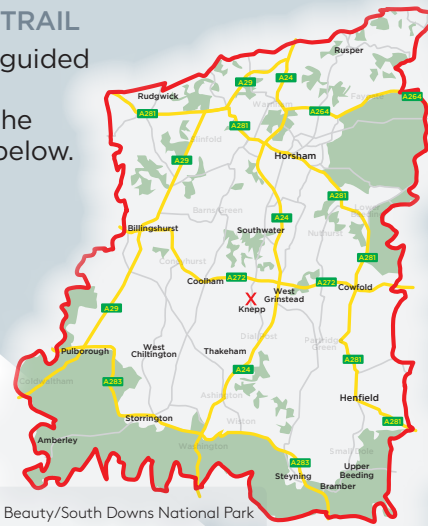




## ABOUT THE TRAIL

This is a self-guided walking trail. Please read the information below.



## HOW TO FIND US



**Start point:** The George and Dragon at Dragons Green, RH13 8GE.

**By Car:** Cars may be parked in the lane outside the pub.

## ACCESS & FACILITIES



**Walking grade:** Easy.

**Distance:** 8 miles.

**Info:** There are two stiles. Some of the route will be muddy in the Winter months.



**Refreshments:** Available at the George and Dragon during opening hours and at the Safari Centre at New Barn Farm when open.



**Toilets:** At the George and Dragon during opening hours and at the Safari Centre when open.



**Dogs:** Please keep dogs on leads and clean mess up. Please respect the privacy of local residents.

## FIND OUT MORE:

To learn more about the heritage of the wider district and discover additional trails, please visit [www.horshammuseum.org](http://www.horshammuseum.org)

Supported by Horsham District Community Partnerships Forum and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Information is correct at time of going to press.

# Horsham Heritage Trails Power Walk

Designed and Printed by Treetop Design and Print. Tel: 01293 863131



Exploring Horsham District's Heritage



# Power Walk

Welcome to this special corner of Sussex countryside that has entertained the Kings of England, provided arms for the building of the British Empire, served as a temporary home for Second World War troops in the build up to D-day, and now provides a refuge for wildlife protected by a groundbreaking rewilding project.

Park up and meet your friends at the beautiful George and Dragon and then follow paths through the Knepp Estate which has undertaken a huge rewilding project for the past 20 years. You will see deer and Exmoor ponies and Old English Longhorned cattle, roaming free. If you do not see the Tamworth pigs you will certainly see the results of their labours as their rootling ploughs the ground in search of invertebrates, rhizomes and flora.

The power of nature is taking over and new wildlife now abounds, from insects, invertebrates and dung beetles to small birds, butterflies, bats, owls, buzzards and even storks. Elusive and rare breeds such as the Nightingale and Turtle Dove, and the Purple Emperor butterfly have now made Knepp their home.

Along the way, you will pass two castles, one still a home, the other a ruin with a rich history from the time of William the Conqueror. You will also see remnants of the iron industry that was vital to this High Weald region for over 300 years, providing the arrow heads, cannon and cannon balls, that were carried on the Royal Navy ships that ruled the waves and built the British Empire.

The Iron industry also helped to shape our Sussex countryside, creating hundreds of hammer ponds, and managing our forests and woodlands to provide wood for the production of charcoal for the furnaces.



## Start Point

### ① ....The George and Dragon

Dragons Lane, Dragons Green, Shipley RH13 8GE

Park in the Lane adjacent to the pub grounds. More about the pub later. The walk is nearly 8 miles and will take approx 3 hours

