

# Test Valley TOUR . . .



## ROUTE D1 CIRCULAR CYCLING ROUTE - ON ROAD

START & FINISH: **KING'S SOMBORNE VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK**

CLASS: **EASY**

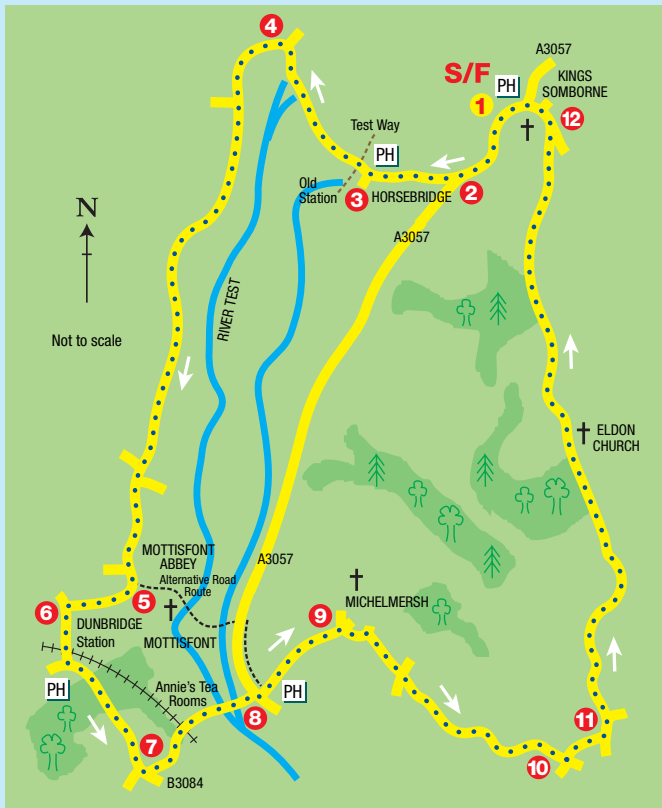
DISTANCE: **APPROX. 15 MILES**  
(or 13.5 miles with short cut)

TIME TO COMPLETE: **APPROX. 2 - 2.5 HRS**

LINKS WITH: **ROUTE D**

### KEY

- Route
- Road
- - - Byway
- PH Public House
- † Church
- +++ Railway
- S/F Start/Finish



### INTRODUCTION

The route follows the River Test southwards through Mottisfont Abbey with its famous rose garden is National Trust property) to Kimbridge then climbs out of the valley through Michelmersh and Eldon for a spectacular view as the road descends out of woods to King's Somborne.

### REFRESHMENTS

The Crown Inn, King's Somborne  
The John O'Gaunt, Horsebridge  
The Mill Arms, Dunbridge,  
Annie's Tea Rooms, Kimbridge  
The Bear and Ragged Staff,  
Michelmersh

Ordnance Survey Landranger 185

## THE NUMBERS ARE SHOWN IN THE SKETCH MAP OVERLEAF.

### START: **King's Somborne Village Hall**

- 1 Turn left from village hall car park onto A3057 (CARE, BUSY ROAD).
- 2 In 1/2 mile turn right into Horsebridge Road (signposted Horsebridge).
- 3 Turn right (signposted Houghton). John O'Gaunt pub on right. Over River Test. Test Way off-road route crosses here. (Divert left along Test Way for 200 yds to view former Horsebridge Station, now a private residence).
- 4 Straight on at Houghton (signposted Dunbridge). Note historic Stockbridge Rural District Council signpost.
- 5 In Mottisfont, turn right into Hatt Lane (signposted Millennium Walk). To visit abbey continue through village, over channel of River Test and entrance to abbey is on left).
- 6 Turn left at T-junction (signposted Dunbridge). Descend hill, over level crossing and follow round to left into Dunbridge Lane (Mill Arms pub on right).
- 7 After 1 mile, turn left (signposted Kimbridge). Over level crossing (Annie's tea rooms and Kimbridge Farm Shop on left) and over bridges across the River Test to junction with A3057.
- 8 Turn right and immediately left (CARE, BUSY ROAD) into Mesh Road (Bear & Ragged Staff pub on left).
- 9 Turn right at crossroads at top of hill, then right (signposted Braishfield). Option here to bear right into Church Road to visit 12th century church.
- 10 Continue through Michelmersh and at staggered crossroads turn left.
- 11 Follow road round to left (signposted King's Somborne) and then fork left (signposted Eldon). Climb for a mile to Eldon and visit the St John the Baptist 12th century church, now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. Continue along road through woods for 1 1/2 miles until you suddenly come upon the dramatic view over King's Somborne and the Test Valley.
- 12 Descend to King's Somborne. Turn left at T-junction, then left at church on to A3057 (CARE BUSY ROAD), then left again into village hall and recreation ground car park.

**Alternative route** between points 5 - 8 which shortens route by 1 1/2 miles.

In Mottisfont, follow road round to left (signposted Mottisfont Abbey). Cross River Test and continue to junction with A3057. Use cycle path traffic island to cross road and turn right (signposted Romsey). Use cycle path as far as Bear and Ragged Staff pub. Turn left into Mesh Road.