



British Walking Federation

Alver Valley Armistice Trail – PT 291



Organised By The ROYAL AIR FORCE WALKING AND ROAD MARCHING ASSOCIATION

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Distance: 24km

Entry Fee: £1.00 (Cheques made payable to RAFWARMA).

Award: Award is not available yet

Start Venue: Alver Valley Country Park, East Car Park, Grange Road, Gosport, PO13 8AS
Outdoor Leisure 29, GR SU587000.

Car Parking: At start venue, pay and display, £5.30 over 5 hours.

Alternative Parking: There is alternative free parking next to Gosport and Stokes Bay Golf Club, Fort Road, PO12 2DT. Leave the car park and turn left (start at Para 7 by crossing Military Road). There is no opportunity to complete the walk in 2 legs if you start here.

Public Transport: Bus routes X5, 9 and 9A.

Refreshments: Plenty of refreshment and toilet facilities throughout the route.

Terrain: BWF Grade 2 – Minor roads, tracks, coastal paths/promenades.

There is an opportunity to complete the walk in 2 legs by returning back to the car park after passing the Diving Museum and roundabout (Para 7) following the signs for the Alver Valley Country Park along the riverside path and crossing the road back into the country park (approx 1100m). To resume the walk from the same start place, following the instruction of the first 4 lines in Para 1, then at line 5 instead of turning left at the road, turn right and continue the instruction from Para 8.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (Updated 29th September 2018)

TR – Turn Right TL – Turn Left BR – Bear Right BL – Bear Left SO – Straight On
RH – Right Hand LH – Left Hand SP – Signpost FP – Footpath BW – Bridleway
RHS – Right Hand Side LHS – Left Hand Side PH – Public House

1. The car park is horseshoe shaped, at the curve; pass through the metal barrier by the black post and in 10m, TL on the gravel path. At the Junction TL, follow the path to reach the road, TL and cross the road using the island. TR (SP – Alver Way, Stokes Bay ½ Mile) and after 200m TL (SP Alver Way, Stokes Bay 750yds) on the river path with the caravan site on RHS. At the next road, TL and stay on the pavement, passing the roundabout into Gomer Lane. At the bus stop cross the road towards Bay House School, TL and at the end of school by 'The Cottage', TR into Stanley Park. SO on RHS of park, following tarmac path through trees, passing a wood carving in a tree on LHS. At Charles Osbourne Gardens on LHS, TR on path to exit the park by the Alver Hotel. (1.9 km)

Q1. To the left of the entrance of the hotel, there is a blue plaque on the wall. What was the house used for during WW1?

2. Continue in the same direction and before the metal railings, TL through the wooden railings on the path along the bank with the hotel garden wall on LHS. At the end of the wall TL back into the Stanley Park through the metal gate. SO on grass along LH edge of open space to reach the main tarmac path. TR and follow the path to exit through the gate to the road. TR, crossing Kennedy Crescent twice, to the crossroads. SO (Village Road) and at the LH Bend, TR to pass the front of the One Stop Shop. After the Post Office TL to a small roundabout with tree, then TR into Church Road. SO passing the Church on LHS to the junction. Cross road (With Care), TR and immediately TL into Little Anglesey Road. SO with the inlet on the RHS to the cycle track crossing to the left of the bridge.

The cycle track follows the path of the former Fareham – Gosport Railway line, closed fully in 1969. In 1912 a branch line was routed to Priddy's Yard to serve the Royal Naval Armaments Depot.

3. TL and follow the cycleway for 700m, crossing over a road, to the end. TL to the main road (SP – Town Centre Fareham, Cycle Route 2). Cross the main road using the island and SO through the gap opposite (SP - Cycle Path to Fareham). TR and immediately after the White Hart PH, TL to the main road. Cross road at the island, TR and then TL into St Andrews Road. SO for 300m and at house 61, TL into Daisy Lane. Just before the barrier ahead TR (SP – Cycle path to Fareham) and in 30m TL on cycleway. Ignore the cycle path to Fareham and continue SO as path will BR by triangle junction. SO passing a play park on RHS and just after Newtown School, TL through the railings. SO, passing Albert Street Car Park to the main road. Cross the main road at the pedestrian crossing and TL to St Vincent College. (5.9 km)

Q2. To the left of the entrance of the college there is a blue plaque. Forton Barracks was the home of the Portsmouth Division Royal Marine Light Infantry until what date?

4 After the college TR into Mill Lane (SP – St Vincent College Campus). After passing the college grounds, TR into St Vincent Road, passing a Fire Assembly Point, follow road around LH bend and after 20m TR on the path into the park. BR at the grass triangle and then left by the red bin, following the path behind the houses. After the fenced off play park on the left, TR passing lamppost No 5, SO through the trees and then along the open space. TR by the black bin and follow the path to the road at the waterfront. Cross road at the island and TR to the Explosive Museum. If the museum is open go through the gate, passing gun exhibits and then through the gate opposite (*If the gates are closed follow the road to the right around the buildings to reach the gates on the opposite side*).

5 SO and at the bollards BR to cross over the bridge. At the road junction TL, after Galleon Place TL towards the Slaughter House and then TR passing the Victualler Bar passing under the building. At the end BR through the bollards to the left of the white building and immediately TL passing more bollards along the alleyway between the pink and grey buildings. At the end TR, passing the car park, through the gate to the road. TL to the main road by the traffic lights.

