

Minstead Village Shop Cycle Trail

This is a cycle ride through quiet New Forest lanes and tracks to the small Hamlet of Brook. On the way you will pass the beautiful Furzey Gardens and the spot where King William Rufus was shot by an arrow. Expect some hills and some rough going but there are four pubs to stop at for refreshments! The trail starts at Minstead Village Shop, grid reference SU281110, post code SO43 7FY. The distance is 5.9 miles or 9.5 kms with an ascent of 430 feet or 131 metres.



- ✦ From Minstead Village Shop cycle past the Trusty Servant Inn. Keep going straight along the road passing two thatched cottages on your left and the village Hall. Take the next left signposted Furzey Gardens.
- ✦ Follow the lane round to the right passing Furzey Gardens car park on your left. Carry along the wooded lane keeping the houses on your left hand side. Bear left and after around 25 yards you will see an underpass on the right hand side.
- ✦ Go through the underpass and then go straight across the grass straight in front of you and pick up the gravel track that bears round to the right. Follow this track to the road and then turn left at the wooden barrier. Keep going and you will pass the Rufus Stone on your left hand side. *The Rufus Stone marks the spot where King William Rufus was shot by an arrow fired by Sir Walter Tyrell whilst hunting the forest.*
- ✦ Proceed down the road passing the Sir Walter Tyrell Inn until you see a tiny post box on the right hand side. Turn right at this post box and carry on down this lane (allegedly where Sir Walter Tyrell fled after injuring King Rufus) until you reach the end. Turn left and you are in Brook.
- ✦ Keep left and follow the signs to Canterton and you will then pass the Sir Walter Tyrell Inn. Proceed up the lane and take the right turning by the wooden barrier and follow the track to the underpass. Turn left under the underpass and head back to Minstead.