

# Test Valley Health Walks Andover Town Centre Walks

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## Risk Assessments and Routes

<b>Location</b>	<b>Walk</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>RA Date</b>	<b>Mapping Status</b>
Andover	Anton Lakes	2.5	2014	full
Andover	Rooksbury Mill	3	2014	full

## Rooksbury Mill Park Walk, Andover

**Distance:** Approx 2.5 miles

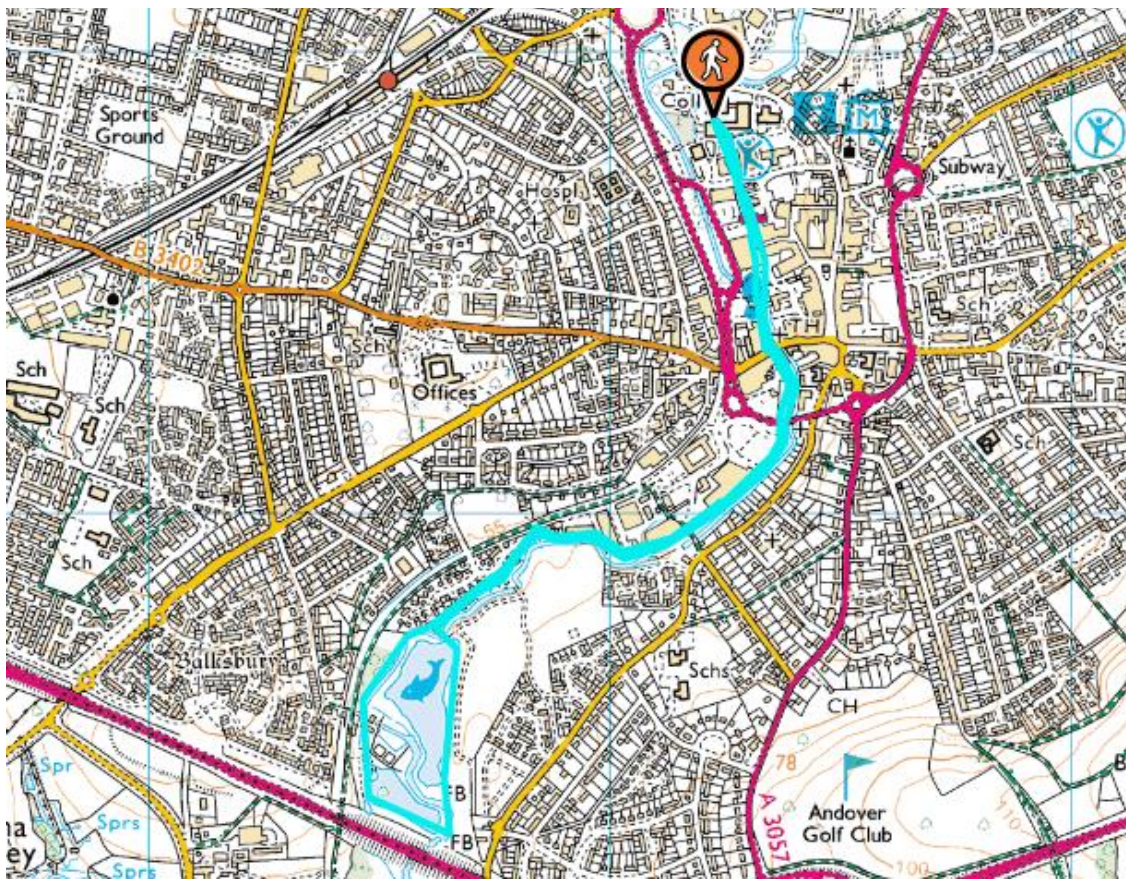
**Condition:** Route follows mainly tarmac paths to Rooksbury Mill, which has light gravelled footpaths, the walk is mostly flat.

**Facilities:** Refreshments & toilets at The Lights.

**Description:** A mainly flat, circular route from the Andover Town Centre, this route takes you through an industrial and residential area before arriving at Rooksbury Mill. The walk winds past two lakes, one for fishing and one preserved as a natural habitat. The walk takes in a section of the Andover Poetry trail and along the charming wooden sculptures of the Water vole trail.

