

| Amberley to Pulborough (via Duncton) | | | Amberley to Pulborough (via Sutton) | | |
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Amberley to Pulborough

Start: Amberley Station

Finish: Pulborough Station

Amberley Station, map reference TQ 026 118 is 74 km south west of Charing Cross and 8m above sea level. Pulborough Station, map reference TQ 042 186 is 7 km north of Amberley and 10m above sea level. Both are in **West Sussex**.

Length: 25.7 km (15.9 mi), of which 5.6 km (3.5 mi) on tarmac or concrete.

Cumulative ascent/descent: 514/512m.

For a shorter walk, *see below* **Walk options**.

Toughness: 8 out of 10

Time: 6 hours net walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 10 hours.

Transport: Amberley station is on the London Victoria to Southampton West Coastway Line through the Arun Valley, with one train an hour and journey times of 79 minutes Mon - Sat and 83 minutes on Sunday. Pulborough is one stop closer to London, services are half-hourly Mon-Sat, hourly on Sunday.

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train closest to 9.00 hours.

OS Landranger Map: 197 (Chichester & the South Downs)

OS Explorer Map: OL10 (Arundel & Pulborough)

Walk Notes:

The route follows the South Downs Way out of the scenic Arun Valley along some steep chalky tracks high up onto Bignor Hill for some magnificent views along the ridge, out to sea and across the West Weald. You leave the South Downs Way and pass Glatting Beacon with its transmission masts to then gradually descend from the ridge – not without a few short re-ascents up Farm Hill and Barlavington Down – past a few hanging woods into the Rother Valley. Pass the quaint setting of Duncton Mill and head for The Cricketers pub for lunch. Onwards you go through the magnificent Burton Park with its ponds, before you walk through several idyllic commons, part wooded, part sandy heathland, and eventually cross the Rother River and progress to Pulborough along a westerly route familiar from other walks, past the picturesque Stopham church and medieval bridge.

A shorter option descends steeply from Bignor Hill through hanging woods to the quiet villages of Bignor and Sutton.

Walk options:

A Shortcut from Bignor Hill, through hanging woods to the quiet villages of Bignor and Sutton, cuts 5.8 km/3.6 mi and 125m ascent, resulting in a **6/10** walk (no lunch pub currently).

Bus 99 Chichester – Duncton – Petworth (6 buses per day, Mon-Sat) runs through Duncton and Sutton, the lunch destinations. This is partly a flexible service, i.e. **pre-booking is required for most services**: call 01903 264 776, 09.00-17.00 Mon-Fri, 09.00-13.00 Sat! But the late afternoon bus seems to stop at Duncton in any case. In Petworth you must connect to below Bus 1.

Bus line 1 (Midhurst – Worthing via Pulborough Station) follows the A 272 and A 283 through the last part of the walk area. **Convenient stops for shortcuts are: Fittleworth and Stopham.** The bus leaves Midhurst hourly on xx.30, then 17.40 and 18.45 (Sun: two-hourly to 18.30), and calls Petworth 15 minutes later, Fittleworth and Stopham later still.

Lunch:

The Cricketers Duncton High Street, *Duncton, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0LB (01798 342 473, <http://www.thecricketersduncton.co.uk/>)*. The Cricketers is located 13.0 km (8.1 mi) into the walk. Open all day. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-21.00 Mon-Fri, 12.00-21.00 Sat-Sun. Large and pleasant garden at the back.

The White Horse The Street, *Sutton, West Sussex RH20 1PS (01798 869 221, <https://www.whitehorseinn-sutton.co.uk/>)*. The White Horse is located 9.6 km (5.9 mi) into the short walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 18.30-21.30 Mon-Sat and 12.00-19.00 Sun. This pub has gone thoroughly upmarket after a change in ownership and now **pre-booking is required!** Large groups need to pre-order their food choices.

