



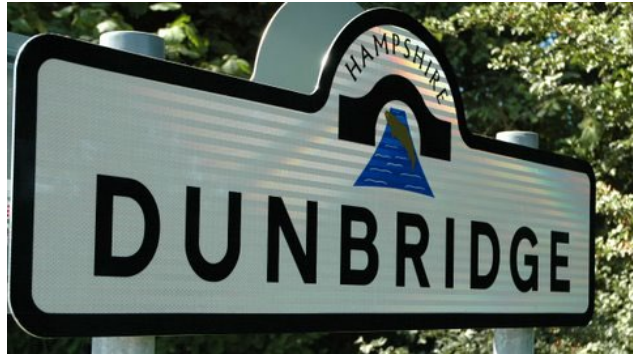
# WELCOME TO DUNBRIDGE

*Dear Angler,*

*By now you will have arrived, and I hope you are relaxing over a cup of coffee and enjoying our new fishing cabin.*

*I know it is a little bit of a walk from the parking, but I hope you agree the location is stunning.*

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



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 woodland as you cross from the car park into the meadow for the remains of the Southampton to Salisbury Canal.

The canal bed can be seen in the woods, filling 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.

A few 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 new cabin is close to the top of the beat, so my advice is to head to the bottom of the beat to start fishing. The banks are wide enough, along with some paths we have cut, to let you reach the start of the beat without spooking the fish. Continue down the righthand bank as you look downstream until you reach the wooden footbridge when you should cross to the opposite bank.

**Downstream of the wooden footbridge:** Cross the footbridge to the opposite bank; the end of the beat is a concrete bridge with a steel handrail which is about 150 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.



A few yards up from start of the beat

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 shallows, with more visible gravel; you will not be surprised to know fish hold around and under the large weeping willow on the opposite bank. The river then deepens again where the old footbridge used to be, leading to the most amazing fish holding spot in the pool under the alder clump. 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. Return to the opposite bank over the footbridge.

**Upstream of wooden footbridge:** From here you are on the left-hand bank until the top of the beat.

The fish are not always easy to spot at Dunbridge. The dark bottom combined with more depth than you might expect (we are caught out sometimes when weed cutting!) means it is tempting to pass by spots you might otherwise regard as fishless.

To this point 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.



Looking upstream to Rickety Bench pool

Resuming our journey up the beat from the pool above the wooden bridge the river does an S turn, past the thatched shelter 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 of the pool - this is a great spot.





**Looking down to Ricketty Bench pool**

Above Ricketty Bench pool is a wide, straight section which is mostly shallow. With a high bank this is one of the easier places to spot fish, though your view will be obstructed by the alder bushes that line your bank. It is under here that the bigger fish hide. 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.

Next is a section that is similar to that below the Ricketty Bench pool in that there is a thick line of alders on the opposite bank, where the flow is at its darkest and deepest. A good spot for a speculative dry fly that sometimes has surprising results. The river then curves sharp left with two undercuts beneath large trees on the fishing bank. These are tough to get a good drift through, but worth persisting.

As the river turns right you are back at the cabin. Above you have some 50 yards to go. The wide shallow section doesn't hold much in the middle, down the bank edges are best. Crossing the little railway sleeper bridge is a fast, holding pool ahead and the final shaded few yards are always worth exploring.

The beat ends at the fence where a small stream enters on our bank.

## Places to eat



- **Mill Arms (1/2 mile)** Barley Hill, Dunbridge, SO51 0LF  
Open lunchtime and evenings Monday to Friday, all day at weekends, Food, rooms and local beer. 01794 340401.
- **Kimbridge Barn (1 mile)** Kimbridge Lane, Kimbridge, SO51 0LE  
Open 8am to 5pm. 01794 339444
- **Romsey (3 miles)** – plenty of choices with hotels, pubs, coffee shops and plenty more.

## Local shops

- **Lockerley Green Stores (1½ miles)** 4 Lockerley Green, Lockerley, SO51 0JN. Open from 7am every day. 01794 340438.
- 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". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'S' and a long horizontal line extending to 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 Emergency 111 or 999

### **Chemist**

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