

THE SERPENT TRAIL

The name of the Trail reflects the serpentine shape of the route. The 106 km/65 mile walking route 'snakes' from Haslemere in Surrey to Petersfield in Hampshire.

Designed to showcase the beautiful and internationally rare lowland heath habitat and outstanding landscape of the greensand hills, their wildlife, history, and conservation. It passes through the purple heather, green woods and golden valleys of the Wealden Heaths.



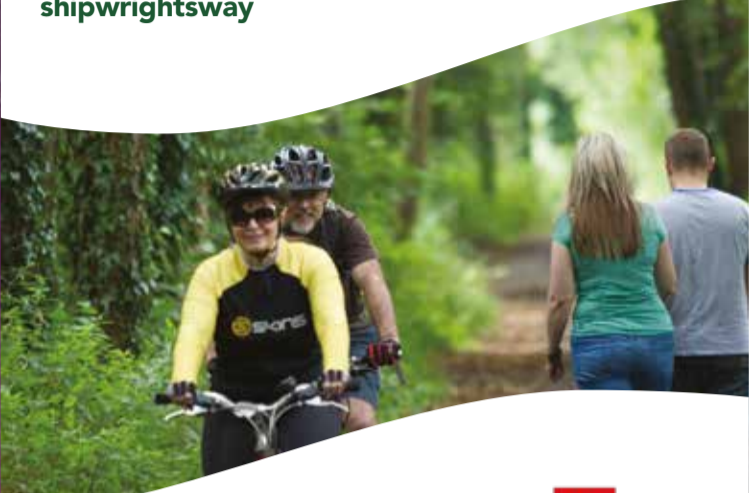
Download the guide...



SHIPWRIGHTS WAY

Linking the towns and villages of East Hampshire, the Shipwrights Way is a 80km/50 mile route for walkers and cyclists stretching from Alice Holt Forest, over the South Downs, passing through Queen Elizabeth Country Park towards Portsmouth and the Historic Dockyard, where it finishes.

The name reflects the use of oak grown at Alice Holt Forest for Tudor shipbuilding, linking this site with Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, home of the Mary Rose and HMS Victory. Discover more here: hants.gov.uk/things/todo/countryside/walking/shipwrights-way



what3words

We have used what3words to specify locations on this leaflet. What3words divides the world into 3m squares and gives each square a unique combination of three words. what3words addresses are easy to say and share, and as accurate as GPS coordinates. Use what3words on our maps when you see . For more information and to download the app, go to [what3words.com](https://www.what3words.com)



WHY ARE THE HEATHS IMPORTANT

Heaths support unique wildlife, but 85% have vanished in the last 150 years, leaving isolated 'islands' of vulnerable species.

Careful management is vital for their survival. Removing certain trees and plants encourages heathland species, while clearing scrub creates habitats for rare reptiles and invertebrates. Some areas even use cattle for vegetation control.

The Wealden Heaths Special Protection Area in Hampshire, surrounding Whitehill and Bordon, is crucial for many rare species, including three endangered ground-nesting birds; the Dartford warbler, the European nightjar and the woodlark. Sticking to the paths when visiting the heathland helps to protect these threatened species. Discover more about these fascinating birds and other rare heathlands species that rely on this fragile habitat with the QR code below.



Find out more about the wildlife of the Wealden Heaths...



South Downs National Park

Glorious heathland isn't the only gem to uncover in the South Downs National Park.

There are rolling hills, ancient woodland, river valleys, listed buildings, diverse archaeology, thriving villages and market towns as well as the iconic white cliffs of the Heritage Coast.

Covering over 1,600km² of England's most valued lowland landscapes, the South Downs is a living working landscape waiting to be explored.



YOUR COUNTRYSIDE CODE

RESPECT. PROTECT. ENJOY.

