

Back Roads to Lunch – a drive from Farley Mount to Vernhams Dean and back to Winchester on a variety of roads suitable for the older car.

By using the ‘tulip’ system of route guide it is hoped that cars will not move along the route in procession, and that the faster cars/drivers and bikes can make good progress without the need to hold back for the more sedate motorist. This system also allows for stops to take photographs, at your leisure.

This drive starts from the car park at the junction of the lane from Winchester and the lane up from Hursley on the Farley Mount Country Park at map reference SU420291 (Ordnance Survey Landranger sheets 185 and 174 cover the drive). Please arrive with enough fuel for the day, although there should be fuel available en-route, but in these uncertain times rural service stations do keep funny hours and they do close – all too often for good.

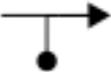
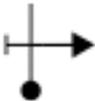
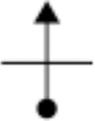
You will be deemed to be in control of your vehicle at all times. It is your responsibility to ensure that you & your vehicle comply with the law (inc speed limits) at all times. And, take extra care through the villages

Key to Symbols	
 <i>Caution</i>	Caution
 <i>Fuel</i>	Fuel
	Point of interest <i>(info in italics)</i>
 <i>Pub</i>	Pub

### The Route

The total distance for this drive is 29 miles to the lunch stop, the intention is that we should all meet at the George, at Vernhams Dean, SP11 0JY (SU341565), by 12:45 for lunch, although there are other possible refreshment stops en-route.

*All errors and omissions are mine, and I'd love to hear about them so that I can improve your experience on future drives.*

Inter	Total	Tulip	Notes
0.0	0.0		Set trip to zero. Leave the car park and turn right.
0.05	0.05		Our route is a narrow road with a number of unmade side-roads – follow the tarmac. <b>i</b> <i>This turning on the left &amp; the avenue of yew on the right were once a major road from Southampton to Andover. There is always a good chance of seeing deer along this road. The church in Ashley is a point of interest.</i>
3.3	3.3		The next turn is at the top of the rise.
0.9	4.2		Downhill all the way... to the next turn.
0.3	4.5		 <i>Caution</i> The next junction is a right turn on a tight left-hand bend – but you then need to keep turning right, almost back on yourself.
0.3	4.8		A cracking lane – but if you approach the national speed limit be aware of the loose gravel – not that any responsible driver would.
1.4	6.2		 <i>Caution</i> This is the A272. Fast traffic from both directions.
1.1	7.3		 <i>Caution</i> This right turn can sneak up on you. Watch the distance. If you over shoot, turn right at the end.  This is the A30.

Fast traffic from both directions.

1.2 8.5



 *You are once again on the old road from Southampton to Andover. The original road was stopped up, from the sharp left hand bend, when an airfield was built in WWII.*

*The name 'Leckford Hut' gives a clue to the age of this old inn on what was once a major droving road to London from the west. Now a restaurant that counts Bush Snr as one of its customers.*

2.0 10.5



Leckford. This is the A3057 – Andover to Stockbridge road.

0.9 11.4



Turn over the railway bridge.

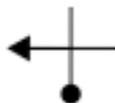
 *This attractive lane, with its bridges over the River Test, known as The Bunny. If you have not driven along here before you will have seen photographs of it.*

0.5 11.9



Longstock. Spot the nice new house on the right. Take care on the left-hand bend at the end of the village.

2.1 14.0



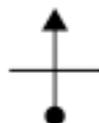
Fullerton Road - A chance to get past that sedate old car in front...

1.9 15.9



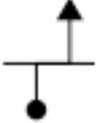
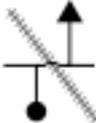
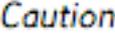
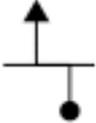
This is the second cross road since the last turn and only here for confirmation that you are on the right road.

0.6 16.5

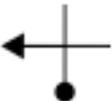


Crossing A343. Fast traffic. Continue through village of Abbots Ann.

Signed to Weyhill

- 
 Keep straight on in the middle of the village.
- 
 0.8 17.3 Turn right – the left turn is around 100 yds down the road. Signed to Weyhill. Continue on under the railway bridge to the next junction.
- 
 0.9 18.2
 
 Visibility is poor to the right – look through the railings.
   

 Signed to Weyhill.
- 
 1.1 19.3 Crossing the A342.
   

 Fuel is just a few yards up the A342 to the right.
   

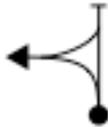
 Follow this road, over a cross-road, past a reasonable pub and through Clanville.
- 
 3.5 22.8 Signed to The Chutes.
- 
*Weyhill, this small collection of buildings, a couple of pubs (there were once 5) and a church was once where the Weyhill Fair was held. This fair, well known across the county, was the largest fair in the country for the number of sheep that were sold, and also famed for its hops and brewing. There is no legal parish called Weyhill so the village is in name only, on the border between Penton Grafton and Penton Mewsey parish.*

1.0 23.8



Another nice pub on the right – Lower Chute.

0.5 24.3



As soon as you have turned left (following the road) you will need to fork right.

0.0 24.4



Signed Conholt – Chute Causeway.

1.0 25.4



Enjoy the view (passenger) this is the Chute Causeway, a Roman road.

 *Look out for Buzzards and Kites.*

1.2 26.6



0.3 26.9



Stay on the ‘main’ road – and down the hill.

0.9 27.8



Enter Vernham Dean, through the right/left ‘S’ bend and in to the 30 limit.

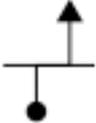
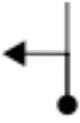
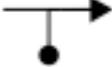
0.6 28.4



The George is on the left. Aim to be here for 12:45.

Post code SP11 0JY  
OS map ref SU341565

On leaving you can return the way you came; find your own way or follow this route until you find a convenient turn to take you home. Turn left out of the car park. Follow the valley through Upton, Ibthorpe to the A 343 at Hurstbourne Tarrent.

- 3.7 32.1  Join the A343 and immediately turn onto the B3048 to Stoke and St Mary Bourne and on to Hurstbourne Priors.
-  *Turn left on to the A343 and a petrol station on the right a few hundred yards up the road.*
- 6.0 38.1  At Hurtsbourne cross the B3400, signed Longparish.
-  *As you drive through Longparish you cannot miss the imposing house, cream under grey slate. This is Longparish House, the one time home of Col. Peter Hawker, the man credited with inventing the punt gun. His diaries are an interesting insight into life in the early 1800s.*
- 1.9 40.0  Signed to Barton Stacey.
-  *Just beyond this turn is a pub called The Plough – good food & beer.*
- 0.3 40.3  Follow this road on, over the A303 – unless you want to turn off.
- Pass through Barton Stacey to the A30.
- 3.5 43.8   *For those wanting Stockbridge, Romsey, etc., turn right, not left.*
- 1.3 45.1  This takes you into the back of Sutton Scotney.
- 0.4 45.5  This is the old A34, which will take you to Winchester and the M3 or anywhere in the world – should you so wish.

Dave Tilbury – January 2009.