

PRESS RELEASE

44 miles of fascinating history and natural beauty

WALKING HAMPSHIRE'S TEST WAY

Front cover

The long-distance trail and 15 day walks
by Malcolm Leatherdale

Guidebook to walking Hampshire's Test Way, a 44 mile (71km) route from Inkpen Beacon to the Eling Tide Mill near Southampton Water. The walk, which is described over eight stages (ranging from 3 to 8.75 miles), takes in many of the region's natural, historical and architectural delights, from the famous 'Sprat and Winkle' railway to the River Test itself – a stunning example of the exceedingly rare chalk stream.

Also described are 15 circular walks, ranging from 3.75 miles (6km) to 8.75 miles (14km). Several of these interweave with parts of the Test Way, allowing for creative exploration. Not overly difficult, these circular walks offer something for walkers of every ability.

The Test Way passes sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) as well as Iron Age hill forts, medieval churches, age old abbeys, relics from a long passed railway era and quaint villages brimming with thatch and flint and individual 'hostelries' to match.

Clear and concise route description is accompanied by 1:50,000 OS mapping. Points of interest along the way are highlighted, emphasising the treasure trove of delightful and curious sites en route. Worth its weight in your backpack, the guide also includes information on the history, geology and landscape of the Test Valley, as well as practical information on accommodation and transport.

What's inside?

- Intriguing reading on the iconic 'Sprat and Winkle' railway
- Information on the National Cycle Networks in the vicinity of the long-distance trail
- Handy itinerary planner

About the author

Malcolm Leatherdale has a particular interest in walking and exploring his native Hampshire. He has lived for the past 15 years a stone's throw away from the River Test and the Test Way. Malcolm is an active cyclist and also a former marathon runner having competed several times in the London Marathon. Malcolm is also a member of The Ramblers and it is his passion for walking and being in the great outdoors that has prompted this guidebook. His hope is that it will encourage others of all ages and abilities to experience the delights that come from walking generally and the Test Way in particular.

Key information

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By Malcolm Leatherdale

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- Only guide currently available to the Test Way
- Includes 15 circular walks

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