00 Wed-Fri, all day Sat and 12.00-17.30 Sun. Lunch served 12.00-14.00 Wed-Sat Sat and 12.00-15.00 Sun.

**Main Walk** (details last updated 10/06/2024)

**The Black Horse** The Village, West Tytherley, *Salisbury, Hampshire, SP5 1NF* (01794 340 308, <http://theblackhorsewesttytherley.com/>). The Black Horse is located 5.4 km (3.4 mi) into the walk. Open Wed-Sat 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-22.00 and Sun 12.00-19.00. Food served Wed-Sat 12.00-14.00 and 18.00-21.00 and Sun 12.00-14.30.

**The Greyhound Inn** 2 High Street, Broughton, *Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 8AA* (01794 501 387, <https://greyhoubroughton.co.uk/>). The Greyhound Inn is located 11.4 km (7.1 mi) into the walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.00 and 18.00-21.00 Mon-Fri, 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-21.00 Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun.

**The Tally Ho! Inn** The High Street, Broughton, *Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 8AA* (01794 301 280). The Tally Ho! is located 11.4 km (7.1 mi) into the walk. **The pub is currently closed!**

**The Boot Inn** Houghton, *Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6LH* (01794 388 310, <http://thebootinn-houghton.co.uk/>). The Boot Inn is located 1.2 km off-route, 16.3 km (10.1 mi) into the full walk. Open Tue-Fri 11.00-15.30 and 17.30-23.00, Sat 11.00-23.00 and Sun 12.00-16.00. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-20.30 Tue-Fri, 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-21.00 Sat and 12.00-14.30 Sun.

**The Crown Inn** Romsey Road, King's Somborne, *Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6PW* (01794 388 360, <https://www.thecrownks.co.uk/>). The Crown Inn is located 17.7 km (11.1 mi) into the full walk. Open Tue-Thu 12.00-15.00 and 17.30-22.30 and all day Fri-Sun. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 17.30-20.30 Tue-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun.

**Tea** (details last updated 10/06/2024)

**At Mottisfont Abbey & Gardens** (ticketed entry, free for National Trust members)

Mottisfont, Romsey, *Hampshire, SO51 0LP* (01794 340 757, <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont>)  
The Abbey and Gardens are located 1.6 km (1.0 mi) from the end of all walk options.

Open 10.00-17.00 (-16.00 in winter), but late openings for selected days during rose season!

**The Old Kitchen Café** is located in the Victorian kitchens of the historic house. Choose from a varied lunch menu, all served on china. The Old Kitchen is licensed and offers outdoor seating in summer.

**Coach House Café** – located in the stables – is perfect for light lunches, snacks and treats, to eat in or take away, including cakes and drink. Everything is served on compostable or recyclable tableware.

**Ice Cream Horsebox** Open on sunny days only.

**The Pizza Post** Open during rose season.

**Walled Garden Kiosk** Open at peak times only and an ideal spot to sit outside and enjoy light bites.

### In Dunbridge

**The Mill Arms Inn** Barley Hill, Dunbridge, *Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 0LF* (01794 340 401, <https://www.millarmsdunbridge.co.uk/>). The Mill Arms is a 19<sup>th</sup> century inn with flagstone floors, oak beams, open fire, conservatory and a three-tiered garden. President Carter once stayed here. Open all day every day. Food served Mon-Fri 12.00-14.30 and 17.30-20.30, Sat 12.00-20.30 and Sun 12.00-16.00.

## **Notes:**

### **River Dun**

The River Dun flows through the counties of Wiltshire and Hampshire. It rises in Wiltshire to the south-east of Salisbury near West Grimstead, and flows east into Hampshire before joining the River Test at Kimbridge, ultimately draining to the Solent. Its valley is followed by the Salisbury to Southampton railway.

### **Dean Hill Park**

The Royal Naval Armaments Depot Dean Hill began life in 1938 as Britain prepared against the threat of war. The MOD requisitioned more than 500 acres of farmland to build a centre to store heavy weapons for the Navy fleet based at Portsmouth. Over three years, bands of Irish miners and Scottish fitters, aided by local labourers, hewed vast bunkers into the chalk hillside and built dozens of sturdy brick and concrete workshops, laboratories and offices across the site. After the end of WWII the depot continued to process and store conventional weapons and provided overflow storage for more sophisticated weapons. It closed in 2004. The new owners renamed the site Dean Hill Park and began the demilitarisation of it, converting buildings for civilian use and returning most of the site to conservation and agricultural management.

### **West Tytherley**

Whilst the Romans cut a swathe through the north of this parish with a road from Old Sarum to Winchester, there is little evidence that they dwelt here. The first definite record of a hamlet in this area is in the Domesday Book when it was designated as Tuderleg. The name *Tytherley* probably derives from the Anglo-Saxon, meaning 'young wood'.

### **Saint Peter's Church, West Tytherley and Frenchmoor**

St. Peter's sits on a hill with commanding views of the surrounding countryside. It is a brick and flint building whose Georgian appearance belies the construction date of 1833 (replacing the dilapidated old church a little lower down the hill). The complex Purbeck marble medieval font survived from the earlier church. The large flamboyant gesturing angel by the entrance porch is in memory of the Baring family, long-time owners of nearby Norman Court and the whole manor. One of the three bells is from 1260 and is reputedly the oldest bell in the world (for full circle ringing)! – restored to working order a few years ago.

### **Monarch's Way**

The Monarch's Way is a waymarked linear 990 km (615 mi) long-distance footpath in England that approximates the escape route taken by King Charles II in 1651 after being defeated in the Battle of Worcester. It runs from Worcester via Bristol and Yeovil to Brighton. The waymark is yellow and shows a picture of the ship *The Surprise* above the Prince of Wales's three-point feathered crown which is superimposed on a Royal Oak tree (which is at Boscobel House) in black.

### **Clarendon Way**

The Clarendon Way is a waymarked linear 43 km (27 mi) footpath in Hampshire and Wiltshire running between Winchester and Salisbury Cathedrals (the waymark is a Bishop's mitre on green and white discs). It spends a great deal of time on high ground, the main descent being to cross the Test Valley, while also passing through large areas of woodland, especially at the western end. The trail receives its name from the ruins of Clarendon Palace, which is situated above Salisbury. The ruins of the once-expansive palace are insubstantial, but the views are superb. History abounds, from the Civil War defences of Oliver's Battery above Winchester to a long stretch of the old Roman Road that ran between Winchester and Old Sarum. The trail forms a natural extension to the South Downs Way, which ends at Winchester.

### **Broughton Down Nature Reserve**

Broughton Down is an unimproved chalk downland with a steep chalk ridge providing fine views over the Test Valley. The down is fringed by mature woodland including impressive stands of beech at its eastern end, and a small wooded dry valley. Typical plants include horseshoe vetch and frog orchids. Large numbers of butterflies live here and include species such as chalk hill blue and dark green fritillary. Special features are an ancient drove way and a round barrow known as "Plum Pudding".

