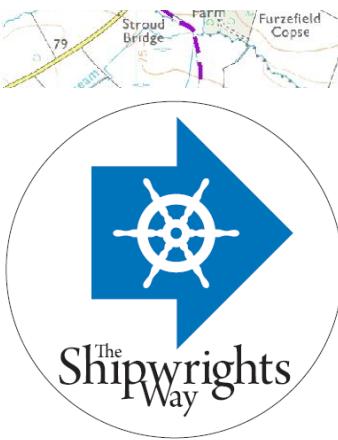


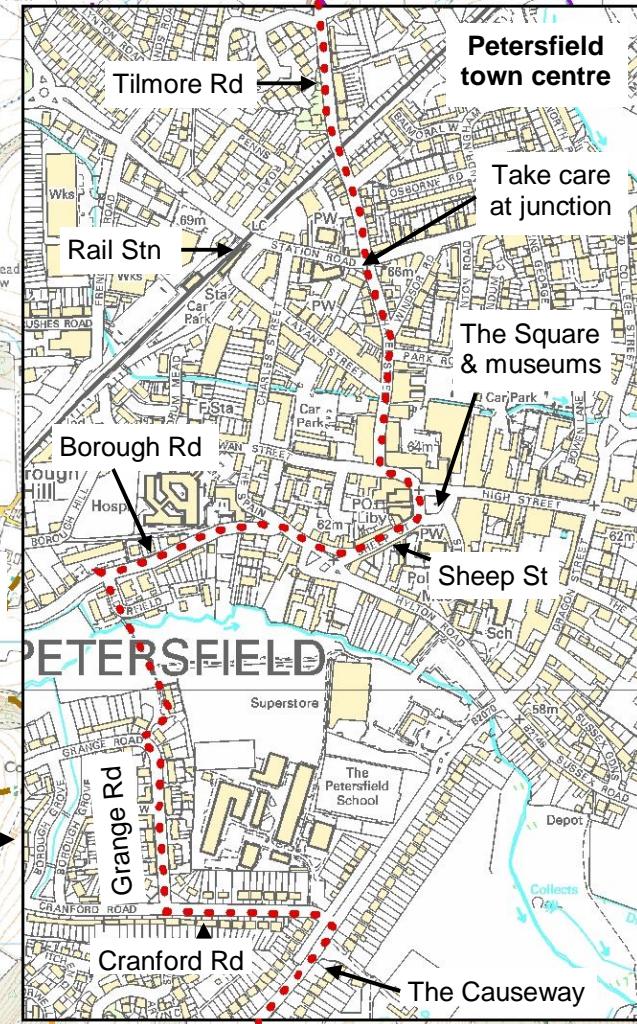
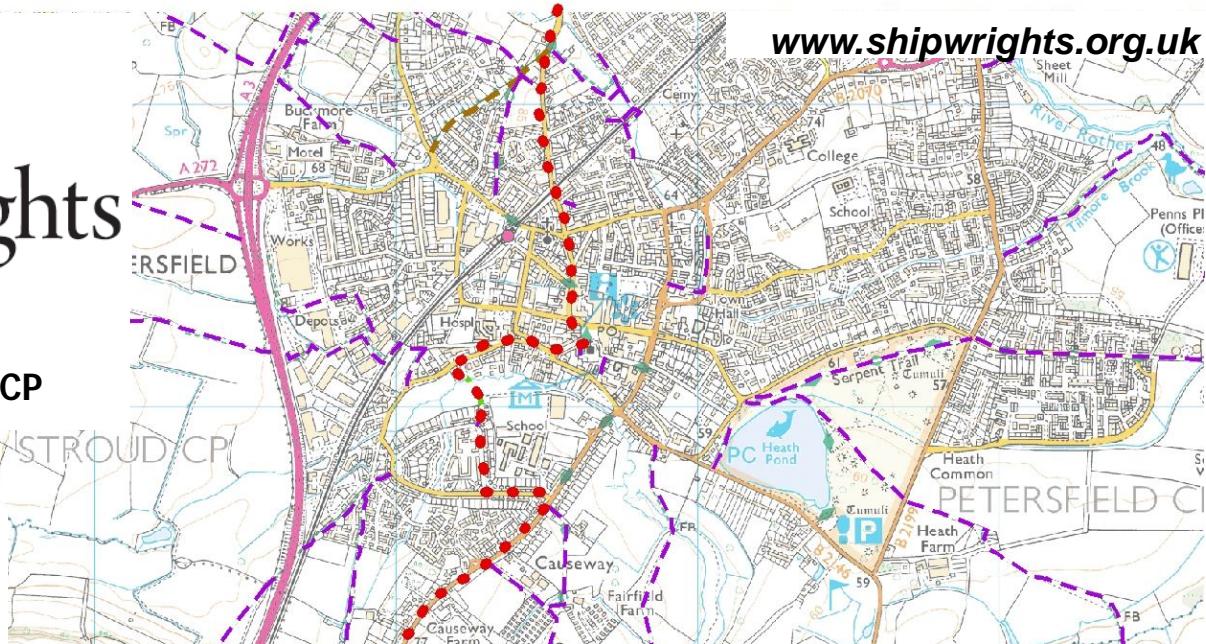
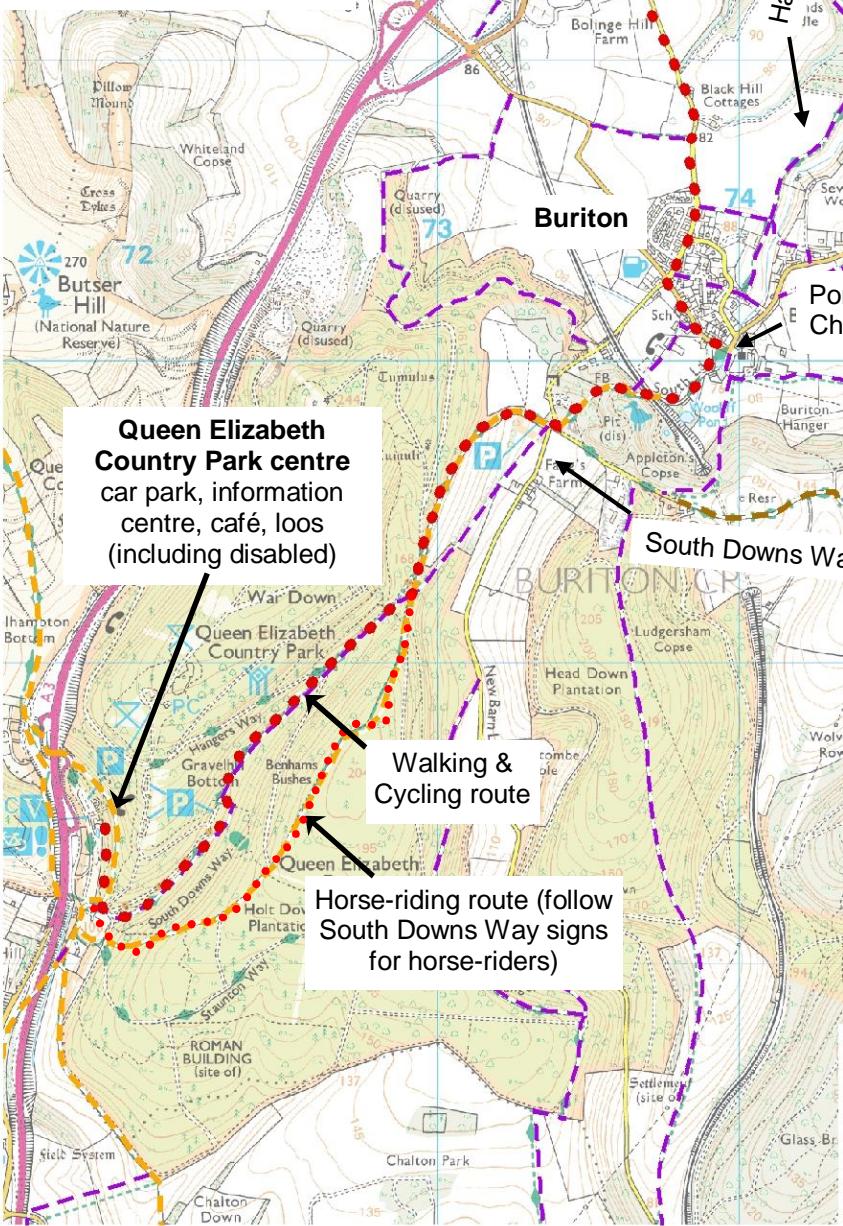


The Shipwrights Way

SECTION 7: PETERSFIELD TO QECP



Follow these signs



SECTION 7: PETERSFIELD TO QUEEN ELIZABETH COUNTRY PARK

How far? This section is 5 miles long; you can return along the same route, or use other rights of way or forest tracks (in QECP). 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, the route uses a path and then joins 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-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 standing on an old chalk pit, now with trails which the villagers help to maintain. Emerging briefly on a lane, you join the South Downs Way, a gravel track which climbs into the Park, with good views back over Petersfield followed by a gentle descent through a wooded valley into the centre of Queen Elizabeth Country Park.



Who can use it? This section is open to walkers (and dogs) and cyclists and, other than the steepness of the path behind 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; within the Park, horse-riders should follow the signed South Downs Way route for horse-riders, which uses a bridleway along the valley side.

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 the old chalk pit (you are climbing onto the South Downs, so this is the steepest part of the Shipwrights Way). Cyclists may prefer to use the tarmaced road but take care as this can be busy. 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.



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 food and refreshments and there is a little parking on road and next to the pond but please park considerately here; 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 new 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 and HMS Victory.

Who is providing the route?

The project is a partnership between East Hampshire District Council, Hampshire County Council, the Forestry Commission and the South Downs National Park Authority.

