

The Clarendon Way, Oliver's Battery to Winchester



HAMPSHIRE
COUNTRYSIDE
SERVICE

Distance:	3.5 miles
Start:	Oliver's Battery

A 24 mile walk joining the two Wessex cities of Winchester and Salisbury

The Clarendon Way crosses the Test Valley between Kings Somborne and Houghton. It starts beside the waters of the Itchen in the heart of Winchester and ends near the Avon at Salisbury Cathedral.

The Clarendon Way is named from Clarendon Park on the eastern edge of Salisbury. The Park contains the site of Clarendon Palace, a royal hunting lodge for Norman Kings, but later expanded by the Plantagenets into a great county house. Almost nothing remains now, only a few feet of flint wall lying a few yards from the Clarendon Way.

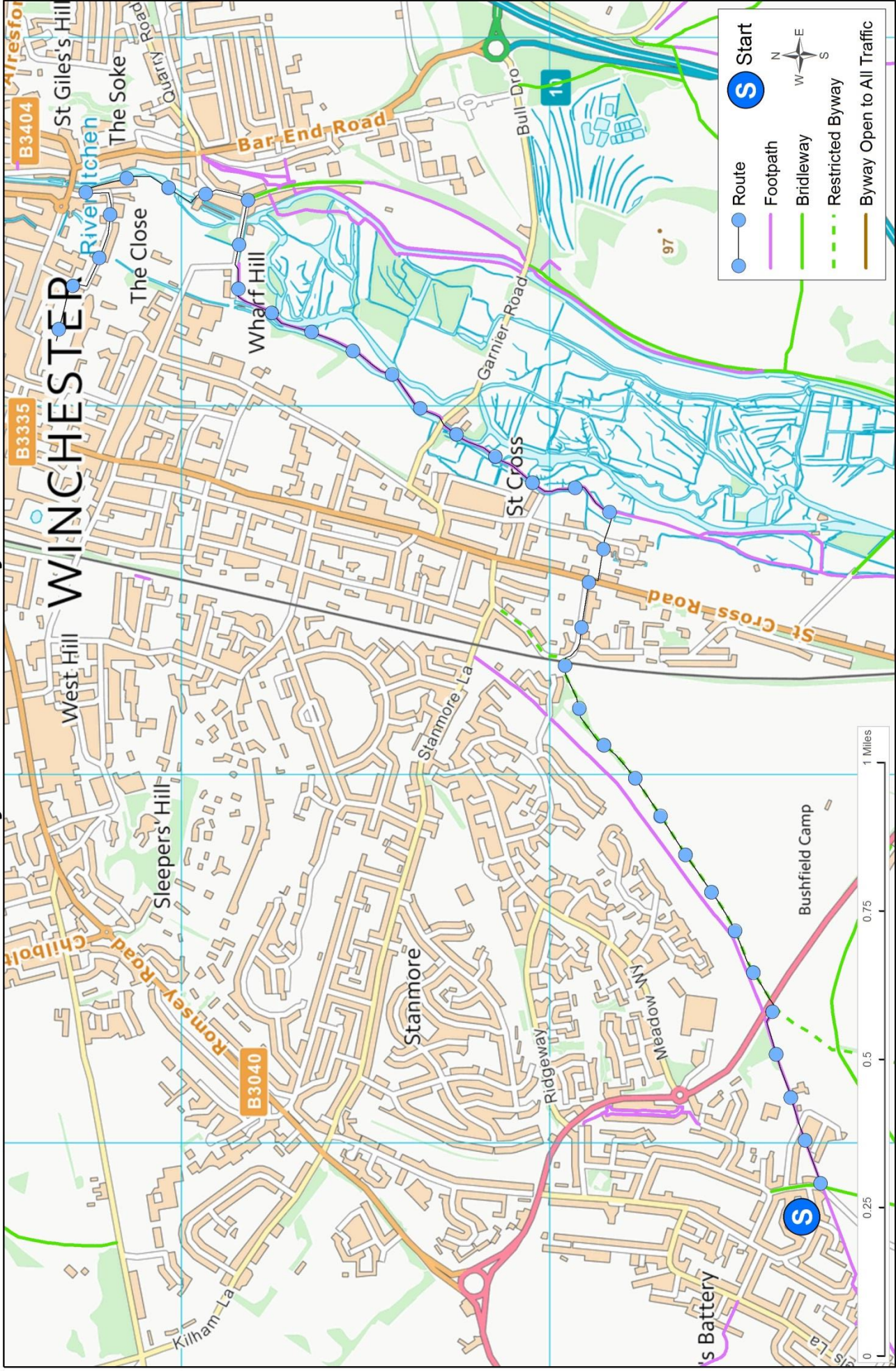
From the Itchen Valley the route climbs to Oliver's Battery, a hill from which the Roundheads bombarded Winchester in the Civil War, then on to Farley Mount, an extensive informal Country Park managed by Hampshire County Council. It goes on through Parnholt Wood, via Kings Somborne to the Test Valley and Houghton, then across open farmland to the valley of the Wallop Brook and the village of Broughton, a convenient half-way point.

West from Broughton the route follows a Roman road through Buckholt to Winterslow, crosses the hills with fine views to the village of Pitton, then passes through the woods of Pitton, then passes through the woods of Clarendon Park. Emerging from the woods the spire of Salisbury Cathedral beckons from the Avon Valley two miles ahead.

Directions

After passing through the housing estate at Oliver's Battery, walkers cross a main road on a footbridge and descend via an old track, Whiteshute Lane to St Cross. They then follow the network of streams along the Itchen Valley, past the Winchester College playing fields to the City centre.

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