### **River Test**

The Test is 64 km (40 mi) long and flows through downland from its source near Ashe, 10 km west of Basingstoke, to its estuary at Southampton, where it converges with the River Itchen to form Southampton Water. It is Hampshire's longest and finest chalk stream, world famous for its superb trout fishing.

### **Wallop Brook**

... is a tribute of the River Test, rising in Over Wallop and flowing through the other Wallops (Middle and Nether), Broughton, Houghton and Bossington. The name derives from the Old English words 'waella' (stream) and 'hop' (valley). The area around the confluence of Wallop Brook and River Test is considered the birthplace of dry fly fishing.

### **St Mary's Church and Columbarium (Dovecote), Broughton**

St. Mary's church is an idyllic 12<sup>th</sup> Century church, with a circular 13<sup>th</sup> century dovecote, sometimes known as a Columbarium (the Latin for pigeon or dove being 'columba') in its ground. The Dovecote would have

been gifted from the manor house for the provision of meat, with the droppings being a valuable fertilizer. Its interior is filled with 482 nesting boxes. A revolving ladder is needed to gain access - the only one in Hampshire and one of only four in the whole of England. The present brick built dovecote dates from the period of William and Mary (1639-1702), but it is known that there was an earlier one dated from 1341.

### **John of Gaunt's Deer Park**

Lying between King's Somborne and the River Test, is the John of Gaunt Deer Park where John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster and brother of the Black Prince, had a palace and regularly hunted in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Remnants of a building in King's Somborne, are sometimes referred to as "King John's Palace". O'Gaunt was a member of the House of Plantagenet, the third surviving son of King Edward III of England and Philippa of Hainault. He was called "John of Gaunt" because he was born in Ghent, then rendered in English as *Gaunt*. Due to some generous land grants, John was one of the richest men in his era.

### **The Test Way**

...is a waymarked 73 km (46 mi) long-distance walking route, taking you from the chalk downs at Inkpen along the Test Valley to Eling where its tidal waters flow into Southampton Water. The route features some very picturesque villages, water meadows, tidal marshes, steep hills and peaceful woodlands.

### **Michelmersh Court**

Michelmersh Court is a former rectory in the village of Michelmersh. A Grade II\* listed building, it is now a private house. Built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was altered and extended in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was bought by the broadcaster David Frost in the 1980s. He hosted such people as Margaret Thatcher and former United States President George H. W. Bush. The name Michelmersh is derived from the Old English *micel* + *mersc*, meaning 'large marsh'.

### **Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens**

Mottisfont Abbey is a historical priory and country estate. Sheltered in the valley of the River Test, the property is now operated by the National Trust. About 200,000 people visit each year. The site includes the historic house museum, regular changing art exhibitions, gardens (including a famous walled rose garden) and a river walk. Much of the surrounding land, which is part of the Estate, and some 64 houses in the surrounding villages are also in the care of the National Trust.

Originally an Augustinian priory founded in 1201, the word "Abbey" was added to the name by an 18<sup>th</sup> century owner, but is a misnomer. It is believed that the name was considered more romantic than the historically-correct "Priory". Mottisfont was converted into a house by William Sandys, Henry VIII's Lord Chamberlain, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. He turned the church nave into the main body of the new mansion, building additional wings on either side. The building was extensively altered in the 1740s by an unidentified architect for Sir Richard Mill. In 1934 it was sold to a great-grandson of the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Bedford, Gilbert Russell, who – with his wife Maud – rearranged the interior, and commissioned a series of trompe-l'oeil murals from Rex Whistler in 1938-9. Whistler's murals imitate Gothic plasterwork and can be seen in the drawing room. There is also a groin-vaulted 13<sup>th</sup> century cellarium.

Maud Russell was passionate about art; she commissioned many pieces for her homes. She gifted the house and grounds to the National Trust in 1957, although continuing to live there until 1972. When she moved out most of the art and furniture was sold; the rooms are now furnished with antique pieces similar to those she owned. Also on display is a significant part of Derek Hill's collection of early 20<sup>th</sup> century artwork.

A new Welcome Centre and Coach House Café have been opened in February 2016.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont>

### **Mottisfont**

The unusual name is probably derived from the Old English motes funta, meaning 'spring near the confluence' or 'spring of the moot' or possibly 'spring of the stone'.

### **St Andrew's Church, Mottisfont**

St. Andrew's is one of the few Grade-I listed churches, with a red tiled roof and squat bell tower and has been described as 'a jewel among Hampshire village halls'. It is 12<sup>th</sup> century, built of flint and rubble, containing some of the oldest and finest stained glass in the county and a rare 17<sup>th</sup> century clock with no face and no pendulum, similar to a larger one to be seen in Salisbury Cathedral and in working order.

### **Mottisfont & Dunbridge Railway Station**

...is the second least frequently used station in Hampshire, serving the village of Dunbridge on the Wessex Main Line. The station building is now a privately-owned residence. It is the closest railway station to Mottisfont Abbey and the village of Mottisfont, and the station was renamed Mottisfont & Dunbridge in 2006 to reflect this. It was previously known simply as 'Dunbridge'. Mottisfont used to have a station of its own on the Andover to Romsey line, known as 'The Sprat and Winkle Line', which closed in 1964. From 2007 a new service began to serve Mottisfont & Dunbridge, from Salisbury to Southampton Central, via Romsey. An excellent brochure explaining the sights along this line can be found here:

<https://threeriversrail.com/publications/>

## WALK DIRECTIONS

Leave the platform at **Dean Station** and *turn right* along a road in the village of **West Dean**. Ignore a footpath forking left along a driveway and continue along the road. In 120m pass **St. Mary the Virgin Church** and after another 130m *turn right* by a crossing footpath along a car wide gravel track with a hedge on your left. In 70m you walk between rows of tall lime trees and in 125m – at the corner of a red brick wall on the right – views open up across the **Dun Valley** to **Dean Hill Park**, a former Royal Naval Armaments Depot, and the **Dean Hill** ridge behind it. In 210m – in front of the gate to **Park Cottage** – *turn left* through a wooden gate and continue with a footpath signpost along a narrow path through a wood and in 20m **[!]** *fork up left* with another two-way signpost hidden in the trees on the right (ignore the right fork turning right with a fence). In 160m you *fork right* and in 15m *turn left* at the fringe of the wooded strip over a stile and continue along a fenced path with the wood on your left and a barbed wire fence on the right (20°). In 80m pass remnants of a redundant stile and continue along the fenced path and in 150m go through a metal gate into a pasture.

*Veer right* across the field with a yellow marker on a fence post (50°) towards a protruding corner of the boundary tree growth 125m away. Pass the line of trees (concealing a pond) and in 125m in the field corner go through a metal kissing gate or a metal gate to the right to continue along the right-hand boundary of a large field, with views on the left across a dip to **Bentley Woods**. In 125m *turn right* through a metal kissing gate at the end of the wooded field boundary on the right and *veer left* (50°) along a fenced grassy strip, following the fence on the right. In 200m you go through a metal gate into a large field (has been arable, is currently pasture). Cross the field towards its far-right corner, usually without a clear path, but the map suggests you go broadly down the middle, along the brow of the field, and then *veer right* to go under an electricity line. In 320m leave the field through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate onto a tarmac lane by a footpath signpost and *turn left* along it through **Frenchmoor**, a linear hamlet.