Tea:

The Swan Inn (Hotel) Lower Street *Fittleworth, Petworth, West Sussex RH20 1EN (01798 865 154, <https://www.swaninnhotel.com/>)*. The Swan Inn is located 5.3 km (3.3 mi) from the end of the walk. Open 08.30-23.00 daily (-22.30 Sun). Food served 12.00-14.15 and 18.30-21.15 Mon-Sat and all-day Sun. The Swan has acted as a coaching inn since 1536, having grown from a 12th century Saxon enclosure that offered food and lodgings to weary travellers, to the building that you see today. The earliest parts of the inn date from 1382.

The White Hart Stopham Bridge *Stopham, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DS (01798 874 903, <https://www.whitehartpulborough.com/>)*. The White Hart is located 2.3 km (1.4 mi) from the end of the walk. Open 11.00-23.00 daily. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-21.00 Mon-Fri, 12.00-21.30 Sat and 12.00-17.00 Sun. Situated by the River Arun and next to Stopham Bridge, The White Hart is one of the most picturesque pubs and restaurants in West Sussex. At the beginning of 2014 floods caused the river to burst its banks and the pub had to close due to extensive damage. After a change of ownership The White Hart reopened in the November of the year.

In Pulborough

Chequers Hotel Old Rectory Lane *Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1AD (01798 872 486, <http://chequershotelpulborough.co.uk/>)*. The Chequers is located 250m off-route near the end of the walk.

The Banyan Tree 19 Swan Corner *Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1RJ (01798 874 141, <http://www.thebanyantreerestaurant.co.uk/>)*. The Banyan Tree is located 300m beyond the end of the walk. **This restaurant is currently shut!**

The Oddfellow Arms 99 Lower Street *Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2BP (01798 875 282, <http://www.theoddfellowsarms.org.uk/index>)*. The Oddfellows is located 1.2 km/0.7 mi beyond the end of the walk. Open 11.00-23.00 Mon-Sat and 12.00-18.00 Sun. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-21.00 Mon-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun.

Notes:

Wey-South Path

The 58 km (36 mi) Wey-South Path runs from Guildford to Houghton Bridge, following the route of the River Wey, the River Arun and the canal linking them.

West Sussex Literary Trail

... is a waymarked 88 km (55 mi) long distance footpath which runs from Horsham to Chichester.

The Arun River

At 60 km (37 mi) long, it is the longest river entirely in Sussex and one of the longest in Sussex after the Medway, Wey and Mole. From the series of small streams that form its source in St. Leonard's Forest in the Weald, the Arun flows westwards through Horsham to Nowhurst where it is joined by the North River.

Turning to the south, it is joined by its main tributary, the western River Rother, near Stopham and continues through a gap in the South Downs to Arundel to join the Channel at Littlehampton. The mouth of the river has not always been there, though. Until the later 15th century the Arun joined the River Adur at Lancing some 16 km to the east before entering the sea. This estuary became blocked with shingle by the eastward drift of the tides, pushing the Adur towards Shoreham-by-Sea, while the Arun eventually formed its present estuary at Littlehampton between 1500 and 1530.

It is one of the faster flowing rivers in England (some sources say the second fastest after the Severn), and is tidal as far inland as Pallingham Quay, 41 km (25.5 mi) upstream from the sea.

In Roman times the Arun was called the *Trisantonis*, thought to be Brythonic for 'the trespasser', indicating the river's tendency to flood land near to the river. A name derived from this, the Tarrant, is reflected in the road name Tarrant Street, which runs through Arundel.

The Rother River/Rother Valley

The River Rother flows from Empshott in Hampshire to Stopham in West Sussex, where it joins the River Arun. The upper river, from its source to Midhurst, has been used to power watermills, with the earliest recorded use being in 1086. Many of the buildings which housed the mills still exist, and in some cases, still retain their milling machinery. This section is also noted for the number of early bridges, which have survived since the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. The lower Rother has been used for navigation in the past. The river is a designated Site of Nature Conservation Importance, in recognition of its value for wildlife.

Serpent Trail

The Serpent Trail is a 103 km (64 mi) waymarked Long Distance Path through some of the finest heathland and woodland landscapes in the South East and follows a rough "S" shape along the hills of the Sussex Greensand - snaking between Haslemere, Petworth, Midhurst and Petersfield in a habitat of snakes.

