

SECTION 7: PETERSFIELD TO QCEP



Follow these signs

Alternative route

Main route

Buriton

Pond & Church

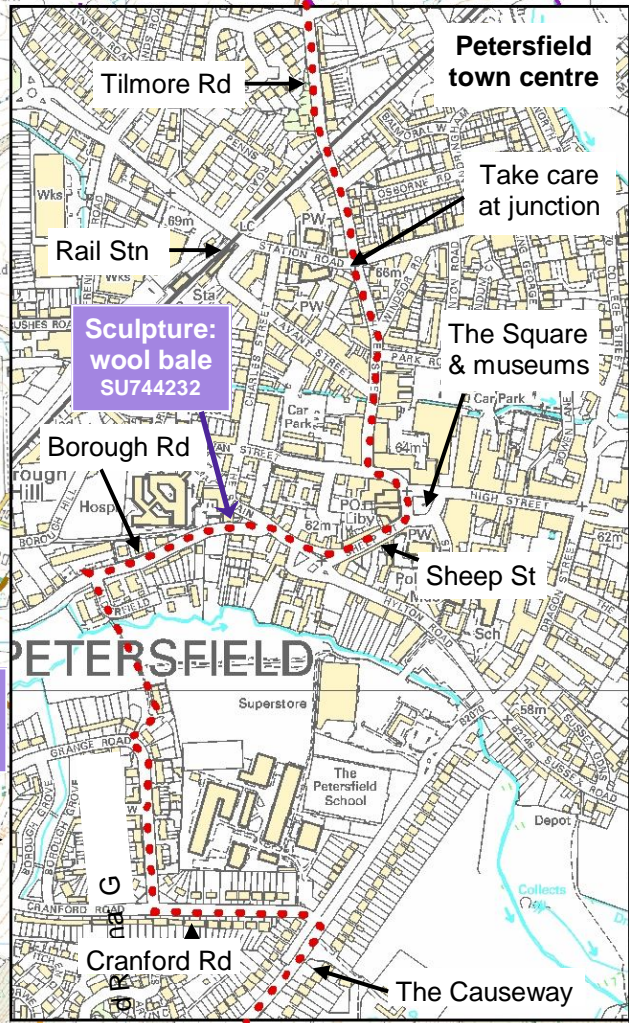
Sculpture: Cheese Snail SU734197

South Downs Way

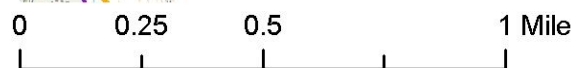
Sculpture: sheep SU730195

Queen Elizabeth Country Park centre car park, information centre, café, loos (including disabled)

Sculpture: wool bale SU744232



- ● ● Shipwrights Way
- - - Footpath
- - - Bridleway
- - - Restricted byway
- - - Byway open to all traffic



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SECTION 7: PETERSFIELD TO QUEEN ELIZABETH COUNTRY PARK

How far? This section is 5 miles long; you can return along the same route or perhaps make it a circular using the tarmac cycleway shown near the A3. If you were to do the next two sections as well, to Rowlands Castle (around 11 miles in all), you can also return by train.



What will I see?

This section starts at Petersfield, a lively market town with much to see and do, including the Flora Twort Gallery (textiles and art) and the Petersfield Museum (social history). Leaving behind the higgledy-piggledy terraced cottages of Sheep Street, look for the wool bale sculpture and then use a path over the river to join estate roads and finally the 'Causeway' (road). You soon turn off onto a quiet lane (still, be aware of farm traffic) to the picturesque village of Buriton, once on the main Portsmouth to London road and bustling with industry, including stagecoaches, parchment-making, lime kilns and hop-picking. From Buriton pond, the lane turns into a path which climbs through mature woodland, once a chalk pit and now criss-crossed by trails which the villagers help to maintain. At the top of this path is another sculpture, the Cheese Snail.



Emerging briefly on a lane you then join the South Downs Way, a gravel track which climbs into Queen Elizabeth Country Park (look out for the sheep sculpture here), with good views back over Petersfield followed by a gentle descent through a wooded valley into the centre of the Country Park.

Who can use it? This section and the alternative shown on the map is open to walkers (and dogs) and cyclists and, other than the steepness of the path south of Buriton pond, this section provides a good route for pushchairs and mobility vehicles. The route is open to horse-riders but they may wish to avoid the town.

What is the path like? The route is on roads and well-surfaced gravel tracks with no stiles or gates; take care on the roads and on the last tarmac section which has occasional vehicles. The route is flat to Buriton, then climbs steeply for about 300m on a gravel track through a beautiful old chalk pit (you are climbing up onto the South Downs, so this is the steepest part of the Shipwrights Way). After the car park at the top of the quarry the route ascends steeply for a further 150m before it levels out and climbs and descends more gently. Some may prefer to use the alternative route near the A3 (shown on the map), which is less steep and is tarmac but is inevitably noisier.

What facilities are available? Petersfield has shops, cafes/pubs, loos, a rail station, car parks and all the facilities you would expect of a town. Buriton has two good pubs, serving good food and real ales; there is a little parking in the village, on road and next to the pond but please park considerately; the village also publishes its own walks leaflet, 'Exploring Buriton'. At Queen Elizabeth Country Park there is pay and display parking, a café, information centre, shop and loos (including disabled). There are many activities and events on offer at the Park – see www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/qecp or call 02392 595040

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.

