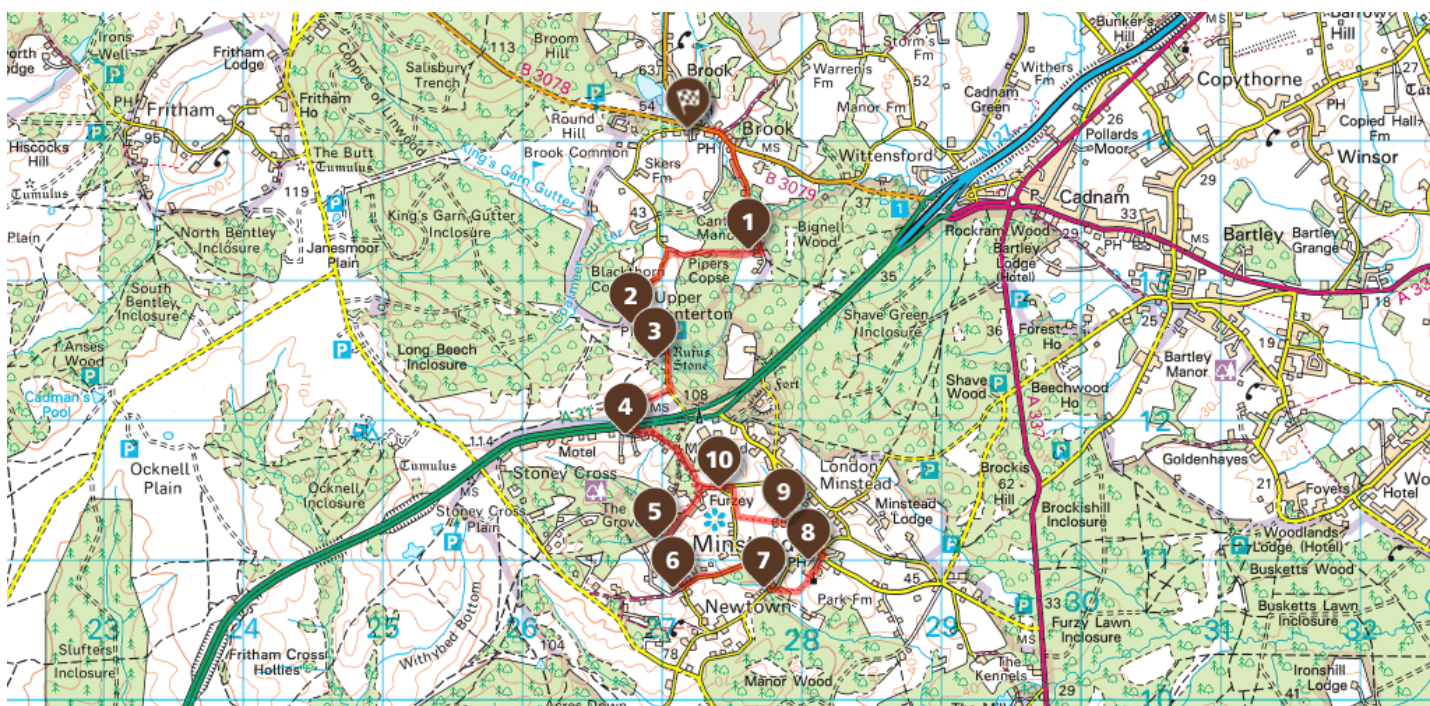


# Brook to Minstead village

This varied walk starts at Brook and passes through ancient wood pasture and Open Forest to Minstead.

Visit the Rufus Stone to discover the mystery surrounding the death of King William II. The route then follows quiet country lanes to the unspoilt village of Minstead where the famous detective writer and spiritualist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is buried in the grounds of All Saints Church. Return via winding lanes and fields to Canterton and Brook.

**Be Forest Friendly:** The New Forest is a Site of Special Scientific Interest with over 2,000 varieties of fungi, many of which are rare and internationally-important species. We appeal to people to look but don't pick. Commercial harvesting is not permitted and foray leaders must obtain a licence. The [Forestry Commission](#) is reviewing the guidelines on picking for personal consumption and trialling new restrictions to lessen the impacts on this very special habitat.



## 1. Grassy bridleway past cottages

With the Green Dragon pub behind you, turn right and follow the roadside path to Canterton Road. Follow this road past houses to a footbridge over a ford. The road becomes a gravel track, continue ahead to a waymarker on your left. Turn right onto a grassy bridleway and past cottages on your left (waypoint 1). Continue straight ahead through Pipers Copse and past some large boundary oak trees. Sections of this track can be very muddy.

## 2. Sir Walter Tyrrell pub

On leaving the wood the bridleway becomes a road. Keep going to the road junction and turn left past a red post box. Follow the road to the Sir Walter Tyrrell pub (waypoint 2).

## 3. Rufus Stone

Continue following the road uphill through oak and holly woods. Just ahead on the left is Rufus Stone car park and directly opposite is the Rufus Stone monument.

### Quick Info

#### Start / Finish

Green Dragon pub and Bell Inn, Brook. Grid ref. SU 273 141 Post code SO43 7HE

#### Distance

5-10 miles

#### Duration

More than 3 hours

#### Surface

Country lanes, field edges and woodland paths.

## 4. Under the A31

Continue ahead uphill and turn right at a low wooden barrier and waymarker 90. Follow the gravel cycle track to waymarker 91 and turn left down a wide gravel track to the A31 underpass. Turn left at a metal gate and waymarker 92 following a wide gravel track past cottages on your right (waypoint 4).

## 5. Beech wood

After a few hundred yards turn right into Furzey Gardens car park. There is a waymarker just past the garden entrance on the left. Turn left to follow the track ahead and then turn right where the track splits to follow the waymarked path downhill through a beech wood to a kissing gate and footbridge (waypoint 4).

## 6. Hop over a stile

Turn left at the next kissing gate and continue downhill along the edge of a larger wood, crossing a boardwalk and footbridge. Continue ahead to the top of the hill and turn left over a stile. Follow the path alongside buildings to the road and over another stile (waypoint 6).

## 7. Minstead Church

Turn left and follow the road which dips down to a footbridge and ford crossing. Turn right at the road junction and continue to Minstead Study Centre and a ford crossing on your right. Cross the road ahead to a small gravel lay-by and waymarker. Turn left through a kissing gate and follow the path uphill alongside a woodland and field edge to Minstead Church (waypoint 7).

## 8. Minstead village

Follow the road downhill to Minstead's small village green where you can visit the Trusty Servant pub or village stores and tea room. The maze of high-banked lanes around here makes it feel very different to the Open Forest.

## 9. Leaving the village

Follow the road signs for Stoney Cross to leave the village. Use the footpath on your right to follow alongside the road and then re-join the road. Turn left at a waymarker and go over a stile to follow the field edge on your right (waypoint 8).

Continue over another two field stiles to a road. Turn right and follow the road uphill with views of Furzey Gardens on your left before the road dips downhill. (If wet, continue along the road and take the first left past Minstead Hall onto a road signed to Furzey Gardens).

## 10. Passing Furzey Garden

At a grassy triangle and road junction turn left and follow signs for [Furzey Gardens](#) (waypoint 9). Follow the gravel track past the gardens and retrace your steps to the underpass and follow the cycle route back to post 90. Turn left to return to the Sir Walter Tyrrell pub and follow the road ahead through Upper Canterton to the red post box.

Follow the hedge lined road over a footbridge and ford crossing and retrace your steps back to Brook.

## Getting there...

New Forest Tour red route (summer only) to Brook

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