



Safety First...

- Your bike should be roadworthy and well maintained, in particular the brakes, steering and tyres. If riding at night, you must have front and rear lights and a rear reflector. You are advised to wear a proper cycle helmet and gloves, and to let someone know if you are riding alone.
- Cycling in hilly countryside can be strenuous, so please ensure that you have allowed plenty of time and are carrying sufficient refreshments.

- This route mostly uses quiet country lanes, but they are not free from traffic. You will probably encounter cars, farm vehicles, horse riders and walkers.
- Horse riders and walkers appreciate hearing a bell or a friendly greeting as you approach. Cyclists must give way to horse riders and walkers on the brideway bridge over the A3.
- Farm vehicles may leave mud on the roads, so take extra care and watch your speed. Make sure that drivers know that you are there; don't take any risks.
- Watch out for car drivers also, who may not be used to seeing cyclists in the countryside.

For these reasons, the County Council cannot accept liability for recommending this as a leisure route or, save for negligence, liability for injury or damage to property.

Ten tips for cyclists

- Follow the Highway Code.
- Follow the Country Code – respect the countryside, take your litter home, protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Always ride in single file when the roads are narrow. Never ride more than two abreast.
- In wet weather, keep a gap of at least three metres between one rider and the next, taking extra care downhill.
- Be courteous to other road users.
- Be visible. Ride well clear of the kerb, wear bright clothing and always use lights after dark and in poor daytime visibility.
- Always look and signal before you start, stop or turn.
- Ride positively and decisively.
- Think ahead – anticipate drivers' actions. Catch their eye.
- Lock your bike – or lose it.

Poet Stone

Discover the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by bike – rolling hills, peaceful woodland, charming villages and sunken lanes.



Hampshire County Council has developed a cycle route which uses quiet country lanes to explore this peaceful and scenic area. It is a twenty-two-mile circuit, starting and finishing in the market town of Petersfield and including parts of the Ashford Hangers and sunken lanes which are an outstanding feature of the area. It will take two to three hours if you cycle continuously, but it is more enjoyable if you take a few breaks and allow four to five hours. The route passes through several pretty villages and offers views across the South Downs. The Ashford Hangers are hilly, so be prepared for some steep climbs! While the route aims to use the quietest roads in the area, there are a couple of junctions with busy main roads so we do not recommend this route for unaccompanied children.

Why cycle?

Increasing motor traffic is having a devastating effect in Hampshire, particularly in sensitive areas, such as AONBs. Bikes, by contrast, are quiet, non-polluting and great fun. By visiting the countryside by bike, you are helping to reduce the damage caused by cars, as well as having a great day out.

We hope that you enjoy this, the first of several leisure cycle routes in Hampshire, and that you are inspired to keep cycling.

This route was developed jointly by Hampshire County Council and the East Hampshire AONB Officer, with invaluable assistance from East Hampshire District Council and George May of the Alton Cycling Club.



Bike shops

Owen's Cycles, Lavant Street, Petersfield. (01730) 260446
Sensible Bike Company, Station Road, Liss. (01730) 894884
Queen Elizabeth Country Park Bike Hire. (01705) 596658

Contacts

East Hampshire AONB Officer. (01705) 591362
Hampshire County Council Recreational Cycling Officer. (01962) 846172
Hampshire County Council Rights of Way Section. (01962) 846045

Places to stay

If you want to extend your stay in the area, there are various B&Bs available along the route. Contact the Tourist Information Centre for an up-to-date East Hampshire Accommodation Guide. (01730) 268829

What to take

- Adjustable spanner and Allen keys
- First aid kit
- Lights
- Lock
- Food and drink
- Money
- Spare inner tube
- Puncture repair kit and pump
- Tyre levers
- Waterproofs
- You may find it useful to have Ordnance Survey maps for the area (Landrangers 185, 186 and 197 or the new Explorers 132 & 133).