Stopham Village/Manor House/Bridge

The parish is bounded to the east by the River Arun, spanned by the Grade I listed Stopham Bridge. The River Rother forms the southern boundary of the parish from its confluence with the Arun below Stopham Bridge. Part of the present manor house is dated 1485, but there was a house on the site before that. Its plan is E-shaped, a layout popular for Jacobean manor houses. The house is a Grade II* listed building. The seven-arched ironstone Stopham Bridge was built in 1423, replacing an earlier wooden bridge, apparently built in 1347. The central arch was raised in 1822 to allow barges to pass. The bridge was still being used by traffic until the new A283 road bridge was constructed alongside in 1986. Stopham Vineyard was established in 2007.

Sussex Hospices Trail

The SHT is a waymarked 314 km (195 mi) long distance footpath around East and West Sussex. The trail has been created by Friends of Sussex Hospices and dedicated to raising awareness of hospice care, as a venue for fundraising activities and as a permanent route for walkers. <http://www.hospicetrail.co.uk/>

Pulborough

Pulborough is located almost centrally within West Sussex, 70 km south west of London. It is at the junction of the north-south A 29 and the east-west A 283 roads. The village is near the confluence of the River Arun and the River Rother and looks southwards over the broad flood plain of the tidal Arun to a backdrop of the South Downs. Historically, it was a fording place over the River Arun used by the Romans, who had a *mansio* across the river at Hardham, one day's march from Chichester on the London road, Stane Street.

The Saxons bridged the River Arun here and at nearby Stopham, north of its confluence with the River Rother. The Normans built Pulborough Castle, an earthwork motte and bailey in a prominent position overlooking the junction of the Rother and Arun, which were key Sussex transportation routes. One of the main attractions near Pulborough is the RSPB Pulborough Brooks Nature Reserve, which takes advantage of the winter flooding of the Arun Valley to give a boost to birdlife.

Each year, Pulborough hosts a lawn mower race which runs continuously for 12 hours.

On August bank holiday, the Pulborough duck race society hosts its annual duck race, a charity event.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train at **Amberley** station on platform 2 and leave the platform through a gap into the car park and *turn left* down Station Approach. At the bottom, cross the **B 2139** and *turn left* along the opposite pavement and under the railway bridge. The **Wey-South Path** and the **West Sussex Literary Trail** share this stretch. Immediately after the bridge *turn right* along a gravel driveway by a signpost and in 45m go through a gap to the left of a metal field gate and follow the clear footpath as it curves to the left, passing a mobile home park. In 110m you go up a grassy bank and follow a footpath signpost towards **The Arun River**.

In 20m the path curves to the right to follow the river. In 210m cross a stile and in 35m continue along a bridleway, which joins from the right. You are now on the **South Downs Way** (SDW) and will follow it for the next 6.6 kilometres. In a further 170m *turn left* and cross a two-railed raised bridge over the river. *Turn right* on the other side of the river and in 150m *turn left* through a wooden gate, your direction now 230°. At the field corner in 190m *turn right*, following the SDW signpost to *turn left* through a wooden gate in 60m. In 130m go through a gap to the left of a metal field gate to cross a tarmac lane and follow a chalky car wide track opposite.

Stay on this track as it bends right in 220m, then left in 300m, to reach the busy **A 29** in a further 930m. Cross the road and *turn right* along the opposite pavement and in 80m *turn left* with a signpost along another chalky car wide track. In 300m where another track joins from the left, you *veer right* at a four-way signpost, now 310°. Keep on this track for the next 1.7 kilometres. At the bottom of the prolonged drop, just past a corrugated barn to your right, at a four-way signpost, *turn left*, and follow the car wide track as it curves to the right, passing a metal field gate on your left, where you ignore a left turning bridleway, to continue pretty much in the previous direction.

In 40m, where another track joins from the right, *curve left uphill* with the track, your direction 230° initially. Keep to this track as it twists and turns, to *turn right* at a T-junction in 260m. After 520m of steady climbing, at a fence corner on the right, you reach **Toby's Stone** (on the OS map), a modern stone memorial beside a **National Trust** sign for **Slindon Estate**. From this point on **Bignor Hill**, there are good views back along the South Downs, towards the coast and out to the Isle of Wight, and across the Weald. Continue along the track for 1 kilometre, where it joins a minor road coming up from the right below **at a 'Roman Villa' sign** on the right (Bignor Roman Villa).

