

STOCKBRIDGE

With its wide High Street, lined by attractive shops and houses, Stockbridge is a bustling centre for local shoppers, businesses and tourists. Set in the heart of the picturesque Test Valley, the town centre is defined by its 18th century Town Hall, the Grosvenor Hotel with its pillared portico and historic links to fishing and racing, and the Parish Church of St Peter. The chancel of the Old St Peter's, at the east end of the town next to the White Hart, is well worth a visit.



Its position at a narrowing of the River Test suggests Stockbridge has been a crossing point perhaps since the Iron Age; the camps of Danebury, Meon Hill and Woolbury are nearby. The original track built on bundles of faggots or withies developed into a chalk causeway with a log bridge over the main river channel, thereby probably giving the town its name. The causeway was then expanded to be wide enough for a market to be held between the houses, creating the wide street we know today.

By the late 18th century Stockbridge had become a busy market town on one of the South's main east-west roads. Herds of cattle or sheep, bred on the Welsh hills, were driven through either to London, or more probably, to provision ships in Portsmouth or Southampton. Drover's House, in Houghton Road, has the message, written in old Welsh, painted on the walls: 'Seasoned Hay, Rich Grass, Good Ale, Sound Sleep'.

Racehorse training in the area dates back to the late 1700s, and racing became popular from 1831. Stockbridge Races, in late June,

became a major feature in the racing calendar. Visitors poured into the town, many using the railway, which had opened in 1865. The most prominent race-goer was the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. For a time he came with his mistress, the famous beauty Lillie Langtry, still acknowledged in the name of a local tea shop. The houses in which each stayed lie either side of the River Test, but their gardens are connected by a footbridge. In 1898 the eastern end of the racecourse, which included the straight mile, was inherited by a lady who strongly disapproved of gambling. She refused to extend the lease, and the race course closed - a disaster for the local economy.

Fishing in the River Test remains a popular but exclusive attraction. However visitors to the town can often catch sight of large trout in one of the seven streams which pass under the High Street.

Recent years have seen many changes in the town. Where in 1900 there were thirteen inns, now there are just five. The railway closed in 1967 and the popular Test Valley Way now follows its track, bringing walkers and cyclists to the town. Today visitors to the busy High Street will find clothes shops, specialist sporting shops, galleries and gift shops, as well as a choice of pubs and restaurants, tea and coffee shops and of course the 'foodie' shops celebrated in this leaflet.



It's official - Stockbridge High Street has the best food in the country.

The rural village high street was voted the best 'foodie street' in Britain in the Google Street View Awards in 2010. The High Street was praised for its many independent specialist shops, tea rooms, pubs and restaurants, many of which serve local produce. The Google Street View Awards are a celebration of Britain's best loved streets as voted for by the public in a nationwide poll.

The high street was nominated by the food and drink editor of Metro who praised its eclectic mix of tea-rooms, delicatessens, its world famous butcher and acclaimed eatery, the Greyhound. It also regularly hosts a range of food events during the year such as French and Italian Markets and the popular Trout and About Festival held on the first Sunday in August.



Our thanks go to H.C.C Countryside Service for their assistance with this leaflet.



Local Food Producers

Broughton Water
Buffalo
Manor Farm
Broughton
SO20 8AN
Tel: 01794 301031

Danebury Vineyards
Nether Wallop
Stockbridge
SO20 6JX
Tel: 01264 781851

Hildon Water
Broughton
SO20 8DQ
Tel: 01794 301747

Leckford Estate
Estate office
Old Rectory,
Leckford
SO20 6JF
Tel: 01264 810894

River Test Smokery
Watch Estate
Coley Lane
Chilbolton
SO20 6AZ
Tel: 01264 860813

Fundamentally
Fungus
Meon Hill Farm
Stockbridge
SO20 6HA
Tel: 01264 811170

Sempre Viva Iced
Yogurt
Hyde Farm
Broughton
SO20 8BD
Tel: 01794 301121

Somborne Valley
Vineyard
Hoplands Estate
Kings Somborne
SO20 6QH
Tel: 01794 388701

Stockbridge Parish
Council

Hotels, Pubs and Restaurants

Clos du Marquis
A30 London Road
Stockbridge
SO20 6DE
Tel: 01264 810738

The Peat Spade Inn
Village Street
Longstock
SO20 6DR
Tel: 01264 810612

The Vine Inn
Stockbridge
SO20 6HF
Tel: 01264 810652

The Boot Inn
Houghton
SO20 6LH
Tel: 01794 388310

The Mayfly
Testcombe
Chilbolton
SO20 6AX
Tel: 01264 860283

Greyhound Inn
High Street
Stockbridge
SO20 6EY
Tel: 01264 810833

The Greyhound
High Street
Broughton
SO20 8AA
Tel: 01794 301464

The White Hart
High Street
Stockbridge
SO20 6HF
Tel: 01264 810663

Grosvenor Hotel
High Street
Stockbridge
SO20 6EU
Tel: 01264 810606

Cafes and Wine Bars

Lillies of Stockbridge
High St, Stockbridge
SO20 6HF
Tel: 01264 810754

Stokes of
Stockbridge
Stockbridge House
High Street
Stockbridge
SO20 6EX
Tel: 01264 810248

