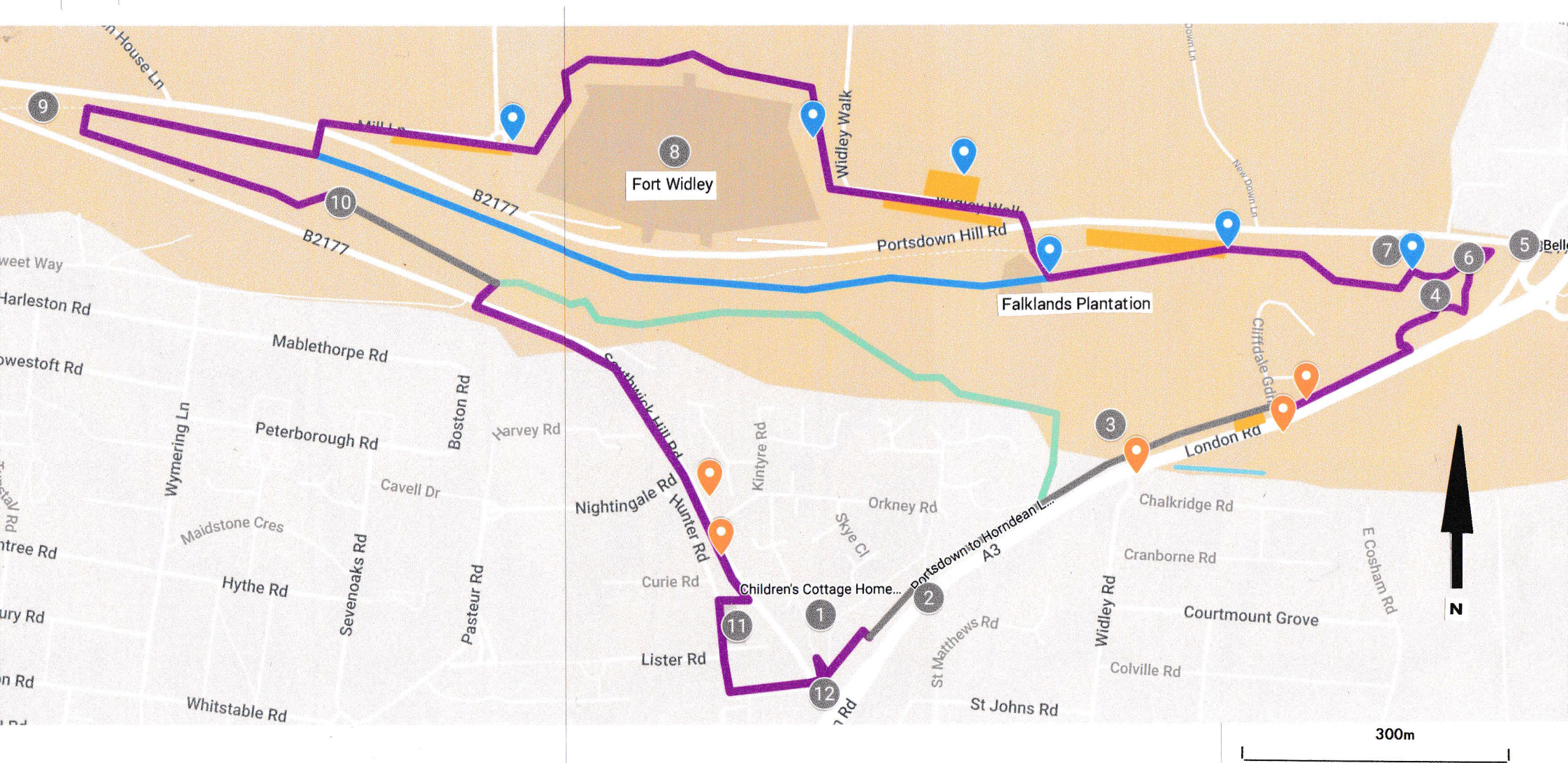


# A Stroll Through Time



With acknowledgements to Google My Maps and Nigel Gossop

**Friends of Portsdown Hill 2024**



# A Stroll Through Time

## Access



bus stop



parking

## Routes



Main route 4.4 km / 2 hours



Option along hill



Option around houses

## Information



## Features



1. **Children's Cottage Homes** The Cottage Homes for 138 children were off what is now Orkney Road. They opened in 1930 and finally closed in 1968.
2. **Steps 2 flights** Portsdown & Horndean Light Railway ran from 1903 to 1935.
3. **Portsdown Fair** The original Portsdown Hill Fair began in 1715 and was held annually up until 1862 with some later revivals. At the end of WW2 this area was used for prefabs, quickly built to house families who had been bombed out of their homes.
4. **Candy's Pit Cave** The quarry to extract chalk for lime production on Portsdown Hill did not finish work completely until the 1950s. In March 1861 with the building of the Forts the "Tea Gardens" in the chalk pit were closed by the War Office as their business was seen to interfere with the new boundaries. The Pit was named after a cottage that once stood here which was occupied by a Miss Candy.
5. **Belle-Vue Tearoom & The George** This tearoom was demolished in the 1940s, but not before being commandeered by the Home Guard during WW2. Dating from the late 1700s, The George was what is known as a 'drag station', stabling horses that were used to help haul coaches and wagons up the hill. It was taken over by the War Office as a refreshment stop when the forts were built and later reverted to being a pub.
6. **Orchard** Site of Cliffdene Cottage and its fruit trees, some of which survive, that was demolished in the 1970s.
7. **Portsdown Telegraph** The first Portsdown Shutter Telegraph was built in 1795 near to Bedhampton. After it was stood down in 1815 a new improved tower was built here in 1822. It could send messages at 2 words per minute night or day to The Admiralty in London - weather permitting.
8. **Fort Widley** A post-windmill was first recorded on this site in 1675. The last windmill was demolished to make way for Fort Widley, part of the ring of forts around Portsmouth built under Palmerston in the 1860s.
9. **Tumuli** Several Anglo-Saxon graves and Bronze Age cremations were discovered when the junction was improved in the 1948.
10. **Railway Embankment** One of several rail tracks laid to enable horse-drawn vehicles to take spoil away to form Whale Island and to bring bricks up when the forts were constructed in the 1860s.
11. **Queen Alexandra Hospital** Originally a military hospital established in 1904 and named for King Edward VII's consort, QAH was handed over to the Ministry of Pensions in 1926, to care for disabled ex-servicemen. All but 100 of the 640 beds were transferred to the NHS in 1951. Southwick Lodge and De La Court are the only original buildings that remain.
12. **Steps 18** A bridge for the Portsdown & Horndean Light Railway once crossed Southwick Hill Road at this point and the flights of steps either side of the road provided access to the platforms.