



Guided Walks – This booklet is published twice a year, offering a programme of guided walks, mountain-bike rides, town and city walks and events.

Long-distance paths

The Staunton Way – 8.5 to 20.5 miles (31km)
Stanton Country Park to Queen Elizabeth Country Park

The Hangers Way – 21 miles (34km)
Alton to Queen Elizabeth Country Park

The Clarendon Way – 26 miles (42km)
Salisbury to Winchester

Avon Valley Path – 34 miles (55km)
Salisbury to Christchurch

The Test Way – 44 miles (70.4km)
Inkpen Beacon to Eling Tide Mill

The Solent Way – 60 miles (97km)
Milford on Sea to Emsworth

The Wayfarers Walk – 70 miles (113km)
Emsworth to Inkpen Beacon

Pilgrims' Trail – 28 miles (45km)
Long-distance Winchester-to-Fortsmouth walk
Water-resistant pocket-sized pack. **£2.99**

St Swithun's Way – 34 miles (54.4km)
Winchester to Farnham
Water-resistant pocket-sized pack. **£3.99**

Planned routes and guided walks



Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service is responsible for ensuring that public rights of way in Hampshire are kept in good condition for public use.

This work includes the maintenance of surfaces and structures such as bridges and boardwalks.

We liaise with land-owners who are responsible for stiles and gates and ensuring that paths across fields are free from crops and other obstructions.

The County Council is also responsible for signing all public rights of way where they leave a metalled road and for waymarking along the path (where required) and ensuring that they are correctly recorded on the **Definitive Map**.

Who is responsible for Rights of Way?



The County Council works closely with land-owners and farmers, whose role is:

- to know where public rights of way cross their land.
- to maintain established stiles and gates in a safe condition for public use.
- to obtain consent from the County Council before erecting new stiles and gates.
- to keep paths free from obstructions, side and overhanging vegetation.
- never to plough a public right of way along a field edge, byway or RUPP.
- to reinstate footpaths and bridleways across fields after ploughing or cultivation and to keep them free from crops to legal minimum widths.
- not to keep animals they know to be dangerous in a field through which a public right of way passes.
- to ensure that beef bulls over ten months are kept with cows or heifers and that dairy bulls over ten months are never put in a field through which a public right of way passes.
- never to deter the public from using a public right of way, including the erection of misleading signs, and never to endanger the public.

Land-owners and farmers' responsibilities

Health walks, horse-riders and cyclists' routes

Healthy walks in and around the New Forest

Fawley – 3 walks
Hythe and Dibden – 3 walks
Marchwood – 3 walks
Ringwood – 4 walks
Fordingbridge – 3 walks



Routes for riders

The Ox Drove Way – 24 miles (39km)
A circular route from Old Alresford.

South Downs Way, National Trail – 104 miles (167km)
Eastbourne to Winchester
Hampshire section – 24 miles (39km)

Routes for cyclists

Off-Road Cycle Packs 1 & 2
3 to 26 miles long (5 to 42km)
12 self-guided routes to suit all cyclists, in each water-resistant pocket-sized pack. **£2.99 each**



To find out more about these leaflets, visit our Web sites: www.hants.gov.uk/walking or www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/hpp/healthwalks or www.hants.gov.uk/cycling

Alternatively, the above publications are available from: Hampshire County Council, Information Centre Mottisfont Court, High Street, Winchester Hampshire, SO23 8ZB

Further information

Useful Web sites

www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk
www.english-nature.org.uk
www.hants.gov.uk/countryside
www.hants.gov.uk/walking
www.metoffice.co.uk
www.the-kennel-club.org.uk
www.traveline.org.uk
www.visit-hampshire.org.uk

Useful leaflet

You and your dog in the countryside
Produced by The Countryside Agency.



Useful contacts

Hampshire County Council	
Information Centre Winchester	01962 870500
Met Office (weather information)	0870 900 0100
The Traveline	0870 608 2608

Tourist Information Centres (TICs)

Alton	01420 88448	www.visit-easthampshire.org.uk
Petersfield	01730 268829	www.visit-easthampshire.org.uk

Recreation & Heritage Department
Hampshire County Council, Mottisfont Court, High Street
Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8ZF

This information is available in large print, audio tape, on disk and in Braille.
Please contact **0800 028 0888**.

For customers with hearing or speech difficulties, please use a text phone to contact our free textline on **0808 100 2484**.



FINDING YOUR WAY

ON HAMPSHIRE'S RIGHTS OF WAY



Rights of Way

Hampshire is well served by a comprehensive network of over 2,800 miles of public rights of way, giving access to most parts of the county. There are four classifications of public rights of way: footpath; bridleway; road used as public path (RUPP); byway. These are signposted from the roadside and waymarked using coloured arrow discs.

Who can use them?