Specialist shops

Beccy's
Greengrocers
High Street
Stockbridge
SO20 6HF
Tel: 01264 810650

John Robinson
Family Butchers
High Street
Stockbridge
SO20 6HF
Tel: 01264 810609

Leckford Estate
Fruit Farm
Leckford
SO20 6DA
Tel: 01264 810585

Leckford Village
Store
Leckford
SO20 6JG
Tel: 01264 810514

Thyme and Tides -
Deli, Bistro,
Fishmonger
High Street
Stockbridge
SO20 6HE
Tel: 01264 810101

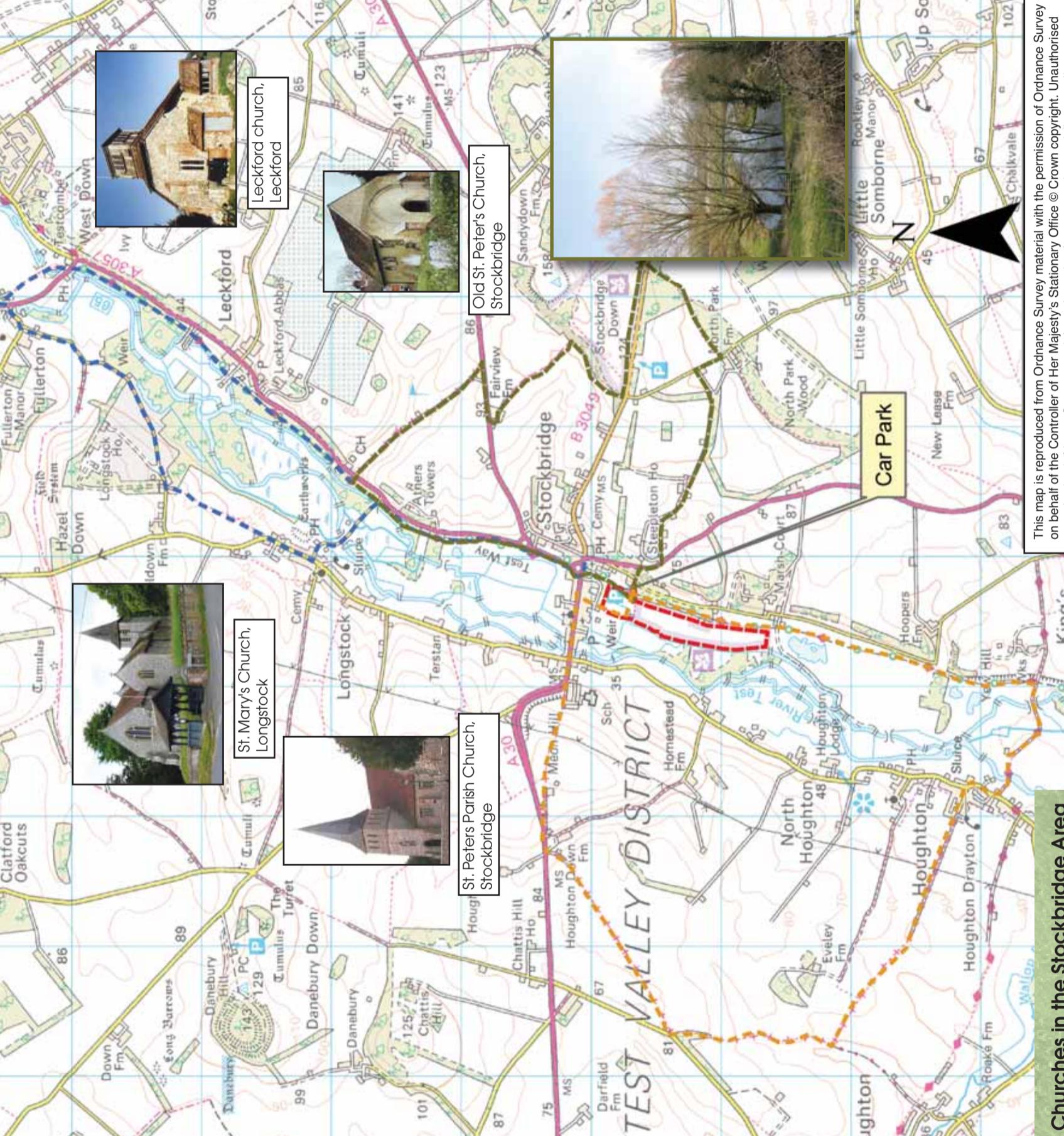
STOCKBRIDGE

Food and Walks Guide

Walk 3 - Churches Walk (part of this walk is along roads) approximately 11 miles - Blue route

The walk starts from Old St Peter's Church in the centre of Stockbridge. After visiting the Church, turn left along the High Street until you reach the roundabout at the east end of the village.

