

# Villages of Stockbridge

Near Stockbridge is a cluster of unspoilt villages. For more information on these and other villages visit [www.visit-testvalley.org.uk](http://www.visit-testvalley.org.uk).

To the north of Stockbridge lies **Leckford**, much of this village is owned by the John Lewis Partnership. You'll notice that many of the houses, occupied by estate workers, have their paintwork picked out in John Lewis green. Just south of Leckford is the village of **Longstock**, the home of the Peat Spade Inn. The name of this inn is a reminder of when peat was cut all through the valley. It is at Longstock that you'll find the world-famous water gardens owned by the John Lewis Partnership.

The **Wallops** consist of three lovely villages. The main village of **Nether Wallop** is nestled in a bend in the stream. Outside the village church is a curious pyramid – a memorial to local benefactor Dr Francis Douce who, in 1790 left money for boys and girls to be educated.

**Middle Wallop** is home to the School of Army Aviation and locals have grown up used to the sound of helicopters buzzing overhead. Nearby is Danebury Hill Fort, one of the finest internationally renown Iron Age camps. The complete story of Danebury is told in Andover Museum.

Many of the houses in the main village street of **Over Wallop** are reached across small bridges spanning the fast-flowing Wallop Brook. The war memorial in the middle of the village records the fact that 19 young men from Wallop lost their lives in World War 1.

Two villages full of interest are **Houghton** and **Broughton**, both buried away in lovely countryside. **Houghton's** 12<sup>th</sup> century church was a stopping place for pilgrims on their way to worship at the tomb of St Swithun in Winchester; you can see the medieval crosses they have carved on the columns. A little way out is Houghton Lodge which along with a number of sites, may look familiar as the village is popular for film and TV productions such as David Copperfield.

**Broughton** is a much larger village with 2 good pubs and a blacksmith. Until 1963 the church bell rang daily at 8pm from October to March to remind villagers to douse their fires to safeguard the many thatched roofs.

# What to see and do in Stockbridge...

Stockbridge is full of speciality antique and sporting shops along with a number of art galleries, please find these listed below.

## Art Galleries

**The Bakhtiyar Gallery** ①  
*Centre of excellence for Persian Carpets*  
High Street, Stockbridge  
T: 01264 811141  
E: bakhtiyar@attglobal.net

**The Wykeham Gallery** ②  
*Sells paintings, watercolours and sculpture by contemporary artists alongside pictures from 1880 – 1940*  
High Street, Stockbridge, SO20 6HE  
T: 01264 810364  
F: 01264 810182  
E: enquiries@wykehamgallery.co.uk  
W: www.wykehamgallery.co.uk

**Courcoux Courcoux** ③  
*Deals with paintings, sculptures and ceramics by leading British-based contemporary artists*  
Nomads House, High Street, Stockbridge, SO20 6HE  
T: 01264 810717  
F: 01264 810481  
E: courcoux@courcoux.co.uk  
W: www.courcoux.co.uk

## Speciality Shops

**Broughton Crafts** ⑧  
*Sells crafts from many parts of UK & rest of the world.*  
High Street, Stockbridge  
T: 01264 810513

**Orvis Sporting Traditions** ⑨  
*Supplies a huge range of state of the art fly fishing equipment.*  
High Street, Stockbridge  
T: 01264 810017

## Antique Shops

**Lane Antiques** ④  
*Specialises in Porcelain, glass, paintings, decorative items and small furniture*  
High Street, Stockbridge  
T: 01264 810761  
E: info@laneantiques.fsnet.co.uk

**Stockbridge Antiques Centre** ⑤  
*Specialises in country furniture*  
Old London Road, Stockbridge  
T: 01264 811008

**Elizabeth Viney Ltd** ⑥  
*Specialises in small, rare and unusual pieces of English period furniture, metalware and treen*  
Jacob's House, High Street Stockbridge  
T: 01264 810761

**Jonathon Shirley Ltd** ⑦  
*A family run business creating beautiful, hand-crafted furniture and restoring antique furniture.*  
Goose Cottage, High Street, Stockbridge SO20 6EX  
T: 01264 811099  
F: 01264 811077