Here you have a choice:

For a shorter walk via Bignor and Sutton villages, you **[!]** leave the SDW by **[!]** *turning sharp right* and follow the road downhill (50° initially). Pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut**.

For the Main Walk, you continue in the same direction along the tarmac lane, soon passing a car park on your left. In 40m you continue along gravel as you pass first a large multi-way signpost, pointing towards **'Noviomagus'**, Chichester's Roman name, and then a more traditional four-way signpost, following the SDW towards and through a wooden field gate. Ignore a left turning path as well as a left fork across grass to follow the gravel track. In 30m you *bear right* with the track, ignoring a grassy path ahead.

In 140m ignore a left turning car wide track (the continuation of the SDW, on the course of the **Chichester to London Roman Road**) and continue in the same direction (300°) through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate. You continue gently uphill along a car wide track between barbed wire fences towards the transmission masts on

Glating Beacon and in 220m pass a fenced area on the right, containing a large **dew pond** in the near corner and a **tumulus** in the far corner. In another 150m you enter trees and in 50m ignore a left turning track towards the transmission masts. In 80m ignore a left forking waymarked NT path and continue in the same direction along the bridleway, soon passing a marker post, towards a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate. In 70m you walk past a **NT Bignor Hill** sign and through the gate into an open hillside. Cross this long pasture in broadly the same direction towards a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate at the left corner of a wooded area 260m away.

Go through the gate and continue down a chalky car wide track with the wood (**Pitchurst Copse**) on your right. In 450m, by a fence corner on the right and about 40m before a metal field gate, *fork right* into a wood (30°) with a bridleway marker post. In 30m *turn right* at a T-junction with a car wide track and in 10m *turn left* at a signposted bridleway junction. Continue down the left of two distinct tracks into the wood (30°) to continue between trees, with arable fields beyond. You have a slightly wooded ridge on the left (**Farm Hill** on the OS map) and in 250m from the left turn you *bear left* with the path, now with open views on the left. In 220m, just before an ascent up the hill flank, you walk through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate and *bear right* with the clear (initially grassy) track.

The track enters some trees in 40m (**Farm Wood**), and in 110m you pass a bridleway marker post and follow the chalky track up a little rise (ignore an indistinct path by the fence line below on the right). In 200m the track levels out and you continue along the level for a while with **Sutton** village on the right below in the valley and in 150m walk through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate by a bridleway marker post and continue in the same direction (355°) along a wide grassy margin between large arable fields down to a saddle separating this hill from **Barlavington Down**. On the descent you can clearly see the **pre-historic Cross Dyke** running along Barlavington Down, halfway up the slope and now having a row of trees along it.

In 350m cross a signposted junction with a 'Public Way' and *bear right* with the path. In 20m ignore a signposted footpath turning right into trees (**Northcomb Wood**) and in 15m ignore a signposted bridleway turning right into the wood. You continue in the same direction with the wood on the right and an arable field on the left, slowly ascending the flank of the hill. In 300m you pass a bridleway marker post just before entering a small wooded area and then in another 190m another one. In 150m enter a wood (**Barlavington Hanger**) and *curve right* down through the wood (this will be very slippery in wet weather).

In 220m ignore a left turning bridleway at a signposted three-way junction and in 180m a forest track joins from the right. In 70m ignore another signposted left turning bridleway and *bear a little to the right* with the path. In 125m *curve left* with the path by a two-way signpost and in 35m you have a pasture on the left behind a barbed wire fence. In another 200m walk through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate and in 20m go through a metal field gate and cross a tarmac lane. Ignore a footpath turning right over a stile into a pasture and go through a gap to the right of a metal field gate to follow a car wide grassy track bearing left.

