

Littlehampton Museum's

The green behind the War Memorial is called Caffyn's Field, the name comes from the Caffyn family who owned a butcher's shop in Beach Road for many years and used to graze their animals here.

This Foundation Stone
was laid by
Lord Edmund Talbot, M.P.
on the 4th March 1905.

Can you find the foundation stone from this photograph?

Your trail begins in Littlehampton Museum, housed in the grand Manor House building. Manor House was built between 1790 and 1830, and has been home to many important Littlehampton residents during its time. This includes Dr Candy who was responsible for delivering most of Littlehampton's townsfolk into this world in the 19th century.

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Can you find a model of the RMS Titanic?



As you leave the Museum the shops you see in front of you are known as 'Manor Parade'. Back in the late 1700s this was the site of the Island Pond, surrounded by the rubbish piles and pigsties of the cottages which surrounded it. The village stocks also stood on the side of the pond, ready to hold any resident who had been up to no good!

Head left as you leave the Museum gates. This is where the old town pump used to stand.

Folk would gather here to collect their water in the days before running water in your house was a common thing. The local Methodists also used this location to hold their open air meetings. The pump was removed in 1933.

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Can you find a plaque marking where the pump used to be?

The Town Water Pump



Can you spot some swans having a snooze by the water?

Keep walking along the river until you are outside the Look & Sea Centre. The area you are standing in now was known as the Fisherman's Quay, and is where fishermen used to gather to repair their nets and share their news. This is also the site where Littlehampton's lifeboats have been launched ever since the first lifeboat station was built here back in 1884.

back in 1884.

Mussel Row c1850



Can you spot some Fish & Chip rivals?

The row of shops and cafes along Pier Road is known as Mussel Row. The original buildings were constructed in 1829/30 for the use of the local oyster fishermen, who moored their boats close by. The houses soon became known as 'Muscle Row' apparently due to the appearance of the fishermen who occupied them. After the oystermen had left, the row became 'Mussel Row'. The buildings was rebuilt on the old foundations in the late 1920s.

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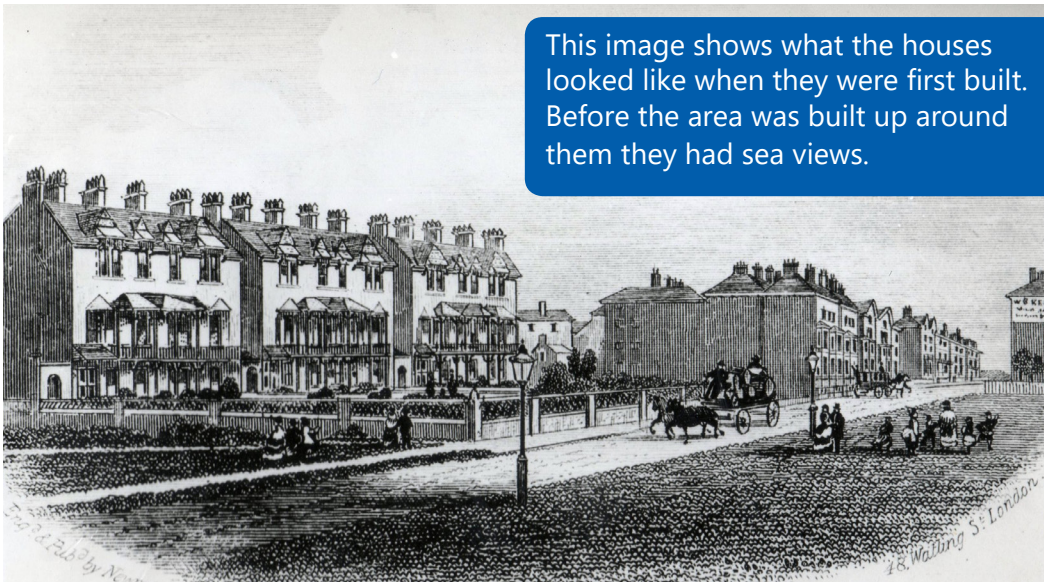
Head south from the library down Fitzalan Road, until you reach Irvine Road on your left. Head left to the end of this road to see a row of six grand semi-detached houses. These are known as Selbourne Place, and are said to have been built for 6 sisters who were descendants of Gilbert White of Selbourne.

They were built in 1869 by Robert Bushy, the man responsible for many of the buildings in Littlehampton, and when built, each block had interconnecting doors so the sisters could pass between the houses.

Follow the pink trail on your map to see the other side of the houses.

Can you find out what the houses are today?

This image shows what the houses looked like when they were first built. Before the area was built up around them they had sea views.



You are now in Beach Town, a distinct area of Littlehampton which was once separated from the main part by a large gate.

To explore this area further you can follow the pink trail on your map into Norfolk Place and along South Terrace, where you will see some delightful Regency buildings.

To continue with the trail, turn right at the end of Selbourne Place and head down towards the sea. You will walk down St Augustine Road, where the 30th Assault Unit had their headquarters during WW2. James Bond author Ian Fleming was the senior CO for the unit and it is said that this is where his inspiration for the Bond novels came from.

Can you find a face looking down on you from the corner?

From the pier take the path along the riverside. To your right you will see Harbour Park which was built upon the site of an old gun battery. The battery was built in 1759-60 to protect the harbour and had seven 18-pound guns. It was closed and dismantled c1833.

