

Walk the Cordite Way



*Where Cordite trains ran out to sea
to ignite the guns of war,
A Way for all is born again
along Poole Harbour shore ...*

A new footpath with a unique history

The Cordite Way runs from Sandford, via Holton Heath station and the Holton Heath Trading Estate, along a new footpath with wonderful views over Poole Harbour.



The Cordite Way is named after the former extensive Royal Naval Cordite Factory (RNCF) at Holton Heath and the Admiralty railway line that linked it to Rockley Jetty for transfer of cordite by sea to Gosport and Chatham. Cordite was the propellant used in naval shells during the two World Wars. The RNCF closed in 1957.

Walk the current path

The new footpath begins at the roundabout at the north-east end of Holton Road and heads through the industrial estate entrance gates and down the pavement towards the Jade-Aden building on the right (located at <https://what3words.com/sunset.leans.royal>). The footpath continues to the left of the Jade-Aden building as an unsurfaced path that runs for 0.9 km through varied woodland and countryside with glimpses of the Harbour.



Along the way, Admiralty line concrete sleepers and other RNCF artefacts can be seen.

At the eastern end of the path are two viewpoints with glorious views across Poole Harbour to Arne peninsular and the Purbeck Hills. These offer seasonal sightings of birds, including osprey, white tail eagles, ravens and waders. There is also much flora and fauna to enjoy along the path to the viewpoints: one survey in June 2023 identified 60 species of animals, birds and plants!



The route includes information boards as well as seating to enjoy the Harbour views. Subject to funding, the path aims to provide access for all.

Future development



The Admiralty bridge over the main line was demolished in 2022. The current path to the missing bridge forms **Phase 1** of the Cordite Way. Subject to further development and funding, **Phase 2** would take the path over the main line railway to Rockley Jetty, and **Phase 3** would establish a shared path over the Lytchett Bay entrance to Hamworthy.

With Phase 3 complete, the Cordite Way would form Walk 5 in the set of Poole Harbour Trails around the Harbour, providing a safer, shorter, active travel route for all between Poole, Wareham and Purbeck.



For more information and how you can support and develop the Cordite Way, please see: www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk/corditeway.html



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