The line of light coloured chain motif pattern tiles and mosaic circles in the pavement follow the route of the Gosport Waterfront Trail.

6. TL keeping to the LH pavement, crossing Harbour Road and passing Aldi supermarket. Just after the Castle Tavern PH, TL at the car park into the park and along the waterfront, following the Waterfront Trail in the pavement, passing several memorials and plaques. Pass the Gosport Ferry Terminal (Ferry to Portsmouth) and continue to follow the path along the waterfront to cross a FB and on to the road. TL over the road bridge (Submarine Museum on LHS) and continue SO following the road between the tall walls of the grounds of the former Haslar Military Hospital to the entrance. (11.3 km)

Q3. At the entrance to the hospital there is a crest to the left of the words Royal Haslar Hospital. What letters are in the centre of the diamond within the crest?

Royal Hospital Haslar first opened in 1754 as the Royal Navy Hospital where casualties were delivered by boat. The hospital has treated many casualties of sick and injured servicemen from all major wars, in WW1 it was constantly full.

7. Continue SO to the junction. TL on Clayhall Road keeping to the left hand pavement and follow around the RH bend. Pass the Car Park (* alternative free parking) and entrance to the Gosport and Stokes Bay Golf Club. SO on pavement, crossing Military Road and at the end of the pavement TL through the black railings and gate. Follow the path through the golf course (With Care) towards Fort Gilkicker. At the Fort TR and follow the gravel track around the building and then continue on the track with the sea on LHS to reach the Lifeboat Station. Continue SO along the promenade for 1600m, passing Café and Toilets. At the end of the promenade, follow the pavement around the bend passing the Diving Museum to the roundabout. TL (SP – Lee-On-Solent) and cross the road.

There is an opportunity to return to the car park and start point from here by following the signs to Alver Valley Country Park back along the river path (Approx 1.1 km)

8. Continue along the RH pavement, passing the entrance to the Browndown Training Camp on the LHS. After the entrance to the Kingfisher Caravan Park cross the road at the island (Cycle Route 2) continuing in the same direction. At the junction TL keeping to the cycle/walk way. At the junction with traffic lights continue SO (Portsmouth Road) on the cycleway. 20m past lamppost No 36, TL by the bin through the KG (Browndown Coastal Area). Follow the LH grass path with hedge on LHS, BL at the end and TR and then TL down the steps to the promenade.

In 2014 WW1 training trenches were found within Browndown Training area. Gosport was a departure point for thousands of soldiers setting off to the trenches in Europe many of whom may have trained here.

9. TR following the promenade for approx 1200m to go up the slope. At the top of the slope TR and head for the War Memorial in the centre of the bricked/hedge area. (19.4 km)

Q4. What are the words below 'In' on the second line of the memorial?

10. Return to the promenade, heading in the same direction, down the slope and SO for approx 700m. At the end by the wall, TR through the car park to the road with the Hovercraft Museum opposite (*Open 1st April to 16th December, Saturdays only*).

The car park was the slipway for the seaplanes that operated from the former HMS Daedalus opposite when it was a flying training base for the Fleet Air Arm during WW1. It became RAF Daedalus on the 1st April 1918 on the formation of the Royal Air Force.

11. TR to the bus stop, cross the road (With Care) to Richmond Road opposite, passing the Fleet Air Arm Memorial (*The building behind the wall was the Ward Room/Officer's Mess*). Cross over to the RH pavement, passing Montserrat Road. TR, (Victoria Square) and at the church TL, still in Victoria Square. Turn immediately left by the post box into the car park and to the memorial in the LH corner. (20.8 km)

Q5. Who is the memorial in memory of?

12. Return to the road by the post box and TL passing the Church. SO to the junction and cross the road to the Bun Penny PH opposite. TR and then TL into Grove Road, SO to the junction with Russell Road. Cross the road, TL and then turn 1st right, passing the bus stop. At the end TR, Fell Drive (SP Lee Community Centre). Keep to the RH pavement crossing Derwent Road, Skipper Way and Compton Close. At Megson Road turn sharp right on the tarmac path (Common Barn Lane). SO, passing entrances on the LHS to Beufort Close and Martlet Close. TL through the gap at Harvard Close, opposite the green wall. Follow the road around to the right then left to junction. TR, crossing Magister Drive and SO on the cycleway/footpath between the blue houses. At the end TR and then TL by the grey boxes (Lamppost 41), crossing the road using the island to the gate opposite. Through the gate and TR, following the path along the fence line, keeping on the distinctive gravel path as it BL and routes around the mound. At the junction, with benches opposite, TR on the tarmac lane ignoring all side paths to eventually cross Apple Dumpling Bridge (*Apple Dumpling Bridge can sometimes get flooded, the water level is normally only ankle high, if it is impassable, TR before the bridge through the fence into the training area. There are several paths that will eventually get you to a road where you can TL keeping the country park on the LHS to eventually cross the river and then TL back to the car park approx 100m from the bridge*). SO following the lane around to the right back to the car park and finish. (24 km)

When you have finished this trail please use the [Permanent Trail Entry Form](#)
Send your entry to the contact name above.

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

This trail is open until 31st December 2019.