**Robjents' Fine Country Pursuits Ltd** ⑩  
*Offers a diverse range of high quality shooting and fly-fishing equipment, clothing and accessories.*  
Halfway House, High Street, Stockbridge, SO20 6EX  
T: 01264 810829

# ... and around Stockbridge

## Houghton Lodge Gardens

Stockbridge, SO20 6LQ  
T: 01264 810502  
E: info@houghtonlodge.co.uk  
W: www.houghtonlodge.co.uk  
Route: 1½ miles South of Stockbridge (A30) on minor road to Houghton village



## Museum of Army Flying

Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, SO20 8DY  
T: 01980 674421  
E: Alison@flying-museum.org.uk  
W: www.flying-museum.org.uk  
Route: Located approx 4½ miles north west of Stockbridge on A343



## Longstock Park Water Gardens

Stockbridge, SO20 6JF  
T: 01264 810904  
W: www.longstockpark.co.uk  
Route: Approx 1½ miles north of Stockbridge on minor road to Longstock.  
Only open on particular dates, please ring



## Danebury Vineyards Ltd

Danebury House, Nether Wallop, Stockbridge SP20 6JX  
T: 01264 781851  
E: patrick.westropp@danebury.com  
W: www.danebury.com  
Route: Approx 3 miles from Stockbridge following A30 to Salisbury



## Danebury Iron Age Hill Fort

Nether Wallop, Stockbridge  
A very important part of our heritage and is protected both as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.  
For guided Tours: 01264 366283 / 01962 860948  
Route: 2 miles north west of Stockbridge on minor road (2nd right off Stockbridge High St)



# Make the most of the Countryside

Stockbridge is surrounded by beautiful traditional English countryside. Below are a few activities to help you enjoy it. For more information on these activities visit Andover Tourist Information Centre, Romsey Tourist Information Centre or [www.visit-testvalley.org.uk](http://www.visit-testvalley.org.uk)

## Walking & Cycling

One of the best ways to explore Stockbridge and the surrounding area is to leave the car behind and discover the numerous footpaths and bridleways. The area boasts some magnificent countryside sites as well as long distance routes for walkers:

### Test Way

A 44 mile route, which follows the valley of the Test for much of its length, linking Totton (nr Southampton) and Inkpen Beacon (nr Newbury). The route travels along the disused Sprat and Winkle Railway line, once a very important transport link for Stockbridge

### Clarendon Way

The 24 mile route links Winchester & Salisbury and crosses the Test Valley just south of Stockbridge between Kings Somborne & Houghton

### Test Valley Tour

The Test Valley Tour is a series of 30 circular walking and on/off road cycling routes designed to take you safely off the beaten track.

### Danebury Ring

One of the finest Iron Age Hill Forts in Hampshire. Pleasant walks are complemented by fine view across the attractive countryside. Take time to follow the Archaeological trail.

## Fishing

The River Test is world famous for its trout fishing and enthusiasts or novices alike may apply for licences at a few selected places open to the public.

## Horse Riding

The area is also ideal for exploring on horseback. Approved riding stables organise rides by the hour or longer and have mounts suitable for all levels of ability.

# Stockbridge Town Guide



© Chris Cole



Stockbridge is a small market town at the heart of the Test Valley and literally means bridge over the river. No-one is quite sure when Stockbridge began, but its position at a narrow point in the River Test suggests that it was an obvious crossing point over the marshy terrain from the nearby Iron Age camps of Danebury, Meon Hill and Woolbury.

At some point in history huge amounts of chalk were brought in to make a firmer base for crossing and this chalk was wide enough to under lay the picturesque High Street we see today. Speculation surrounds this concerning whether the Romans had a posting station here on the road from Winchester to Sarum and needed a firmer base or whether traders in the middle ages widened it to make room for a market area, but in the absence of new archaeological evidence we shall never know.

After the Norman Conquest the town began to develop and by 1190 it was granted the right to hold a weekly market, the first sign of becoming a borough. This market continued until 1932.