**Hazards/Points to consider:** Take care when crossing roads, uneven surfaces, overhanging branches & foliage, there may be mud in places. Take care on wooden walkways & gravel especially after wet weather. Watch bikes on pathways.

**Category:** ♥♥



This map can be downloaded from: <http://www.walk4life.info/walk/test-valley-health-walks-rooksbury-mill-intermediate-3-mile-walk>

**Route**

- Start at The Lights, walk under the archway under Andover Leisure Centre. Head towards the bus station, crossing at the designated areas. Walk through the Chantry Centre using the walkway adjacent to the car park.
- Cross the road and enter the park.
- Walk past the Lloyds TSB building on your right heading towards Rooksbury Mill. Take the footpath which is now the start of the poetry trail.
- Follow this path until you come to the first road crossing, crossover and continue along this footpath until you come to an entrance with an information board to Rooksbury Mill on your left.
- Enter the lake, walk around the first lake and turn right over a wooden walkway which winds around the waterbeds, (look out for hatching swans in the spring but do not get too close!)
- The walkways come out onto another lake which will be now on your right. And follow path towards until you come to a pavement and cross over into the Water Vole Trail. The river will be on your left and several wooden sculptures line the walkway.
- Continue until you return to the entrance of the lakes and follow your route back to the Lights, passing ASDA, Town Mills park, the Chantry centre, and ALC.
- END

**Risk Assessment** : Last carried out by leaders Sept 2014

Hazard	Who might be harmed?	How is the risk controlled	What further action is necessary to control the risk?
Cars moving in car parks.	Walkers	Highlight to walkers at start of walk & use designated pathways in car parks where possible	Remind each walk
Crossing of roads generally	Walkers	Highlight road safety to walkers at start. Cross individually rather than in large group.	Remind each walk
Overhanging branches, risk of falling braches if windy	Walkers	Highlight to walkers to be watchful and on route.	Remind each walk. Report if dangerous
Unprotected short drops on both approaches to first bridge	Walkers/ Less fit/able walkers	Highlight to all walkers to take care.	Remind each walk.
Some visible tree roots along path and uneven ground in places	Walkers	Highlight to walkers at start	Remind each walk
Dog fouling, broken grass, litter in general	Walkers	Highlight to walkers at start	Remind each walk
Cyclists	Walkers	Highlight to walkers at start that the poetry trail may also have cyclists	Remind each walk

Parking bays in Asda car park jut out onto walkway	Walkers	Highlight at start that walkers take care not to trip/walk into	Remind each walk Use alternative route if open (often closed if Asda has deliveries)
Some parts of the walk may be muddy or wet	Walkers	Highlight at start particularly after wet weather.	Remind each walk

## Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve Walk

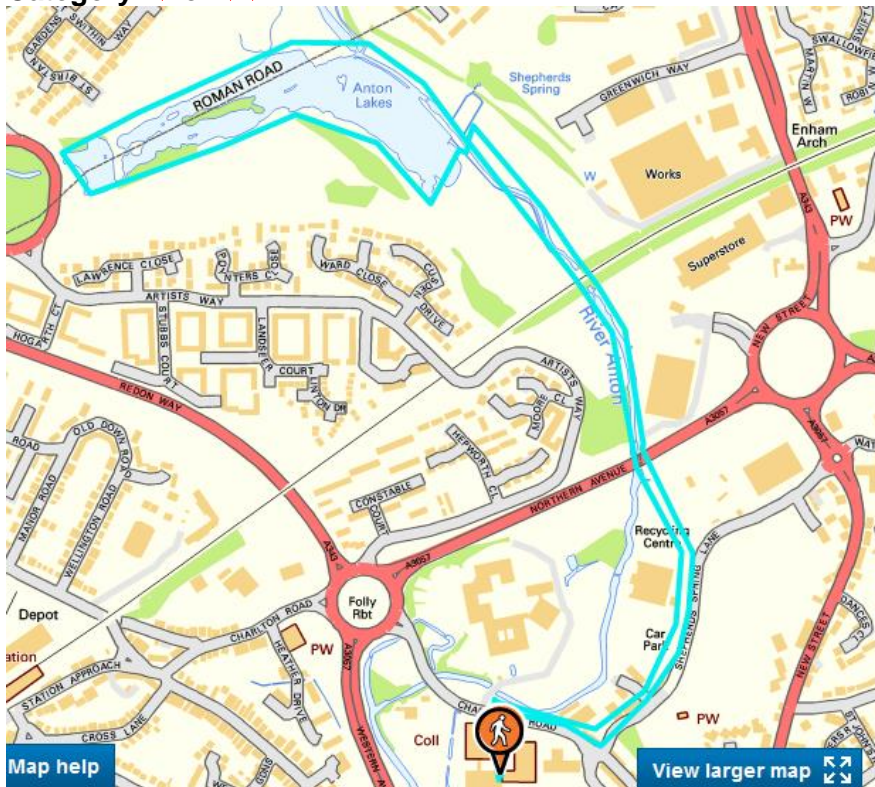
**Distance:** Short (♥ Approximately 0.5 miles)    Intermediate (♥♥ Approximately 2.5 miles)

