

Agriculture

The local landscape today reflects farming activities over many centuries and many of these farming activities are still much in evidence in the local countryside. The parish boundaries extend to areas of undulating and open countryside, with a mixture of arable and pasture, including grazing for sheep and cattle. Most farmland has been managed on a small scale by local families over several generations and this is reflected in the field patterns.

The area includes several sites of historic interest including some with Iron Age and Roman connections

Forms a wooded scarp rising from housing estates on the north of the village to an area of ancient woodland and at one time woodland pasture, now forming an attractive and varied area which is now enjoyed by local people. The area is well served with footpaths.

Horndean contains many fragments of woodland, often providing shelter belts, which are rich in wildlife and carpeted with bluebells in the spring. These can be best seen from a viewpoint in the field at the back of Catherington Churchyard. Native trees include the common oak, field maples (a notable veteran survives south-east of the churchyard), fine beeches (good examples on White Dirt Lane and Netherley Down) and several yew trees.



Horndean Parish Council was formed in 1932 and covered the southeast part of the Hundred of "Ceptune" or Finchdean. Various changes of boundaries have altered the area and it now covers the old Catherington Parish and Blendworth Village. The Church of All Saints dates from the end of the 12th Century and in it is a large monument to Sir Nicholas Hyde, the Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1627, who lived at Hinton Dabney. It is said that the marriage of the Duke of York (later James II) took place here in 1660.

History of the Parish



Hedgerows

Lies in the south west of the parish and contains many plant species indicative of a long history as coppiced woodland, with ancient wood banks, and is noted for the presence of Sessile Oak and Wild Service Trees, both of which show evidence of past coppicing.

Yell's Copse

Lies in the south west of the parish and contains many plant species indicative of a long history as coppiced woodland, with ancient wood banks, and is noted for the presence of Sessile Oak and Wild Service Trees, both of which show evidence of past coppicing.

Catherington Lith

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Woodland

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South of Horndean, along the west side of the motorway, lies Hazleton Common, an area of open grassland with wooded dells, rough scrub and a variety of habitats and is managed as a place of scenic beauty in a way that benefits wildlife and provides an educational resource for local schools. Since 1996 the area has been transformed to provide open grass paths with boardwalks over swampy areas and seats at strategic points.

Hazleton Common

Catherington Down is a flower-rich chalk hillside packed with wildlife and archaeological interest surrounded by open countryside with superb views as far as Portsmouth Hill. It is traversed by narrow belts of woodland and is a perfect setting for walkers. On the northeast side of the down, adjacent to Catherington Lith, is a small fragment of chalk downland known as Stubbins Down which through good management is showing a steady increase in the variety of downland flowers and butterflies.

Chalk Downland

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Horndean Village

The centre of Horndean Parish is the square, which is surrounded by several pubs and shops, Gales 19th Century brewery and associated flint and brick cottages along London Road, and the 19th Century post office. New development has seen Horndean village grow into the most significant of the parish settlements for business, including industrial estates along the motorway

Recreation

There is an extensive network of paths, many running through attractive woodland and downland. They provide easy access to the open countryside and are very popular. Some paths, notably Crouch, Ham, Coldhill and Tagdell Lanes, are sometimes inaccessible in winter.

No less important for local recreation are the small, more formal green places within the residential areas, such as The Dell (Hazleton Estate), the Causeway (off Portsmouth road), the greens (along Merchistoun Road), the Recreation Ground (Five Heads Road) and land adjoining Stonechat Road.

Useful Contacts

Horndean Parish Council (02392) 597766
Tyfield House
Blendworth Lane
Horndean
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO8 0AA
Email: clerk@horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk

Hampshire County Council (01962) 846002
Mottisfont Court
High Street
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8ZF

Public Houses
The Red Lion (02392) 593202
The Ship & Bell (02392) 592107
Anchor Inn (02392) 591050

