

Safety First...

- Your bike should be roadworthy and well maintained, in particular the brakes, steering and tyres. If riding at night, you must have front and rear lights and a rear reflector. Wear a cycle helmet and gloves, and let someone know if you are riding alone.
- Cycling in hilly countryside can be strenuous, so please ensure that you have allowed plenty of time and are carrying sufficient refreshments.
- This route mostly uses quiet country lanes, but they are not free from traffic.
- Horse riders and walkers appreciate friendly greeting as you approach. Cyclists must give way to horse riders and walkers on the A3.



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Farm vehicles may leave mud on the roads, so take extra care and watch your speed.

- Watch out for car drivers also, who may not be used to seeing cyclists in the countryside.

For these reasons, the South Downs Joint Committee cannot accept liability for recommending this as a leisure route or, save for negligence, liability for injury or damage to property.

Towns and Villages

Peterfield is a bustling town, with an impressive square which is used for markets on Saturdays and Wednesdays and farmers' markets on Sundays. Close to the market square are pubs and cafes, with a tourist information centre in the library.

Buriton is an unspoilt old village, surrounded by steep wooded downland hillsides. There are a choice of two pubs in the village. The manor house was the home of the writer Edward Gibbon.

East Meon (pictured left), to the west of Peterfield, is a delightful small village surrounded by the downs. The River Meon runs alongside the village. The village contains a fine Norman church and two pubs.



Peterfield Square

Why is it so special?



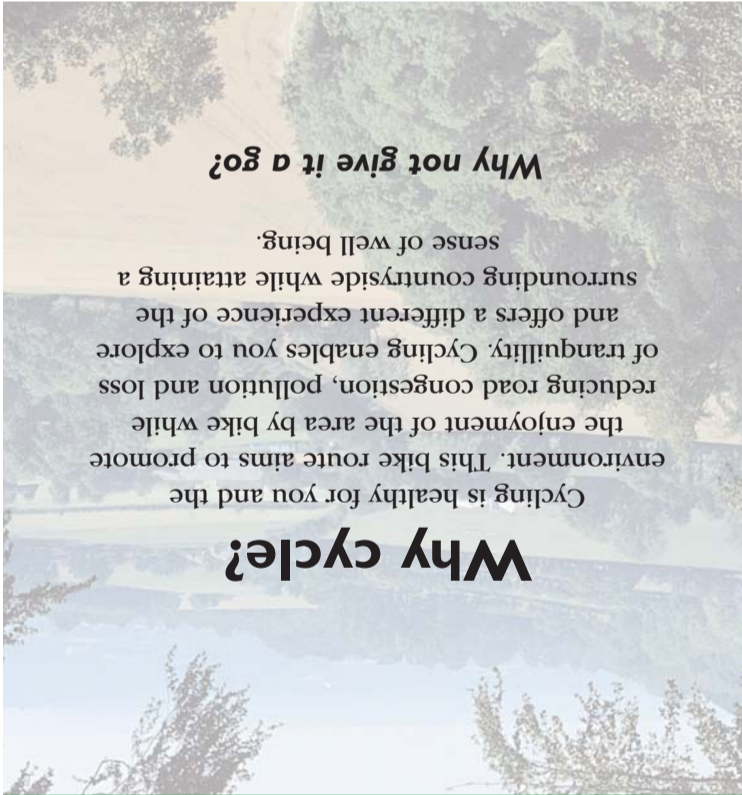
The area embraces a variety of contrasting landscapes, from the dramatic open landscapes and panoramic views on the chalk downs to the steep wooded scarp slopes of hanger woodlands, the gentle winding plains of the river valley and the enclosed intimate landscape of the Weald. The area is not important just for its scenery: there are many archaeological treasures hidden in its extensive ancient woodlands and pastures.

Wild flowers along the route

Why cycle?

Cycling is healthy for you and the environment. This bike route aims to promote the enjoyment of the area by bike while reducing road congestion, pollution and loss of tranquillity. Cycling enables you to explore and offers a different experience of the surrounding countryside while attaining a sense of well being.

Why not give it a go?



Ten cycle tips

1. Follow the Highway Code.
2. Follow the Country Code – respect the countryside, take your litter home, protect wildlife, plants and trees.
3. Always ride in single file when the roads are narrow. Never ride more than two abreast.
4. In wet weather, keep a gap of at least three metres between one rider and the next, taking extra care downhill.
5. Be courteous to other road users.
6. Be visible. Ride well clear of the kerb, wear bright clothing and always use lights after dark and in poor daytime visibility.
7. Always look and signal before you start, stop or turn.
8. Ride positively and decisively.
9. Think ahead – anticipate drivers' actions. Catch their eye.
10. Lock your bike – or lose it.

What to take

- Cycle helmet • Mobile phone • Adjustable spanner and Allen keys • First aid kit • Lights • Lock • Food and drink • Money • Spare inner tube • Puncture repair kit and pump • Tyre levers • Waterproofs • You may find it useful to have Ordnance Survey maps for the area (Explorers 132 & 133).