Taking care on the busy road, turn left towards Leckford where the Test Way merges in on your left following the old disused railway line that runs parallel with the A3057. After about two miles you will reach Leckford, where you can leave the Test Way to visit St Nicholas Church in the centre of the village. Rejoin the Test Way and continue for another mile, passing the disused railway station at Fullerton. Leave the Test Way, turning left down the A3057, crossing the bridge turn right, signed Fullerton. After $\frac{1}{4}$ mile branch left towards Longstock and after $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles you will be walking along wide grassy verges alongside Longstock Water Gardens. Continue up the hill and then turn left onto a footpath which will bring you into Longstock. Continue along the road to visit St Mary's Church. Follow the road opposite the church and beside the Peat Spade pub along The Bunny, Cross the numerous streams that make up the River Test, past the picturesque thatched fishing hut. Before crossing the bridge to the A3057 turn right and drop back down onto the Test Way and continue your walk back to Stockbridge.



Walk 1 - The Marsh Walk - approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile - Red route

Park in the National Trust Lion's Den car park in Marsh Court Road and enter the Marsh through the two gates. A leisurely walk around the Marsh with the River Test running along the western edge of the Common allows you to see a variety of wildlife and fauna before retracing your steps to the car park. You can also reach the Common Marsh from the High Street, by following the path beside Lillie's Tea Rooms.



Walk 4 - The Ways Walk approximately 8 miles - Orange route

Park at the Lion's Den car park in Marsh Court Road, go through the gates and turn left onto the Test Way, towards Kings Somborne. Continue along the disused railway line until you reach a cross roads of paths where the Clarendon Way crosses the Test Way, and turn right along the Clarendon Way towards Houghton. Follow this path towards the River Test, crossing three bridges before reaching the road at Houghton. At the road, turn right and continue along the road for 300 yards before turning left up Stevens Drove. Continue along this path until you reach a 'T' junction where you can either turn left to visit Broughton or turn right and follow the bridleway towards Chaffts Hill. After a quarter of a mile turn right and follow the bridleway towards the A30. Here the path bears right to Houghton Down Farm running parallel with Meon Hill and dropping back into Stockbridge. Continue along Stockbridge High Street turning right at Lille's to return to Marsh Court Road and the car park through the Common Marsh.

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architect was William White, a nephew of the naturalist Gilbert White of Selborne. The Church is of flint structure and the North-west tower is an octagonal shingled broach spire, and has a charming carved lych-gate. Open every day.

St Nicholas Church

Leckford dates from the 13th Century, with 16th Century additions. It has a little wooden bell tower which probably dates from the time of the Armada, in response to the Act of Parliament ordering that all churches must have a tower to warn of invasion. Open every day.

The Roman Catholic church of **St Thomas More** is a modern building just off Stockbridge High Street near the Town hall. Sunday Mass is celebrated at 9.00am.

Walk 2 - Circular Walk to Stockbridge Down (part of the walk is along roads) approximately 7½ miles Green route

From the Lion's Den car park in Marsh Court Road, turn left along the road and on your right you will soon find a marked footpath which climbs through woodland to the A3057 by Steepleton. Turn right onto the road for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, then turn left up a marked track. Continue past Penny Lane Farm until you reach a small road. Turn left and then right around North Park Farm, and then turn left onto a track leading to the downs. Cross the B3049 onto Stockbridge Down, where you turn left along the Down for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Turn right onto a track skirting the bottom of the Down, and bearing left, follow the track until you reach Fair View Farm. Turn right onto the A30 for about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile, past Sandy Down Cottage. Turn left down a track running alongside Leckford Golf Course, until you reach Leckford and the A3057 where you can rejoin the Test Way to return to Stockbridge.

Churches in the Stockbridge Area

Only the picturesque chancel and graveyard remain of Stockbridge's original parish church, **Old St Peter's**, which can be found at the east end of the High Street. Built in the 12th Century, its features include a medieval oak door of 1354, 16th Century murals and the Royal Coat of Arms of 1726. Open every day.

St Peter's Parish Church

designed by J Colson in 1866, replaced the old church, which had fallen into disrepair. The light Victorian Gothic building, which incorporates several windows from the original church and an impressive Norman font, is well worth a visit. Open every day.

The present **St. Mary's Church**, Longstock, was built in 1876 replacing a chalk walled building from the 12th Century. The

church is a Grade II listed building and is situated in a prominent position overlooking the valley of the River Test.

The church is built of local stone and has a tall, square tower with a pyramidal roof. The main entrance is under a porch supported by four pillars. The interior of the church is spacious and features a high ceiling, a large organ loft, and a pulpit made of wood. The pews are made of dark wood and are arranged in a semi-circle. The altar is made of white marble and is positioned in the center of the church. The windows are made of stained glass and depict various scenes from the Bible. The church is a popular place of worship and is open to visitors throughout the year.

