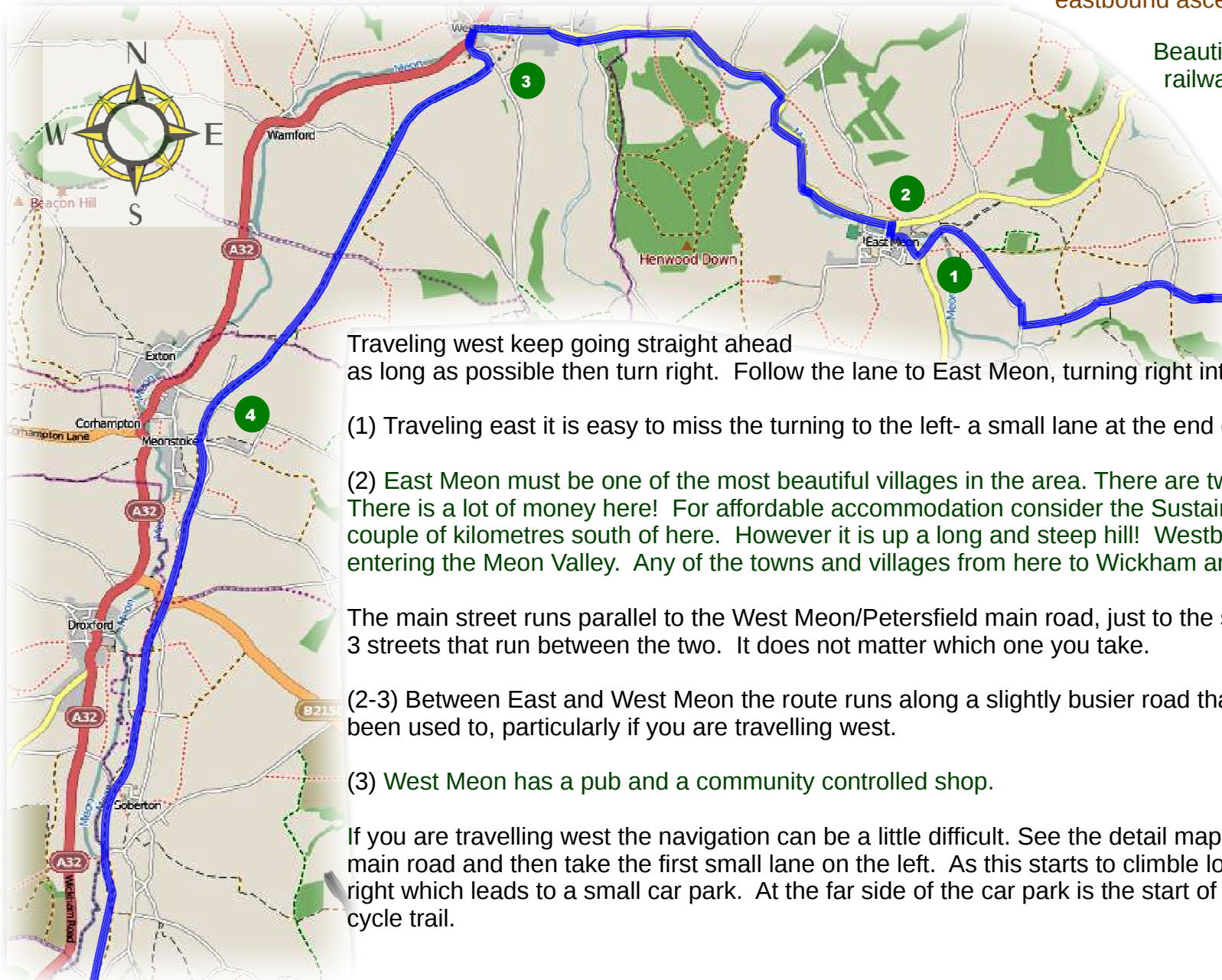


BUTSER HILL - SOBERTON

18km, 11m. westbound ascent 160m
eastbound ascent 215 m



Beautiful villages and an old railway line. Fine downland views.

The South Downs Way is crossed at Exton.

