

WALK 1.

## **IVY FARM LOOP via the path of the former Sprat and Winkle Line**

Abbreviations: Turn right **TR**, turn left **TL**, straight on **SO**, footpath **FP**, bridleway **BW**.

Distance: about 4 miles (6.12km); some walking on a quiet, attractive road. Time: about 1.5 hours

Level: easy

The walk starts at the **Abbot's Mitre Public House**. You can, of course, join it at any point you choose.

1. Leave the pub and **TR**. Walk along village street about 100 yards.
2. **TR** down gravel track. This is **Cart Lane** (indicated by a finger post with a cart carved at the top of the finger). Walk along the track with houses on both sides. It soon becomes a path between trees. Walk up the hill. At the top, the path widens to a broad grass path along the edge of a field on your left and a hedge on your right. Look back and to your left and admire the view. Continue along this path until you reach an obvious junction with tarmac and the gates to Hunts (John Deere dealers).
3. **TR** and walk along a wide permissive FP (notice the new agricultural machinery on your left.) Continue along a scalping/grass path until you reach a gate. Duck under the wooden bar to the right. You are now in **Drove Road** (tarmac).
4. **TR** and walk down Drove Road until you see a gap in the hedge on the left marked by finger post saying Permissive **BW**. NB. At this point there is a poo bag dispenser and a poo bag disposal bin.
5. **TL** and walk along this grassy track which runs parallel with **Little Drove Road**. Continue **SO** until you reach a gap in the hedge dead in front of you.
6. Go through the gap and **TR**. You are now on the **Mark Way**.
7. Walk along a narrow path with a double wire fence on your left and a hedge on your right. Shortly, the path bends sharply to the left. Continue along the path. You will see another path on your right and parallel. Ignore it. Continue along the Mark Way until the path bends to the right (indicated by a way marker on a wooden post). Go through gap in the fence. You have now reached the eastern edge of **West Down Nature Reserve**. West Down is managed by Chilbolton Parish Council. Part of it is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. (SINC). Do not go SO.
8. Instead immediately **TL** and follow a narrow, uneven path with a fence on your left and trees on your right. You will shortly come to a concrete road. Don't TR but go **SO**. You will come to a green metal gate. ahead of you. Go through the pedestrian gate on the left. Shortly you will pass Southern Water's reservoir on your left.
9. Carry on along this FP. You will pass **Ivy Farm** behind a fence on your right.
10. The FP bends sharply to the right and gradually descends along a fairly wide track with hedgerows on both sides. You will pass a car park and a recycling centre on your right. You will then reach **Coley Lane** (tarmac). The Mayfly Bridge road junction is on your left. Go **SO** across the

road to where you will see a fingerpost indicating the **Test Way**. Follow the narrow path downhill with a high brick wall on your right. Shortly you will reach a T junction of paths.

11. **TR** (follow fingerpost Andover 6 miles) and take the level gravel path through the trees. You are walking along the path of an old railway line that ran from Andover Town Station to Redbridge, Southampton until closed in the Beeching cuts in 1967. It was commonly called the **Sprat and Winkle Line**. You will cross a wide, wooden bridge with lovely views of the River Test to the left and to the right.

12. Continue **SO**. Pass round and under two metal barriers. The building you come to on the left is the Old Station (formerly Fullerton Junction). You can still see remnants of the platforms and sidings if you look carefully. On the right are the (greatly enlarged) old station houses.

13. Ignore the finger post on your left and carry **SO** to the Andover-Romsey Road (B3057). Follow the gravel **FP** along the pavement on the righthand side of the road.

14. The path ends at the the Fullerton Road. **TR** along this road signposted to **Wherwell**. You are now in Cottonworth. The road bends to the left with Cottonworth Farm buildings on the right. Cross over a bridge; pass Tadley Cottage on your right. You will enter the parish of Wherwell. Keep going until you reach a large house on the right called Freelands. Shortly after passing Freelands you will find an obvious path on your right marked with a fingerpost indicating a **BW** and the **Test Way**. There is a poo bag dispenser and a waste bin.

14. **TR** and you will see the Long Bridge over the **River Test** in front of you. You are back on the **Test Way**. Enjoy the lovely view of the fine chalk stream famous for trout fishing. As you cross the bridge you pass from the parish of Wherwell into the parish of Chilbolton.

15. Go through the kissing gate and you are now on **Chilbolton Cow Common**. This is owned by Chilbolton Parish Council and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Some of the older houses in Chilbolton still have grazing rights. The Common is managed by the Parish Council under an agreement with Natural England.

