

SECTION 2: ALICE HOLT FOREST & CRADLE LANE

How far? This section is 3 miles long; you can return along the same route, or use some of the other forest tracks*

What will I see? The path winds through mature woodland on wide gravel tracks, with occasional views beyond; the last mile uses an ancient trackway and includes a river crossing with a ford and footbridge. Look out for two of the Shipwrigts Way sculptures along this section!

Who can use it? This section is open to walkers (and dogs), cyclists and horse-riders, and provides a good route for pushchairs and mobility vehicles.

What is the path like?

The route is all on wide, well-surfaced gravel tracks with no stiles or gates. Take care at the two minor road crossings and at the ford (which has a footbridge); the route is not hilly but is undulating. Be aware that you may occasionally see motorcycles on both Hardings Ride (the start of this section) and Cradle Lane (the end of this section).

What facilities are available? The route starts near the main entrance to Alice Holt Forest, where there is pay and display parking, a café (01420 521267), loos (including disabled), an aerial adventure course (www.GoApe.co.uk 0333 331 7324) and cycle hire (01420 521297) - adapted cycles are available for those with mobility or vision difficulties (please book in advance). There are many activities and events on offer at the Forest – see www.forestry.gov.uk/aliceholt or call 0300 067 4622.

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.

* please abide by any Forestry Commission signs; horse-riders will need a permit if leaving the Shipwrights Way (except link routes marked overleaf and byways/bridleways)









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www.shipwrights.org.uk