Contacts

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For more information on cycling in Hampshire visit www.hants.gov.uk/cycling

Dedicated to the memory of Pete Butler.

Working in Partnership to Protect the South Downs

DISCOVER THE HAMPSHIRE AREA OF THE SOUTH DOWNS BY BIKE



A 22-MILE ON-ROAD CYCLE ROUTE

DISCOVER THE HAMPSHIRE AREA OF THE SOUTH DOWNS BY BIKE



Facilities

Along the route there are several pubs offering food and drink in Petersfield, Steep, Hawkley, Colemore and Priors Dean, East Meon and Buriton

These are marked as



There is also a village shop in East Meon and a cycle shop in Steep.

Starting the route

The route is signed with these distinctive signs.



The best option for starting the route is to bring your bike on the train to Petersfield railway station. However, as services vary, you are advised to check with South West Trains on (0845) 6000 650. Alternatively, you could cycle from home, or if you wish to drive, there is a pay and display car park at Petersfield railway station. Begin at point one, on the right hand side of this page, and follow map and directions anti-clockwise.

Map not to scale

12. Turn left, signposted Priors Dean and Colemore. This road is very narrow – listen carefully for approaching motor vehicles. After Goleigh Farm, there is a steep downhill section. The surface may be slippery here – watch your speed!

13. At T-jn with grass triangle, turn right, then go straight ahead at the next junction.

14. At T-jn, turn left. On your left, tucked down a gravel track, is the 'Pub With No Name'. Look out for the empty pub sign.

15. At Xroads, stop and cross carefully. Traffic is very fast here.

16. Continue straight across next Xroads, signed Privett. Ignore turns to left and right and follow road to Bower Farm. Stay on tarmac road which bears left.

17. At T-jn, turn right, signposted Froxfield Green. You are now at the half-way point!

18. At next jn, continue straight on. Watch out for potholes and mud on the road! A steep downhill section to the busy A272.

19. At A272, CROSS EXTREMELY CAREFULLY, turning right, then immediately left. Motor traffic can be very fast here.

20. At next T-jn, turn right, signposted East Meon and West Meon. Continue into East Meon.

21. Turn left into Church Street. Follow road through East Meon village.

22. Turn left, signposted Frogmore. Continue over river bridge. Watch out for surface water and mud on the road at this point.

23. Turn left, near to Oxenbourne House, sign-posted Buriton and Ramsdean. There are great views on your right to Butser Hill and the South Downs.

24. At end, turn right then left under A3, signposted Petersfield and Buriton. Take second exit on roundabout. Continue over humpback bridge. Please take care on the bends.

25. At the 'Master Robert' Inn in Buriton village, turn left onto Petersfield Road.

26. At T-jn, turn right towards Petersfield. Pass the 'Jolly Sailor' pub on the left. At roundabout, take second exit, signposted Town Centre.

27. In cobbled area, turn left into Hylton Road and continue to the road called 'The Spain'. (For the town centre, turn right from The Spain into Sheep Street, which brings you to The Square.) Otherwise, continue past The Spain into Charles Street. Turn left from Charles Street back to the station.

11. At next jn, continue straight on, following signs for Newton Valence and Selborne.

10. Continue straight on past telephone box on left, signposted Newton Valence and Alton. After one mile, pass pond and large white house on left.

9. At next jn, turn left, signposted Hawkley, and continue uphill, taking care on the hairpin bend. (At the top of the hill, you can turn left into Hawkley to visit the 'Hawkley Inn' pub and the church, although this is not part of the main route.)

8. At next jn, bear right, following signs to West Liss and Hawkley.

7. Turn right into Mill Lane (not signposted). Continue downhill, with great views over to Ashford Hangers. Watch out for surface water at the bottom of this slope. Ignore turns on left to Ashford.

6. After bridleway bridge, continue along Harrow Lane. At end, turn left, opposite 'Harrow Inn'. A steep zigzag climb into Steep village, passing the church and Bedales school on left.

5. Bear left down Harrow Lane, marked 'Dead End'. Surface may be slippery. Take bridleway bridge over A3. Please give way to walkers and horse riders on this bridge.

4. Continue across junction of tracks, then turn left where track meets Tilmore Road; continue for a quarter of a mile.

3. Fifty yards after roundabout, pull into left, dismount and cross carefully to track opposite. This track has a smooth surface and may be muddy after heavy rain. Please give way to walkers and horse riders on this track.

2. At roundabout, turn right, signposted Steep and Froxfield.

1. Start at Petersfield railway station covered cycle parking facilities are available here. Turn left out of the railway station into Station Road and go over level crossing. Continue along Station Road to roundabout.

Alternative route (not signposted) for riders of road bikes with narrow tyres: From railway station, turn right into Station Road. Turn left into Tilmore Road and continue over railway bridge to rejoin main route at point 4. More suitable in winter.