Most villages have pubs

Traveling west keep going straight ahead as long as possible then turn right. Follow the lane to East Meon, turning right into the village. (1)

(1) Traveling east it is easy to miss the turning to the left- a small lane at the end of the houses.

(2) East Meon must be one of the most beautiful villages in the area. There are two pubs serving food. There is a lot of money here! For affordable accommodation consider the Sustainability Centre, a couple of kilometres south of here. However it is up a long and steep hill! Westbound riders are now entering the Meon Valley. Any of the towns and villages from here to Wickham are worth exploring.

The main street runs parallel to the West Meon/Petersfield main road, just to the south of it. There are 3 streets that run between the two. It does not matter which one you take.

(2-3) Between East and West Meon the route runs along a slightly busier road than you may have been used to, particularly if you are travelling west.

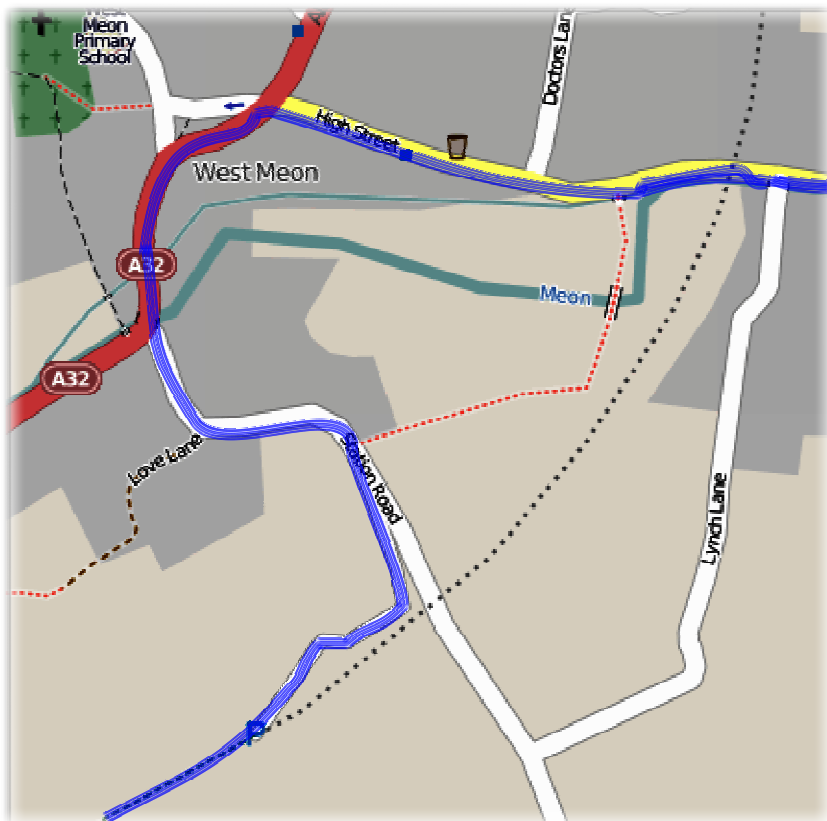
(3) West Meon has a pub and a community controlled shop.

If you are travelling west the navigation can be a little difficult. See the detail map. Turn left onto the main road and then take the first small lane on the left. As this starts to climb look for a track to the right which leads to a small car park. At the far side of the car park is the start of the Meon Valley cycle trail.

Going east things are easier. At the end of the cycle trail cycle through the car park and down the track to your left. At the end of the track bear left on a lane and then right at the end of the lane onto the main road. Take the first on the right towards East Meon.

The condition of the cycle track is variable and may cause trouble to riders of road bikes after heavy rain. The northern part of the track tends to be in poorer condition. The worst part is between Warnford and Meonstoke. Unfortunately the only alternative here is to use the main road. South of Meonstoke small lanes run parallel to or near to the track. But you should know that not all points at which the road crosses the track are designed to have access to the track. You may have to improvise. However I was able to cycle the whole of the route on a small-wheeled bike one April, while some of the dampness of winter remained.

West Meon Detail



Photo, the bridge over the cycle trail at Warnford. Note the surface of the trail.

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