

Test Valley TOUR . . .



ROUTE K CIRCULAR WALKING ROUTE





START & FINISH: **WHERWELL SPORTS PAVILION**

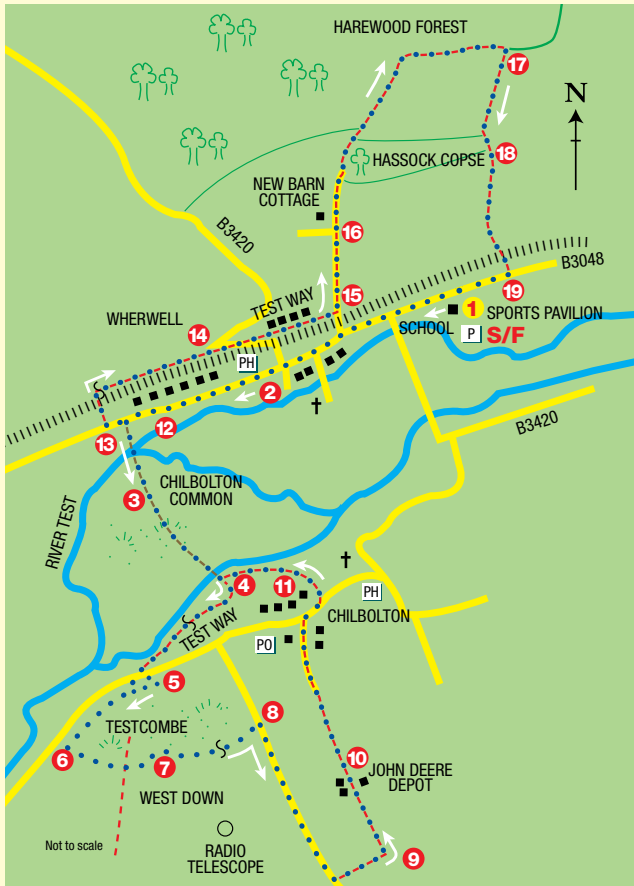
CLASS: **FAMILY**

DISTANCE: **4 - 5.5 MILES**

TIME TO COMPLETE: **2 - 3 HRS**

KEY

-  Route
-  Footpath
-  Bridleway
-  Road
-  Public House
-  Parking
-  Church
-  Wooded Area
-  Disused Railway
-  Stile
-  Start/Finish



INTRODUCTION

The walk in and around the pretty village of Wherwell crosses the River Test and its water meadows. It also offers good views of the radio telescope in the middle of what was a 2nd World War airfield, as the concrete roads and old blast shelters testify. This is an easy walk of 4 miles offering a further 1.5 miles skirting Harewood Forest. The walk is mostly on footpaths and tracks and includes a stretch on the road initially.

REFRESHMENTS

The White Lion, Wherwell
The Abbots Mitre, Chilbolton

Explorer 131

Romsey, Andover and Test Valley

Explorer 132 Winchester

THE NUMBERS ARE SHOWN IN THE SKETCH MAP OVERLEAF.

START: **Wherwell Sports Pavilion**

- 1** From Wherwell sports pavilion turn left and proceed through village.
- 2** In Wherwell, with the White Lion Pub on the right, head along Fullerton Road to the footpath sign on left. Take path over a wooden bridge.
- 3** Follow footpath across Chilbolton Common, crossing the River Test via a wooden footbridge.
- 4** Follow path ahead for a short distance then follow Test Way (TW) sign around to the right and continue straight on past a thatched cottage then along outer edge of playing field. Go through a swing gate and follow right hand edge of the field to the TW footpath to road.
- 5** Cross road and 20 yards to left, follow TW signs along West Down, to seat and viewpoint above river and old railway bridge (the Spratt and Winkle Line).
- 6** Leave TW and head up hill, diagonally across common, ignoring the bridlepath on left of field, through gap between high growths of teasles. Cross concrete road and bear diagonally right across the green to the corner.
- 7** Take first narrow footpath on the left (TV tour sign) between wire fence and hedge offering fine views of the Radio Telescope to the right. At the end of the path continue along metalled road behind houses to the T junction.
- 8** Turn right along the Drove, past Radio Telescope before turning left along bridleway (signed 'Private Road').
- 9** At T junction with road, turn left and left again at footpath sign, following track past John Deere depot.
- 10** Carry straight ahead on footpath and continue down hill to centre of Chilbolton. Turn right for 50 yards to footpath sign on left.
- 11** Continue straight ahead on path ignoring the kissing gate on the right and go through the one at the end then proceed diagonally left across meadow to another kissing gate in far corner. Follow river bank to footbridge to rejoin start of walk, back across wooden bridge to Fullerton Road.
- 12** Turn right to White Lion and through the village to Sports Pavilion.

OPTIONAL EXTRA LEG

- 13** On reaching Fullerton Road, turn left (away from village) 25 yards to footpath sign on right, walk up over the old railway embankment and turn right over stile. Walk above the village, along the field edge.
- 14** Carefully cross Andover Road on the sharp S bend and following TW signs keep above the village continuing straight on a tarmac road called Beech Grove.
- 15** Turn left on the Test Way on a good track to Harewood Forest.
- 16** Continue uphill on this track, carrying straight on past New Barn Cottage on the left. Keep on the track uphill. Continue past copse on the right skirting field with forest on left.
- 17** At footpath sign and crossroads turn right towards Hassock Copse. On entering copse bear left.
- 18** At field bear right down field edge. Go through wide gap in hedges and turn left on path next to hedge. Continue on and join track under disused railway bridge.
- 19** At road turn right towards village and back to sports pavilion car park.