By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Stockbridge had grown to a busy market town on one of the South's main east-west roads. It became a common site to see flocks of sheep and herds of cattle being driven through on their way from Wales to London, Portsmouth or Southampton. A sign of these times can be seen at a thatched cottage known as Drovers House, where a welsh message is painted on the walls saying 'Seasons Hay, Rich Grass, Good Ale, Sound Sleep.'

Racehorse training in the area began in the late 1700's but really became established in 1831 when the Stockbridge Races became a major feature in the racing calendar. Visitors poured in on the Sprat and Winkle railway line. The most prominent race goer was the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. For a time he visited with his mistress, the famous Lillie Langtry. The houses in which they stayed were on opposite sides of the River Test, but their gardens were linked by a footbridge. The racing came to a sudden end in 1898, when a piece of land, on which the course ran, was inherited by a lady who strongly disapproved of racing. This meant disaster for the local economy.

The early twentieth century saw a quiet but busy market town, self sufficient for goods and services. Many people travelled using the railway from Andover to Southampton.

The Stockbridge we see today is not too dissimilar. There has been a decrease in the number of inns, from thirteen down to five and the Sprat and Winkle railway is now closed (1967) becoming part of the Test Way, popular with walkers and cyclists. The High Street plays host to traditional grocers, tea rooms, pubs and restaurants, picture and craft galleries and famous antique shops. You may even be lucky enough to catch glimpses of colourful trout in the River Test which still flows under the High Street.



## Map

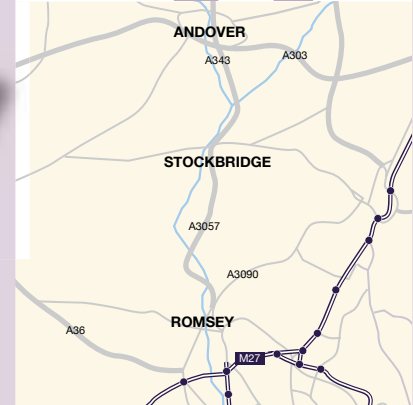
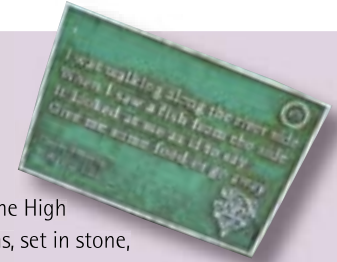
1 The Bakhtiyar Gallery  
2 Wykeham Gallery  
3 Courcoux Courcoux  
4 Lane Antiques  
5 To Stockbridge Antiques Centre  
6 Elizabeth Vinney Antiques  
7 Jonathan Shirley Ltd  
8 Broughton Crafts  
9 Orvis Sporting Traditions  
10 Robjents Fine Country Pursuits Ltd  
11 St Peters Church  
12 The Grosvenor Hotel  
13 Fire Station  
14 Police Station  
15 Town Hall

● Poetry Trail Plaques

Turn over for more information on these attractions

## Stockbridge Poetry Trail

The charming town of Stockbridge with its long history and friendly community was the inspiration behind many poems. The poetry trail follows the High Street, passes the River Test and many traditional shops and houses. The poems, set in stone, metal plaques and etched in glass define the character of Stockbridge, making the poetry in motion trail a unique way to discover its hidden secrets.



## Tourist Information



For more information and advice about what to see and do in Stockbridge and the surrounding area, please contact:

**Andover Tourist Information Centre**  
Andover Museum, 6 Church Close  
Andover SP10 1DP  
T: 01264 324320  
F: 01264 345650  
E: andovertic@testvalley.gov.uk  
[www.visit-testvalley.org.uk](http://www.visit-testvalley.org.uk)

or

**Romsey Tourist Information Centre**  
13 Church Street  
Romsey  
SO51 8BT  
T/F: 01794 512987  
E: romseytic@testvalley.gov.uk  
[www.visit-testvalley.org.uk](http://www.visit-testvalley.org.uk)

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If English is not your first language, we will try to provide this information in a format you can understand. This leaflet is also available in braille, large print and on tape. Please telephone: 01264 368000 Fax: 01264 368899 or email: [leisure@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@testvalley.gov.uk).

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