
 Meon Valley Trail
 Other Rights of Way



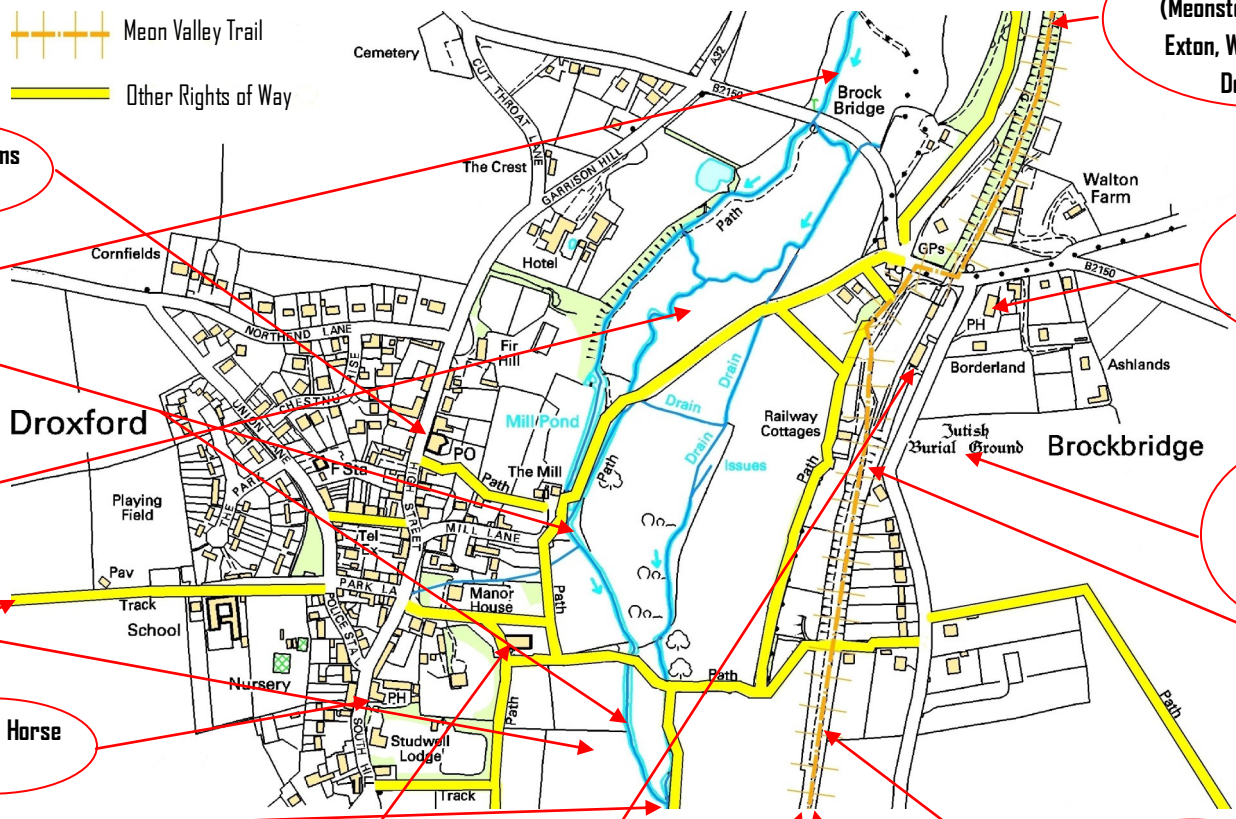
(1) The River Meon, Droxford

The Bakers Arms PH

(2) Water Meadows

North
 South
 (3) Wayfarers Walk

The White Horse PH



(4) Meon Valley Trail north (Meonstoke, Corhampton, Exton, West Meon, South Downs Way)

The Hurdles PH (formally The Station Hotel)