In 100m *turn right* with a signpost over a plank bridge and through a wooden gate to continue along a left-hand side fence. In 150m go over a stile into a wood, in 50m *turn right* with a marker post inside the wood and in 75m follow a barbed wire fence to the left, still through trees. In 25m you emerge into a pasture and cross it to a point in a tree line 150m away to the left of a large oak tree (50m to the right of the left corner, 125°). There you cross a plank bridge with a marker post and continue in the same direction through a smaller pasture. In 80m go through a metal gate, cross a bridge over a stream and **[!]** *fork right* through a pasture, in 40m passing a marker post. In 70m cross a bridge over a ditch and in 15m go through a metal gate into another pasture. *Veer left* across the field (due E) towards a metal field gate 160m away in the opposite boundary hedge. Walk through the gate (or a metal gate to its left) and *turn left* at a marked four-way footpath junction (20°) to walk through a couple of pastures along their left-hand boundaries, with a metal gate to go through en route. **Pug's Hole Farm** is away on the right and – after a while – **Upper Frenchmoor Copse** on the left.

In 370m go through a metal gate onto a tarmac driveway and *turn left* along it through the wood. In 230m you cross a byway/bridleway on the opposite fringes of the copse by a house on the right. Continue along the tarmac lane (**Pug's Hole**) for 1.1 km, with some views on the right towards **East Tytherley** village, while passing occasional remote houses and a few farms. 40m after passing the last of the farms (**Lodge Farm** on the OS map) ignore a signposted footpath turning left over a stile into a pasture. In 75m *fork right* at a triangular green and follow **Red Lane** towards **West Tytherley** village. In 200m ignore a left turning footpath along a tarmac driveway and in 15m continue in the same direction along **Church Lane** at a bend.

In 10m you pass **Saint Peter's Church, West Tytherley and Frenchmoor** and in 140m *turn right* at a junction with **Dean Road/The Village** (a bridleway joins from opposite along a gravel driveway), initially along the pavement. Ignore ways off and in 220m pass the early lunch stop **The Black Horse** on your left, 60m before the **Village Shop** (open every day). In another 50m *turn right* up **Chalkpit Lane**, just after passing the thatched **Jessam Cottage**. In 130m you have the chalkpit below on your left (now used for horse stables) and in 380m you *turn left* with the tarmac lane and a bridleway signpost on the left, where a car wide gravel track continues in the same direction between trees. In 200m you pass a white timber-framed house on your left and in 40m continue in the same direction along a narrow earthen path between trees (some of this often-muddy track can be circumvented using a narrow path up on the right). In just short of 1 km pass **Stoney Batter Barns** on your right and then continue in the same direction at a fork in the driveway, to the left of a small triangular green. *Turn left* along **Stoney Batter Lane**. In 360m cross a road at a T-junction and walk along a signposted byway between hedges. In 700m [en route, after 300m, you cross the course of a **Roman Road (Old Sarum to Winchester)**, where there is a field boundary hedge in the field on the right at a right angle] continue in the same direction at a four-way junction of bridleways (the **Monarch's Way** (MW) and the **Clarendon Way** (CW) are crossing), through a dip and with undulating fields to the sides.

\*) In 410m you [!] *turn right* through an unmarked weighted wooden kissing gate into **Broughton Down Nature Reserve (Access Land)** and follow a clear path through an initially narrow grassy strip, still uphill (50°). In 160m *fork left* along an indistinct path through the grass towards the middle of the – now wider – fenced area and in 50m (at a crosspaths) ignore wooden kissing gates away to the left and right. In 40m you *turn down to the right* (due E) along any of several paths to walk through a deep cut and continue with a wooded strip on your right. In 30m you *veer right* with the wooded strip and in 100m walk to the right of a **Round Barrow**, locally known as "**Plum Pudding**" (a perfect picnic spot, with far views across this part of the **Test Valley**, with the Test tributary the **Wallop Brook** flowing through it, and with the lunch destination **Broughton** at the bottom of the valley – and a large solar panel farm beyond it).

In 40m walk through a wooden kissing gate and continue with the wood on your right and the valley below on your left. In 170m *fork right* towards the wood to stay at the higher level (**for the energetic walker**: the path straight ahead descends through a steep dry valley, re-ascends on the other side, and re-joins the route 360m along it). In 50m walk through a wooden kissing gate and in 20m *turn left* through the wooded strip, along a narrow path. In 30m you can fork either way:

- **to the right**: follow a narrow path along the upper fringe of the wood (**Smith's Plantation** on the OS map), in 150m go through a wooden gate and in another 110m a path joins a little on the left through a wooden kissing gate (the **steep dry valley route**); in 200m you emerge on a car wide bridleway and *turn down left* along it, in 75m you *turn left* at a T-junction with a broader track (a signposted byway) and in 50m a footpath joins from the left out of the trees.
- **to the left**: in 150m walk through a wooden kissing gate, in 110m a path joins on the left through another wooden kissing gate (the **steep dry valley route**), in 70m you ignore a faint path turning left down the wood's fringe at a footpath marker post and continue in the same direction along a narrow path through the trees (**Smith's Plantation** on the OS map) to in 160m emerge through a gap to the left of a large tree (with a footpath marker on the back of a fence post) on a car wide byway and *turn down left* along it.

You have **left the Access Land**. In 100m a footpath joins from the left, just before the track turns further down to the right, and in 370m you *turn down to the left* at a three-way junction of car wide tracks into **Broughton** (with some peculiar concrete seats on

your left, another potential picnic spot). In 10m the track continues as a tarmac lane (**Buckholt Road**). In 500m you *turn right* at a T-junction with **Salisbury Road** (the **B3084**). In 40m *turn left* along **Queenwood Road**. In 250m *turn right* along **High Street**, by **The Greyhound Inn** on the right, a **bus stop for services to Winchester** a little further along and **The Tally Ho! Inn** 35m further (**currently closed**).

Turn into the churchyard of **St. Mary's Church, Broughton** along a path about midway between the two pubs and continue around the left-hand side of the church. At the corner of the church building (and with **Broughton House** visible across a meadow a little to the right) you *turn left* along a gravel path. In 40m pass the large brick built circular **Columbarium (dovecote)** and in 40m go through a metal gate onto a tarmac lane, where you *turn right*. In 200m you cross the **Wallop Brook** on a concrete car wide bridge and in 20m continue in the same direction along a narrow path between two gates to some houses (with a CW and MW marker post). In 50m *turn right* at a signposted three-way footpath junction. In 80m you pass a redundant metal gate and in 300m reach a car wide gravel lane at a T-junction.

