

Explore the rich and varied history of Petersfield and beyond



## Sheet: The Two Mills

Museum Heritage Walks

10,000 years in the making



## SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

For a safe and fun visit with your dog please remember to keep them on a lead around livestock and wildlife and always clean up after your dog.

### Take the Lead

The South Downs National Park has it all – rolling hills, glorious heathland, river valleys, ancient woodland, thriving villages and market towns and the iconic white cliffs of the Heritage Coast. Covering over 1600 square kilometres of England's most valued lowland landscapes in the busiest part of the UK, it includes inspirational landscapes, internationally important wildlife, cultural heritage and lively market towns and villages. When exploring the beautiful South Downs, please help protect this special place by following the Countryside Code. Visit [www.southdowns.gov.uk](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk) and search 'Countryside Code' for more information.

For more information on Petersfield Museum's facilities and café or to book tickets, please visit our website [www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk](http://www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk)

Registered charity number 1108817



Follow Us

Sun & Bank Holidays: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Wed – Sat: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

### Opening Times

Tel: 01730 262601

GU32 3HX  
Hampshire

Petersfield  
St Peter's Road  
Petersfield Museum

Petersfield Museum is situated at the foot of the South Downs, Petersfield Museum tells the story of Petersfield and the surrounding villages through an excitingly diverse mix of archaeology, art, historic dress, literature, photography, poetry and social history.

## Walking Directions

Starting point: Petersfield Community Centre

- A** Start by the Community Centre **1** in Love Lane.
- B** Turn left out of the Community Centre car park, and then left again at the top of the road, to walk along Love Lane. **2 3**
- C** At the end of Love Lane turn left onto Pulens Lane. **4**
- D** Go along Pulens Lane and turn right onto footpath opposite No. 9 Pulens Lane.\* Follow footpath, turning left and down steps to join Old Mill Lane.
- E** Turn right and then left in front of the mill **5** and cross over the river.
- F** Go over stile and follow path beside the River Rother for about 100 m.
- G** At a sharp bend in the river, keep right uphill to reach large field. Follow footpath diagonally across the field. **6**
- H** At end of field turn left and go down steps into the sunken way. **7** Turn left and go down the sunken way to the bottom.
- I** At the bottom of the sunken way turn right and go to the A272.
- J** Turn left **8** and continue up the main road to the crossing by Inmans Lane.

- K** Cross and turn right into Inmans Lane.
- L** At the village green **9** turn right down Village Street. **10 11**
- M** At bottom of Village Street turn left along Mill Lane. **12**
- N** At end of Mill Lane turn left onto Farnham Road. **13**
- O** Take sharp right up School Lane. **14**
- P** Go over level crossing and turn left along Long Road. **15**
- Q** At the end of the road turn left onto Kingsfernsden Lane.
- R** Cross over the level crossing, and after 90 m turn right into the Ramshill Estate Continue straight up and at T-junction turn right onto Collingwood Way, then soon left up Luker Drive.
- S** Turn left onto footway around play area and then carry straight on to leave the estate with a fence on left and hedge on right, descending to join Ramshill. **16**
- T** Turn right to reach the Community Centre and the start of the walk.



Get more information online about this walk including a gpx file of the route.