You have **Burton Park** (and its prominent house) and the **Rother Valley** below on the right and in 130m at the corner of **Fountain Copse** you continue in the same direction where a signposted bridleway turns right. In 100m you continue through a more open area, with some newly planted trees and a couple of houses on the right across a little valley and in 150m drop down to a tarmac lane at a T-junction. You are in a very pretty narrow valley, with a mill pond away to the right by **Duncton Mill**, which is fed by the **springs gushing out of the steep hillside** just below you, and with **Duncton Hanger** looming away on the left.

Turn right down the lane with a signposted bridleway and in 60m pass Millpond Cottage and then the millpond and Duncton Mill (house), followed by the Barlavington Estate Office and a large car park used for the **Duncton Mill Fisheries** business. The lane becomes a tarmac/gravel mix as you walk between the fisheries' ponds and eventually cross a stream. In 60m the lane (**Dye House Lane**) turns left and in another 400m you *turn left* at a T-junction with the **A 285** along a grassy strip to its left to the lunch stop **The Cricketers** in 90m.

After lunch retrace your steps along the A road and in 90m continue in the same direction past Dye House Lane along the grassy margin of the A road. In 110m you pass a **bus stop for services to Chichester** and in 30m *turn right* through a wrought iron gate into **Burton Park** along a private drive (a signposted footpath). [The bus stop for services to Petworth and connections to Pulborough, is another 30m along the road.] The tarmac drive meanders through the pretty **East Wood** and in 380m just before a cattle grid you *fork left* with a footpath signpost along an earth track and in 30m continue in the same direction along a part-fenced path between pastures, with **Burton Park (house)** ahead a little to the right.

In 350m *turn left* along the tarmac drive at a T-junction by a signpost with a **West Sussex Literary** Trail marker. In 50m you ignore a left turning signposted bridleway and continue along the tarmac drive, in 30m passing the well-worth-a-visit **St. Richard's Church**, Burton Park to continue along the drive or its grassy boundary. You pass several smaller houses belonging to the estate and in 450m *turn right* with the drive at a signposted four-way footpath junction and in 160m pass **Cherry Cottage** on your left. Pass **Lodge Green** with its handful of houses on your left and in 90m where the tarmac drive turns left and where another drive turns right to a house, you continue in the same direction with a **Serpent Trail** marker post along a car wide gravel track towards **Burton and Chingford Ponds Local Nature Reserve** (Sussex Wildlife Trust).

In 110m walk through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate and in 30m cross the outflow of **Chingford Pond** on the wide gravel track and follow it atop the pond wall. You have **Burton Mill Pond** on your left and at the end of Chingford Pond you *fork left* into trees (**The Moor** on the OS map). In 30m ignore a left forking Permissive Footpath and continue in the same direction through the wood. In 220m you pass a two-way footpath signpost and cross a concrete farm track with metal gates either side. In 50m continue in the same direction downhill along a road at a bend and in 170m *turn right* into a wood (**The Warren**) up a signposted bridleway.

In 450m continue in the same direction down a tarmac drive coming from a house on the right and in 60m continue in the same direction at a triangular green to in 30m *turn right* down a road towards **Sutton End** hamlet. In 120m you cross a stream and then pass a few houses and in 250m *turn left* along a signposted bridleway towards **Keyzaston House** (signed). In 70m by the house *bear right* with the track and follow it around to the left and then straight on for the next 1.0 kilometre (always rutted, often muddy). In 250m ignore a bridleway forking right at a signposted three-way junction and later continue in the same direction where another track joins from the left.

Eventually you reach a road opposite **Sutton Common/Lord's Piece**. Cross the road and enter the **Open Access** common through a metal gate. The aim is an exit on the other side of it half right on a bearing of 60°, 600m away as the crow flies. Follow a clear path with a mire on your right and in 40m *bear right* at a four-way junction (80°). In 60m *turn left* at a four-way junction along the little valley. In 40m ignore a right turning path to continue in the same direction gently uphill, in 25m ignore a left fork and in 40m *turn right* at a four-way junction. You soon start a gentle ascent up the valley side and in 75m continue in the same direction at a crosspaths.

