

W1705 Porchfield to Shalfleet.

From the two hostelryes in Porchfield, the Sportsman's Rest and the Cricket Club, take the Porchfield road west towards Newtown, which at this point doubles as the Coast Path. Owing to a rifle range, this is the nearest we are allowed to the coast. At windgate coast, veer right from the main road on to the minor road signposted Newtown. This is still the Coast Path, but shortly afterwards take the CB13a path on your left, which brings you into Newtown itself.

This is a very unspoilt area of the island and if time permits, I would opt for the hour's diversion to visit the Newtown Harbour Bird Hide, run by local volunteers and the National Trust visitor centre (they do have a toilet here). It is a wonderful estuary walk along mudflats.

Newtown Town Hall itself is interesting, the 'town' itself sending two MPs to parliament, prior to the 1832 Reform Act. Check opening times before starting out, this is also run by the National Trust.

Carrying on along the minor road past the town hall, this continues to be the Coast Path. This turns right along a track by the side of Corf Farm, a footbridge then takes you over the Caul Bourne, before entering Shalfleet by the side of the old mill. The New Inn is at the bottom of the lane, as you approach the main Yarmouth Road.