THE CASTLEMAN TRAILWAY

CASTLEMAN TRAILWAY
(16 miles, 26 kms)
The trailway follows the old railway line as closely as possible, but in some places the line is inaccessible. Alternative routes have been found, please follow the waymarkers, even when they are leading you away from the old railway line.

DOLMAN’S CROSSING TO WEST MOORS
(3 miles, 4.8 km)
The route from Dolman’s Crossing to West Moors may well change during the lifetime of the leaflet. Please follow the waymarkers on footpaths and roads.

WEST MOORS TO ASHLEY TWINNING
(4.5 miles, 7.2 km)
Follow the waymarkers through West Moors to Arnold Close, where you re-enter the trailway (this section open by kind permission of the Ministry of Defence). From West Moors Plantation the route follows the disused railway to Ashley cottages on the Ringwood Road (B3061).

ASHLEY HEATH
ASHLEY TWINNING

UPTON COUNTRY PARK TO MERLEY
(4 miles, 6.5 km)
From Upton Country Park, leave the park by the main gate and cross the slip road. Go through the gate opposite and follow the cattle track under four roads. Then follow the Roman Road north to the railway bridge. Turn right up the slope onto the line and follow it, through Broadstone, to the Willow Arms in Merley.

UPPER COUNTRY PARK TO MERLEY
(4 miles, 6.5 km)

STAPEHILL TO DOLMAN’S CROSSING
(3.3 miles, 5.3 km)
Turn down Wimborne Road West and then turn left up Uddens Drive. Turn left again onto forestry tracks which will take you over the Ferndown By Pass and eastwards, through Uddens Plantation, to Dolman’s Crossing. This section is open by kind permission of the Forestry Commission.

KEY
Walkers, Cyclists and Horse Riders
Walkers and Cyclists
Walkers only
Horse Riders
Cyclists
Walkers
Parking

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The Castlemans Trailway is 16 miles long, much of it following the route of the old Southampton to Dorchester railway line, which was closed in the 1960's. The Trailway can take you on foot, bike or horse through some of South East Dorset's most attractive countryside. When all the links are in place you will be able to travel from Poole to the edge of the New Forest without needing a car, and for the most part you need not even see one.

At the moment a continuous path is available for walkers only from Upton Country Park near Poole to the River Avon near Ringwood, passing close to Delph Woods, Uddens Plantation and Moors Valley and Avon Heath Country Parks. Parts of the route are also open to cyclists and horse riders (see map) and much of it is suitable for wheelchair users.

The route is marked by waymarkers, please keep to the indicated path and follow the Country Code.

The Castlemans Trailway is provided by Dorset County Council's Countryside Service in partnership with Poole Borough Council and with the support of the Forestry Commission and the Countryside Commission.

Upton Country Park is run by Poole Borough Council. Poole's other facilities include Delph Woods, Ham Common and several smaller open spaces, as well as a full programme of events and guided walks. For details ring 01202 633559.

Avon Heath Country Park, a large heathland and woodland Country Park near Ringwood is run by Dorset County Council. The Council also provided picnic sites and car parks for walkers. There is a programme of events and guided walks throughout the year. For details please ring the Visitor Centre 01425 478470 or the Rangers 01425 478082.

The play trail at Moors Valley Country Park is provided by Forest Enterprise, part of the Forestry Commission, who also own Uddens Plantation and numerous other woods in Dorset, many of which are open to the public. There is a programme of events and guided walks throughout the year. For details ring 01929 551811.

For further information regarding the Castlemans Trailway, please contact Dorset County Council's Countryside Service Eastern offices at Avon Heath Country Park, near Ringwood.

Telephone 01425 679282.