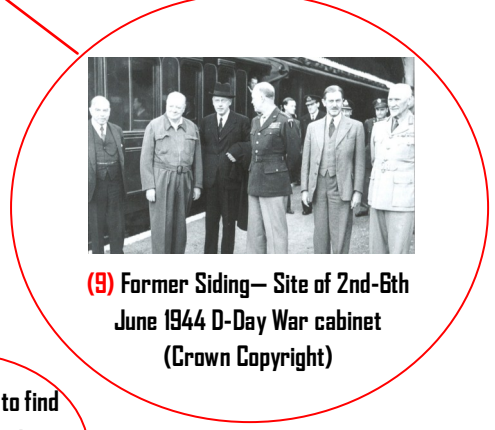
(5) Saxon Burial Ground (not accessible)

(10) Deep Cutting

(7) Droxford Railway Station (private residence)



(6) St Mary & All Saints Church, Droxford



(9) Former Siding— Site of 2nd-6th June 1944 D-Day War cabinet (Crown Copyright)

(4) Meon Valley Trail south (Soberton, West Walk, Wickham)

(8) Head south to find what we believe is a tree nursery planted by the railway

Explore Rural Droxford!



South Downs National Park Authority

The River Meon

Taken from the Celtic word meaning “the swift one”, the River Meon (1) runs 21 miles from what is the highest chalk stream source in the UK near East Meon to the Solent at Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve.

The quality of the Meon’s chalk fresh water has long been recognised by settlers. On this section of the Meon, water meadows (2) created for irrigation purposes are in abundance. They are a distinctive and beautiful feature of the Meon.

The river supports valuable wildlife habitats and species such as water crowfoot, brown trout, kingfishers and otters as well as the reed beds at Titchfield Haven.

For at least 5 years, water voles have been absent from the Meon, however the South Downs National Park is leading a project to reintroduce the species. The picture below shows a water vole being placed into a release pen. To find out more or get involved with this project, contact:

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Rights of Way

Droxford is an ideal place to enjoy the countryside, with numerous rights of way allowing for a multitude of routes.

The Wayfarer’s Walk (3) is a 70 mile long footpath connecting the mud flats of Emsworth with the highest down land of Southern England. It runs past St Mary & All Saints Church and connects with the Meon Valley Trail.

The Meon Valley Trail (4) runs along a ten mile section of a former railway. It connects Wickham in the South to Soberton, Droxford, Meanstoke, Corhampton, Warnford and West Meon. It is a permissible path for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Being relatively flat, it is one of the best ways to cycle or ride into the National Park from South Hampshire and connects with the 100 mile long South Downs Way bridleway.

As of 2014, the Meon Valley trail is being improved with coppicing dangerous trees, cutting back overgrown vegetation, re-surfacing works including drainage improvements, provision of signage and development of interpretation. Follow @TheMVT on twitter for updates.

The trail and footpaths connect a web of beautiful scenery and fascinating history, spanning thousands of years.

History

Droxford’s name is derived from the Manor of Droccenesforda, that was first recorded in Saxon times. The Meon Valley has a rich Saxon heritage. Archaeological Saxon remains of a burial ground, (5) were found close to the Meon Valley Trail (note that this is not accessible to the public). There is an excellent local project investigating the Saxons in the Meon Valley, go to www.saxonsinthemeonvalley.org.uk to find out more.

St Mary’s and All Saints Church (6) has served Droxford for nearly 900 years. Built around 1120 it is a Grade I listed building and a beautiful example of Norman architecture. Please go to www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk to find out more.

In more recent history, the railway came to Droxford in 1903 on what is now the Meon Valley Trail. The former station (7) is now a beautifully restored private home. As well as being a substantial infrastructure of cuttings, embankments, tunnels and bridges, the railway also planted lots of trees in the area. If you take the trail south of the map overleaf, you will find what we think was a tree nursery (8) used by the railway companies.

The railway was rarely used, with the exception of during the two world wars. In World War 2, evacuees would have arrived here and the station was bombed in 1940. Due to its picturesque route, it was the line of choice for Royal Navy Officers!

In June 1944, Winston Churchill held his war cabinet on a train in a siding (9) in Droxford, close to a deep cutting (10) to provide shelter in case of an air raid. Here the decision to delay D-Day by one day was made, due to bad weather.