

SOLENT MG - Back Roads to Lunch - a drive from the west-bound services on the M27 to Lower Chute 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 outside the café in the west-bound M27 service area. You can fuel-up as you leave on the drive, 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.

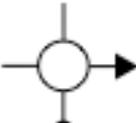
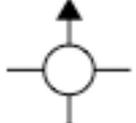
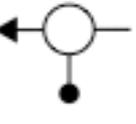
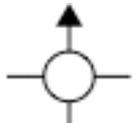
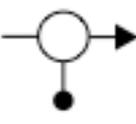
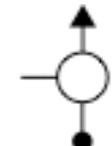
You will be deemed to be in control of your vehicle at all times. It is your responsibility to ensure that you & your vehicle comply with the law (inc speed limits) at all times. And, take extra care through the villages

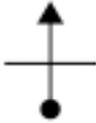
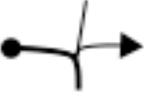
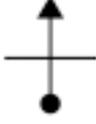
Key to Symbols	
 <i>Caution</i>	Caution
 <i>Fuel</i>	Fuel
 <i>Info</i>	Point of interest <i>(info in italics)</i>
 <i>Pub</i>	Pub

### The Route

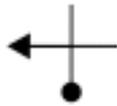
The total distance for this drive is 35.8 miles to the lunch stop, the intention is that we should all meet at the Hatchet, at Lower Chute by 12:45 for lunch, although there are other possible refreshment stops en-route. (The Hatchet = SU312532 - post code SP11 9DX - phone 01264 730229)

*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 join the M27, moving into the second lane when safe to do so.
1.0	1.0		Take the slip road, staying in the right-hand lane, enter the roundabout and move to the left hand lane.
			As you progress around the roundabout move to the left-hand lane, for the M271, Romsey.
1.2	2.2		Continue to Romsey. (A3057)  <i>The milestones are still on the verges of this old turnpike.</i>
1.5	3.7		First exit, and over the bridge toward Romsey.
1.0	4.7		Second exit. The next roundabout is right there about 100 yards in front.
0.1	4.9		Second exit, to the right (A31), but notice the facade of the old cinema. Continue straight on, under the railway bridge, over the mini roundabout and under a second railway arch – Sun Arch.
0.3	5.2		Turn left into Cupernham Lane.
0.6	5.8		At the roundabout take the second exit – straight on.

- 0.7 6.5  If you miss the turn, go right at the end.
- 0.7 7.2  Signed 'Brashfield' and continue through the village – past the Dog & Crook, the Wheatsheaf and the War Memorial.  
*ⓘ As you pull out of this junction you are looking at Hilliar's Arboretum. This is well worth a look – if you like trees...*
- 1.9 9.1  At the far end of the village there is a slight drop down to a cross road, continue straight on to King's Somborne (signed)
- 3.4 12.5  As you enter the 30 mph zone at King's Somborne look for a right turn. Follow the road out of the village (see if you can spot the Andover Arms (long closed) on the right. Stay on this road. Do not turn off the 'main' route.
- 1.8 14.3  You are effectively going straight-on, up the narrow lane - Whitehall Road. A cracking lane, but if you approach the national speed limit be aware of the loose gravel – not that any responsible driver would.  
*ⓘ There is another Saxon church, just a few metres north of this junction, that could be worth a photograph on a sunny day.*
- 1.3 15.6    
*Caution* This is the A272.  
 Fast traffic from both directions.
- 1.1 16.7    
*Caution* 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.*

1.3 18



 You are now 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.*

2.1 20.1



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

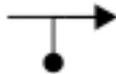
1.0 21.1



Turn over the railway bridge (the Sprat & Winkle Line).

 *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 21.6



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

0.7 22.3



Turn right. Signed to Fullerton.