**Here you have a choice:**

**For the Shortcut**, *turn right* down the lane (**Dennis's Lane**) and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut**.

**For the main walk**, continue in the same direction (a little to the left) and in 540m *turn right* down a gravel track at a T-junction (an old drove road). In 15m [!] you *turn left* up some steps and continue along the Clarendon Way/Monarch's Way, **without change of direction for 2.3 km**, initially gently uphill towards **Hayter's Copse** (on the OS map), then through a dip and past a farm, all the time along the rim of this wide valley and eventually with far views out into the **Test Valley** and the Downs beyond it. Just after passing some houses on the right, on the fringes of Houghton Village, and 70m before reaching a road at a T-junction, a signposted footpath turns left along a field boundary.

**Here you have a choice:**

**For a diversion to The Boot Inn** (adds 1.7 km) and a **bus stop for services to Winchester**, *turn left* with the signpost with trees on your right and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Diversion to The Boot Inn**.

**For the Walk Route**, continue in the same direction to then *turn left* along the road (a **bus stop for services to Winchester** is away to the right). In 240m *turn right* with a footpath signpost and **Clarendon Way** and **Monarch's Way** markers to pass a field gate on its right and continue along a car wide gravel track.

**\*\*)** In 150m cross the main arm of the **Test River** over a two-railed arched wooden plank bridge (a popular swimming spot in summer) and in 130m *turn right* at a three-way junction of tracks by **Blacklake Farm** on the left (crossing some – difficult to discern – ditch-and-earth bank remnants belonging to a **Scheduled Ancient Monument** – the former **Park Pale** of **John of Gaunt's Deer Park**). Follow the track through the **Test Meadows** for 700m, crossing a few streams and ditches, and finally the **Park Stream** arm of the Test along the way, until you cross a car wide track, waymarked as the **Test Way**. This is the long dismantled course of the Andover to Redbridge '**Sprat and Winkle**'-Railway. You continue in the same direction uphill along a car wide gravel track. In 440m (after the track has levelled out) a tarmac lane joins from the left and in 90m you *turn right* between hedgerows with a footpath signpost towards the village of **King's Somborne**, leaving the Clarendon Way.

In 500m you continue along a farm track and in 130m cross the **Somborne Stream** on a two-railed car wide bridge. In 50m cross the main road through the village and *turn left* along the opposite pavement. In 120m you reach the village green, with the late lunch stop **The Crown Inn** on your left and **St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Somborne with Ashley** on your right (and a **bus stop for services to Winchester** on the other side). *Turn right* through a metal gate into the churchyard and past the church to leave it in the right-hand corner through a gap in the churchyard wall into a large meadow by a very large info panel on your left (on **John of Gaunt's Palace**). *Turn right* from the info panel along the left-hand edge of the meadow, away from the church. In 100m ignore a wooden kissing gate on the left, and in another 100m walk through a wooden kissing gate into a small grassy area. You *veer right* and in 30m go through a hedge gap into a large arable field, where you *turn left* along its boundary (a signposted bridleway), with houses on your left behind a tall hedge.

In 500m you *turn left* to the side of a metal field gate onto a quiet tarmac lane (**Eldon Road**) and *turn up right* along it. In 200m you – again – cross the course of the **Old Sarum to Winchester Roman Road** (again difficult to spot, just after a solitary tree on the left). You keep on the road, eventually with a wood on your right, and in 780m (from the Roman Road) – **[!]** just as there is a wood on the left as well – *turn right* with a footpath signpost into the wood on your right through a gap to the left of a metal field gate. *Fork left* (220° initially) and ignore all ways off for 550m where you *turn right* at a T-junction with a car wide gravel track and in 90m *turn left* along a tarmac lane at a bend. You now follow the lane (or its grassy verge) down into this very pretty valley with some far views on the right-hand side, and in 900m pass the driveway to **Lower Eldon Farm House** at the bottom of the drop to re-ascend along a gravel lane with a two-way footpath signpost.

In 200m you pass **Lower Eldon Cottage** (1869) on your left and in 35m enter **Strouds Wood** and in 180m pass to the left of a short fence to the left of a metal field gate. In 730m you *turn left* with the track **[!]** but in 30m *turn right* through a couple of metal gates either side of a farm track into **Michelmersh Wood**. In 180m you walk through bike barriers and continue with a high garden fence, then a brick wall, on the left (both belonging to **Michelmersh Court**), and in 210m you emerge on a tarmac lane through a gap to the right of a wooden field gate, with the entrance to Michelmersh Court on your left. In 40m a fenced footpath turns right through a wooden barrier. A 40m detour along the lane to the 12<sup>th</sup> century **St. Mary's Church, Michelmersh and Timsbury** is **recommended**, else *turn right* along the fenced footpath. In 180m you emerge over a stile into a large field and continue in the same direction along its left-hand grassy boundary.

You have far views on this stretch along the **Test Valley** as well as up the **Dun Valley** towards **Dean**, the starting point of this walk. In 120m *turn right* at a footpath T-junction (with a wooden gate on the left) along a wide grassy margin between arable fields. You walk through a dip and in 500m continue in the same direction through a small wood and past some farm buildings to in 170m go through a metal kissing gate and emerge in a field. Follow a signpost and *veer left* along a usually well-cleared path, past an electricity pylon in 40m (with a yellow marker on it) and towards the corner of a wood 110m away (330°). From the corner *veer left* again towards the right-hand end of a row of trees (320°) and in 120m go through a metal gate by a footpath signpost and descend steeply along a potentially slippery metal-railed earth path.

In 130m go through a kissing gate and *veer ever so slightly to the right* through a grassy slope to in 140m *turn left* over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and then cross the **busy A3057**. You walk through a bike barrier and a wooded strip and in 30m cross a tarmac lane (the course of the **dismantled railway line** again) and continue with a footpath signpost and **Test Way** and MW markers along a tarmac lane. In 30m

cross an arm of the **Test River** (the **Park Stream**) on a car wide bridge and in 20m *veer left* along a gravel track between fences where the tarmac driveway turns right towards a house and in 20m go through a metal kissing gate to the left of a wooden field gate ('Please Follow White Posts') and continue through the **Test Meadows** on a clear path (with occasional white-topped posts) for 500m.

Go through a metal kissing gate and over a raised railed plank bridge across a ditch onto a gravel lane to *turn left* along it. In 250m you have a good view of the '**Mottisfont Oak**' (which has a maximum girth of 10 meters and is estimated to be 800-1,100 years old and still thriving) on your right, just before another scenic crossing of an arm of the **Test River** (the **Oakley Stream**). You continue in the same direction along a tarmac lane and in 60m – by **Oakley Farm** on your right – a footpath turns left through the hedges. The lane coming towards Oakley Farm is the Shortcut. *Turn left* with **Monarch's Way**, **Test Way** and **Mottisfont Estate Path** markers.