In 100m at the top of the rise *turn left* at a four-way junction by a break in the growth on the right. You follow an elevated path along the rim of this little bowl with the heathery common stretching out to the left and the hills walked along earlier in the distance behind. In 200m *fork right* towards a metal field gate about 100m away and leave the common through a wooden kissing gate to the right of it. *Turn right* along a car wide gravel/earth lane and in 130m *fork down right* with a bridleway signpost and in 100m you reach a signposted three-way bridleway junction at a T-junction with a car wide gravel track. The Shortcut joins from the right. *Turn left* down the track.

***)** Continue on the track as it curves to the right in 30m, your direction 40°. In 110m ignore a right fork and in 30m you pass under some power lines and ignore another path joining sharply from the right. In a further 110m, **[!]** *fork right* towards a railed plank bridge, which you cross in 40m to *bear right* with the path on the other side. Continue along a widening path through **Coates Common**, your direction 60° initially. In 80m, where a car wide track joins from the right, you continue in the same direction by a Serpent Trail signpost on your left.

Keep to the main track for 350m to pass **Tripp Hill Farm** on your left as the track becomes a tarmac drive. In 160m you *turn left* at a T-junction with the **B 2138**. Follow this road (the pavement changes sides a couple of times along the way) to eventually descend from Tripp Hill, soon passing the former **Station Masters House** and **Railway Cottages** of **Fittleworth Station** on the long dismantled **Pulborough – Midhurst Railway** line. In 170m from the railway bridge you cross **The River Rother** on a humpbacked bridge and in 90m cross a mill stream. In 80m ignore a track off to your right and in another 50m pass **The Swan** (hotel) on your left, a possible early tea stop.

Continue up the road for 200m and *turn up right* along **Sandy Lane**. In 350m, 20m past the gateway to **The Ramble** (a cottage) on your left, *turn left* uphill along a signposted footpath, with a wire fence on your left and a wood on the right. In 90m *turn right* at a T-junction of footpaths, your direction due E, through **Fittleworth Common**. In 80m you stay to the left of a fallen tree (ignoring two left forks heading steeply uphill) and in 160m (**25m after** a footpath joined from the right below at a (misleading) three-way signpost), *fork up to the left* under some power lines, your direction 30°.

In 100m cross a path and in another 10m, at a T-junction with some electricity poles with a grey transformer box off ahead to the right, *turn left* along a forest path to follow the edge of a hanging wood dropping away to your right. In 75m **[!]** *turn right* at a footpath marker post to go steeply downhill through the wood towards a three-way signpost at the bottom of the drop, where you *turn right*, following a wooden garden fence on your left. In 140m cross the **A 283** and pass a redundant stile to the left of a metal field gate and keep left to continue due N (ignore the right turning footpath).

In 40m *fork right* (30° initially) and keep to the path as it curves around to the right in 60m. Ignore a path to the right in another 60m to continue along a field edge, separated by a row of trees on your right, your direction now due E. In 110m you continue in the same direction, where a bridleway joins from the left, with **Walter's Plantation** on your left-hand side. Ignore all ways off for 500m, eventually passing a few houses and joining a tarmac lane at a bend. Go straight ahead on the lane towards **Stopham's** old manor house and *turn right* at a road junction in 50m.

In 100m a short detour across the green on your left will take you to **St. Mary the Blessed Virgin, Stopham** (worth a visit, usually open). In 200m cross the **A 283** and *turn left* along the opposite pavement. In 130m you pass **Wild Sussex** on the right, a coppice-products business (open 09.00-17.00 Saturdays). In 220m, just after passing Bridgemead (a house) on the left and just before crossing the **Arun River** on a road

bridge, you **[!]** *fork right* along a tarmac path (a shared cycle and footpath). After crossing the entrance to **Stopham House** in 40m the path leads you over the medieval **Stopham Bridge** in 80m to the suggested tea stop, **The White Hart** on the other side.

With the bridge behind you, you *turn left* up a short pathway between the bridge and the pub to the **A 283**. Cross the road one last time and follow the bridleway steeply into a wood (**Pulborough Park Plantation**). Follow this attractive path near the edge of the wood for just under 1 kilometre, ignoring a signposted footpath to the right along the way (the **Sussex Hospices Trail** turns right here). Towards the end of the wood, with the site of **Pulborough Castle**, a 11th century motte and bailey fortress, up on your left on Park Mound, *turn down right* by a bridleway sign at a track junction.

