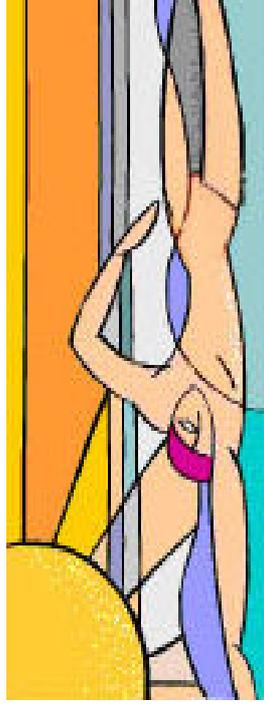


How to get to Eastney Beach

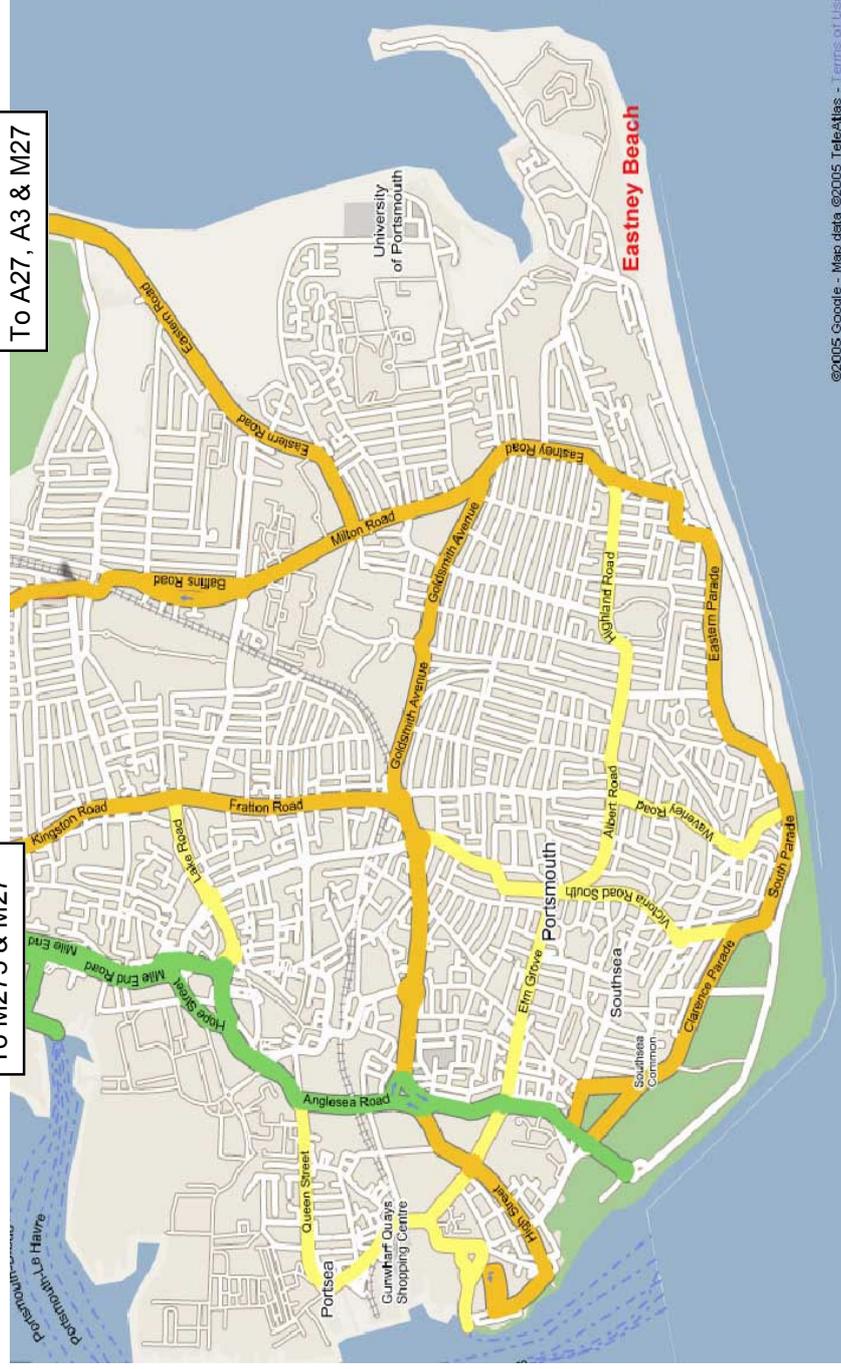
eastney naturists

Eastney beach is situated at the eastern end of the city as shown in red on the map below. If travelling from the west come via the M27 and M275 into the city and follow signs for Southsea. Once you are on the seafront head east towards the radar station. You will see the towers standing up as a landmark. Park in the car park at the end of Melville Road. Follow the footpath by the caravan site down to the beach where you will turn left onto the traditionally naturist part of the beach. An alternative route is via the A2030 (Eastern Road). Turn left at the traffic lights where you see Fratton Park in front of you. Follow the road for ½ mile and turn left at the traffic lights opposite the Fort Cumberland Arms. Follow the road alongside Bransbury Park and then turn left into Fort Cumberland Road. You will see the car park at the end of the road. From within the city there are a number of buses. No's 6, 7, 15, 16, 16a, 17 & 18 will take you there.



To M275 & M27

To A27, A3 & M27



Did you know that Portsmouth has its own nudist beach that has been regularly used for nude swimming and sunbathing for the past 60 years?

Did you know that its continued use by naturists was under threat?

For regular updates, news and to join our online forum go to

www.eastneybeach.org.uk

The former MoD establishment at Eastney, now owned by QinetiQ, is about to be sold to developers. Portsmouth City Council have approved a resolution to grant outline planning consent for the construction of 131 apartments on the site which will overlook the naturist beach.

We have many concerns about this inappropriate development. We are concerned that the blocks of flats towering over the beach will dissuade naturists from using the beach, or that the residents of these luxury flats will try to get the naturists barred from using the beach.

We have sworn affidavits testifying to Eastney Beach being used by naturists for well over 60 years and so we naturally object to any possibility that nude swimming and sunbathing could be stopped there due to the prejudices of new homeowners.

Our campaign is backed by **British Naturism** which is the national organisation that represents our interests in this country. Together with local campaigners they have attended council hearings and been in contact with the local councillors and MPs concerning this issue. We plan to continue to hold regular meetings to discuss the latest news and formulate plans of action to peacefully counter the on-going threat.