Public Transport
National Travel Line 0870 608 2608
Stagecoach 0845 1210180

Tourist Information
Hampshire County Council
Information Centre 0800 028 0800

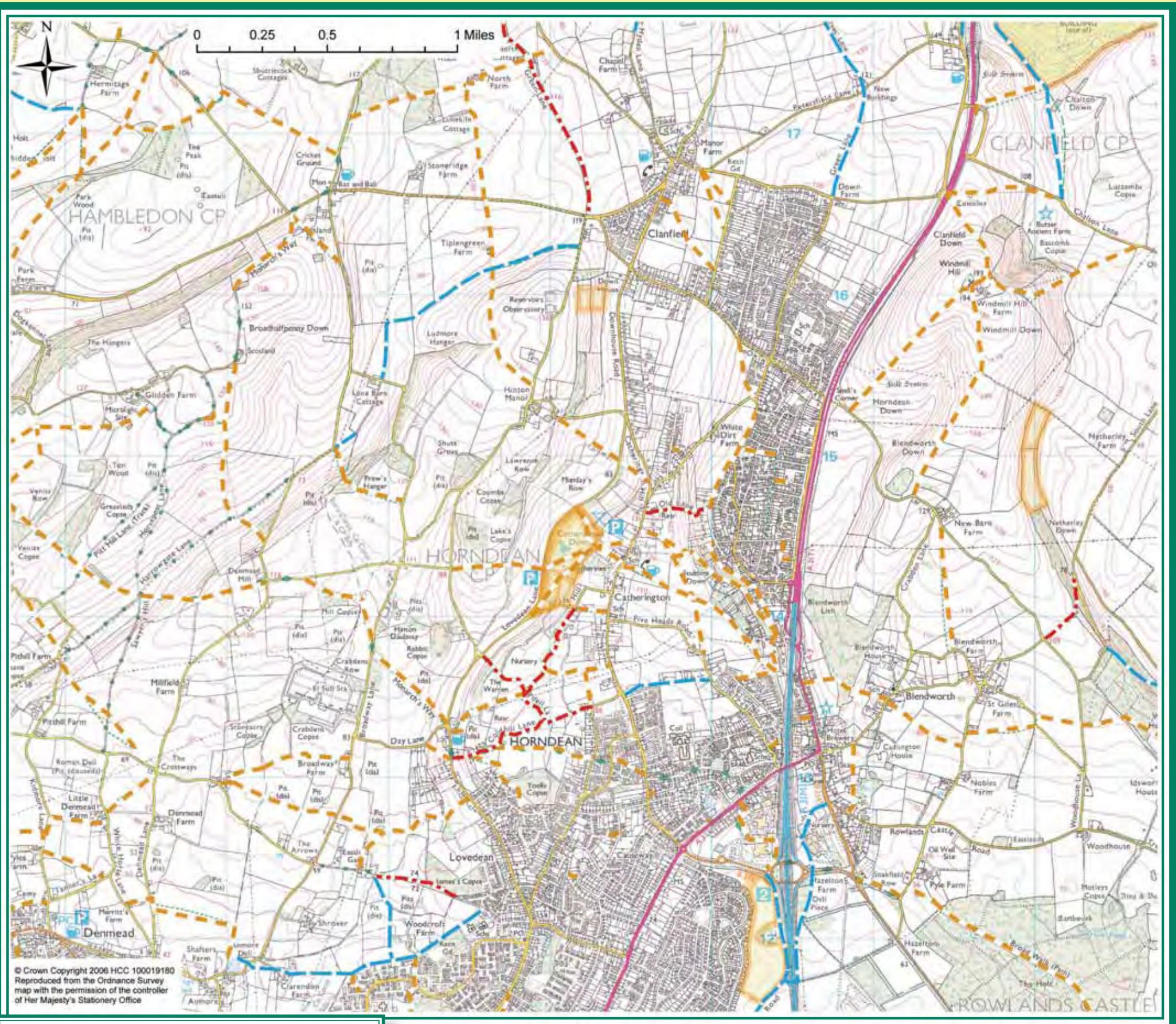
For further information on access to the countryside please contact Hampshire County Council on: 0800 028 0888 (Freephone) or www.hants.gov.uk/countryside

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Exploring HORNDDEAN

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--- Footpath
 --- Bridleway
 --- RUPP
 - - - Byway open to all traffic
 Areas believed to offer public access

Using Local Paths

Many rights of way cross private land, and we ask you to bear this in mind by keeping to the path and being responsible when using them. There are four types, as shown on the map key; please check which paths you are entitled to use (for example, cyclists cannot use footpaths). Wheelchairs, pushchairs and dogs are allowed on all types of rights of way. Any permissive paths or areas marked are not rights of way, but the landowner has given permission for the public to use them. To ensure that the countryside is protected for future generations be sure to:

- Be safe – wear suitable clothing and shoes and take care when crossing roads
- Plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them and take your litter home
- Protect plants and animals
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Enjoying the countryside

Hampshire boasts an extremely rich and diverse countryside and an extensive network of public paths which provide a range of opportunities for enjoying the great outdoors. Rights of way are linear routes, often ancient trackways through deep countryside; there are over 3,000 miles of these in Hampshire. The map in this leaflet may also show access to other areas of land, such as commons, woodland, recreation grounds or conservation areas, and your Parish Council may know of guided walks or events. Many people will be able to reach countryside within a few hundred yards of home, and the plants, trees and views along the same paths often change dramatically through the seasons. We hope that this leaflet will encourage you to explore and enjoy your local countryside.

Maintaining rights of way

- Hampshire County Council:**
- Ensures that rights of way are not obstructed
 - Maintains the surface in a fit condition for its intended use
 - Maintains some bridges
 - Signposts and waymarks paths
 - Authorises stiles and gates
 - Keeps the definitive map up to date

- Landowners:**
- Keep back side growth and overhanging vegetation
 - Reinstate paths across fields after ploughing or planting crops
 - Maintain most stiles and gates
 - Should not obstruct paths or deter use of them
 - Should not plough paths at field edges
 - Should not keep dangerous animals (including certain bulls) on paths

