

Fordingbridge, Hyde



**HAMPSHIRE
COUNTRYSIDE
SERVICE**

Distance: 3.5 miles

Start: Abbots Well car park

The River Avon runs through this small town that lies 13 miles south of Salisbury. To the east is the New Forest and to the west are the Western Downs and Cranborne Chase.

Fordingbridge is surrounded by attractive villages and hamlets including Bickton, Breamore, Godshill, Hyde, Rockbourne and Woodgreen. The area was populated from early times with the remains of significant Roman occupation which is still evident at Rockbourne Roman villa. The 13th century church of St. Mary's is well worth a visit.

A road bridge crossing over the river Avon was established in the 14th century and the current bridge dates from the 19th century. Close to the bridge is a statue of the artist Augustus John who lived in the town and surrounding area until his death in 1961. He is buried in Stuckton Road cemetery. There is an attractive Recreation Ground and Memorial Gardens and numerous cafes and hostelrys in the town for refreshment.

Directions

From Abbots Well Car Park walk to the viewpoint and turn right to follow track towards a white house. Cross the minor road and continue on the track ahead. Go through kissing gate on right and follow the left field edge, cross a stile and through more kissing gates to the road.

Cross the road and stile opposite and follow track to cross another stile. Turn left then right at the path T junction. Before path veers right, turn left over a stile into woodland. Keep on this path, over a stile and between the houses to the road at Frogham Hill. Turn right along the road then right over a stile before Celandine House.

Cross another stile, cross the field and then over a stile and footbridge, climbing slightly to reach another stile. Cross this and turn right to cross another stile immediately. Follow the path, crossing stiles and a bridge, with Ditchend Brook on your right.

Cross the Brook via a bridge on the right and follow field edge with the wood on the left. Cross a footbridge on the left, through the wood, then over a stile.

At the fingerpost turn right to Blissford, then straight ahead to a metal gate then the road. Turn right onto Blissford Hill and take footpath on right. Cross the stile and follow field edge on left, over a ditch to another stile. Follow field edge track, entering the wood on left. Turn left at path junction, then right onto road. Turn left and follow road to Forrester's Arms and back to the car park.

