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Open Access at  
**Shortheath Common  
and Binswood**

Making the most of open access



Open access land offers walkers an exciting opportunity to explore some of the spectacular South Downs National Park landscapes from a much closer perspective than ever before!

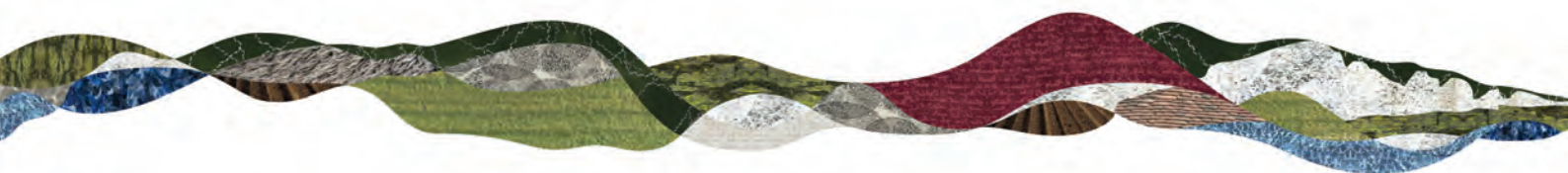
This map will help you get more from a visit to **Shortheath Common** and **Binswood** whilst enjoying it in harmony with the wildlife and its management. There is a detailed map overleaf that shows the sites, a self-guided walk and additional information that will help you better enjoy what is on offer. Please read the information on the back of this leaflet and most importantly, enjoy your visit!

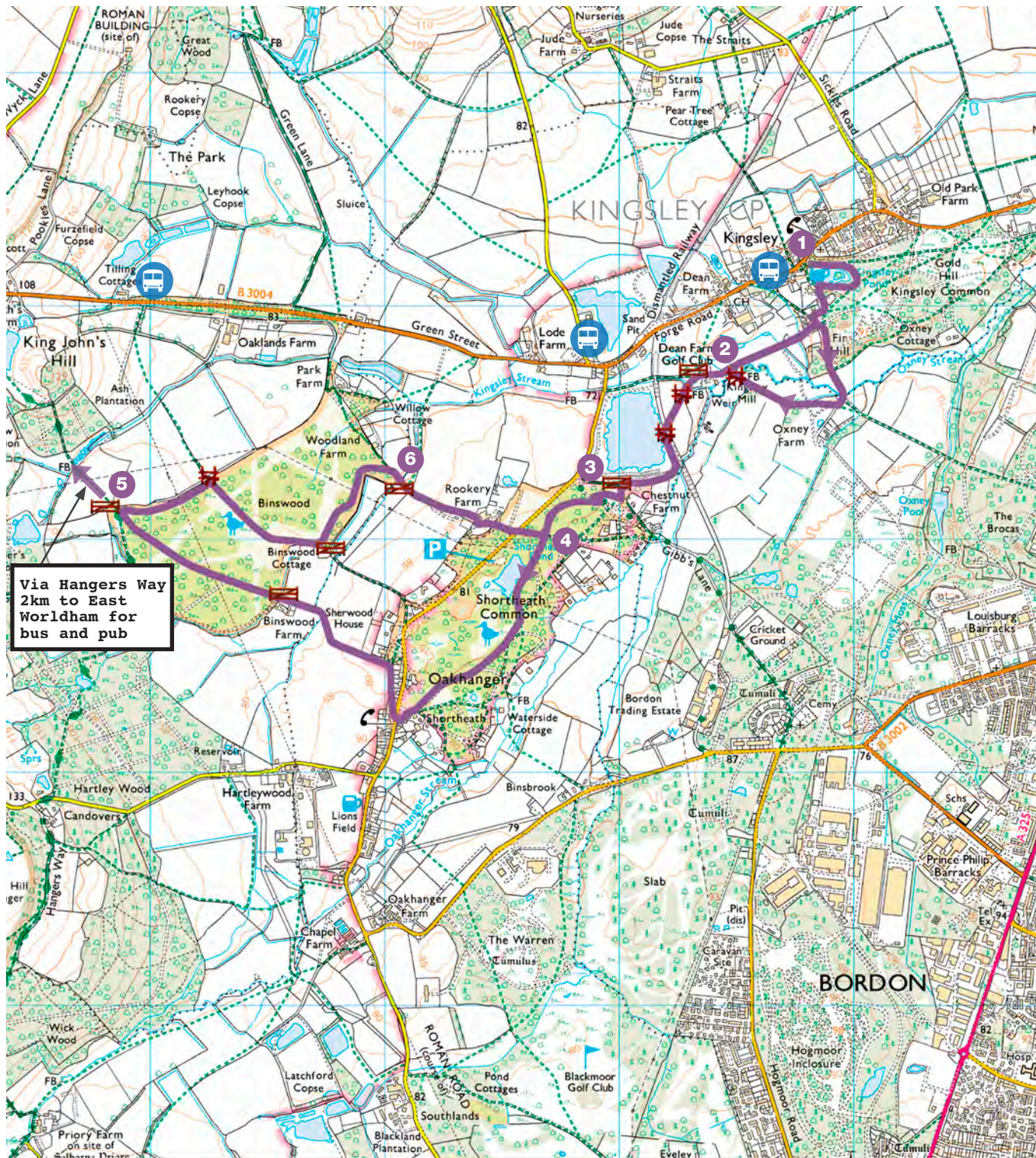
**Shortheath Common** has a fascinating range of habitats within what can best be described as an unusual inland 'sand dune' setting. Although part of the site is dominated by semi-natural oak and birch woodland, it retains a large pond, wet and dry heath, acid grassland, and an outstanding area of 'transition mire and quaking bog'. In contrast **Binswood** sits on the Gault Clay and is a remnant of a royal hunting forest sustained by traditional grazing. It provides a glimpse of the landscape as it may have looked in medieval times with its combination of ancient oaks and beech trees, scrub and unimproved grassland.



