

STAGE 11

# Nyewood to Petersfield

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This final section of the Serpent Trail begins by heading towards West Heath Common, currently used for sand extraction.

Despite the busy quarry there remain small pockets of heath and acid grassland, important habitat stepping stones for wildlife between Iping Common and Petersfield Heath. Look out for the burial mounds to the east of the quarry.

To the west is **Durford Bridge** 1, a scheduled monument, built in the 15th century of local sandstone. To the north west of the bridge is **Durford Abbey**, the remains of a Premonstratensian monastery founded in 1181 by Henry Husey of Harting Parish. The main archaeological evidence of this site is below ground but some masonry features have been incorporated into the later farm buildings which are also listed.

Finally, the Trail snakes towards the very tip of its tail at **Petersfield Heath** 2, a popular and well-used greenspace with a large pond. Petersfield lake was created from marshland in the 18th century and now, alongside the heath, is a major recreational area for locals managed by the Town Council.

The Heath, as well as being an important site for wildlife, has much history, as shown by the numerous (21 in total) Bronze Age barrows 3. A project between 2014 and 2018 brought in archaeological teams to survey and then excavate some of the site. More information can be found at **Petersfield Museum**.

-  Cattle grazing, check site signage.
-  Ground-nesting birds: March to mid Sept.

In 1867 the Heath was enclosed, but the townsfolk burnt down the fences they thought were built to keep them out. Thankfully, residents of Petersfield now enjoy more peaceful activities and the Heath is a popular recreational space. The Serpent Trail ends here with options for refreshment or public transport in Petersfield Town centre.





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### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

-  Start: Habin Hill, Nyewood, Stagecoach Bus 54 from Chichester or Petersfield.
-  The Serpent Trail ends on Petersfield Heath, head to Petersfield town centre for the Railway Station and for buses to Chichester (54) or Midhurst (91, 92, 93).



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