Hampshire County Council waymarks paths with discs like these:



FOOTPATH – for walkers only



BRIDLEWAY – for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists



BYWAY – open for all users, but used mainly by walkers, horse-riders and cyclists



LONG-DISTANCE ROUTES – for walkers only

RUPPs – Some highways are still recorded as 'roads used as public paths' (RUPPs). They are a public right of way where the public can walk and ride a horse or bicycle, but where there may also be vehicular rights. RUPPs are waymarked with wooden finger posts, where they leave the road as a right of way.

It is intended that RUPPs will become Restricted Byways and be open to walkers, riders, cyclists and horse-drawn vehicles only.

A **permissive path** is not a public right of way, but the public is allowed to use it, with the permission of the land-owner.

A **green lane** is an unsurfaced track or path, usually bounded by hedges or walls, often of some antiquity. The term has no legal meaning, and, if there is a public right of way along such a track, it will usually be classified under one of the accepted headings.

A **long-distance** path is indicated on all Ordnance Survey maps with a green diamond. The long-distance routes promoted by Hampshire County Council (HCC) and all National Trails, such as the South Downs Way, are shown in the same way. See Planned Routes and horse-riders and cyclists' routes for a comprehensive list of those paths which HCC promotes.

Bridleway
for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists

Open Access Land
boundary and tint

Open Access Land
in woodland area

Cycle Route
traffic-free

National Trail/Long-Distance Route
recreational route

How to find these paths in the countryside

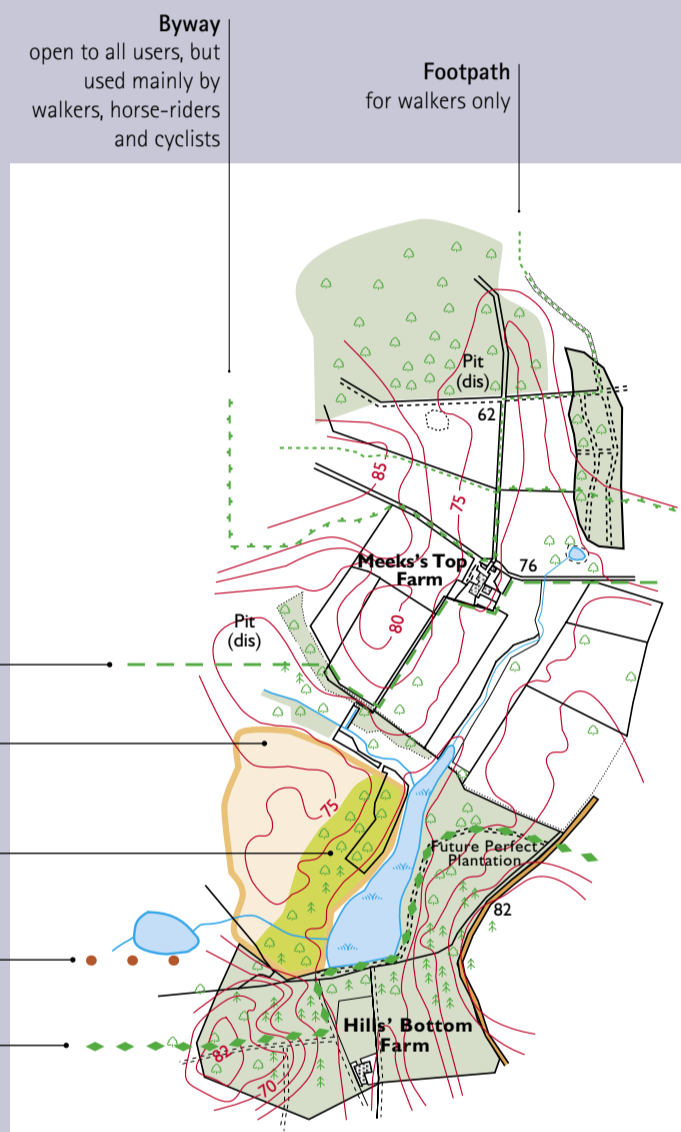
Paths are often signposted where they meet a road. Sometimes, they are also marked along the way with coloured arrow discs. Waymarks can be attached to a wide range of surfaces, including stone and brick.

Finding your way

If you want to plan your own route in and around the countryside, we recommend the Ordnance Survey 'Explorer Series' map at a scale of 1:25,000 (2½ inches to 1 mile), available from any good bookshop. These maps show public rights of way in green and give other helpful details, such as field boundaries (as shown in the example below).

They may not show the most recent changes; so, if you are in any doubt, check the **Definitive Map** of the county – all public rights of way are recorded on this map. It is conclusive proof that a public right of way exists and is kept under constant review to reflect changes in the network. This document is publicly available and can be seen at the County Council's office in Winchester.

Please contact us before your visit to ensure that the **Definitive Map** is available on the day you wish to come. Telephone (01962) 846045 or visit our Web site: www.hants.gov.uk/countryside



What can't you do on Open Access Land? Are there any restrictions?