The East Hampshire Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The East Hampshire Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation was confirmed in 1962. It is one of forty nationally important areas which, together with the National Parks, provide some of the country's finest scenery. The East Hampshire AONB stretches from Winchester to Petersfield and from Hambleton in the south to Selborne in the north, an area of 391 square kilometers.

Why is it so special?

The area embraces a variety of contrasting landscapes, from the dramatic open landscapes and panoramic views on the chalk downs to the steep wooded scarp slopes of hanger woodlands, the gentle winding plains of the river valley and the enclosed intimate landscape of the Weald. The AONB is not important just for its scenery; there are many ecological and archaeological treasures hidden in its extensive ancient woodlands and unimproved pastures.



Butser Hill

How does designation help?

Designation as an AONB confers the national recognition of the area's outstanding quality. It helps to provide protection from unsuitable development, through planning laws and, at the local level, gives greater powers to the rural community and its planners to keep any development in scale and sympathy with the area. It is also identified as a priority area for directing national resources towards its management.



DISCOVER
the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BY BIKE

A 22-MILE ON-ROAD CYCLE ROUTE

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EAST HAMPSHIRE

Designed by Nigel Barker and produced by Hampshire County Council, Arts, Countryside and Community Department. Reprinted 1998

Hampshire County Council



Petersfield Square

Towns and Villages

Petersfield is a bustling town, with an impressive square which is used for markets on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Close to the market square are pubs, bakeries, tea rooms and small restaurants, with a tourist information centre in the library.

Buriton is an unspoilt old village, south of Petersfield, surrounded by steep wooded downland hillsides. The manor house was the home of the writer Edward Gibbon.



East Meon, to the west of Petersfield, is a delightful small village surrounded by the downs. The River Meon runs alongside the village street, its spring source is not far away. The village contains a fine Norman church and two pubs.



Places of interest on route

- Ashford Hangers, near Steep, north of Petersfield. Beautiful and varied woodland of beech, ash and yew on steep chalk hillsides. Memorial to the poet Edward Thomas, who lived nearby. Open at all times.
- Flora Twort Gallery and Restaurant, Church Path Studio, 21 The Square, Petersfield. Charming gallery showing the paintings of a pre-war Petersfield artist. Open Tue to Sat 9.30am to 5pm. Closed at Christmas and for part of February. (01730) 260756
- Physic Garden, behind 16 High Street, Petersfield. Small walled garden with plants and shrubs known in the 17th century. Herb garden and wild area. Open daily 9am to 5pm, except Christmas.
- The Bear Museum, 38 Dragon Street, Petersfield. Museum of teddy bears. Mon to Sat 10am to 5pm. (01730) 265108

Places of interest nearby

- Queen Elizabeth Country Park (one mile south of Buriton). Large woodland and downland country park, with audiovisual theatre, shop and café. Mountain-bike trails, guided walks and horse riding. Superb view from the top of Butser Hill. Park open at all times. Park centre and café open 10am to 5pm April to October daily, November to March weekends only. (01705) 595040
- Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Chalton (two miles south of Buriton). Re-creation of Iron-Age farmhouse and fields. Roman villa being reconstructed. Open daily 10am to 5pm, but, in winter, telephone first to confirm visits. (01705) 598838

Starting the route

The route is signed with these distinctive signs.

The best option for starting the route is to bring your bike on the train to Petersfield (or Liss) railway station. However, as services vary, you are advised to check with South West Trains on (0345) 484950. Alternatively, you could cycle from home, or if you wish to drive, there is a pay and display car park at Petersfield railway station. Begin at point one, on the right hand side of this page, and follow map and directions anti-clockwise.



Map not to scale



12. Turn left, signposted Priors Dean and Colemore. This road is very narrow – listen carefully for approaching motor vehicles. After Goleigh Farm, there is a steep downhill section. The surface may be slippery here – watch your speed!