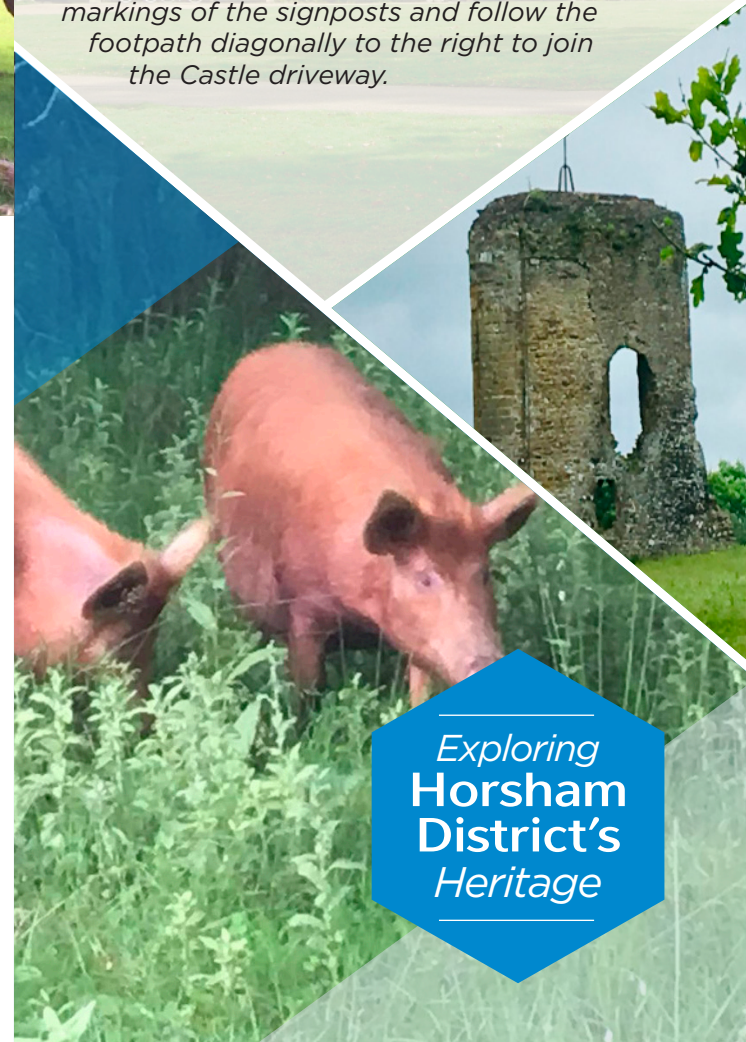
*Head East through the village and across the junction then bear left to join the Bridleway across the fields until you reach Renches Lane Turn right down Renches lane, past Renches Wood and cross the A272 and climb the stile. Walk 100 metres diagonally across the field to the gate and stile and follow the path to the junction of footpaths and bridleways. Bear right and go around to the right of the buildings, follow the footpath through the woods and over fields to Red Lane, then continue south towards Shipley.*

### ② Shipley Church...St Mary the Virgin.... The Power of God

This church was built in the 12th Century for the Knights Templar replacing an earlier Saxon

church. In the graveyard see if you can find the graves of three Second World War servicemen and the grave of Composer John Ireland. What do you think? Could the rounded ironstone in the South porch be an old and worn bollard, proof of the notion that the River Adur had once been tidal and navigable as far up river as Shipley?

