Enjoying the countryside

The New Forest is a beautiful place for quiet recreation with mature trees, shaded streams, wild open heathland and peaceful paths. As the map shows, people are able to walk freely through most of the woodland inclosures and open heaths and moors, which are crossed by a network of tracks and paths. The map also shows the network of public rights of way, which offer opportunities to experience the countryside on linear routes. Guided walks and events often take place in the area. For more information, visit the New Forest Centre situated in the centre of Lyndhurst. We hope that this leaflet will encourage you to explore and enjoy your local countryside.

Using the local countryside

We ask you to be responsible when using the paths in the area and to check which paths you are entitled to use (for example cyclists cannot use public footpaths and when on Forestry Commission land cyclists must stay on the waymarked cycle routes). Wheelchairs, pushchairs and dogs are allowed on all types of rights of way and areas with public access.

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 - keep away from any forestry work
- Close gates behind you unless they have been fastened open
- Protect plants and animals - look at the ponies, but don’t feed or touch them
- Take your litter home and don’t light fires
- Keep your dogs close by you and visible at all times, if necessary use a lead. Take bagged dog waste home, or use a litter or dog bin.
- Stay on the main tracks from March to July to help ground nesting birds rear their young safely.

Maintaining Countryside Access

Hampshire County Council have the responsibility to:

- Ensure that Rights of Way are not obstructed
- Maintain path surfaces, some bridges, signs and paths
- Authorise stiles and gates
- Keep the definitive map up to date

On Crown Lands, The Forestry Commission have responsibility to:

- Maintain any tracks, gates, and bridges
- Manage the woodlands, heathlands and wildlife
- Signpost, waymark and maintain cycle routes

Private Landowners have a duty to:

- Keep back side growth and overhanging vegetation
- Maintain most stiles and gates
- Ensure that paths are not obstructed or they do not deter use of them

Useful Contacts:

Lyndhurst Parish Council
Website .................. www.lyndhurstparishcouncil.org.uk

Places to eat on the walk
Crown Stirrup ............................................. 023 8028 2272
New Forest Inn ........................................ 023 8028 4690
Waterloo Arms ....................................... 023 8028 2113
Oak Inn, Bank ............................................ 023 8028 2350
New Forest Golf Club .............................. 023 8028 2484

Public Transport
National Travel Line .................................... 0871 200 2233
Bluestar ................................................. 0845 072 7094

Countrywide Information
New Forest Centre ................................... 023 8028 3444
Visitor Information Centre ...................... 023 8028 2280
National Park Information ...................... 01590 64 6600
Forestry Commission .............................. 0300 067 4600
Rights-of-Way queries .......................... 0845 039 5636
Forestry Commission ......................... www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest
Walking in Hampshire ............................ www.hants.gov.uk/walking
Cycling in Hampshire ....................... www.hants.gov.uk/cycling
Walking and Cycling in the New Forest .................. www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/routes
Maps online ......................................... www.hants.gov.uk/maps/paths

OS Outdoor Leisure Map OL22 covers this area.
For further information on Ordnance Survey maps, please visit: www.os.co.uk

Disclaimer: Published by Lyndhurst Parish Council and the New Forest National Park Authority, through the Sustainable Communities Fund. The route described has been put forward by the Parish Council. Whilst the County Council endeavours to maintain all rights of way to a high standard, additional resources are not allocated to routes permitted in this leaflet. Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this leaflet, Lyndhurst Parish Council is unable to accept any responsibility for accidents or loss resulting from following the information contained within this leaflet.

Circular Walk
Exploring Lyndhurst Parish

Shady Forest Glade

“Whether you’re a visitor, a resident or simply a lover of the New Forest and all the beauty it has to offer, we hope you enjoy the walk”

Lyndhurst Parish Council

This leaflet can also be downloaded from the Council Website www.lyndhurstparishcouncil.org.uk

Ponies in the forest

Cricket pavilion at Boltons Bench

Boulthbe Cottages

Visitors Centre

Looking over Lyndhurst Village

Ponies in the forest
The Lyndhurst Parish Circular Walk roughly follows the parish boundary, using the forest as our natural tour guide. It can be done in one go (13.5km, 3 - 4 hours) or you can choose from many shorter loops, returning along pavements at the points indicated with blue arrows on the map.