Can you find some soldiers guarding a castle?

At the end of Harbour Park you will see the Oyster Pond on your right. The Oyster Pond is a man-made lake, built in the 18th century to store oysters caught by local fishermen.

When the popularity of the oyster began to wane in the late 19th century, the pond became an ornamental lake where children used to sail their model boats.

At the end of St Augustine Road cross the Beach Green towards the promenade. The Beach Green has not always been level as it is today, holidaymakers to the town in the 19th and early 20th century often compared its gentle slopes and flowers to those of a meadow.

As you head towards the beach, to your left you will see the famous East Beach Café. Designed by architect Thomas Heatherwick, and built by local craftsmen, the award winning café has been open since 2007. Follow the colourful bench along the promenade, built in 2010, this is the longest seaside bench in the country.

The lighthouse which stands on the pier today was built in the late 1940s.

The original lighthouses, which stood at each end of the pier, were affectionately known as the 'Salt and Pepper Pots' and had to be demolished during the Second World War due to their distinctive appearance.

This image shows the 'Salt and Pepper Pot' lighthouses around the turn of the 20th century.

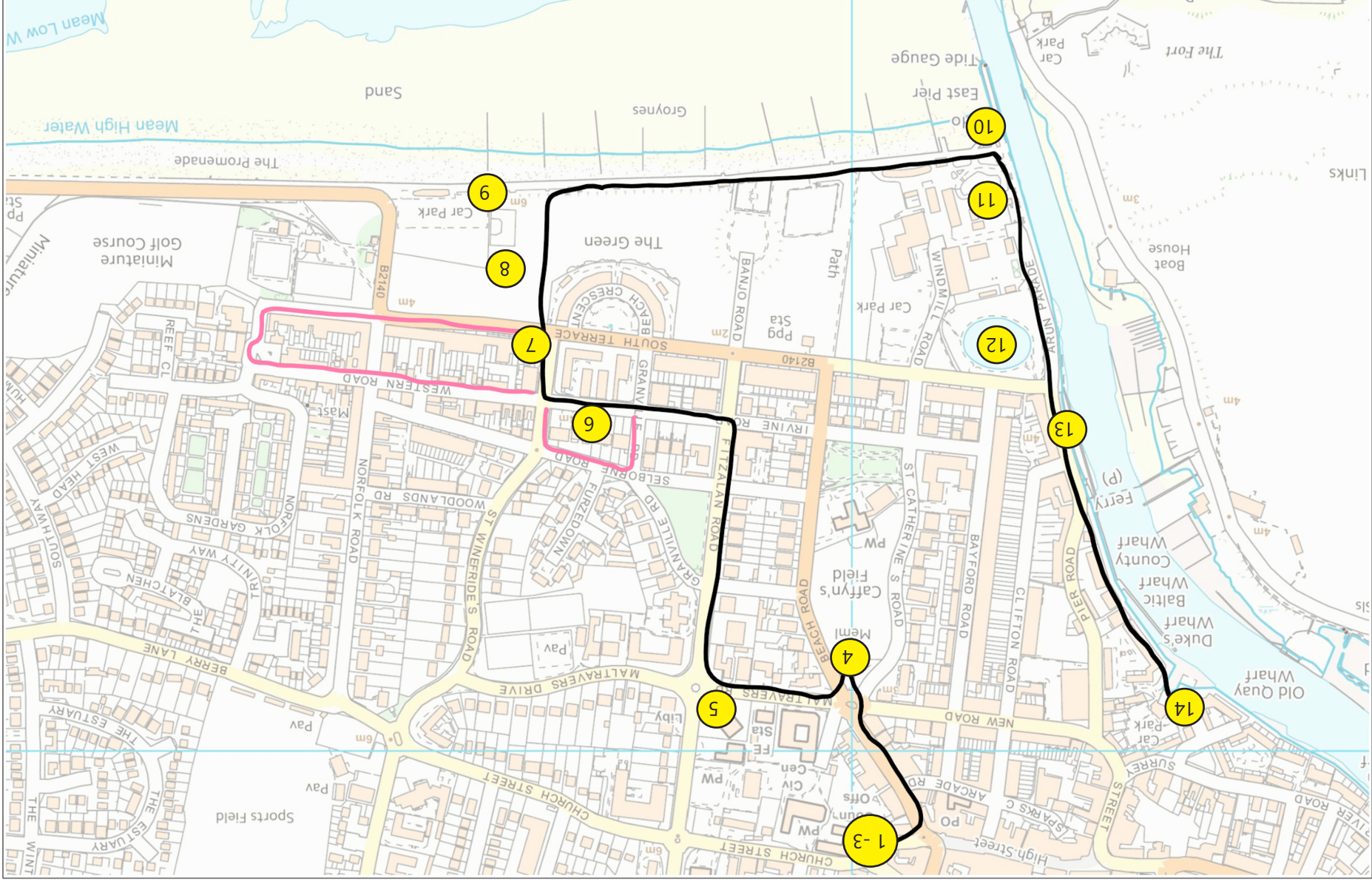


Can you find some giant pebbles?



The Oyster Pond, c.1900.

Can you find a giant crab and his seagull friend?



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This trail takes approx. 40 minutes.

Terrain: Level. Pavement/Grass.