- Respect other people**
 - Leave gates and property as you find them
 - Keep to the paths unless on Open Access Land
 - Slow down for horses, walkers and livestock when cycling
- Protect the natural environment**
 - Take your litter home
 - Keep dogs under effective control
 - Don't damage or pick wildflowers
- Enjoy the outdoors**
 - Plan ahead and be prepared
 - If cycling, take a puncture repair kit and pump

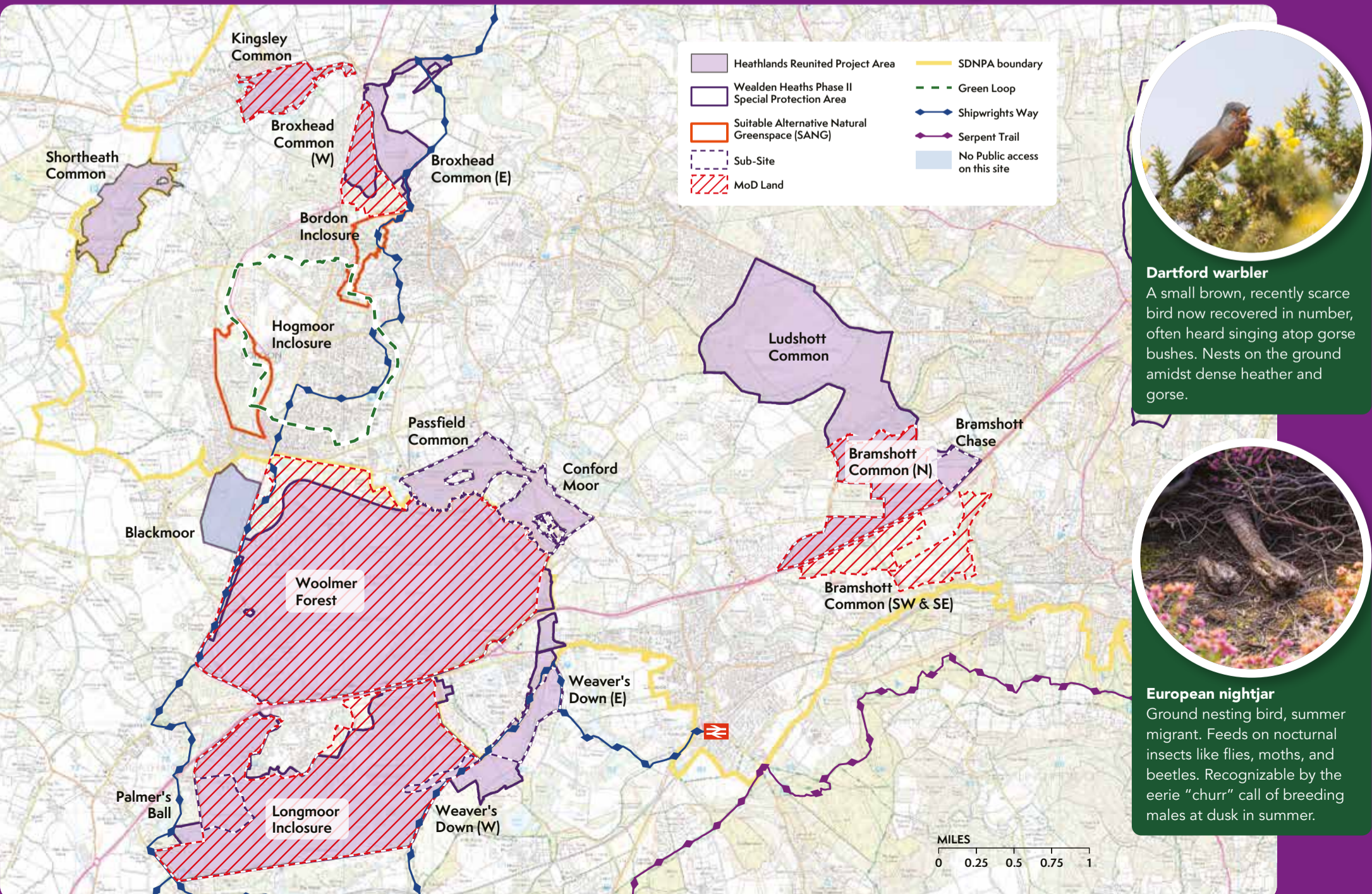


Discover the Wealden Heaths

A habitat rarer than rainforest



Wealden Heaths Special Protection Area – Project Map



Dartford warbler
A small brown, recently scarce bird now recovered in number, often heard singing atop gorse bushes. Nests on the ground amidst dense heather and gorse.