16. Follow the **BW** which goes **SO**. You will come to a second smaller bridge that crosses the Purleygigg Stream. Cross it and go **SO** following the **BW**. Before you get to a large ash tree on your right veer slightly to the left and follow a fairly obvious path that heads towards some poles carrying electricity. You will see three houses on you left. The middle one is the Old Inn. Cross a gravel track and follow the path to another small wooden bridge across the **Abbot's Stream**. Cross over and go through a gate. Please ensure you close it. Carry on along a narrow path until you reach the village street.

The **Abbot's Mitre** is right in front of you and you have finished the walk. I hope you enjoyed it.

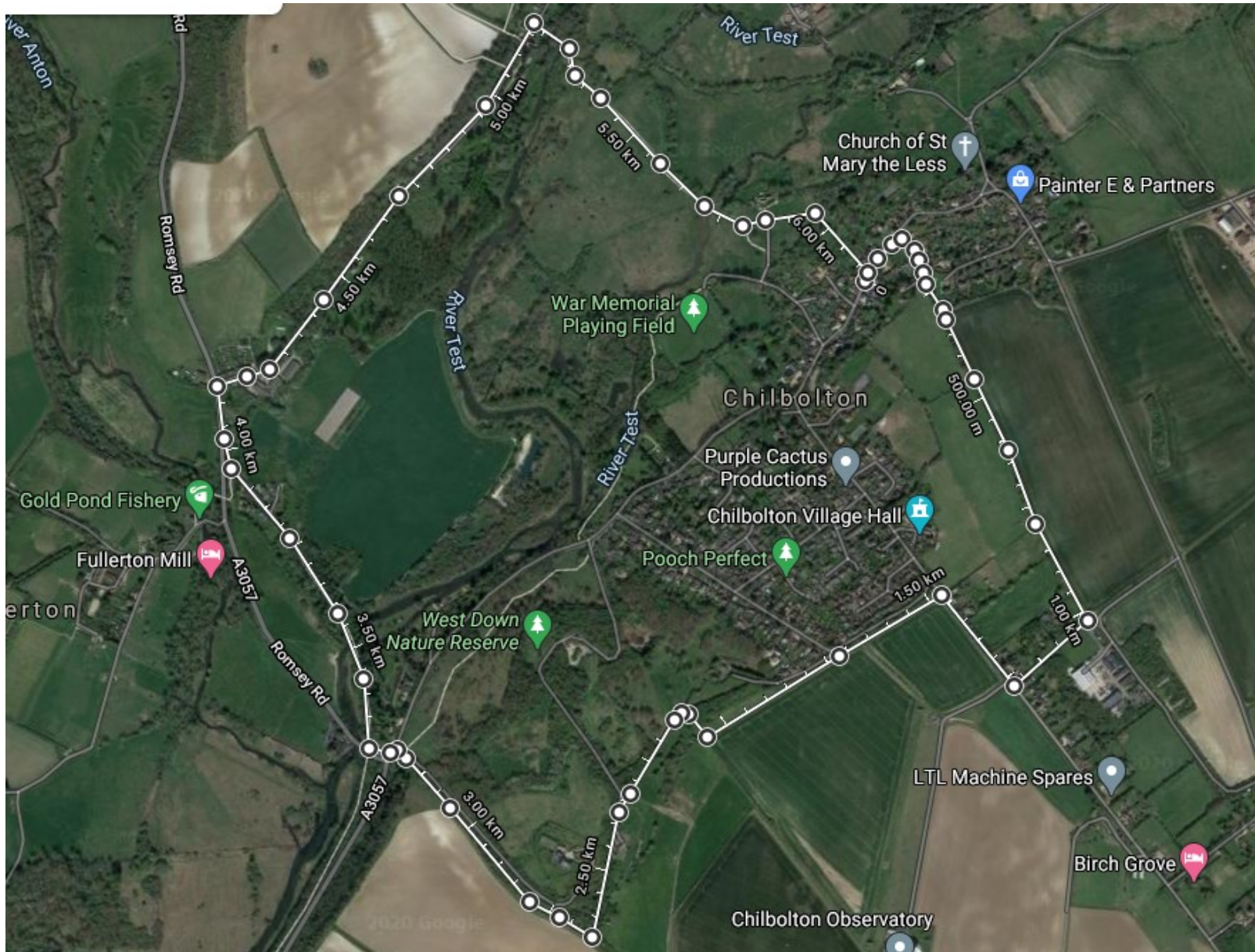


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