South Downs Society  
Protecting the Beauty of the Downs

SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK





#### Open Access

- Bridleway
- - - Public Footpath
- ■ ■ South Downs Way
- - - Well used path in Access Land
- Open Access
- Currently inaccessible Access Land
- # Gate
- # Stile

#### Public Interest

- U Horse riding
- ☎ Phone
- 🦋 Nature Reserve
- 🐟 Fishing
- 🚪 Public house/s
- 🚌 No. 13 Bus Stop
- Walk Route
- - - Alternative Shorter Route



0 250 500 Metres

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# Route instructions



**Circular walk from Kingsley Common to explore two contrasting landscapes, the heathland of Shortheath Common, and a tangle of ancient woodland at Binswood. There is a linear option via the Hangers Way to East Worldham. Binswood can be very wet in winter so good footwear is important.**

Distance: 9.6 km/6 miles. Linear option is 7km/4½ m.

Time: 3hrs or 2hrs.

Total ascent: 100m/328 ft

Stiles: 6

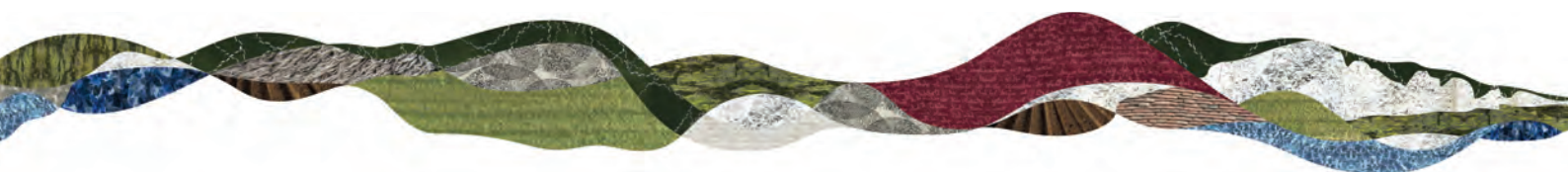
Map: OS Explorer 133

Start: The Cricketers Inn on the B3004 at Kingsley. Grid Ref: SU 787381 or GU35 9ND

How to get there: Stagecoach Bus 13 provides a regular service Mon-Sat between Alton and Liphook, alight at The Cricketers Inn, Kingsley. Kingsley Common car park to east of pub.

Refreshments and toilets: Cricketers Inn at start/finish, normal pub times except Mondays. No public toilets.

