

Coastal walk between Langstone and Emsworth

WALK along this part of the coastline and you'll have a close-up view of the flora and fauna of Chichester Harbour.

There are fascinating glimpses of marine life, bird-filled skies and colourful seaweeds as you traipse across the coastal path.

However, you may want to check tide times, or else you may get trapped by the sea and have to wade through ankle-deep water.

You can start in Langstone High Street, next to the tiny St Nicholas Church, (1) which is now holding regular worship services again. Pop inside to discover more about the rich history of Langstone.

Walk past the Royal Oak (or pop in for pint!) and the historic tower mill, and your first stop might be to admire the birdlife in the mill pond.

Stick close to the water's edge all the way to Emsworth. Keep your eyes peeled for curlews, godwits, redshanks and dunlins – and



The walk starts next to the Royal Oak in Langstone, with the mill behind

maybe even seals, if you're lucky. You'll walk past some Emsworth homes with beachfront gardens (2), and then you'll reach the Emsworth Millpond (3).

The town has a rich history for fishing, sailing and boat-building, and the tidal millpond was created in the 18th century



Castle, St Thomas a Becket Church, Warblington (4), and the churchyard and cemetery.

Over the summer weekends, the church is often open for afternoon teas, which is a great excuse to kick off your hiking boots and relax.

Cross a field on the other side of the cemetery and you'll return to the coastal path, and then back to Langstone.

On the mainland, it's hard to find a church more conveniently situated for walkers, hikers and cyclists than **St Mary and All Saints Church, Droxford**. It is near both the South Downs Way and the Meon Valley trail, so it's no surprise that worshippers have now created Wilfrid's Café, which offers hot drinks, home-made soup and home-baked cakes. Everyone, from lycra-clad cyclists to tired walkers with muddy dogs, is welcome to sit inside or outside the church.

The Meon Valley Trail takes you from West Meon in the north, through Warnford, Meonstoke, and Soberton to Wickham, following the River Meon. So there are many other churches it passes close to. Closer to the sea, it runs past **St Peter's Church, Titchfield**, forming the boundary of the churchyard for this historic building.

Going back 1,300 years, St Peter's is thought to be the oldest church

in Hampshire where worship has taken place continuously. St Wilfrid himself may have started regular worship there in the 8th century. It's also a great place to begin a walk through Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve towards Hill Head beach. This area is a renowned wetland area, teeming with life, so it's worth bringing binoculars.

If it's a sandy beach you're after, you might try the south-western tip of Hayling Island, a favourite spot for kite surfers near to the entrance to Langstone Harbour. It's quieter than Southsea, but – with just one main road in and out of Hayling Island – traffic can be a problem on sunny days or Bank Holidays.

You could start at **St Andrew's Church, Hayling Island**, and head for the beach nearby. Turn right to head for the wind surfers, or turn



Wilfrid's Café at Droxford church

left and eventually you'll round a headland and maybe see the RNLI team in action at the entrance to Chichester Harbour.

One opportunity to combine a love of walking or cycling and visiting churches is the annual Ride and Stride event run by Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust. Participants are sponsored

to visit as many churches as possible in one day, to raise money to repair and restore historic churches.

This year, it will happen on September 9, so this is a good time to plan your route and find some sponsors. Find out more on www.hihct.org.uk.

The walks listed on these pages are just some of our ideas. Do check out our website at www.portsmouth.anglican.org/walks for more - or to contribute your favourite.

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You can check out the historic St Peter and St Paul Church, Mottistone on this walk

Follow trail made famous by an Isle of Wight horse

HE was dubbed 'the horse the Germans could not kill' – and you can follow in his footsteps!

The Warrior Trail is a six-mile circular trail on the Isle of Wight that was created to recall an infamous First World War story. Warrior was the real-life war horse of General Jack Seely, who survived some of the war's most famous battles.

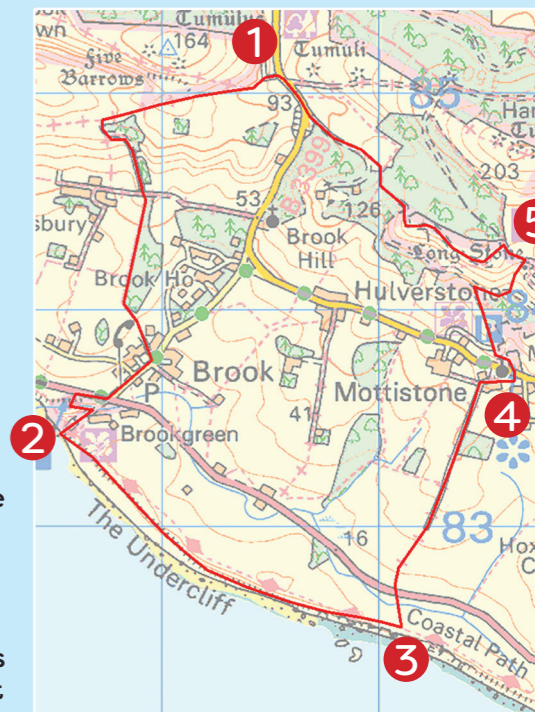
The general was a friend of Winston Churchill and his horse was raised and trained on the island. When Warrior returned in 1918, he became a local hero – he went on to win the lightweight race at the Isle of Wight Point to Point in 1922.

The Warrior Trail follows much of the route on which Warrior was exercised, including the beach at Brook Bay where he was trained to deal with fighting in the surf. It includes the villages of Brook and Mottistone and their historic churches.

Begin near Five Barrows (1), an ancient burial mound, past which Warrior might have galloped. Wind through the picturesque village of Brook to the old lifeboat station on the coast, near where Warrior would have trained (2).

The exhilarating coastal path gives you the chance to gaze out into the English Channel as you stroll east. Turn left and head into Mottistone via Ridget Lane (3), and you can pause for a moment in Mottistone Church (4).

Originally built in medieval



times, the current building dates from the 15th century. Its parclose screen was designed by Lord Mottistone in memory of his father – the General Seely who rode Warrior.

Head through the grounds of Mottistone Manor – the home of General Seely and Warrior until the 1940s – towards the Longstone, a neolithic ceremonial worshipping stone (5). If it's the right time of year, the scent of bluebells will hang in the air in the hollow-way.

Then there's a heady walk under Mottistone Down towards Brook Hill House and Brook Church. Behind the church is a field where Warrior spent his younger days.