Throughout the walk you will discover the beauty and diversity of all that the parish has to offer, starting from the thriving village centre, out to Bolton’s Bench (icon of the New Forest) and on into the tranquillity beyond. It can be enjoyed all year round - those frosty morning views of pony manicured grass and delicate cobwebs on the gorse are what wonders are made of. The New Forest teems with wildlife so watch out for a glimpse of deer, rabbit or fox as well as the more familiar ponies and cattle. Parts of the route cross open countryside with purple heather in abundance, some paths run through dense foliage with sunlit glades especially beautiful in the Autumn months. It can be enjoyed all year round - those frosty morning views of pony manicured grass and delicate cobwebs on the gorse are what wonders are made of. The New Forest teems with wildlife so watch out for a glimpse of deer, rabbit or fox as well as the more familiar ponies and cattle. Parts of the route cross open countryside with purple heather in abundance, some paths run through dense foliage with sunlit glades especially beautiful in the Autumn months.

**Warning!**
This route crosses two busy roads and has a short section on a lane so please take care. The New Forest is often very wet and muddy so do wear appropriate footwear.

**THE ROUTE**

**Village car park to War Memorial**
- **0.4km, 4 mins**
  - Exit the north-east corner of the car park (with the Visitors’ Centre on your right) and turn right onto the High Street, past the Ferrari garage to the Fire Station (on your left). Go through the gate opposite on the right of the cattle grid and walk to the War Memorial situated below a clump of trees called Bolton’s Bench (the symbol of our Parish).

**Pondhead**
- **to 1.9km, 30 mins**
  - Continue along the road to the fork, then continue straight on the gravel track towards the upper car park to the single bar barrier, on to the ridge for 300m and turn right at a path crossing, down and straight across the Beaulieu Road. Use the gate between the two houses and follow the track through another gate and onward 1km to reach a second 5 bar gate.

**Clay Hill**
- **to 2.5km, 38 mins**
  - Walk through the gate, then the gate directly opposite and on up the hill past the back of The Crown Stirrup until you reach the track at the top, then right through the gate and across the road (carefully!) Bear left into the driveway and through the gate next to the cattle grid. At the school entrance turn left onto a path and continue for 1.6km down the hill with the fence on your right hand side. Turn right, following the fence and continue following the fence passing over a small causeway to a single bar gate. Turn left and follow the track on the edge of the woodland until you reach another gate. Go through the gate into the inclosure until you reach a gravel track. Turn right and continue to the road.

**Bank and Gritnam**
- **to 1.5km, 23 mins**
  - Turn left along the road for 650m, then left again at The Oak Inn (noting the redundant telephone kiosk which has been adopted by the Parish Council as an Information Point). Walk a further 650m to circle around Gritnam, with the houses on your right. On reaching the last cottage turn left onto a forest track, through the trees towards the road and a gate. Just before the gate turn left along the fence line, down to and under the underpass.

**Allum Green**
- **to 2.3km, 45 mins**
  - As you climb the slope take the path on your right and wind through the trees to the houses in the distance and join the track at Corner Cottage; follow this left and on to Caister Cottage and turn right along the fence, then wall, for 100m. Take the right fork onto a straight path, initially flat then up the hill for 1.3km. At the top of the hill turn left and, keeping left, follow the path as it winds down to the New Forest Inn at Emery Down.

**Emery Down**
- **to 1.1km, 16 mins**
  - Turn right on the road and then left onto Silver Street (noting the redundant telephone kiosk which has been adopted by the Parish Council and maintained by local residents as an Information Point). Pass alongside the single bar barrier at the end onto a path/track for 650m to the road.

**Pikes Hill**
- **to 1.3km, 20 mins**
  - At the road turn right, (careful of traffic here!) up and over the short hill past the Fenwick 2. Take the path through the gate and walk beside the hospital to a tarmac road. After 250m turn right into the cul-de-sac, where you take the path in the bottom left hand corner, emerging at the Waterloo Arms. Turn right along the road and then cross the main Romsey Road, using the pedestrian refuge.

**The Custards**
- **to 1.1km, 17 mins**
  - Turn right (noting the redundant telephone kiosk which has been adopted by the Parish Council as an Information Point) then left down Race Course View and take the first gate on the left hand side onto the open Forest and proceed over the small bridge where you turn right onto the path which follows an earth embankment alongside the New Forest Golf Club for 800m until meeting the junction with the access road and then Southampton Road with its underpass.

**Bolton’s Bench**
- **to 1.4 km, 22 mins**
  - After the underpass continue up the slope, gently bearing right for 650m to the top of the ridge; turn right at the cross paths and follow the track then road back to the War Memorial.