

Portsdown Walk Number 2

What You'll See

- Naval Fuel Bunker Northern Portal
- Naval Fuel Bunker Valve Compound - optional
- Approach road to the UGHQ escape tunnels
- Cooper Shelter
- UGHQ Secure Underground Radio Station
- WWII Anti-Tank Ditch and field defences
- Radio Station Aerial Mast Anchors

Details

Distance:	2.5 miles (4.1Km)
Time required:	2 hours or more to allow for looking around
Conditions:	Strenuous. Some 1:4 slopes and a lot of off road walking. Boots required.
Disabled access:	Not possible
	None
Facilities:	Pubs, Burger and Ice Cream vans at the Viewpoint 1 mile east. No public toilets.
What else to do:	Royal Armouries Museum at Fort Nelson to the West. Free parking and admission. Open all year

Before you start

You may want to print off some notes and photos from the PORTSDOWN TUNNELS website about the places you are going to visit. This is best done from the page you downloaded this document from, as there are links there to all the sites.

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The Route

The start of the walk is at a small triangular un-surfaced carpark [see map 2] to the west of Fort Southwick on James Callaghan Drive (B1277). Make your way to Portsmouth using either the A27 from the east; the M27 from the west; the A3 from the north. [see map 1]

From now on use map 2 and follow the blue route marker.

From the car park walk north along the footpath to the small copse.

As you enter the copse there is a path leading off to the right. You can take this and then turn north again OR you can continue straight on.

If you turned off walk around the spoil heap bearing west. If you carried straight on you will come to a very steep slope which you can climb down, then go west. You can appreciate the size of the spoil removed from the Bunker from here and this is only one of two heaps!

As you cross the path shown on map 2 the Northern Fuel Bunker Portal will come into view. Please respect the area if crops are growing in it.

Walk back to the carpark the same way you came.

At the carpark.

To the west is the Fuel Bunker Valve Compound [marked VC on map 2]. You are standing on the eastern edge of the Bunker tunnels 120 feet below. They run all the way to the Valve Compound. If you wish you can walk to the Valve Compound and then return to this carpark.

To the south are the two main Fuel Bunker Portals. It is virtually impossible to walk to them from here because of the undergrowth to the north of them.

Walk east along the B2177 towards Fort Southwick.

Before you get to the fort you will see a narrow road [marked TR on map 2] with a barrier across it leading south down the hill. This is the access road for the Fort Southwick UGHQ escape tunnels. You can go down the road if you wish but the portals are sealed and are within a fenced compound. Please do not attempt to breach the fencing. Carry on east.

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You will pass Fort Southwick on your left. At this point the UGHQ tunnels are directly beneath you 100 feet down. Continue walking east past the Fort and you will come to a track leading south down the hill. This path can get quite overgrown but it is there. Take the path and locate the northwestern corner of the Paulsgrove Chalkpit. Go down the long slope leading into the pit.

Use map 2 to locate the Cooper Shelter (2 portals) and the UGHQ Secure Radio Station (3 portals).

Continue east and when you reach the east side of the pit take the path, which leads north up the hill. About one third of the way up you will come across some earthworks that are part of the WWII anti-invasion field defence system. A Spigot Mortar [SM on map 2] was once located here though no trace of it seems to remain. Continue up the hill turning west once you clear the edge of the Chalkpit. Note further field defences.

As you walk west above the Chalkpit you will cross a large ditch, which was a WWII tank trap – [TT on map 2]. Continue west keeping a look out for the anchors of the radio masts which served the Radio Station below you. There were at least 5 masts with 4 anchors each, most of which still exist. These can be tricky to find until you trip over one!

When you come to the northwestern corner of the Chalkpit once again return to the carpark along the same outward-bound route (B2177).

Warning

Both the Cooper Shelter and the UGHQ Secure Underground Radio Station are accessible with some difficulty. Please don't attempt to enter these tunnels unless you fully consider the hazards involved.