\*\*\* ) Follow a fenced path along the fringes of the grounds of **Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens** (after a few right turns you have views on the left over or through the hedge to **Mottisfont Abbey** itself) and in 680m *turn left* along **Oakley Road** into **Mottisfont** village. In 200m you have Mottisfont Abbey's red brick walled **rose garden** on your left and in 160m - where **Bengers Lane** joins from the right and the historic entrance gate to Mottisfont Abbey is on your left – you continue in the same direction. In 90m (the road is now called **Mottisfont Lane**) you *turn right* through a grassy area and in 40m go through a metal gate to the left of the left of two metal field gates into a pasture and community orchard.

[**Unless you want to have a look at** the 12<sup>th</sup> century **St Andrew's Church** and have **more views of Mottisfont Abbey Gardens**: In 70m *turn left* with **Church Lane** at a three-way junction, in 40m pass a staff car park on the left and in 65m reach the driveway to **St. Andrew's Church** (visited later) on your right. Continue along the road for 150m to a bridge over an arm of the **River Test** with views of **Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens** on your left. Re-trace your steps to the church and *turn left* for a visit and then back along **Church Lane** to the three-way road junction, where you continue in the same direction along the minor lane and in 300m *turn left* with a footpath signpost. Pick up the directions two sentences along: 'In 20m *turn right*...'.]

*Bear left* across the field between lines of newly planted trees and in 230m leave it through a metal gate by **Mottisfont Estate Path marker stone 5**. You now cross a tarmac path and continue between hedge and fence, with a footpath signpost and a sign for 'Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station'. In 20m *turn right* through a wooden barrier in a hedge gap into a large arable field and cross it along a usually well-cleared path, diagonally to the left end of a row of trees (215°). In 280m you walk through a wooden kissing gate into a sloping meadow above the **Dun Valley**, with **Dunbridge Hill** on the other side a little to the right, beyond **Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station**. *Veer right* towards the far bottom corner and in 230m leave the field through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a double metal field gate by a signpost for 'Footpath towards Mottisfont Abbey & Village Centre' and a Mottisfont Estate marker stone.

*Turn left* along **Hatt Hill** road's pavement. In 60m you cross the **River Dun** and in 80m reach the station, with the tea stop **The Mill Arms Inn** another 50m along the road. For London bound trains you need to change at either Salisbury (far platform) or Southampton Central (near platform).

## Shortcut

**(cut 5.1 km, 111m of ascent/descent but add 225m to the tarmac count)**

**Lunch is in West Tytherley or Broughton**

In 120m *turn left* along a road at a T-junction, in 140m ignore a footpath turning right over a stile to the left of a wooden field gate and in 500m *turn right* with the road, where a car wide gravel lane joins down from the left (an old drove road). In 250m you cross the **Wallop Brook** on a footbridge to the left of a ford to then cross a road and continue in the same direction up a tarmac lane called '**Hollow**', ignoring footpaths off to the right and left. In 170m this continues as an earth track between trees. In 260m – at a three-way fork – you take **[!]** the middle option, a narrow footpath (soon uphill) with trees on the left and a field on the right behind a fence, i.e.: ignore the two bridleways: the left fork along a field boundary and the right fork between trees. Ascend the lightly wooded valley wall (**Honeycomb** on the OS map), in 400m ignore a Permissive Path from the right, where the path levels out, and in 200m cross a tarmac lane (on the course of the **Roman Road** crossed before lunch) to continue in the same direction with a wood on your left and a field on your right.

In 200m you cross the **B3084** a little to the left and continue in the same direction (signposted 'Footpath to East Tytherley, Romsey'), initially with trees on both sides, but in 40m with a field on the right. You follow this – sometimes narrow, other times wide – path for 1.2 km, almost always with undulating fields on the right and some trees on the left, sometimes between trees, until you get to a four-way footpath junction at a car wide farm track (100m after walking under an electricity line). *Turn left* along the car wide gravel track through a shallow valley to the left of a line of a few oak trees. In 430m *turn left* at a three-way junction of farm tracks and in 200m pass **Little Bentley Farm** on your right (the driveway continues as tarmac). In 180m continue in the same direction through a hedge gap into a large arable field (where the driveway turns left) and cross the field towards the right-hand corner of a narrow, wooded strip protruding into the field on the opposite side (140°). In 400m continue in the same direction along the right-hand side boundary of that narrow, wooded strip and in 240m in the far-left corner of this part of the field leave it through a hedge gap and over a stile.

Cross a large field more or less in the same direction, gently uphill, to the left corner of a red brick house in the upper right-hand field corner. In 340m you go over a stile in a hedge (just to the left of that house) to follow a fenced path around to the left to reach a road in 20m (again the **B3084**, here called **Jerrem's Hill**). *Turn up to the right* along it but in 55m *turn left* off the road with a footpath signpost along a car wide track into **Great Copse** (on the OS map). In 40m walk through a gap to the left of a metal barrier and in another 40m *fork left* along a forest path with a footpath marker post, away from the car wide track (65°). Follow this narrow but clear path down through the wood, ignoring all ways off for 550m and leave the wood through a metal gate. Continue through a grassy area with a stream on the left and a barbed wire fence on the right.

In 190m **[!]** *continue in the same direction* over a stile in a fence with a footpath marker where the path turns up to the right between fences and walk through a wooded area. In 135m go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction along a left-hand field boundary, with **Claygate Copse** up on a rise on the right. In 220m you leave the field over a stile 20m to the right of the left field corner, walk through a wooded strip and in 20m *turn right* along a tarmac lane. In 280m *turn left* through a double metal field gate and along a gravel lane for 30m to continue in the same direction at a field corner along a wide track with a high fence around some trees on your right. In 240m *turn right* along a car-wide track through trees (10m after ignoring a right turning track to the right of this wood). Follow this track through **Queenmeadow Copse**, an oak woodland with an understorey of coppiced hazel.

The track makes a left-and-right turn and in 550m you leave the wood on the other side to continue between hedges. In 150m go through a gap to the right of a double metal field gate and *turn left* along a tarmac lane. In 200m – by **Oakley Farm** on the left – *turn right* through a hedge gap with **Monarch's Way**, **Test Way** and **Mottisfont Estate Path** markers (**but first** you may want to *continue in the same direction* for 60m to a bridge over the **Test River** for a scenic spot, and also a view of the 'Mottisfont Oak,' which has a maximum girth of 10 meters, is estimated to be 800-1000 years old and still thriving). The lane across the Test River is the **Main Walk**.

Pick up the directions in the main text at the triple asterisk \*\*\*).

### **Diversion to The Boot Inn**

Continue in the same direction for 800m (crossing a few driveways and a tarmac lane along the way) until you reach a T-junction of footpaths. *Turn left*, now with a wire fence on your right. In 150m *turn right* at a corner of the fence on your right along a narrow path (ignore the footpath continuing in the same direction). In 100m emerge on a tarmac lane (**Church Lane**) by a footpath signpost, opposite **All Saints Church, Houghton** and *turn right* along it to reach the recommended lunch pub **The Boot Inn** in 170m at a road T-junction. With the pub behind you, *turn left* along the road pavement back through **Houghton** village and follow the road for 750m. *Turn left* with a footpath signpost with **Clarendon Way** and **Monarch's Way** markers and pass to the right of a metal field gate and continue along a car wide gravel track.

