

Hidden Wootton

Welcome to Wootton Bridge. This leaflet is one in a series of five walks designed to help you explore some of our village's history and beautiful surroundings. Enjoy your walk.

Distance: Approximately 6 miles.

Timing: 2½ - 3 hours

Nearest car park: Brannon Way.

Bus routes: Ryde - Newport No. 9.

Ryde - East Cowes No 4.

Recommended: Bring your binoculars.

Not recommended for disabled.

Start and finish: Brannon Way car park.

Taken at a gentle pace this walk is fairly easy going along footpaths and gravelled byways. Sturdy footwear

is recommended. You will cross fields and stiles.

1. Start at the car park in Brannon Way, which is

opposite the Community Centre. Turn left from the

car park into Brannon Way and then right up into Mary

Rose Avenue, which meanders through the estate into

Fernside Way as far as the junction with Station Road.

Turn left into Station Road.

2. Proceed a few yards until you reach **Packfield Lane North**, footpath N8. Continue down the lane for

approx. seven hundred yards when you will reach

Packfield Farmhouse on your left and then the level

crossing for the Steam Railway. Wootton Station can

be seen up the line to

your right. DO NOT

WALK UP THE LINE.

3. The line originally

opened in 1875 as the

Ryde and Newport

Railway, with stations at

Ryde St Johns Road,

Ashey, Haven Street,

Wootton, Whippingham and Newport. Both Wootton

and Whippingham closed in September 1953 and the

line itself in February 1966. However, its unique

charm has been perfectly preserved by a largely

volunteer-run organisation, which began life in 1971.



Trains run in season from Wootton to Smallbrook

Junction for onward connection to Island Line stations

and the mainland. You may be lucky and see a steam

train passing! Taking great care, cross the line.

Take footpath N7 to your left and walk up the hill until

you reach the junction with footpath N4. You are now in

Littleton.

4. Here opposite Woodford Cottage in 1846 was the

old Littleton chapel built of brick and slate by the

Bible Christian Movement. Littleton was then a self-

supporting and thriving

hamlet. The coming of the

railway in 1875 and

development of Beech Lane

into Station Road spelled the

erosion of community activity

in Littleton. The Great Gale

of 1897 destroyed the chapel.

Turn left taking N3.

5. After 100 yards turn right passing "Shiloh" which

was once Mousehill Farm. Continue walking for about

half a mile until you reach the junction with

Bridleford Road. CAUTION: THIS IS A VERY FAST

SECTION OF ROAD.

Turn right.

6. Proceed with extreme care to Bridleford Lodge

Farm, which is situated a few yards away on the

opposite side of the road. Hops were grown on this

farm until World War 1 and in the farmyard is a

relatively small rectangular brick structure divided into

two hop kilns. Both kilns have unusual low curved

roofs with a central ventilation hole to which a cowl

would probably have been fitted.

Turn round so that Bridleford Lodge Farm is now on

your right and proceed back along Bridleford Road

along the grass verge, again with great care, and take

the left hand track directly opposite Blacklands Lane

at **Knights Cross Cottages**.

Take the cycleway / footpath next to the Chapel.

Littleton.

replacement for the Bible Christian Chapel at

Chapel, which was built in 1897 as the

built in 1907. Adjacent to this is the Methodist

behind the Chapel is the Station Master's House,

right hand side. On the left hand side of the road

11. You will come to Wootton Station on the

continue for about 200 yards.

Now turn right into Station Road and

into its present situation in about 1880.

workers cottages in the 17th century, it was converted

on your left. Originally built as two agricultural

10. You will see the **Woodman's Arms** public house

distance.

white cliffs of Tennyson Down at Freshwater in the far

hedge to your left as on a clear day you can see the

Station Road. Whilst walking, keep looking over the

Continue on N3 and N4 until you reach the junction of

at the Littleton footpath junction.

"Shiloh" again, turn left and in 100 yards you are back

journey. After about 150 yards you will arrive at

right. You will recognise this path from your outward

with footpath N3 at Littleton. Cross the stile and turn

You will eventually reach another stile, which meets up

the fields. Please keep your dogs on leads at all times.

footpath N2. Cross over the stile and proceed through

9. Just before you reach the farm, turn left taking

bluebells.

see a carpet of daffodils, wood anemones and

track to Woodhouse Farm where in the spring you will

fork N12 to Wootton Bridge and proceed along the

and just past here the track divides. Take the left hand

8. Carry on past woodland known as **Dunage Cose**

entrances to Knight's Farm on the left and **Dorshill**

Farm on the right.

7. Continue up this bridleway (N10), passing the

entrances to Knight's Farm on the left and **Dorshill**

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After a quarter of a mile you will come to a recently constructed railway bridge, which was built in 1999 when the original fell into disrepair. Pass under the bridge and continue walking for about 100 yards until you reach the junction with Park Road. Cross the road carefully and continue on walking down the 'other side of the track'.

12. After about half a mile you will reach Whippingham Station on the right, which is now a private dwelling.

It is known that Queen Victoria did use the station on at least one occasion, on 11 February 1888, when she travelled from Whippingham to Ventnor and back for the opening of the National Consumption Hospital there.

Take a right hand turn just before the Station House and proceed down past the crematorium until you reach the junction with the main road (Lushington Hill).

13. Opposite is one of the gatehouses Queen Victoria would have driven through. Turn right and proceed up the hill, passing Harwood's Garage at the top, on your right.

Continue on to the traffic lights at the corner of Church Road / High Street / Station Road.

14. Turn right at The Cedars, cross at the light-controlled crossing, and proceed along Station Road for about 200 yards until you reach Fernside Way. Turn left and follow the road through the estate until you reach Brannon Way, turn left and on your right is the car park.



Acknowledgements

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Local Heritage initiative



Heritage Lottery Fund

The Countryside Agency

Hidden Britain South East

Wootton Bridge PARISH COUNCIL



Walks about Wootton

HIDDEN WOOTTON

A walk to Woodhouse and Littleton





To Whippingham & East Cowes

- Walks About Wootton Footpath
- Unpaved footpaths/bridleways
- Wootton Station (Steam Railway to Havenstreet, Smallbrook Junction and Island Line)
- Wootton Bridge Help & Information Centre
- P Parking
- PO Post Office
- † Church
- PH Public House
- PC Public Convenience
- 🌳 View Point



WOOTTON BRIDGE HELP AND INFORMATION CENTRE
 4 & 5 Joanne's Walk, Brannon Way, Telephone: 884 555
 Web address: www.woottonbridge.com
 Open: Mon - Fri 0900 - 1300 hours