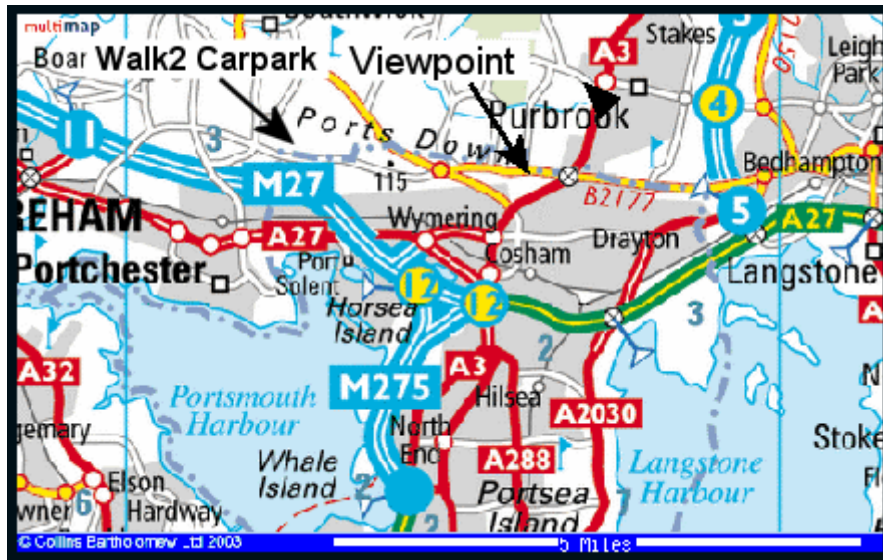
Feedback

I would be very interested to receive any comments you may have after you have taken this tour. You can email me from the PORTSDOWN TUNNELS website.

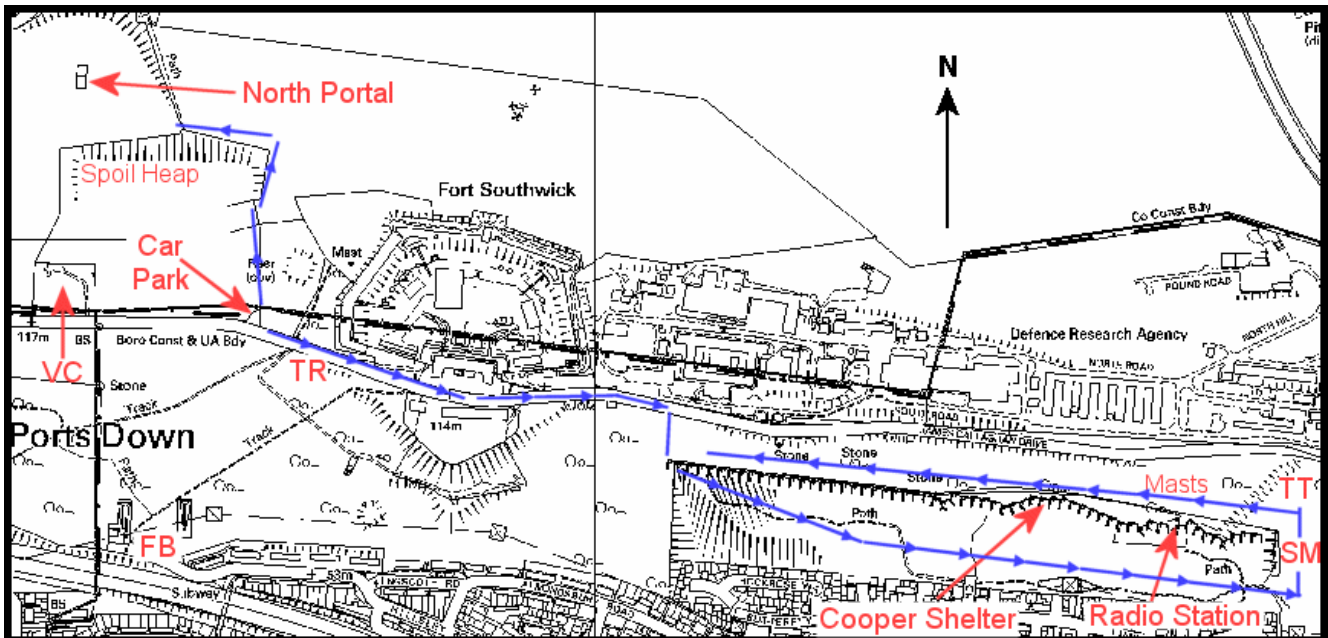
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Map 1 by Multimap



Map2

follow the blue marker