We will continue to speak up for the naturists and beach-users.

The Eastney Naturists Campaign Group's express purpose is to campaign for the continued naturist use of Eastney Beach.

We have met with local councillors and spoken at many Council meetings. We met with the local MP, Mike Hancock & addressed Eastney Neighbourhood Forum (Nov 2006) – they listened to our concerns and were very sympathetic. We also maintain a positive relationship with the Police, prompting them to carry out research in the laws about public nudity, and have their support for naturists to go about their “lawful pursuits”.

We wrote to candidates in several local elections in Portsmouth, to ask for their support. Not a single reply opposed either our campaign or continued use of the beach.

We are in regular contact with the Planning Department about the progress of the planning application.

Over the last couple of years the local & national press has published many positive articles and letters about naturists at Eastney Beach. These news items can be viewed on our website in the “In The Press” section. We have been interviewed on local radio stations about our campaign, giving more sympathetic publicity to our cause.

We hosted Beach Days & public meetings in 2006, 2007 & 2008. British Naturism presented us with an award for our services to naturism.

We are an established, credible & active group.

At a recent Council Cabinet meeting, QinetiQ formally undertook to dedicate the beach as Public Access land under Countryside & Rights of Way legislation (this dedication to take place on the occupation of the first flat).

QinetiQ also gave a binding promise to keep the beach open to **all of the public** until that dedication takes place. The City Solicitor confirmed that any closure of the beach would have to be for a compelling reason and that if the Council did not agree then they could take the land-owners to court.

Do call the Council if you see the beach being closed unreasonably: 023 9282 2251

Cllr Hancock was assured that the signs could go back up at the entrance to the beach - let's aim to make sure that this actually happens – please contact your councillor - contact Cllr Hancock - remind them all of this assurance! A list of Councillors and MPs can be found on Portsmouth City Council's website: <http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/yourcouncil/116.html> :

If you are not a naturist we would ask you to be sympathetic to our cause in attempting to secure future naturist use of this short stretch of Portsmouth's extensive coastline. Our experience is that people who would never strip off on a beach are generally very accepting of those who do.