

Hambledon

(The Fountain Inn - Rowland Castle)

A 31 Mile Practice Ride

Couple of points - this is not a difficult ride. It is not hard; there are some gentle undulations. Some roads will have loose grit or surface water, so be very careful especially down hill or turning sharply. As always getting to country lanes and roads takes us through built up areas – so take care! Secondly – don't rush. The outward leg is some 25 miles. Even if you take it very steadily you will get to the Fountain Inn at Rowlands Castle in good time for lunch. Remember it will not open until noon. Finally, the homeward leg is less than 10 miles, so take your time to relax at lunch, and get to know your fellow riders.

Leave the Ship and head towards Havant going straight across the roundabout and the following set of lights. Turn left at Halfords down West Street, cross the railway crossing at Bedhampton, then bear left onto the main road. Turn right at the traffic light junction at Hulbert road (1.8) then left (2nd exit) at the Hypermarket roundabout (2.6) onto Purbrook Way following signs for Purbrook. Carry straight on over three mini roundabouts until you reach another mini roundabout with no straight on option (4.2). Turn left then immediately right into Purbrook Heath Rd. (Sign for Rowans Hospice). Half a mile along bear off left (effectively straight on) (4.6) at the junction where the main road takes a sharp right hand bend.

Follow this bendy road ignoring turnings until you go round the sharp right hand bend past Potwell house (5.8) then turn right at the junction where you can see a ford on the road to your left (5.9). Turn left at Pitymoor lane (6.7) (sign Southwick 2). Carry on to main road where you turn right (7.6). Turn right at the big roundabout (8.5) into Southwick. Follow main road round sharp left bend and along a straight then shortly after the next sharp right hand bend go past Back Lane then turn right into Common Lane (9.1). Follow Common Lane as it climbs up to the T junction then turn right onto main road (10.4) and stay on the main road at the next junction as it bends sharp right.

Turn left into Bunns Lane at the bottom of the hill just after sign for the Horse and Jockey (11.1) but just before you reach the actual pub. Dogleg left then right across the next junction towards Hoe Gate (12.0) and carry straight on (slight right fork) at the next (12.9). At the next junction turn right (13.4) (signed Hambledon 1). This road goes steep downhill round sharp bends - Be Careful!. At the bottom of the hill is Lott's general store and tea rooms - This is Hambledon and a good place for a break (14.3).

Turn right onto the main road then fork off right (14.6) at the junction for World's End and Fareham (miss this turn and face a nasty hill!). Turn left at Broad Lane, just before a sharp right hand bend and opposite the driveway to Great Ervills House (name on brick gatepost) (15.5). Go straight across the next junction (carefully - no clear right of way) towards Denmead and on past the Fox and Hounds pub.

At the main road (16.4) turn right and follow road into Denmead. Fork off left at the junction signposted Anmore & Catherington (17.1). Follow this bendy road signposted for Clanfield and Catherington until you finally come to a T junction (19.3) where you turn right into Lovedean (signposted for Portsmouth). Follow this road until it bends left up a short hill to another T junction where you turn left onto a main road (20.5).

Turn right at the mini roundabout (21.0) into Dell Piece West and down past Morrisons and straight over the Motorway roundabout (21.5). Turn left (yes LEFT away from Havant) at the mini roundabout towards Horndean (21.7). Turn right at the junction opposite Keydell nurseries (22.0) towards Rowlands Castle and follow this bendy road past all junctions until you come down into Rowlands Castle (24.7). Turn right and then immediately turn right again to cross the main road onto the road that lies between the buildings and the Green. Make your way to The Fountain Inn - this is our lunch stop for the day (24.9).

After lunch head back towards the railway arches and turn right under the far arch into Woodberry Lane (Sign for Stanstead House). Follow this road, which includes a couple of short climbs, until you get to a T junction where you turn right (26.7). Down and up the big dipper then right and left at the main road T junction into Bartons Road (27.7). 100 yards into Bartons road turn left into Eastleigh road opposite the BUPA hospital. Turn right at the T junction into Southleigh Road (28.4) then on across the railway crossing and right at the T junction next to One Stop (29.3). Follow this road into Havant then back to the Ship at Langstone (30+)