

Test Valley TOUR . . .



ROUTE L CIRCULAR WALKING ROUTE

START & FINISH: WHERWELL SPORTS PAVILION

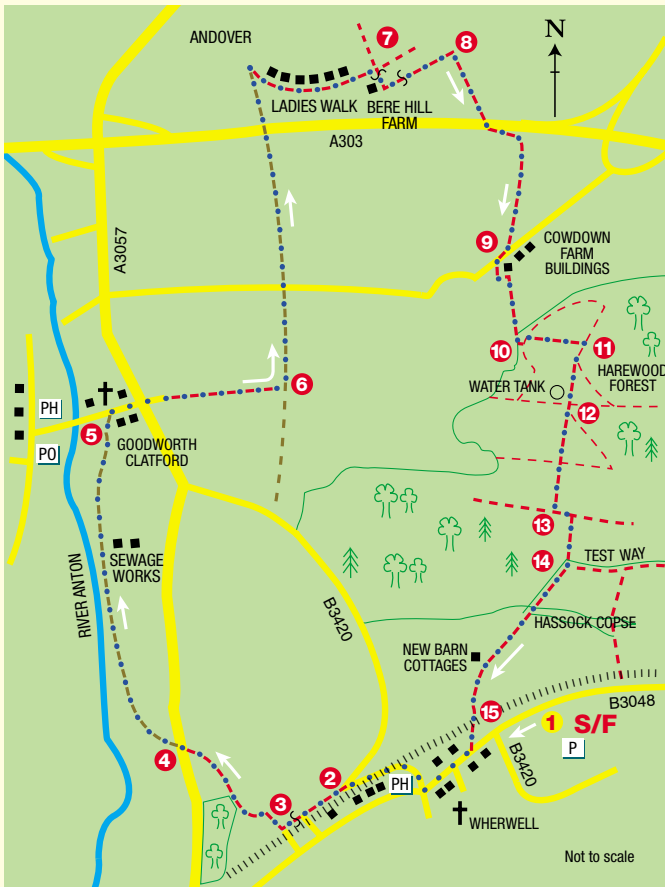
CLASS: INTERMEDIATE

DISTANCE: APPROX. 9 MILES

TIME TO COMPLETE: APPROX. 4 HRS

KEY

- Route
- - - Footpath
- - - Bridleway
- ▬ Main Road
- ▬ Minor Road
- PH Public House
- PO Post Office
- P Parking
- † Church
- Wooded Area
- ||||| Dismantled Railway
- ~ Stile
- S/F Start/Finish



INTRODUCTION

This walk to the north of the picturesque village of Wherwell takes in part of the River Anton and Ladies Walk, where there are superb views across Andover to the Downs in the distance. The mature trees on Ladies Walk were planted in 1863 to celebrate the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The route through Harewood Forest provides a rich contrast to the open spaces of the Downs but the path through the forest needs to be followed carefully.

REFRESHMENTS

The White Lion, Wherwell.
 The Royal Oak, Goodworth Clatford.
 Picnic spot by River Anton, Goodworth Clatford.

Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1222
 SU(24/34) Andover.

THE NUMBERS ARE SHOWN IN THE SKETCH MAP OVERLEAF.

START: **Wherwell Sports Pavilion**

- 1** From sports pavilion car park turn left and proceed through village.
- 2** Walk uphill from White Lion pub to sharp 'S' bend in road. Take narrow path to left and follow along lower field edge, cross stile ignoring Test Way sign that points left and continue straight on.
- 3** At track from under old railway bridge, turn right and zigzag uphill, into copse before contouring along top of field, through pedestrian gate. Drop down across field to main road; cross carefully and through gate opposite.
- 4** Follow track then path along left hand edge of field through gate, glimpsing River Anton through willows and elders. Continue on path through copse below sewage works, through metal kissing gate, to road at Goodworth Clatford.
- 5** (Option for picnic stop - turn left for 50 yards to delightful spot by river or convenient public house). Otherwise, turn right past Goodworth Clatford church; cross main road carefully following footpath between high hedgerows and golf course.
- 6** At 'T' junction of paths, turn left and proceed uphill and under the A303. Walk a further 100 metres, turn right onto Ladies Walk.
- 7** At cross path, turn right over unusual metal stile, uphill to Bere Hill Farm. When level with the buildings, turn left across field to small wooden stile. Continue straight on.
- 8** At hedgerow turn right to follow footpath sign towards A303. Shortly before reaching road, turn left through gateway that leads down to underpass. Follow tarmac path out of underpass before turning right onto footpath to Cowdown Farm buildings.
- 9** Go to the right of the buildings then turn left into field and follow footpath along field edge to forest.
- 10** Ten yards past edge of forest turn left. After a few yards turn left again on path then first right onto straight path. Continue through woods to junction of path and track.
- 11** Turn right and shortly take the right hand fork off the bend in the track and continue past water tank on your right.
- 12** At crossroads carry straight on, onto concrete path. After 25 yards where track bears left, continue straight ahead on grass track heading uphill through trees. Cross straight over the next track and drop down into shallow valley.
- 13** At crosspath turn left for 50 yards before turning right uphill. Meet Test Way on edge of open field.
- 14** Turn right, walk round field and down hill. Continue past New Barn Cottages and carry straight on into Wherwell.
- 15** At junction with road turn left and return to Sports ground.