You may occasionally find notices saying that the land is closed or access is restricted to certain areas. Farmers and land-owners have the discretion to suspend or restrict access for 28 days each year, for any reason. They may also apply for long-term restrictions or closures directly to the Countryside Agency, where necessary, for land management, safety or fire-prevention reasons. The newly defined Open Access Land does not allow you to ride a horse, bicycle, paraglide, use metal detectors, organise or take part in games or commercial activities, swim, use boats or windsurf in non-tidal rivers or lakes or remove anything from the area.

These restrictions and closures will be shown on the Countryside Agency's Web site (www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk), as well as notices on site. You can telephone the **Open Access Contact Centre: 0845 100 3295**

Dog-owners

During the months from 1 March to 31 July, the new right requires all dogs to be kept on a lead of no more than 2m (6.5ft). This is during the main breeding period for ground-nesting birds (eggs and young will soon die without protection from their parents) or at any time of year when you are near livestock.

Please check the Countryside Agency's Web site for up-to-date information.

The public's responsibilities and the Countryside Code

You have a right to 'pass and repass' along public rights of way. You may take a pram, pushchair or wheelchair, if the path is suitable. If you come across an illegal obstruction, you have a right to take a short deviation around it or to remove as much of it as necessary to get past.

The County Council will investigate complaints and take appropriate action, in co-operation with the land-owner or farmer. Enforcement or legal action will also be taken, if necessary, to ensure that paths are open and available for use.

When using public rights of way, please remember:



- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Have the correct map with you, so that you may find your way accurately along the route.
- Keep to public paths across farmland.

- Leave gates and property as you find them.

- Use public transport, wherever possible, to get into the countryside.
- Take special care on country roads.
- Consider other people.
- Do not park, if you do use a vehicle, where it could cause an obstruction to local residents or access to a field.
- Make no unnecessary noise.
- If you go in a group, walk or ride in single file (where necessary, eg through crops and forested areas) and do not spread out beyond the width of the path.
- Guard against all risks of fire.
- Part of the appeal of the countryside is that you can get away from it all. You may not see anyone for hours and there are many places without good mobile phone signals, so let someone else know where you're going and when you're expected to return.



- A farmer will normally leave a gate closed to keep livestock in, but many leave it open occasionally, so that they can fetch food and water. Leave gates as you find them or follow instructions on signs; if walking in a group, make sure that the last person knows how to leave the gates.
- Leave all machinery and livestock alone. Don't interfere with animals, even if you think that they are in distress. Try to alert the farmer instead.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Any litter or leftover food doesn't just spoil the beauty of our countryside, it can be dangerous to wildlife and farm animals and can spread disease – so please take your litter home with you.



- If a farm animal chases you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead – don't risk getting hurt by trying to protect it.

- Keep dogs under close control. (See backcover for more information)

- You don't have to put your dog on a lead on public paths, as long as it is under close control. As a general rule, though, keep your dog on a lead, if you cannot rely on its obedience. By law, farmers are entitled to destroy a dog which injures or worries their animals.
- Take particular care that your dog doesn't scare sheep and lambs or wander where it might disturb birds which nest on the ground and other wildlife – eggs and young will soon die without protection from their parents.



If you experience problems, such as locked gates, dangerous animals, obstruction by crops, fallen or overhanging trees etc, please help by reporting them to the address on the back of this leaflet, giving clear details and a grid reference, if possible.

Please try to follow the countryside code, so that everyone can enjoy the countryside as it was meant to be. Ensure that you leave the countryside in its natural state, neither adding to it (dog mess, picnic rubbish etc) nor taking anything from it (plants, animals etc). Don't pick flowers, for example, or be tempted to dig up plants or collect insects: all of these, including some very rare plants and animals, form a delicate balance which deserves to be respected at all times.

What is Open Access Land?

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, you have new rights to walk on areas of downland, heathland and registered common in Hampshire. These new rights are often referred to in the press as the 'right to roam' – this is very misleading, as the new rights apply only to specific areas of land which, together, make up less than 2% of Hampshire. These new rights do not apply to cultivated fields which form the majority of our local countryside.

Who can use Open Access Land?

The right of access is for recreation on foot only, including activities like walking, sightseeing, bird-watching, picnicking, climbing and running. If a public bridleway runs through this newly defined Open Access Land, public rights still exist on the bridleway.

How can you find Open Access Land?

The new access land is shown on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps at a scale of 1:25,000 (2½ inches to 1 mile). These maps have the new logo on the top right-hand corner of the front cover. The Open Access Land is shown with an orange boundary line and tinted yellow. Check the key under the heading of General Information.

The public's responsibilities

The freedom to walk on Open Access Land comes with responsibilities as outlined in the Countryside Code. When using Open Access Land, remember that you are responsible for your own safety, taking care of any accompanying children or dogs. You **cannot** light (or cause) a fire, feed any animal, leave litter or do any damage.