**Condition:** The route starts on tarmac pavements and continues mainly on light gravelled footpaths around Anton Lakes. The route crosses two wooden bridges over the River Anton.

**Facilities:** Toilets at The Lights. Seats at Anton Lakes.

**Description:** A circular walk starting from The Lights, following flat footpaths to the stunning lakeland setting of Anton Lakes Nature Reserve. The lake and surrounding fields feature grass chalkland that is grazed by cattle, redundant watercress beds and water meadows.

**Category:** ♥ or ♥♥



This map can be downloaded from: <http://www.walk4life.info/walk/test-valley-health-walks-anton-lakes-beginner-and-intermediate>

### Route

- START from the entrance of The Lights. Turn left to take the footpath behind the ALC with Cricklade College on your left. Walk through car park to road, turn left to mini roundabout.
- Cross the road and walk down Shepherds Spring Lane past two blocks of flats then take footpath on your left.
- (For ♥ Walk under the bridge on footpath next to river, cross the wooden footbridge over the river (steps) and walk along tarmac footpath with Artists Way on your right towards large roundabout. Just before roundabout cross the road at island, turn right and walk down Charlton Road, pass Cricklade College and return back to The Lights).

- For ♥♥ Walk under the bridge and follow the footpath with the river on your left. Crossing the water meadow with the Homebase store on your right. Follow the path under narrow railway bridge.
- At fork in the path, take the left hand path. Follow this path until you reach an Information Board. Then take left hand gravel path towards the lake.
- Turn right with lake on your left. Walk to a crossroad in the path, turn left and cross bridge, stay on this path around the lake until you come to a fork in the path (with a seat). Take the path to the left.
- Keep on this path, cross the wooden bridge to a tarmac path. Turn left and follow path which will open out with lakes on your left. Follow this path around the lake bearing left to another wooden bridge.
- Cross the wooden bridge and take the right hand path to a tarmaced path.
- Turn right then retrace your steps back to The Lights.
- END.

**Risk Assessment:** Last carried out by leader September 2014

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Who might be harmed?</b>	<b>How is risk controlled</b>	<b>What further action is necessary to control the risk?</b>
Cars moving in the car park	Walkers	Highlight to walkers at the start	Remind each walk
1 Uneven paths generally 2. In particular the path around the lake consists of large uneven stones	Walkers, especially elderly and those who are unsteady on their feet	Highlight at start of walk.	Remind each walk
Crossing roads generally.	Walkers	Inform walkers that it is safer to cross roads individually and not in a bunch.	Remind each walk
Overhanging branches generally	Walkers	Highlight at start of walk	Remind each walk Report to Council if too bad.
The approaches on both sides of all bridges in the Nature Reserve are unprotected and have started to erode,	Walkers, especially elderly and those who are unsteady on their feet	Highlight the problem at the start of the walk'.	Remind each walk. Report to council, if too bad.
Unprotected riverbanks and lakesides.	Walkers, especially elderly and those who are unsteady on their feet	Warn walkers at the start	Remind each walk

Although against the rules some cyclists and some motorcyclists do use the footpaths	Walkers and cyclists	Warn walkers at the start. Take number of motorcyclists and report them to the council.	Remind each walk
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