European nightjar
Ground nesting bird, summer migrant. Feeds on nocturnal insects like flies, moths, and beetles. Recognizable by the eerie "churr" call of breeding males at dusk in summer.

PROJECT AREA



The Heathlands Reunited Wealden Heaths Partnership



TAKE THE LEAD

- Stick to the paths during ground nesting bird season (March-September).
- Take the lead near livestock – for a safe and fun visit with your dog please remember to keep them on a lead around livestock and wildlife.
- Always bag and bin your dog poo – any public bin will do.
- Do not enter Ministry of Defence land when the red flags are flying.



CONTACT

South Downs National Park Authority:
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@SDNPA
/SDNPA
southdownsnp

Keep up to date with the latest news and events from the South Downs National Park – southdowns.gov.uk/newsletter



SOUTHDOWNSGOV.UK
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Weavers Down

A circular walk starting from Liphook railway station, to Weavers Down, a classic site of lowland dry heathland and acid grassland.

1 Turn left out of Liphook railway station and follow the Shipwrights Way signage out of Liphook, along the B2070 and then along the wooded path.

2 Continue on the Shipwrights Way as it enters the Foley Estate and follows quiet roads past Stag wood.

3 Keep following Shipwrights Way signage as it turns a sharp left. Continue for another 2.4 km/1.5 miles into Weavers Down and Ministry of Defence (MOD) land.

4 Leave the Shipwrights Way at a bridleway leading left down the hill. Follow this until you meet a track. (Optional short cut – see Blue 4)

5 Continue on to join the Sussex Border Path for about 1.5 miles until you reach the B2070. Carefully cross the road and follow the Serpent Trail up Fox Firs, and through Liphook Golf course (Beware of flying golf balls) and across Wheatsh Heath Common. Keep following the Serpent Trail until you reach Midhurst Road at Churchers College.

6 Come off the Serpent Trail here and turn left, following Midhurst Road back to the railway station.

Distance: 11.4km/7.1 miles

Allow: 3-4 hours

Gradient: Undulating terrain with some hills.

Path: Mixture of woodland and heathland tracks, with the start and finish on pavements to the station

Getting here: pampered.salutes.stormed

By road: The route starts and finishes at Liphook railway station, there is a day charge to park here

By rail: The trail starts and finishes at Liphook railway station which runs a regular service between London and Portsmouth

By bus: Bus 23 runs a regular service between Liphook and Alton railway station

As you walk, look for reptiles basking on the steep heather banks in the spring and summer.

The sand lizard – one of the reptiles you might spot at Weavers Down



1 Walk Rail to Ramble



2 Keep following the Shipwrights Way through Weavers Down.

3 Leave the Shipwrights Way at a bridleway leading left down hill.

4 At the junction of tracks, turn left and follow the bridleway back to the Deer's Hut pub, keeping left to follow the track up and into the heaths.

Green Tiger Beetle may be seen sunning themselves on the heathland

Woodlark
Identified by its rich, mellow whistle in early spring, flying across heathlands. Resembling a skylark, it's a crucial species on heathlands, closely monitored due to declining numbers.

2 Walk Deer's Hut loop



Distance: 4.9km/3.1 miles

Allow: 1-2 hours

Gradient: Undulating terrain.

Path: Mixture of woodland and sandy heathland tracks

Getting here: madness.buying.thinkers

By road: There are several car parks just beyond the Deers Hut pub off the Longmoor Road, Liphook.