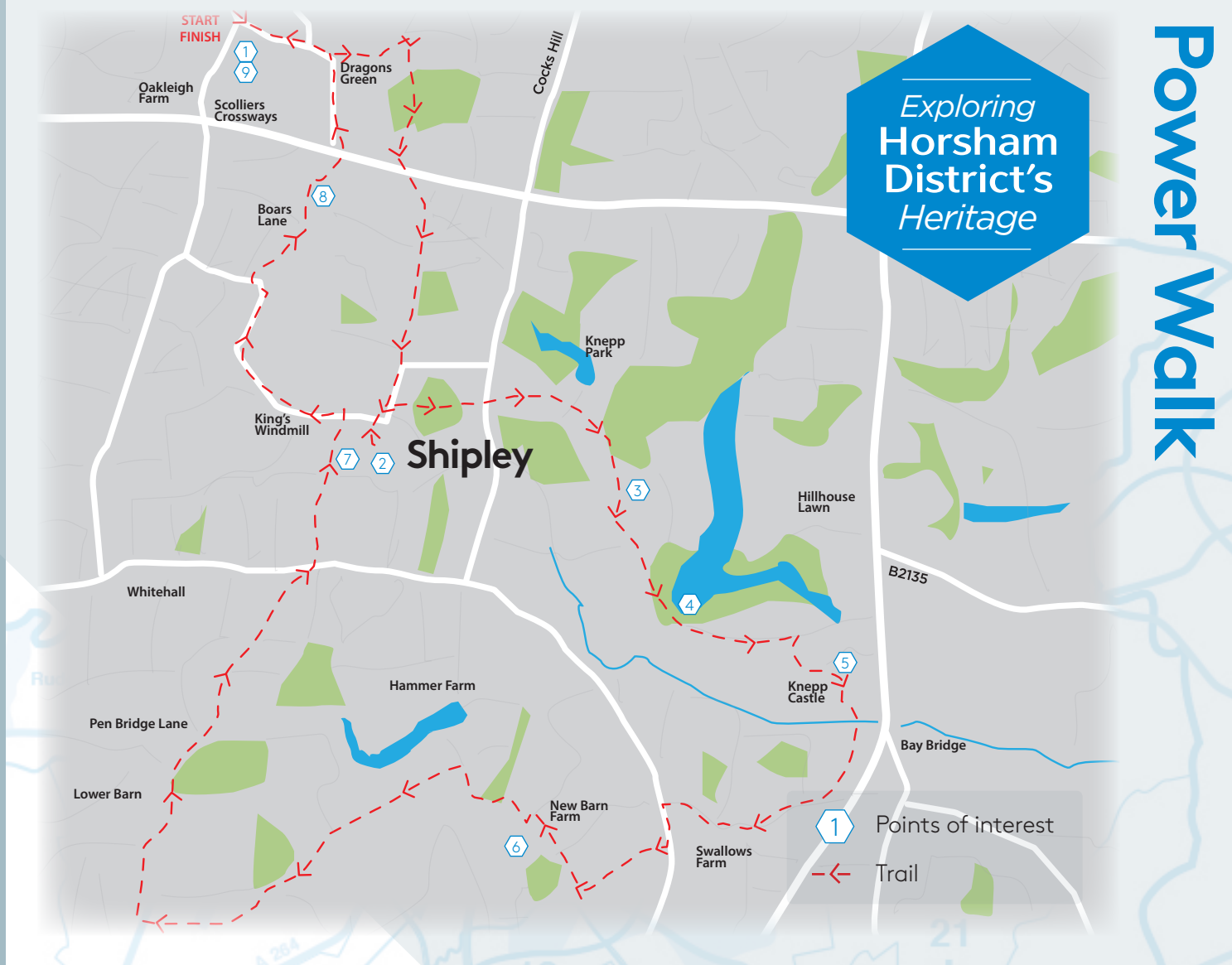
*From the church head back north past the village hall and beyond the houses, take the footpath on the right. Follow the path through the woods and fields, cross the B road and into the Knepp Estate. At the drive turn right then after 400 metres, just before reaching the Castle on the left, start to follow the purple markings of the signposts and follow the footpath diagonally to the right to join the Castle driveway.*



Exploring  
**Horsham  
District's**  
Heritage



## Exploring Horsham District's Heritage



### 3 The Knepp Estate.....The Power of Nature

The 'new' Knepp Castle was built by Sir Charles Burrell between 1809 and 1812, to the design of John Nash. During the Second World War, the castle was requisitioned by Canadian forces, preparing for the ill-fated Dieppe landings, and then Scottish forces in the build up to D-Day in June 1944. Since 2001 the 3500 acre Knepp Estate has been devoted to a pioneering rewilding project. Using grazing animals as the drivers of regeneration and habitat creation, and with the restoration of dynamic, natural water courses, the project has seen extraordinary increases in wildlife. The driving principle is to establish a functioning eco system where nature is given as much freedom as possible. As you continue your walk make a note of how many species you can see and, in particular, look out for Old English Long Horned cattle, three species of deer, free roaming Tamworth pigs, and Exmoor ponies.

### 4 Knepp Mill pond...Water Power - see Horsham Heritage Trail *An iron Trail through Knepp*

Following the driveway you will reach Knepp Mill Pond. Just before the pond you may wish to turn left and follow the path to the Bird Hide overlooking the water.

The pond is in fact a Hammer Pond, man made evidence of the iron industry that shaped the waterways (for power) and the woodlands (for charcoal) here in the High Weald for centuries. Follow the Heritage Trail for a more detailed look at this important local industry.

Now follow the lane to the east. You will see in the field on the right one of several Tree Platforms, built for observation of the wildlife. Just before you get to the cattlegrid, turn right and follow the line of the bushes round to the left and down to the old castle ruin.

### 5 The old Knepp Castle ruin.....The Power of Kings

The castle was built in 1125. For a fascinating explanation of the power of Kings read the information board on the tree stump on the raised causeway to the old motte and bailey.

Now head south over the River Adur and follow the permissive paths marked with purple paint across the fields to Tumbledown Barn, then at the road turn left and after 200 metres, (before you reach Swallows Farm) turn right through the tall gate, across the fields, until you reach a walker's car park. Turn right along the track to New Barn Farm.