13. At T-jn in woods, turn right, then go **straight ahead** over Xroads.

14. At T-jn, turn left. On your left, tucked down a gravel track, is the 'Pub With No Name'.

15. At Xroads, stop and cross carefully. Traffic is very fast here.

16. Continue straight across next Xroads, signed Privett. Ignore turns to left and right and **follow road** to Bower Farm. Stay on tarmac road which bears left.

17. At T-jn, turn right, signposted Froxfield Green. You are now at the half-way point!

18. At next jn, continue straight on. Watch out for potholes and mud on the road! A steep downhill section to the busy A272.

19. At A272, CROSS EXTREMELY CAREFULLY, turning right, then immediately left. Motor traffic can be very fast here.

20. At next T-jn, turn right, signposted East Meon and West Meon. Continue into East Meon.

21. Turn left into Church Street. Follow road through East Meon village.

22. Turn left, signposted Frogmore. **continue over** river bridge. Watch out for surface water and mud on the road at this point.

23. Turn left, near to Oxenbourne House, sign-posted Buriton and Ramsdean. There are great views on your Right to Butser Hill and the South Downs.

24. At end, turn right then **left** under A3, signposted Petersfield and Buriton. **Take second exit** on roundabout. **Continue** over humpback bridge. Please take care on the bends.

25. At the 'Master Robert' Inn in Buriton village, **turn left** onto Petersfield Road. If you turn right here (signposted Chalton and Finchdean), you can cycle to Queen Elizabeth County Park, using the brideway through the woods.

26. At T-jn, turn right towards Petersfield. Pass the 'Jolly Sailor' pub on the left. At roundabout, **take second exit**, signposted Town Centre.

27. In cobbled area, turn left into Hylton Road and **continue** to the road called 'The Spain'. (For the town centre, turn right from The Spain into Sheep Street, which brings you to The Square.) Otherwise, **continue past** The Spain into Charles Street. **Turn left** from Charles Street back to the station.

1. Start at Petersfield railway station (Grid Ref. 743236) covered cycle parking facilities are available here. **Turn left** out of the railway station into Station Road and **go over** level crossing. **Continue** along Station Road to roundabout.

Alternative route (not signposted) for riders of road bikes with narrow tyres: From railway station, **turn right** into Station Road. **Turn left** into Tilmore Road and **continue over** railway bridge to rejoin main route at point 4. More suitable in winter.

2. At roundabout, turn right, signposted Steep and Alresford.

3. Fifty yards after roundabout, **pull into left**, dismount and cross carefully to track opposite. This track has a smooth surface and may be muddy after heavy rain. Please give way to walkers and horse riders on this track.

4. Continue across junction of tracks, then **turn left** where track meets Tilmore Road; **continue** for a quarter of a mile.

5. Bear left down Harrow Lane, marked 'Dead End'. Surface may be slippery. Take brideway bridge over A3. Please give way to walkers and horse riders on this bridge.

6. After brideway bridge, continue along Harrow Lane. At end, **turn left**, opposite 'Harrow Inn'. A steep zigzag climb into Steep village, passing the church and Bedales school on left.

7. Turn right into Mill Lane (not signposted). **Continue downhill**, with great views over to Ashford Hangers. Watch out for surface water at the bottom of this slope. Ignore turns to left to Ashford.

8. At next jn, bear right, following signs to West Liss and Hawkey.

9. At next jn, turn left, signposted Hawkey, and **continue uphill**, taking care on the hairpin bend. (At the top of the hill, you can turn left into Hawkey to visit the 'Hawkey Inn' pub and the church, although this is not part of the main route.)

10. Continue straight on past telephone box on left, signposted Newton Valence and Alton. After one mile, pass pond and large white house on left.

11. At next jn, continue straight on, following signs for Newton Valence and Selborne.

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2. At roundabout, turn right, signposted Steep and Alresford.

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4. Continue across junction of tracks, then **turn left** where track meets Tilmore Road; **continue** for a quarter of a mile.

5. Bear left down Harrow Lane, marked 'Dead End'. Surface may be slippery. Take brideway bridge over A3. Please give way to walkers and horse riders on this bridge.

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