



WELCOME TO DUNBRIDGE

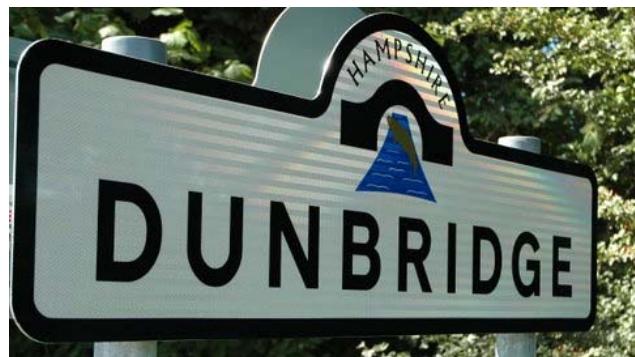
Dear Angler,

By now you will have arrived and I hope you are relaxing over a cup of coffee. The fishing shelter beside the drive is a good place to make a cup of coffee, there is a WC and water.

If you want somewhere to picnic you have a really pretty thatched cabin that you also have use of which is about 150 yards upstream of the car park.

Here is a summary of the fishing and what to expect; have a lovely day.

Electric Gate: The gates are on a timer that allows them to open automatically 7am-7pm. If you require the key pad code it is 8766 .



The River Dun flows through the counties of Wiltshire and Hampshire. The Dun rises in Wiltshire to the south-east of Salisbury near West Grimstead, and flows east into Hampshire before joining the River Test at Kimbridge, ultimately draining to the Solent.

For those of you who like a little bit of industrial archaeology, take a look into the wood on your right as you head along the road to The Mill Arms for the remains of the Southampton to

Salisbury Canal.

The canal bed can be seen in the wood and it fills with water in the winter. During construction of the canal sections of the river were diverted to accommodate the waterway which explains why the river is dead straight downstream of our beat. Lock 2 was sited in the garden of the current day Dunerley Cottage which was built on the site of the lock keepers house.

The use of the canal was short-lived as the company went bankrupt with the advent of the railway that followed much the same route.

Five years ago in a survey of all the Test tributaries, the Dun came out as the best for wild trout, with the densest population of juvenile fish and adults on the way to breeding.

In truth I think many of us were surprised by the result; the tributaries higher up the valley like the Anton or Dever might have been more obvious candidates.



My best guess is that is that the deep pools and undercut bends are perfect hiding places for a growing trout.

About the Dunbridge fishing

The car park is close to the start of the beat. This is my advice on the best way to fish:

Downstream of the car park: I would head for the start of the beat, which is about 75 yards downstream. The best way to reach the start is on foot; cross the wooden footbridge in the garden, turn right downstream until you reach the concrete bridge.

The first section is dark and deep, really hard to spot the fish unless they come within a few inches of the surface, but there are many good, big fish lurking around the bridge. As you move up the river it gets shallower, with more visible gravel and then deepens again until you reach the wooden bridge you crossed earlier.

Upstream of the car park: From here you are on the left hand bank until the top of the beat. The section from the wooden bridge to the next bend is the most amazing fish holding spot; I have had days when we have barely needed to move from here, but there is plenty of fishing further up so do move on when you have had your fill.



Wooden bridge

Generally, the fish are easy to spot at Dunbridge so I fish to the fish. However, sometimes when there is no surface action lightly weighted nymphs will prove very effective. It is worth remembering that some of the bends are very deep, as much as 4-6ft so try a long tippet and let the nymph go deep and knock along the tree roots. Unfortunately, you will get snagged from time-to-time, but the rewards can be worth the risk.



Resuming our journey up the beat from the wooden bridge the river does an S turn, past the thatched cabin, and then gets very shallow for 150 yards. Any fish will tend to be on the far bank, until you reach the next sharp bend that turns to the left, with a rickety bench on the corner - this is a great spot. From then on up you are very open; the opposite bank is left wild and you have nothing to obstruct your back cast.

Thatched Cabin



Depending on the time of day, the smaller fish move onto the gravel shallows to feed, but you will rarely see the big fish outside the deeper sections. Even then you often have to wait 10-15 minutes for them to show themselves.

Keep on up the same bank to the top of the beat, which is marked by a fence. Just short of the end is a good fast section, with an undercut on the far side. Worth taking time over before your retrace your steps to the bottom of the beat.



Places to eat



Mill Arms, Dunbridge (300 yds) 01794 340401. Food, rooms and local beer.

King's Arms, Romsey Road, Lockerley SO51 0JF. 01794 340332. Smart pub food. Booking advisable.

Kimbridge Farm Shop & Tea Rooms - Kimbridge (1 mile)

Romsey (3 miles) – plenty of choices with hotels, pubs, coffee shops and plenty more.

Local shops

Petrol station & bakery (2.5 mile) – head towards Romsey.

Kimbridge Farm Shop - Kimbridge (1 mile)

Fishing & clothing shops – Stockbridge (9 miles) has Robjents and Orvis.

Beer, wine and food – again Romsey. There is a Waitrose in Alma Road, SO51 8AS

Places to visit

Romsey Abbey – Kings of England were crowned here in ancient times. Free. 3 miles.

Salisbury Cathedral – magnificent spire, oldest working clock in the world, original Magna Carta and a beautiful cathedral close. Voluntary admission charge. 12 miles.

Mottisfont Abbey & rose gardens – National Trust house and gardens with walk beside the River Test. Admission charge. 2 miles.

I will be sending you an email in a few days time. If you have a few minutes to give us some feedback from your visit it would be really appreciated.

I hope that you have a great day with us at Dunbridge.

Tight lines!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon". A single diagonal line extends from the bottom left of the "S" towards the right.

Simon Cooper
Fishing Breaks Founder & Managing Director

Emergency

The address here is:

Dunerley Cottage, Lockerley Road, Dunbridge, Romsey SO51 0LG

Doctors surgery

Alma Road Surgery, Alma Rd, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8ED
01794 513422

Local hospital

Royal Hampshire County Hospital
Romsey Road
Winchester
SO22 5DG
01962 863535

NHS Direct 08 45 46 47

Chemist

Lloyds Pharmacy 123 The Hundred Romsey, SO51 8BZ
01794 522716