### 6 Knepp Estate...The Power of Nature

New Barn Farm ... near the 'safari centre' look out for White Stork, where a breeding colony is being established, the first to breed in the UK since 1416. As your walk continues look out for disturbance from the rooting pigs, watch the skies for birds and butterflies and in the evening you may see bats.

Follow the permissive path north up the hill and as it flattens out turn left along a hard track for approx 1 mile. Following the purple markers, ( just before you reach a viewing platform in an old oak tree), turn right, then after 300 metres right again to join Pen Bridge Lane, an old Drovers track. Along this track you may wish to stop and climb the viewing platform.

Follow the track north, cross Countryman Lane and rejoin the track. As the footpath reaches the village, the King's Mill is on the right.

### 7 Shipley Windmill....King's Mill...Wind Power

King's Mill was built in 1879 at a cost of £2500, and is the largest, and youngest, smock mill in Sussex. The mill was still in active commercial use until 1926. Hilaire Belloc, (writer, poet and political activist) purchased King's Land (and the adjacent windmill) in 1906, where he lived until his death in 1953.

The Mill was initially preserved by Belloc and, after his death, it was preserved as a memorial to Belloc. In the 1980's, significant work was done by the Shipley Windmill Charitable Trust, to restore the mill to it's former glory. Since 2009 the Mill has been closed to the public. Look out for the Blue Millenium Plaque at the side of the entrance from the lane.

At the lane go left, past the old Vicarage and the school and up the slight hill. The lane bears to the left and you will see a bridlepath to the right. This is Boars Lane, another old Drover's track. Follow this until you get to the top of the hill and then on the corner on the right you'll see some earth works.

### 8 The Zero Station...The Allied Powers

These earth works are a top secret remnant from the Second World War. It was a Zero Station, one of only two in West Sussex (the other in the



Old English Longhorn



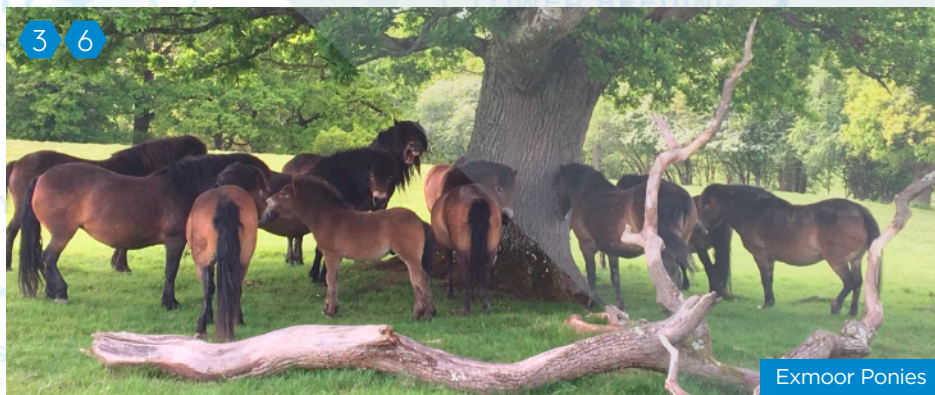
Fallow Deer



Zero Station



King's Mill



Exmoor Ponies



Water Meadows at the old Knepp Castle



Knepp Castle

grounds of Wakehurst Place) and only 32 in the country. Had the UK been invaded by Nazi Germany, the zero station would have been used by the Resistance as a top secret communications station. Look for the nearby tree where the radio antennae was concealed beneath the bark.

Continue down the track, carefully cross the A272, and follow Dragon's Lane back to the pub.

### 9 George and Dragon...

#### The Power of Love

Walter Budd was an albino and, following wrongful accusations of theft by villagers in 1893, took his own life by drowning himself in Spring Pond, Knepp. His body was buried in the Shipley churchyard, but the inscription on the tombstone was considered 'offensive and not fitting for a sinner who had committed suicide', by the Vicar of Shipley, who ordered the tombstone be removed.

Walter Budd's parents who owned the George and Dragon, took the cross, with its fateful inscription, and put it in front of the pub, where it stands today.

To find out about fascinating iron industry at Knepp use **Horsham Heritage Trails: Iron age through Knepp** - to guide you.



The George and Dragon



The old Knepp Castle ruin