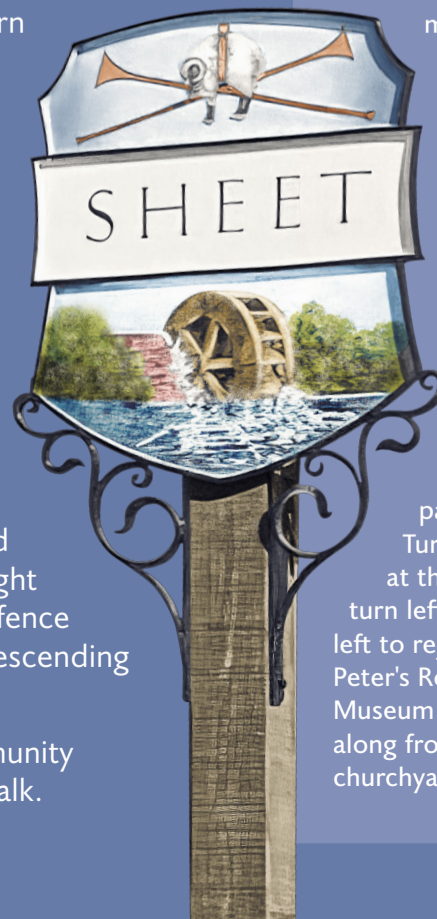
*\*This part of the route crosses rough terrain including a stile. Take the alternative route to the end of Pulens Lane and cross to rejoin the route at **K** Inmans Lane.*

To start this walk from **Petersfield Museum**, follow the dark red route.

On leaving the Museum, turn right and go along St Peter's Road then left onto Dragon Street. Pass the war memorial at the end of High Street on the left and continue along College Street. Cross over and follow Tor Way past Love Lane on the right. The Community Centre is visible on the right by the pedestrian crossing.

Return along Station Road and turn left into College Street. Just beyond the junction with Tor Way, turn right into Crawler's Lane, then straight ahead into Stable Lane. Bear left into Folly Lane and then follow the path into High Street.

Turn right and at the Square, turn left. Keep left to rejoin St Peter's Road. The Museum is just along from the churchyard steps.



**!**  
FOLLOW THE MAP INSIDE TO LEARN ABOUT SHEET AND THE TWO MILLS.

# Sheet: The Two Mills

Sheet is an ancient Saxon village. It was important for its crossing point on the River Rother and for its two watermills mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. This walk passes both mills, one of which was for fulling to extract grease from wool whilst the other ground grain for flour and animal feeds.

**1** Petersfield Community Centre was the Civil Defence headquarters until 1968. The large tree-covered mound opposite is the Petersfield to Midhurst Railway embankment. The line operated between 1864 and 1955.

**2** Love Lane is so named because the land to the left was owned by Robert Love in the early 1700s. Parts of Rookes Mews on the left are all that remain of the Petersfield Union Workhouse, built in 1836. On 21 November 1940, it took the only direct hit in the town from enemy bombing, killing seven people.

**3** The land and buildings on the left of the tree-lined footpath are Churcher's College. Founded in 1722, it moved to this site in 1881 on land donated by William Nicholson, whose wealth came from distilling gin.

**4** An ancient road, originally called Pullynge in 1312, it later became Sheet Road and finally Pulens Lane in 1935.

**5** This fulling mill powered by the Rother dates from the early 1700s, although there has been a mill on the site for over a thousand years. The water wheel has been removed and the building is now a private residence.

**6** This is the site of West Mark Camp School, one of thirty-eight camp schools set up in the late 1930s. During World War Two it was home to children evacuated from Portsmouth. In the 1956 Hungarian uprising it was a camp for Hungarian refugees.

**7** This was an old drovers' road. You are now walking along the original Sheet to Midhurst Road which operated up to 1825, when a new toll road was introduced with a junction at the top of Adhurst Hill.

**8** As you cross the River Rother, the toll gate was positioned on the right with the toll house on the left. They were demolished in 1931 when the road was widened. From 1711 The Sheet Bridge to Portsmouth Toll Trust made great improvements to the condition of the road until 1871, when it was nationalised.

**9** The fine horse chestnut tree on the green was planted in 1899 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The original tree planted in 1897 had been vandalised.

**10** Walking down Village Street, note the open gully on the right-hand side of the road. Before mains drainage in the mid 1930s it was filled with soapsuds every Monday morning when the residents did their washing. The road was nicknamed 'Soapsuds Alley'.

**11** Behind the wall on the left-hand side is Sheet House, historically the most important house in the village.

**12** The former Sheet Bridge Mill was the second of Sheet's two watermills on the Rother mentioned in the Domesday Book. It milled flour and animal feed. Today it is a private residence.

