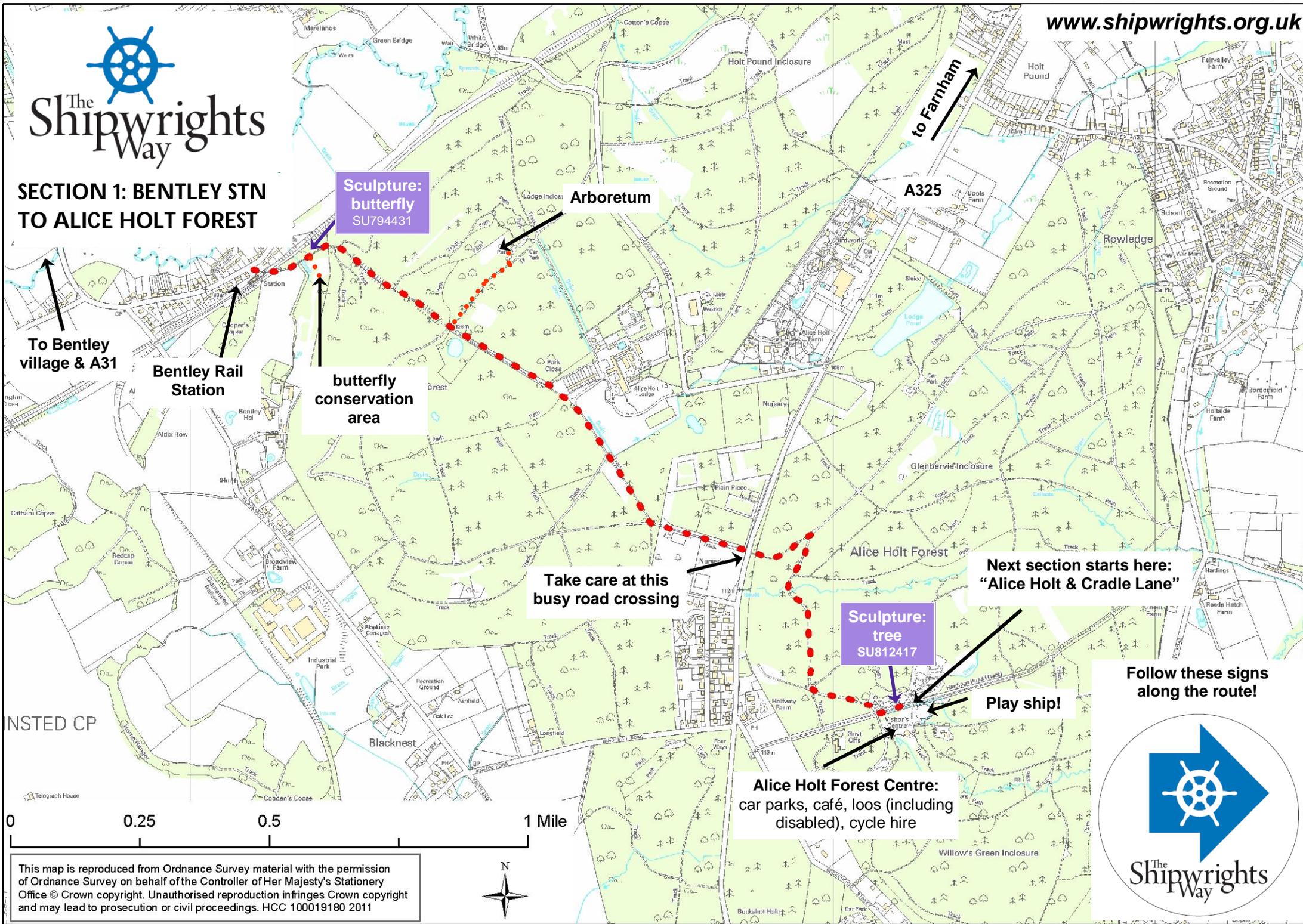




# The Shipwrights Way

## SECTION 1: BENTLEY STN TO ALICE HOLT FOREST



**Sculpture: butterfly**  
SU794431

**Arboretum**

**to Farnham**

**A325**

**To Bentley village & A31**

**Bentley Rail Station**

**butterfly conservation area**

**Take care at this busy road crossing**

**Next section starts here: "Alice Holt & Cradle Lane"**

**Sculpture: tree**  
SU812417

**Play ship!**

**Alice Holt Forest Centre:**  
car parks, café, loos (including disabled), cycle hire

**Follow these signs along the route!**



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# SECTION 1: BENTLEY STATION TO ALICE HOLT FOREST



**How far?** This section is 2 miles long, linking Bentley Rail Station to the facilities at Alice Holt Forest.

**What will I see?** The initial section of path (tarmac path between two hedges) is thought to be part of a Roman Road from Winchester to London; look back from the top of the hill for a lovely view over East Hampshire. You may choose to visit the Butterfly Conservation Trust's "Bentley Station Meadow" (leave cycles at the gate) or the arboretum. The path then winds through mature woodland to the facilities and many activities available at the Forest Centre, including the wooden play ship (complete with rigging and ship's wheel) designed and built by Forestry Commission rangers especially to mark the Shipwrights Way! Look out for the two beautiful Shipwrights Way sculptures on this section, as marked on the map.



**Who can use it?** This section is open to walkers (and dogs) and cyclists; it provides a good route for pushchairs and mobility vehicles (please be aware that there is a steady climb from the station). You may also see horse-riders, who can use these paths with a Forestry Commission permit, and vehicles at the Forest centre.

**What is the path like?** The route is all on wide, well-surfaced tracks with no stiles; there are two gates, each around 4ft wide, at the level crossing. Take care at the rail level crossing (cyclists must dismount here; pedestrians can use the station footbridge if preferred) and at the crossing of the busy A325. Leaving Bentley Station, the path is initially tarmac, climbing between hedges and trees; it then levels out and becomes gravel and occasionally natural surface until reaching Alice Holt Forest Centre.

**What facilities are available?** Bentley Rail Station offers parking and loos (not disabled); parking is free for rail users at weekends and evenings. This section finishes at Alice Holt Forest centre, where there is pay and display parking, a café (01420 521267, serving a wide range of freshly prepared food, hot and cold drinks and snacks), loos (including disabled), an aerial adventure course ([www.GoApe.co.uk](http://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](http://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.



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