By bus: There is currently no public bus service which passes through this way

On foot: You can follow the Shipwrights Way from Liphook railway station which is approximately 3km each way

As you walk, listen for the fluting call of the woodlark in spring.

1 From the Deer's Hut pub car park, turn left and continue along Longmoor Road. Join the Shipwrights Way after approximately 200m.

3 Walk Shortheath Common

A fascinating site near Bordon, home to an extremely rare 'quaking bog' and habitat for some nationally rare plant and animal species.

The endangered field cricket burrows into the sandy soil amongst sparse vegetation. It grazes a small mat in front of its burrow to perform its mating call. Listen out for the males as they 'sing' on a warm afternoon in early summer.

Sculpture: Cranberry on the Mire

Distance: 3.2km/2 miles

Allow: 1-2 hours

Gradient: Gentle

Path: wide sandy tracks, boardwalks and some wooded paths. Can be muddy and waterlogged in winter.

Getting here: shares.vitamins.dizziness

By road: Free car park at Shortheath pond, just to the north of Oakhanger village on the Oakhanger road.

By rail: Nearest railway stations are Alton (5 miles) and Bentley (6 miles)

By bus: Stagecoach Bus 13 regular (not Sundays) between Bordon and Basingstoke

As you walk, admire the specialised heathland plants that have adapted to the dry, nutrient poor acid soils of the heath. Ling, bell heather and gorse give the heath its distinct visual identity. Note the stunted oak trees covered with lichen lining the path, which join willow and birch to form a community over dry heath.



1 From the car park, follow the boardwalk as it skirts Shortheath pond.

2 When you reach the path, take the left hand track.

3 Follow the loop round the northerly end of the site before taking the track back through the centre of the site.

4 Continue along the track until you reach the 'Cranberry on the Mire' sculpture. Scan the QR code on the sculpture to discover more about this fascinating site and the other sculptures in the Heathlands Sculpture Trail.

5 Continue along the sandy track until you reach Oakhanger village green and the play area. You can walk into Oakhanger village and the dog friendly Hanger Freehouse for refreshments from the play area. Cut back on yourself along the wooded track, after approx. half a mile, follow the track leading left and back into the site before retracing your steps to the pond and car park.

Find out more about the Heathlands Sculpture Trail...

4 Walk Hogmoor Inclosure

Family-friendly, recreational site near Bordon, with signposted, accessible trails, café and play area.

An off-road mobility scooter is available to hire from Café Hogmoor for a small fee. You do not need to be a blue badge holder but must be aged 16 or over. Info and booking: info@wb-ct.org or call 01420 558085.

Distance: 3 trails, approx 2km/1.3 miles

Gradient: Gentle

Path: Mix of sandy tracks and hard standing, accessible tramper route, café, toilets, Changing Places toilet.

Getting here: driftwood.perfect.farms

By foot: Several gated pedestrian entrances can be accessed from Hogmoor Rd, A325 Templars Way, Firgrove Road and Eastside Cottages.

By bike: Main entrance, off Hogmoor Rd, Whitehill, Bordon GU35 9HN. Cycle racks are available.

By bus: Stops on Hogmoor Road. Visit traveline.info or call 0871 200 22 33

By rail: Nearest railway stations are Liphook (4.2miles) and Bentley (4.8miles)

By car: Hogmoor Road, Whitehill, Bordon GU35 9HN Hogmoor. Access to the car park along Hogmoor Road. Free car park

Hogmoor Inclosure is a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) created to provide a natural space for families to enjoy and relieve pressure on the surrounding protected heathland sites. The site is owned by The Land Trust and managed day-to-day by Deadwater Valley Trust

Follow any of the three waymarked trails and discover 54 hectares of woodland and heathland. Pick up a site map at the cafe.



Family-friendly, recreational site near Bordon, with signposted, accessible trails, café and play area.