Pick up the directions in the main text at the double asterisk \*\*).

### **Salisbury Start (add 9.5 km/5.9 mi and 220m ascent)**

Alight from the train in **Salisbury Station** and exit the station into the large car park. *Turn right* along the station building and in 50m *turn left* along a red-bricked pedestrian path through the car park. In 25m go down a ramp, cross **Churchfields Road** and *turn left* along the opposite pavement. In 130m *turn right* at a mini-roundabout, follow the road around to the left, cross a road to **Fisherton Island**, and in 50m [!] continue in the same direction along a tarmac path into a park, where the road curves left. In 60m ignore a bridge across **The Nadder River** on the right and *turn left* instead. In 25m *turn right* along a tarmac path through the park towards **Salisbury Cathedral's** tower, but follow the path curving left through a meadow and in 120m *turn right* across a two-railed wooden bridge over a side-arm of **The Avon River**. *Turn right* immediately after the bridge and follow a tarmac path along the Avon arm, then The Nadder, to its confluence with the main arm of The Avon in 150m.

Continue along the path with the Avon on your right and in 200m *turn right* at a T-junction with **Crane Bridge Road** over a road bridge across The Avon. In 120m *turn left* along the pedestrianised **High Street** at a four-way junction (the right turn here leads to the Cathedral). In 80m *turn right* along the pavement of **New Canal** (road) at a bend. Continue in the same direction for 500m, crossing a couple of roads along the way, and then go under **Milford Street Bridge** (carrying the A36) with its Jubilee Mural (there is an info panel on the murals on the left-hand side just before the bridge). Cross another road on the other side of the bridge and continue in the same direction along the left-hand pavement of **Milford Hill**. In 200m, near the top of the rise, *veer right* to cross over a roundabout at a four-way road junction and continue by *veering left* (due

E) along a signposted tarmac footpath between black bollards (**Milford Hollow**). In 280m you cross the **Salisbury – Southampton railway line** on a two-railed bridge and in another 160m cross **Manor Farm Road/Shadt Bower** at a T-junction and continue in the same direction along the right hand side pavement of **Milford Mill Road** (with a **Clarendon Way** (CW) sticker on a lamp post in about 30m).

In 200m you cross **The River Bourne** on the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, Grade I-listed **Milford Mill Bridge** (the mill house is visible on the left through some trees) and on the other side by a very good info panel on the history of Milford, continue in the same direction along **Queen Manor Road** (a cul-de-sac), ignoring the right turning main road as well as a new tarmac path to its right. The road gently ascends between high earth banks, as you ignore a couple of left turning lanes into a housing estate, and in 300m, just after the last left turn (Potters Way), you cross a signed bridleway and continue along a tarmac lane (a restricted byway). In 80m you get views on the right by a hedge gap across the Avon Valley, just after the surface has turned to gravel. In 370m ignore an unmarked footpath along an earth track forking left, to continue on tarmac towards a white metal field gate. Ignore an unmarked footpath turning right just before the gate and continue in the same direction through a wooden gate to the left of the field gate with a CW sign and a footpath marker on the gate through **Ranger's Lodge Farm** (on the OS map). The tarmac lane continues past the farmyard and in 320m you **[!]** *veer right* a little into an arable field with a low marker post, where the lane bears to the left.

Cross the field along a usually well-cleared path (80°) with a curving ridge away to the right, in 100m walk under an electricity line and in another 300m (you get good views back here of the Cathedral spire), leave the field past a couple of marker posts and *bear right* along a gravel car wide track ascending **King Manor Hill**. In 370m, **[!]** *turn left* along an easy-to-miss steep chalky path up an earth bank and turn right through the growth on top of it for 20m **to a pub bench, an excellent viewpoint for Salisbury Cathedral!** Go back to the gravel lane and continue uphill. In 300m, where the lane turns right, you *fork left* along a car wide grassy track towards a wooden field gate and in 30m go through a wooden kissing gate to the left of it into the grounds of the ruins of **Clarendon Palace**. Follow a clear route past three excellent info panels (in 35m, 60m and 60m) along the impressive remnants and after the third one *veer left* and down through the ruined remnants to a fourth panel by the boundary of the fenced area in the former gardens of the palace. From there *turn right* (from the previous direction) along the fence and in 30m *right again* with the fence back up to the higher level and continue to the far-left corner of the fenced area 140m away to a fifth and last info panel. Leave the fenced area in this corner through a wooden kissing gate and *turn right* into a wood (ignore the farm track along the left-hand wood boundary – 'No Public Right Of Way'), in 20m *fork right*, and in 15m *turn left* by a footpath signpost at a T-junction with a track.

In 100m you **[!]** *fork left* with a footpath marker post and a CW sign along a slightly narrower forest track. You follow this path for 1.7 km, ignoring all ways off. Sections can be churned due to forest operations, but it a very pleasant stretch through this varied woodland, part ancient, part plantation. The last 250m or so are a gentle descent, which – once out of the trees – continues along a broad grassy track towards some buildings. In 270m you pass a large barn on its right hand side to in 30m cross a tarmac lane and continue in the same direction with a marker post to the left of **Four Cottages** (on the OS map). The grass path turns right in 50m to continue along the back gardens of the cottages and then along the fringe of **Pitton Copse**. In 430m the path leaves the wood and continues along a grassy margin between arable fields towards the village of **Pitton**. In 250m *turn right* with the path along the fringe of the field on the right and in 120m *turn left* at a T-junction with a tarmac lane into Pitton. In 170m, by a bus stop (Salisbury to Andover), *turn right* at a four-way junction and in 200m reach the recommended lunch stop **The Silver Plough** on your left. For a picnic, there are some benches in front of and behind the village hall on the right.

To continue the walk, you return to the road and *turn left and left again* immediately along a tarmac lane (**The Green**, an unmarked bridleway). You ignore a right turning footpath in 80m and in another 170m cross a signposted footpath on the lane (the CW joins from the left), and in 110m *fork up to the right* along an earthen path, signposted a few metres up it as a bridleway. In 100m you pass the last house on the left and views open up down into the shallow valley below. In 130m, by a house on the right, *veer right* along a gravel lane joining from the left, gently ascending. In 250m the lane levels out and in 20m you have fine views on the left across the valley to **Firsdown** village and the edge of the **Salisbury Plain** beyond it. In 140m, just before the end of the tree line on the right, **[!]** ignore a faint left turning path *just before a perpendicular hedge* on the left, but **[!]** *do turn left* just after the hedge along a permissive path and continue with the hedge on the left and a barbed wire fence on the right (due N). The fence discontinues in 120m and you continue in the same direction along a grassy field margin. In 370m a path joins from the Access Land on the left and in 230m you continue along a farm track between arable fields towards a village with a church tower visible half left. You have **far views in all directions** along this stretch.