You pass a house and garden on your left and in 140m, by the entrance to **Park Farm**, cross over a tarmac driveway and *turn left* onto a short path which turns right into the top corner of a field, by a WWII gun emplacement on the left. Follow the path down the right-hand field edge and at the bottom in 300m *turn right* onto **Coombelands Lane**. In 200m follow the lane round to the right and over the railway then immediately *turn right* onto a tarmac path. [But for the closest tea stop, continue up **Church Place** and in 250m reach the **Chequers Hotel** on the corner of **Church Hill**.]

This path takes you to **Pulborough** station in 320m. London bound trains depart from the far platform, reached via an underpass.

You'll find **other possible tea stops** a little beyond the train station:

- **The Banyan Tree** (**currently shut**) 300m to the left along the A 283 Station Road at **Swan Corner**;
- **The Oddfellow Arms** 850m further along the A 283, now called **Lower Street**.

Shortcut

(cut 5.9 km/3.6 mi, 125m ascent and 1.2 km tarmac)

In 500m *turn left* at a signpost to take a footpath which steeply descends the wooded hillside (**Left Hanger**), your direction 30° initially. In 540m, near the bottom of the wood, you pass a two-way signpost and cross a car wide forest track at a staggered junction to *bear left* between a footpath marker post on the left and a low NT stump post on the right. Follow a path past a wooden bench out of the wood with a field on the left behind a wire fence and some trees on the right (350°).

In 220m you go through a wooden kissing gate to continue in the same direction with a signpost and where the fence on your left ends, you continue towards the corner of the field. In 170m in the field corner, *turn right* along any one of two narrow tracks through the trees and continue along a left-hand stream side path in a further 10m (initially you may have to walk along the stream bed itself). In 100m *turn left* at a junction with a tarmac lane. In 75m **[!]** *veer left* off the tarmac lane through a wooden gate with a signpost and follow a clear path through a grassy area with a stream on the left below.

In 120m you cross the stream on a plank bridge and continue between streams. In 120m *turn left* with the path over a two-railed plank bridge and in 50m you *turn right* with a footpath signpost. In another 20m *turn left* with the path over a wide plank bridge by a confluence of streams (**Bignor Mill** is away to the right through trees). You go through a wooden field gate or over a stile on its left-hand side and ascend through a grassy slope towards a hedge gap 50m away and continue in the same direction further uphill through the grassy slope. In 70m go over a stile somewhat to the left of a metal field gate and up a few steps and cross an arable a little to the right along a usually clear path (340°, in continuation of the field gate).

In 210m you leave the field and go over a wooden boardwalk between fences. In 30m the path descends to a drive and you *turn left* to a road with the recommended lunch pub **The White Horse**, Sutton, and a **bus stop for services to Petworth and Chichester**, a little to the right.

Turn left out of the pub and follow the road through the village to in 200m reach a public phone box (used as storage for local information, brochures etc.), where you *turn right* with a signpost. Cross a stile in 60m and, after following the obvious path for 35m, continue along a right-hand side field boundary. In 90m walk through a hedge gap into the next field and continue in the same direction, due E. In 220m go through a wooden kissing gate and *bear slightly left* across a field, your direction 45°. In 140m go through a wooden kissing gate and *turn left* along a potentially muddy car-wide track at a four-way signpost.

You stay on this track for about 1.5 kilometres, passing occasional bridleway marker posts along the way, until you reach a road where you *turn right*.

But in more detail: In 520m cross a footpath at a signposted four-way junction; in 400m ignore a left fork at a three-way signpost; in 180m ignore a forest track joining from the left and in another 260m ignore a bridleway joining from the left at a three-way signpost. In 70m go through a metal gate to the right of a double metal field gate and *turn right* along a road in 10m.

In 25m *turn left* along a wide track as indicated by a signpost. Keep to this track, passing **Sutton Common** (Open Access land, several gates lead into it) on your left and a large field on your right. In 840m a signposted bridleway (with the **Serpent Trail** running along it) joins from the left. This is the main walk. Continue in the same direction and pick up the text above at the asterisk *).