**13** Dated 1750, the Tanyard Cottages housed the workers of a nearby tannery or tanyard operated with water from the stream.

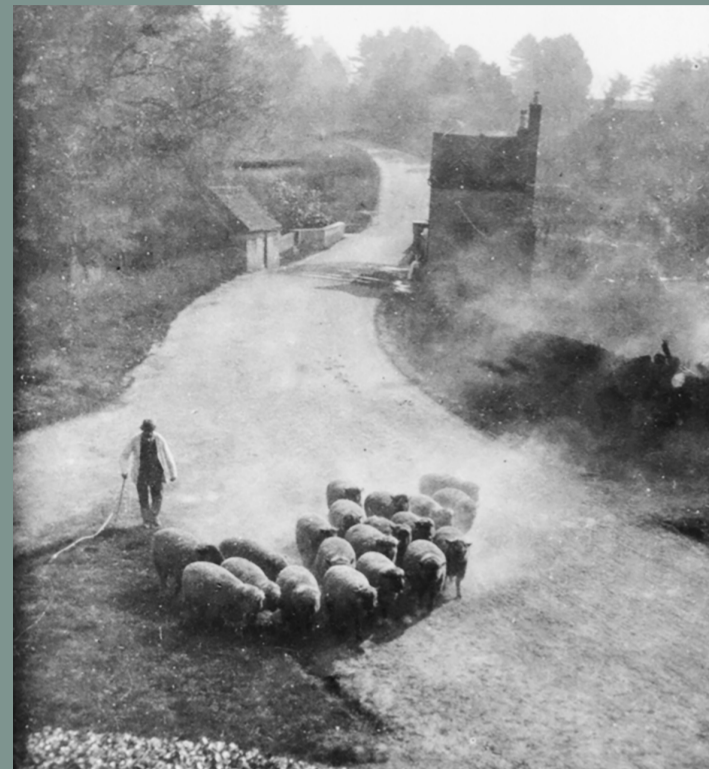
**14** Sheet Primary School was built in 1899 to replace the original and much smaller school opposite the church.

