



The Shipwrights Way



SECTION 9: FINCHDEAN TO STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK



Follow these signs along the route!



Alternative route for walkers, using the Staunton Way - follow these signs:

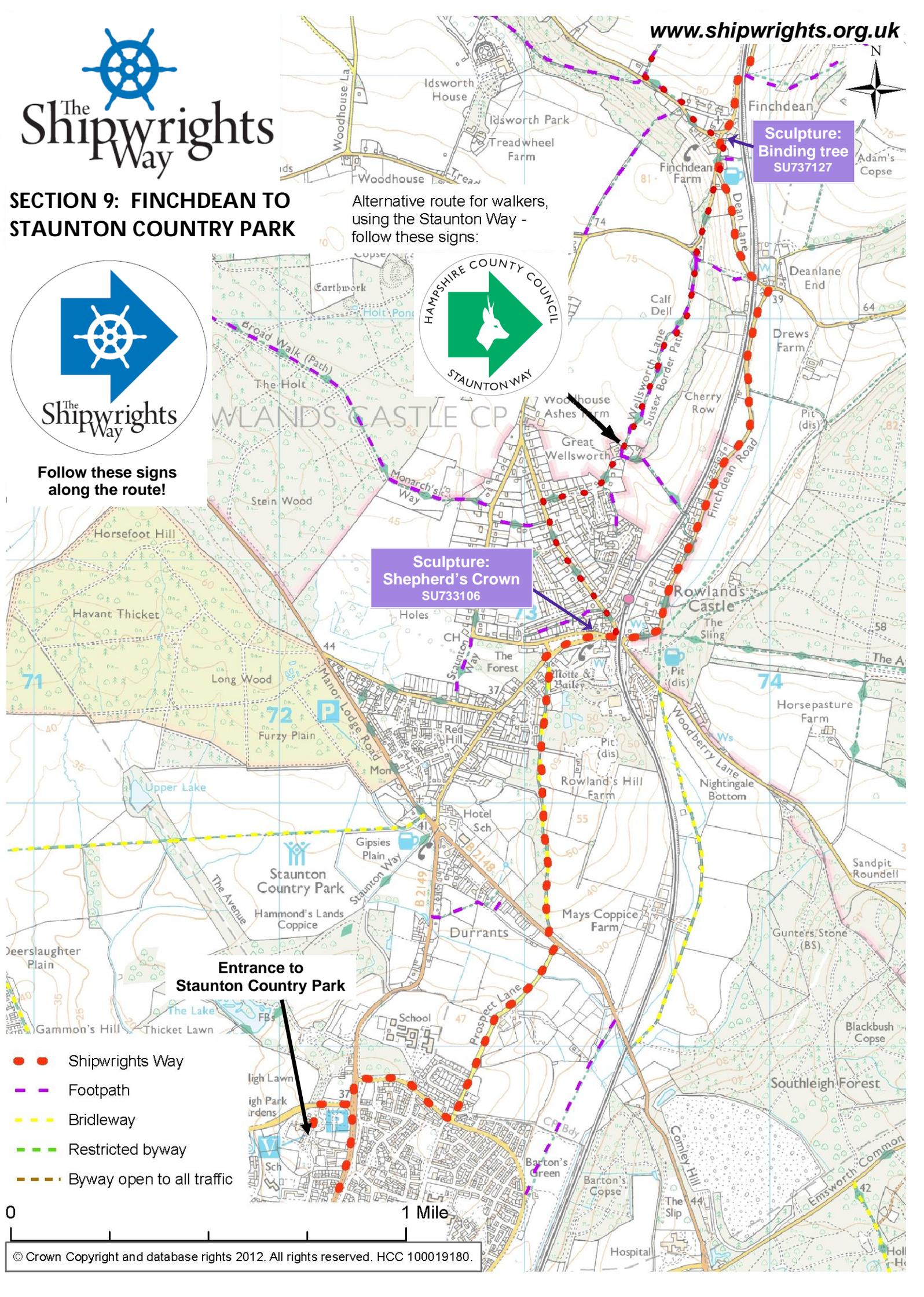
Sculpture: Binding tree SU737127

Sculpture: Shepherd's Crown SU733106

Entrance to Staunton Country Park

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

0 1 Mile



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How far? This section is 3½ miles long; if you were to combine this with the two sections before (from Petersfield to Rowlands Castle) you can return by train.

What will I see?

This section starts at Finchdean, which has a small green on which the village animal pound/jail once stood (the plaques here give a fascinating insight); there is still a blacksmiths here, along with a sculpture commemorating the 'Binding tree'. The route continues down the lane into Rowlands Castle; in times past this picturesque village was reputed to have been overrun with highwaymen, smugglers, poachers and thieves and cattle fairs on the village green—which is now home to another sculpture, the 'Shepherd's Crown'. The route then uses a bridleway (once a drove road) and then a short section of lane which was Roman road. This section finishes at Sir George Staunton Country Park & Gardens, well worth a visit with its ornamental farm, Victorian glasshouse and extensive parkland with follies and a fishing lake.



Who can use it?

This section is open to walkers (and dogs), cyclists and horse-riders and provides a fair route for pushchairs and mobility vehicles, although all users will need to be aware of the traffic on the lanes which form the majority of this section. Walkers may wish to use the off-road Staunton Way instead (see the map).

What is the path like?

The route is initially on lanes with no pavement and limited verge, then on a track followed by lane once more and finally on pavement and off-road cycleway. It is recommended that walkers use the Staunton Way for part of this section as depicted overleaf, which is mainly off-road.



What facilities are available?

The George Inn at Finchdean offers refreshments including meals; Rowlands Castle has several pubs, shops and a rail station. Staunton Country Park offers several options for refreshments, loos (including disabled), a shop and parking; it also has circular walking and cycling trails – see www.hants.gov.uk/staunton or call 023 9245 3405.

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.



East Hampshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Forestry Commission
England

Hampshire
County Council

South Downs
National Park Authority

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