In 300m continue in the same direction with a footpath sign between hedges and in 50m *turn left* at a T-junction with a byway (Back Drove) into **West Winterslow**. In 20m cross a road and continue with a footpath signpost along a tarmac drive, then in 20m to the right of the churchyard of **All Saints, Winterslow** church along gravel. In 40m go through a metal kissing gate to the left of a wooden field gate into a pasture to continue along its left hand boundary. In 70m go through a metal kissing gate and down some steps into an adjacent field and continue along its left-hand boundary. In 25m **[!]** ignore a footpath turning right through another metal kissing gate into an arable field and continue in the same direction between hedges. In 20m walk through a metal kissing gate and continue along a grassy path between barbed wire fences (350°). In 200m the path *turns left* at the corner of a wood and in 35m it *turns right* (60°) into the wood (**Hare Warren**), in 20m continuing between barbed wire fences.

In 350m the path turns left, just after it started to descend, and in 40m you pass a metal kissing gate and *turn right* to a T-junction with a car wide chalky track (a byway). The **Monarch's Way** (MW) joins from the left along the track and you *turn right* and uphill along it. The track narrows a little and in 150m a footpath joins from the left. In 200m the path levels out by some field gates on the left and right and in 180m you reach **Middle Winterslow** (famous for its truffle hunters in the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) at a bend of a road to continue in the same direction. In 30m ignore a road turning right to continue in the same direction along **Roman Road**. In 80m you continue in the same direction at a three-way junction along **Middleton Road** (but for **The Lord Nelson**, *turn right* along the road for 250m, then return to this point).

**In another 25m you have a choice:**

**For the extension to Roche Court Sculpture Park**, *turn left* along a driveway to in 10m continue along a narrow path (60°) by a footpath signpost with the garden fence of **The Shieling** on the left and a hedge on the right. Pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Roche Court Diversion**.

**To continue the walk**, follow Middleton Road further through **Middle Winterslow**. In 180m pass a bus stop for services to Salisbury and in 50m, where the road bears right, continue in the same direction along a car wide tarmac lane (**The Causeway**). In 300m you cross a footpath and in 160m, where another footpath joins from the left through a metal kissing gate, you **[!]** *turn left* through the metal kissing gate into a large pasture with CW and MW markers. *Turn right* immediately inside the field to follow its right-hand boundary (effectively continuing in the previous direction). You descend through a dip and aim to the left of an electricity pole up the opposite field slope and for a metal

kissing gate in the opposite field boundary, 320m away on a bearing of 100°. Walk through the gate and continue in the same direction a little to the left at a signposted three-way byway junction, initially on gravel then on tarmac. **The Roche Court Diversion** joins from the left.

**\*)** In 130m at a road junction ignore a footpath turning left and in 100m by a small green ('The Triangle') and a bus stop shelter where the road bears to the right and soon downhill, **[!]** *bear left* with a low byway signpost along the left hand edge of the green to in 40m cross **Mill Lane** and continue in the same direction along **Easton Common Hill** (a gravel lane), a signposted byway with CW and MW markers. For the next 2.6 km you are following the course of the **Old Roman Road** linking Sarum and Winchester.

**But in more detail:** in 75m you pass the last house on the left and now have views across the rolling countryside; in 350m ignore a footpath turning left by **Owls Castle Farmhouse**; in another 100m ignore a right turning footpath where a driveway turns left to **Easton Hill House** and continue in the same direction with a wood on the right (Upper and Lower Noad's Copse); in 1.1 km cross **Buckholt Lane** to continue in the same direction along a tarmac lane; in another 1 km you reach **Buckholt Farm**, cross a tarmac lane and bear a little to the left along an earthen path with a signpost, thereby leaving the course of the Roman Road.

In 60m at the corner of a barn on the left, *bear further left* and in 50m cross a farm track. In 50m walk under a height barrier and continue along a farm track between trees. In 250m you have a small wood on your right and in 700m you reach a signposted four-way junction of bridleways (the main walk route crosses here).

**To pick up the Main Walk**, *turn left* through a dip with undulating fields on both sides and pick up the directions on page 6 in the Main Walk text at the single asterisk **\*)**.

**To reverse-walk the start of the Main Walk to Dean Station** (with a small variation), *turn right* and in 700m continue in the same direction at a road T-junction along **Stony Batter Lane**. In 350m *turn right* by a triangular green along a gravel drive and in 100m pass **Stony Batter Farm** to continue along a narrower path between trees (bluebell-rich in season). In 850m emerge from the trees and pass a cottage on your right to continue along its tarmac drive. In 180m *turn right* with the drive, ignoring a left turning car wide track. This descends into **West Tytherley** where you *turn left* at a T-junction along the main street through the village. You pass the **village shop** (open every day) in 30m and then in 60m **The Black Horse** pub on your right and in another 200m *turn left* along **Church Lane** (signposted 'East Tytherley 1 ½').

In 130m pass **Saint Peter's Church, West Tytherley and Frenchmoor** on your right. In 10m continue in the same direction along **Red Lane**, signposted 'Frenchmoor', where the main road turns left. Ignore a footpath turning up right in 15m and in 200m ignore a left turn (Pug's Hole) to continue along Red Lane, a quiet lane through the linear hamlet of **Frenchmoor**. In 600m continue in the same direction, where the main road turns to the right and a byway turns left along a gravel lane. In 570m ignore a signposted footpath turning left over a railed plank bridge across a ditch. **[!]** In another 110m, by a footpath signpost at the corner of a wood on the right, *turn right* through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate into a large field and *bear left* through it towards a large oak tree (210°; or skirt around the left if without a clear path). In 330m leave the field through a metal gate in the opposite boundary fence (to the left of the oak tree) and continue in the same direction through a narrow pasture along a left-hand barbed wire fence, with fine views into the valley on the right. In 200m in the narrow field corner go through a metal kissing gate and *turn left* along a left-hand field boundary.

In 140m go through a metal gate into another field and follow a usually clear path to the right of a clump of trees 110m away (concealing a pond). In 150m leave the field through a metal gate and continue along a fenced path with a wood on your right. In 150m pass remnants of a redundant stile and follow the fenced path. In 80m go over a stile and *turn right* into the wood. In 15m *veer left* along a narrow but clear path through the wooded strip and follow it downhill. In 160m continue in the same direction by a two-way signpost on the left and in 25m go through a wooden gate and *turn right* along a gravel drive, by **Park Cottage** on your left. Views open up on the left across the **Dun Valley** to **Dean Hill Park**, a former Royal Naval Armaments Depot, and the **Dean Hill** ridge behind it. In 210m you have a red brick wall on the left and in 125m walk between rows of tall lime trees. In 70m *turn left* at a T-junction with **Dean Lane**, down into **West Dean** village. In 130m pass **St. Mary the Virgin Church** and after another 120m you reach **Dean Station**. Southampton bound trains depart from the near platform, Salisbury bound ones from the far platform.