**15** On the left, just over the level-crossing, is the site of the old village pond.

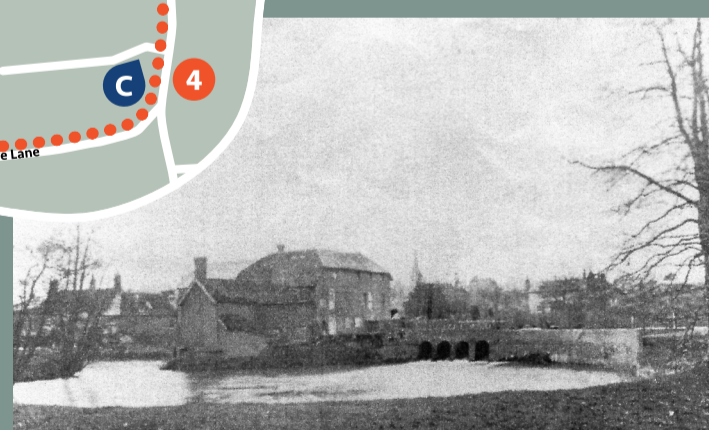
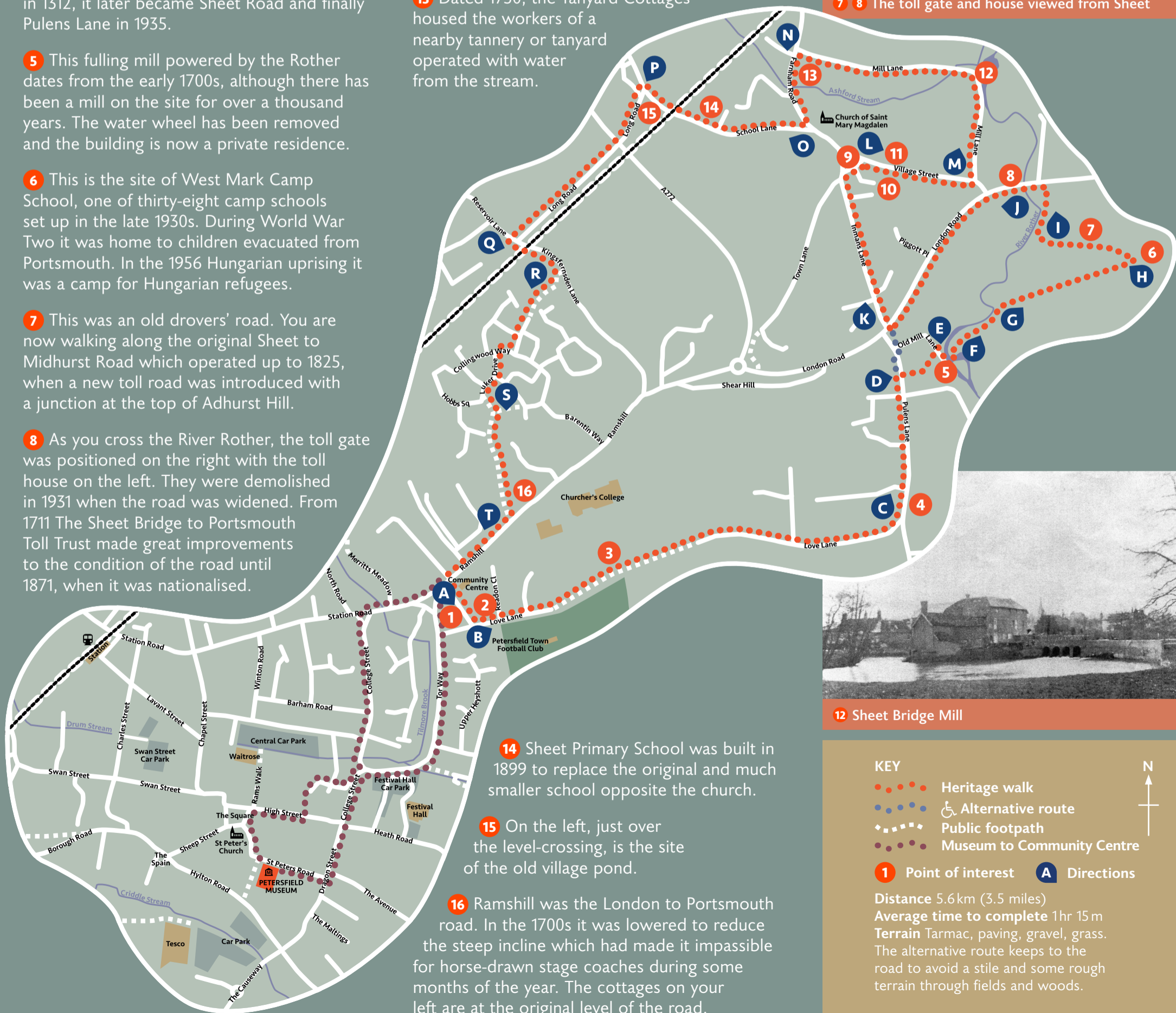
**16** Ramshill was the London to Portsmouth road. In the 1700s it was lowered to reduce the steep incline which had made it impassible for horse-drawn stage coaches during some months of the year. The cottages on your left are at the original level of the road.



**5** Sheet Mill circa 1911



**7 8** The toll gate and house viewed from Sheet



**12** Sheet Bridge Mill

- KEY**
- Heritage walk
  - Alternative route
  - - - Public footpath
  - Museum to Community Centre

- 1** Point of interest    **A** Directions

Distance 5.6 km (3.5 miles)  
 Average time to complete 1hr 15m  
 Terrain Tarmac, paving, gravel, grass.  
 The alternative route keeps to the road to avoid a stile and some rough terrain through fields and woods.