- 1** Walk east past the Cricketers Inn to the un-surfaced car park of Kingsley Common. Go right by the notice boards through the trees to circle the pond clockwise. On reaching an un-surfaced lane opposite a white house turn left. Where the lane divides in front of a yellow MOD Danger notice keep left. At the metal barrier keep straight on emerging from the wood to cross a bridge over the Oxney Stream. Turn right at the barrier and right again at finger post keeping trees on the right and plantation to left. Follow this track through small patches of woodland to re-cross the stream looking left to see the water emerging from Kingsley Mill, 18th century.
- 2** Once over the footbridge bear left to reach a gate and cross the drive in front of Mill House. Go through a 5-bar gate into an old orchard with geese. . Keep left of the rubbish heap and through a gate beyond the stream to follow waymark signs to the right. Over the stile bear left across the field to another stile. In front of the sand pit turn left on the route of what was the Bordon Light Railway (1905-66) connecting the main line at Bentley with the Army Camp at Bordon. After 15m drop down right to public footpath over stile. Skirt an enormous sand pit worked by Tarmac Southern. This path can become rather overgrown but push on through to reach Shortheath Common.
- 3** Make a mental note of this spot as it can be difficult to find on return. Keep left of hillock and follow footpath towards house on left. Turn right on track in front of house and right again on dirt access road. In about 30m a similar road joins from the left. Ignore this but turn left onto the heath. Underneath the power lines turn right to follow a sandy track curving round to the left. Where this turns sharp left in front of a belt of trees find the narrower path straight ahead and into the trees.
- 4** At the dirt track turn right (note for your return). Ignore a second track coming in from the left but cross over to pick up a narrow footpath leading into the wood and pass left of a pylon. Take a moment to explore the edge of the pond before returning to the main track heading south-west. Maintain direction as a wide track merges from the left, cross a clearing to reach a Tarmac drive adjacent to the village green at Oakhanger. Go right towards the church. Take road to right of church between houses. Turn sharp right behind the houses and aim for the footpath to left of garage with blue door. At next junction bear left along wide farm track. By Binswood Farm at the end of track go through kissing gate by Woodland Trust sign. Keep on main track through wood. Close to the spot marked by the plaque to John and Margaret Greene the Roman Road from Chichester to Silchester passes running SE to NW. Cross clearing towards a gated area leading out into a field.
- 5** Before reaching the gate turn right to follow a path along the edge of the wood in a north-easterly direction (**or carry on through gate for linear option - see Map**). After 400m turn right opposite a field gate and stile on your left. Follow this woodland path until reaching a group of trees forming a 'roundabout' with paths left and right. Carry straight on and although the path twists and turns a little you will reach a gate at Binswood Cottage. Turn left in front of the gate to walk along an ancient enclosure bank soon to drop down to follow a wider path to a T-junction. Take the broader path to the right.
- 6** Leave the wood via a gate and go over a culvert. Cross a farm track and enter a tree covered bridleway between fields. Turn left on gravel access lane by Rookery Farm and left again onto metalled drive. Cross over the main road onto Shortheath Common and follow the residents' road back to Point 4. Retrace your steps to Point 2. Do not go over the footbridge here but turn left towards the telegraph pole and follow a grassy track towards the houses. At the T-junction turn left and follow lane round to the right to meet your outgoing track at the MOD sign. Turn left and follow lane down to the car park or public house.



## Open access

Open access land gives you the right to explore interesting features within that parcel of land – you can choose your own route and you don't have to stick to the path!



### What you can do:

- Walk
- Sightsee
- Picnic
- Bird watch
- Run
- Fly a kite

For more information about the Woodland Trust please see:  
[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) and about Shortheath Common see:  
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/countryside/shortheath-common.htm>

Please remember that with these rights come responsibilities. You have the legal right to explore access land but please remember that most of the areas are privately owned; they are also the home and place of work for many people. A number of sites are also nationally important because of some of the plants and animals found there. If rights of way (like footpaths or bridleways) cross the land, the legal rights still apply.

Access Land is good for dog walkers too but the South Downs landscape is also important for ground nesting birds and many important conservation grazing projects. Unless otherwise stated, dogs must be kept on a fixed lead (2 metres or less) when livestock are present and on all access land sites between March 1st and July 31st.

### What you can't do:

- Cycle or horse ride (unless on an appropriate right of way)
- Drive a vehicle (unless on an appropriate right of way)
- Camp
- Light a fire
- Hang-glide or paraglide
- Use a metal detector

### Please follow the Countryside Code at all times:

- Be safe plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people.

Use the following link to find out more.

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/openaccess](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/openaccess)

*Walk devised and surveyed by volunteers  
from the **South Downs Society***

### Getting there via public transport



Stagecoach Bus 13 provides a regular service Mon-Sat between **Alton** and **Liphook**, alight at **East Worldham, Tilling Cottages** and follow a footpath south for 800 metres to reach **Binswood** or alight **Kingsley, Bakers Corner** and follow lane south for 500 metres to reach **Shortheath Common**.

Please visit [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33

Find out more about visiting the South Downs  
[www.southdowns.gov.uk/gettingaround](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/gettingaround)

