

SECTION 4: BORDON TO LISS

How far?

This section is $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. Just before reaching Liss there is a spur off to Liphook (see Section 5); if you have time, the spur route offers some lovely scenery and a good variety of heathland, pine woods and sunken lanes.

What will I see?

Once clear of the built-up area, the path winds through trees along the edge of the military training area (you may well hear firing or see troops or tanks, but the path is safe to use!). The site was first chosen for military use in the 1860s as it was a day's march from Aldershot, and developed a pivotal role in teaching military train drivers during both world wars. It is still well used by modern troops, including vehicle driver

training on the perimeter track, which you may glimpse through the trees. The site also provides a valuable wildlife refuge, being home to all twelve native



amphibians and reptiles. The quiet village of Greatham leads on to another bridleway, initially a causeway through wet woodland and then on higher ground. A short section of road finally leads onto the disused military railway, now a substantial path with bespoke oak bridges and two sculptures, winding through mature trees alongside the River Rother and emerging right in the centre of Liss.

Who can use it?

This section is open to walkers (and dogs) and cyclists and provides a fair to good route for pushchairs and mobility vehicles. Horse-riders may use the bridleways and road link between them, but are not advised to ride in Bordon itself.

What is the path like?

The majority is off-road, on bridleway or shared-use pavements; it is nearly all flat and there are no gates, steps or stiles. The first part of this section is through the busy areas of Lindford, Bordon and Whitehill, using pavements and on- and off-road cycleways. A bridleway (in this case a 2.5m wide surfaced track) then winds its way along the edge of the MoD ranges, emerging briefly to cross the A325 and then on to much quieter roads through the

village of Greatham. A second bridleway then crosses the

A3 via a bridge, followed by a brief on-road section (take care here, as shown on the map) and then a wide, flat track along the disused railway line to Liss.

> What facilities are available? Both Bordon and Liss offer a range of shops, cafes and pubs and have public toilets. Liss has a rail station, with approximately hourly services to Liphook and Petersfield. There is also a village shop on the route at the northern end of Greatham.

What is the Shipwrights Way? It is a long-distance route linking villages and towns in east Hampshire through some beautiful countryside. Starting at Alice Holt Forest near Farnham, it runs down across the South Downs to the sea at Portsmouth. The route is open to walkers and cyclists and, where possible, horse-riders and people with disabilities.

Why 'Shipwrights'? The name reflects the journey of oak grown at Alice Holt to dockyards such as Portsmouth for medieval shipbuilding; the route finishes at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, home of the Mary Rose, HMS Victory and the International Boatbuilding Training College.

Who provided the route? It was provided through a partnership between East Hampshire District Council, Hampshire County Council, the Forestry Commission and the South Downs National Park Authority. This section could not have been completed without the

generosity of the MoD, who gave permission and support to build Contact: countryside@hants.gov.uk 0300 555 1391 1¹/₂ miles of new bridleway on their training ground and that of the M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, who funded this new path.









www.shipwrights.org.uk