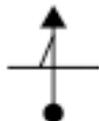
 *The Longstock Water Gardens, (on the right at 23 miles), are worth a visit.*

1.4 23.7



Turn left into Fullerton Road – signed to Red Rice. *A chance to get past that sedate old car in front...*

3.1 26.8



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



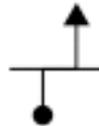
Crossing A343. Fast traffic.  
Continue through village of  
Abbotts Ann. Signed to Weyhill.



Keep straight on down Duck Street in the  
middle of the village.

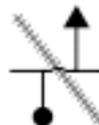
**i** *According to the Domesday survey there  
were three mills here – the site of two are  
known today.*

0.9 28.2



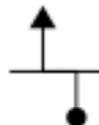
Turn right – the left turn is around 100 yds  
down the road. Red Post Lane, signed to  
Weyhill. Continue on under the railway bridge  
to the next junction.

0.9 29.1



Visibility is poor to the right –  
look through the railings.  
Signed to Weyhill.

1.2 30.3

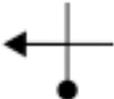
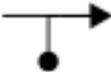
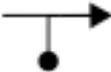


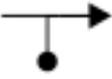
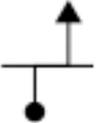
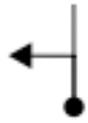
Crossing the A342.

Fuel is just a few yards up the A  
342 to the right.

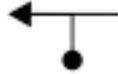
Follow this road, straight over at  
the next cross-road.

**i** *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.*

- |     |      |   |  |
|-----|------|---|--|
| 1.5 | 31.8 |    | Just past the Red Lion, turn left into Back Lane. Signed to Appleshaw.   |
| 0.5 | 32.3 |    | Stay on this road, through a sharp right; a road haulage yard & a sharp left, to the end.  |
| 0.5 | 32.8 |    | New House Lane. After about 550 yards follow the road round a sharp left-hander.   |
| 0.8 | 33.6 |    | Turn right into Lodge Lane, signed to Chute Forest. Later this road becomes Coach Hill.  |
| 1.6 | 35.2 |   | Turn left, signed to Chute.  |
| 0.6 | 35.8 |  | Here, in the middle of the diagram is the Hatchet, at Lower Chute.   |
|     |      |  | After refreshment you can chose your own way home, or leave the car park and turn right, for some different back roads that take you towards Winchester. |
| 0.4 | 36.2 |  | As soon as you have turned left (following the road) you will need to fork right.  |
| 0.1 | 36.3 |  | Dummer Lane - Signed Conholt - Chute Causeway.   |
| 1.0 | 37.3 |  | Enjoy the view (passenger) this is the Chute Causeway, a Roman road.   |
|     |      |  | <i>Look out for Buzzards and Kites.</i>  |

- |     |      |   |   |
|-----|------|---|---|
| 1.2 | 38.5 |    |   |
| 0.2 | 38.7 |    | Stay on the 'main' road – and down the hill.  |
| 1.9 | 39.6 |    | Enter Vernham Dean, through the right/left 'S' bend and in to the 30 limit.   |
| 0.6 | 40.2 |    | The George is on the left. A potential destination for a drive.   |
| 3.8 | 44.0 |   | Join the A343 and immediately turn onto the B3048 (Church Street) to Stoke and St Mary Bourne and on to Hurstbourne Priors.   |
|     |      |  | <i>Turn left on to the A343 and a petrol station on the right a few hundred yards up the road.</i>  |
| 6.0 | 50.0 |  | At Hurtsbourne cross the B3400, signed Longparish.  |
|     |      |  | <i>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.</i> |
| 2.0 | 52.0 |  | Left into Mill Lane, signed to Barton Stacey.   |
|     |      |  | <i>Just beyond this turn, on the right, is a pub called The Plough – good food &amp; beer.</i>  |

0.4 52.4



Follow this road on, over the A303 – unless you want to turn off.

Pass through Barton Stacey to the A30.

3.6 56



 *For those wanting Stockbridge, Romsey, etc., turn right. For those wanting Winchester, turn left.*

Dave Tilbury – January 2009.