### **Roche Court Diversion (add 2.9 km/1.8 mi and 44m ascent)**

In 75m go through a metal kissing gate into a pasture and continue in the same direction along its right-hand boundary. In 100m ignore a footpath turning right through a metal kissing gate to continue through the field to its far corner and in 40m walk through a metal gate into an adjacent arable field and continue in the same direction along its right-hand boundary. You leave the field in 500m through a fence gap to cross a byway between trees (the suggested return route). Continue in the same direction through the next arable field, usually without a clear path to the opposite field corner and in 150m at the corner continue in the same direction along the left-hand field boundary. In 80m walk through a metal kissing gate in the field corner and continue in the same direction through a smaller pasture. In 60m leave it through a metal kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate onto a tarmac lane and *turn left* along it.

In 35m *turn right* with the main road at a three-way road junction, signed 'Stockbridge', Lopcombe Corner', ignoring **Pincroft Lane** to the left (the return route). In 240m you pass **Roche Court Farm** (on the OS map) and in 125m *turn right* along a drive, signposted 'Roche Court'. In 120m by a lodge on the left, you go through a metal gate to the left of the main car gate into the grounds of the **New Art Centre at Roche Court**. There will be some sculptures on display in the grassy areas on the right and left. In 130m ignore a left turn towards the car park and continue in the same direction towards the house, where – in 120m – you can pick up a map of the grounds and a list of the exhibits on show.

To continue the walk, re-trace your steps to the road and *turn left* along it, the way you came. In 125m ignore a left turn through a metal gate into a field and continue in the same direction along the lane. In 240m continue in the same direction along **Pincroft Lane**, where the main road turns left and in 320m *turn left* along a signposted byway between trees (just before a large water tower in the field on the left). Follow this byway for 1 km, ignoring all ways off: in 570m you cross a signposted public footpath along a concrete lane and in 470m you get to a signposted three-way byway junction. The walk route joins from a little to the right through a metal kissing gate out of a field.

Continue in the same direction along the car wide bridleway, initially on gravel then on tarmac, and pick up the directions in the above **Salisbury Start** text at the asterisk \*).

## Notes:

### Salisbury

Known as 'the city in the countryside', Salisbury is surrounded by a landscape so quintessentially English it's almost too good to be true, with timbered buildings, an Early English Gothic Cathedral home to the famous Magna Carta, a thriving market, a buzzing arts scene, museums and some of England's finest historic houses. Within the celebrated Cathedral Close you'll find Arundells, Mompesson House, The Rifles Military Museum and the award-winning Salisbury Museum with its new Wessex Gallery. The city is located in the southeast of Wiltshire, near the edge of Salisbury Plain. Its cathedral was formerly located to the north at Old Sarum; following its relocation, a settlement grew up around it, drawing residents from Old Sarum and Wilton. The new town received its city charter in 1227 under the name New Sarum, which continued to be its official name until 2009. It sits at the confluence of five rivers: the Nadder, Ebbles, Wylye, and Bourne are tributary to the Hampshire Avon, which flows to the south coast and into the sea at Christchurch in Dorset.

### River Nadder/Vale of Wardour

The River Nadder is one of the chalk streams of southern England, much sought after by fly fishermen because of its clear waters and abundance of brown trout. It is one of the main tributaries of the River Avon, rising from a number of springs and small streams at Donhead St. Mary in south Wiltshire. During the course of its 32 kilometre journey the Nadder meanders and widens gradually until it flows through the park of Wilton House after which the river joins the River Wylye, another tributary of the Avon. For its last few kilometres it passes through the unspoilt water meadows at Harnham on the outskirts of Salisbury, and finally into the River Avon beneath a backdrop of Salisbury Cathedral.

The origin of the name is from Ancient British *nootr*, "flowing water". Folk etymology derives it from the perceived likeness of its meanderings to an adder, the original Middle English name for which was "nadder". The western end of the Nadder valley is called the Vale of Wardour, and is distinguished by outcrops of oolites (limestone formed during the Jurassic period, found predominantly in the Cotswold Hills and on the Isle of Portland). Outcrops of Portland and Purbeck rocks form the high ground north and south of the Nadder and are extensive, especially those of Upper Portland limestone which have been much quarried for building stone. Outcrops of Lower Greensand, Gault, and Upper Greensand form even higher ground to the north and south. The underlying clay has been exposed by the Sem and the Nadder as far east as Tisbury village.

### The (Hampshire) Avon River

The Avon is 96 km (60 mi) long and begins as two separate rivers. The western Avon rises to the east of Devizes, draining the Vale of Pewsey, and the eastern Avon rises just east of Pewsey adjacent to the Kennet and Avon Canal. These two merge at Upavon, flowing southwards across Salisbury Plain through Durrington, Amesbury and Salisbury. To the south of Salisbury it enters the Hampshire Basin, flowing along the western edge of the New Forest before meeting up with the river Stour at Christchurch, to flow into Christchurch Harbour and the Channel at Mudeford.

All the significant direct and indirect tributaries of the Avon, including the Nadder, Wylye, Bourne and Ebbles, converge within a short distance around Salisbury.

The Avon is thought to contain more species of fish than any other river in Britain.

### The River Bourne

The River Bourne is a tributary of the (Hampshire) Avon. The Bourne's source is at the eastern end of the Vale of Pewsey, just south of the village of Burbage to flow south across Salisbury Plain.

### Clarendon Palace

Clarendon Palace is a medieval ruin east of Salisbury. Clarendon Forest was probably in use as a royal hunting ground in the late Saxon period. The palace was the most westerly of the royal medieval residences outside London. Both Henry II and Henry III invested heavily in the property (and the surrounding deer park, which was the largest in England). Usage of the Palace declined and by 1500 the building was no longer being maintained, and in 1574 it was described as a simple hunting lodge. Later abandoned, Clarendon Palace deteriorated, and by the 18<sup>th</sup> century the ruins survived only as a romantic "eye-catcher" in the landscape, and as simple farm buildings.

### New Art Centre at Roche Court

The New Art Centre was founded in 1958. The original gallery was located in Sloane Street, London. In 1994 it was relocated to Roche Court, Wiltshire, a 19<sup>th</sup> century house set in a sloping park surrounded by woods, which are now used as a sculpture park and garden. The existing house and Orangery were built in 1804. There are three contemporary buildings in which there is a changing programme of exhibitions of artists from 1950 to the present day.

A gallery was added to create a space in which to show sculpture and paintings while enhancing the existing buildings. Following the success of the award-winning gallery, its architect was commissioned to design a small house situated in a courtyard. The aim was to provide a contemporary domestic space for the display of smaller works of art. The resulting Artists House was inspired in part by Kettle's Yard, Cambridge. It can be viewed at weekends or by appointment.

The New Art Centre is open daily 11.00-16.00. All works are for sale. <http://sculpture.uk.com/>