

Arundel to Midhurst (The Midhurst Way)		
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Arundel to Midhurst (The Midhurst Way)

Start: Arundel Station

Finish: Midhurst Bus Station

Arundel Station, map reference TQ 024 264, is 79 km south west of Charing Cross and 4m above sea level. Midhurst, map reference SU 887 218, is 11 km south of Haslemere and 25m above sea level. Both are in **West Sussex**.

Length: 31.8 km (19.8 mi), of which 8.6 km (5.4 mi) on tarmac or concrete.

Cumulative ascent/descent: 640/619m. For a shorter walk, see below **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 8 out of 10

Time: 7 ¾ hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 12 ½ hours.

Transport: Arundel station is on the Victoria to Southampton West Coastway Line. Journey times are from 84 minutes Mon-Sat (two trains an hour), and from 85 minutes on Sunday (hourly). Buses from Midhurst connect to Haslemere, Petersfield, Pulborough and Chichester. Bus 1 to Pulborough (on the same line as Arundel) runs hourly Mon-Sat and every two hours on Sundays.

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take a train no later than 9.00 hours.

OS Landranger Map: 186 (Aldershot & Guildford) and 197 (Chichester & the South Downs)

OS Explorer Map: OL 10 (Arundel & Pulborough) and OL33 (Haslemere & Petersfield)

Walk Notes:

The route leads through Arundel's picturesque centre into a series of woods and heathlands to the highest point of the walk in Houghton Forest before crossing the South Downs Way near Westburton Hill. Surrounded by wooded downs you continue through the sleepy villages of West Burton and Bignor to lunch in Sutton and on to Barlavington, from where you descend into the Rother Valley through Burton Park with its pretty church and imposing mansion. The afternoon takes you through a mix of flat farmland, some wooded hills and the Lod Valley, en route passing Upperton and Nyetimber vineyards, to the Cowdray Estate, with its golf course-with-views as well as several polo fields, and to the romantic ruins of Cowdray House, as captured by JMW Turner. Climbing from the River Rother's banks, Midhurst's Norman castle ruins are passed on the way to the old market town's attractive centre with its many tea options.

This walk is the southerly section of the unmarked Midhurst Way, which has been created by John Trueman, local to the area and a passionate advocate of outdoor pursuits. It runs between Arundel and Haslemere. The northerly section Midhurst to Haslemere is available as a separate SWC Walk. Both sections have been written up in either direction (in separate pdf's) to enable a through-walk of the whole 47.4 km/29.5 mi Midhurst Way with an overnight stay along the route in Sutton, Coultershaw Bridge, Tillington, Halfway Bridge (a little off route) or Midhurst.

Walk Options:

Bus 99 Chichester – Duncton – Petworth (6 buses per day, Mon-Sat) runs through Sutton, the lunch destination, and along the A285, enabling a finish at Duncton Heath End. This is a semi-flexible service, **pre-booking is required**: online via the Ride Pingo App or by calling 01243 858 854, 06.30-19.30 Mon-Sat! In Petworth you must connect to below Bus 1.

Bus 1 Midhurst – Petworth – Worthing (via Pulborough Station) travels along the A272 between Midhurst and Tillington, enabling a shorter walk. From Midhurst the bus runs: about hourly Mon-Sat, last at 19.00, and every two hours on Sundays to 18.30 (stops Tillington 8 minutes later, Petworth 15 mins later)

Lunch (details last updated 06/10/2023)

The White Horse Inn The Street, Sutton, West Sussex RH20 1PS (01798 869 191, <https://www.whitehorseinn-sutton.co.uk/>). The White Horse is located 13.8 km (8.6 mi) into the walk. Closed Mon-Tue. Open all day Wed-Sun. Food served 12.00-14.30 Wed-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun as well as 18.00-21.00 Wed-Sat.

The Badgers Station Road, Coultershaw Bridge, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0JF (01798 342 651, <http://badgerspetworth.co.uk/>). The Badgers is located 18.8 km (11.7 mi) into the walk, 100m off route. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-21.00 daily.

The Old Railway Station Waiting Room Coultershaw Bridge, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0JF (01798 342 346, <https://www.old-station.co.uk/tea-room>). The ORS is located 18.9 km/11.8 mi into the walk, 200m off route. Afternoon teas available for non-residents 13.30-16.30. **Booking is essential.**

The Horse Guards Inn Upperton Road, Tillington, West Sussex GU28 9AF (01798 342 332, <http://www.thehorseguardsinn.co.uk/>). The Horse Guards is located 22.0 km (13.7 mi) into the walk. Closed Mon-Tue. Open all day Wed-Sun. Food served 12.00-14.30 Wed-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun as well as 18.00-21.00 Wed-Sat.

Tea (details last updated 07/10/2023)

The Old Railway Station, The Badgers & The Horse Guards Inn (as above)

The Hollist Arms Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9BZ (01798 861 610, <https://www.thehollistarms.com/>). The Hollist Arms is located 5.8 km (3.6 mi) from the end of the walk. **Currently closed.**

The Lodsworth Larder Lodsworth, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 9BZ (01798 861 947, <http://lodsworthlarder.com/>). The Larder is a community run, eco-friendly, village shop, located 5.8 km (3.6 mi) from the end of the walk. Open 08.00-17.00 Mon-Sat and 08.30-14.00 Sun.

Cowdray Farm Shop Café Cowdray Park, Easebourne, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 0AJ (01730 815 152, <https://www.cowdray.co.uk/eat-at-cowdray/cowdray-farm-shop-cafe/>). Open daily to 17.00. The Cowdray Café is located 1.9 km (1.2 mi) from the end of the walk.

Garton's Coffee House The Old Town Hall, Market Square, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9NJ (01730 817 166, <https://www.gartons.net/>). Garton's is located 530m from the end of the walk.

The Swan Inn Red Lion Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9PB (01730 859 557, <https://www.swanmidhurst.com/>). The Swan is located 500m from the end of the walk. Open to late Mon-Sat and to 18.00 Sun. Dinner served Wed-Sat 18.00-21.00.

Spread Eagle Hotel South Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9NH (01730 816 911, <http://www.hshotels.co.uk/spread-eagle-hotel-and-spa/>). The Spread Eagle is located 500m from the end of the walk and a Spa Hotel.

The Crafty Pint Apsley House, West Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9NQ (01730 817 892, <http://craftypintshop.co.uk/>). The Crafty Pint is located 450m from the end of the walk. Open to 17.00 Tue-Wed and to 18.00 Thu-Sat.

The Bricklayers Arms West Street/Wool Lane, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9BX (01730 812 084, <https://bricklayersarmsmidhurst.co.uk/>). The Bricklayers Arms is located 400m from the end of the walk. Open all day every day.

The Wheatsheaf Wool Lane, Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9BY (01730 813 450, <https://wheatsheafmidhurst.com/>). The Wheatsheaf is located 300m from the end of the walk.

The Angel Inn North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9DN (01730 812 421). The Angel Inn is located near the end of the walk. **Currently closed after a devastating fire.**

The Olive & Vine North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9BY (01730 859 532). The Olive & Vine is located at the end of the walk. **Currently closed after a devastating fire**

Fitzcane's Café Ice Cream North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9DJ (01730 817 951, <http://www.fitzcanes.com/>). The Olive & Vine is located at the end of the walk. Open to 16.30 Tue-Sun.

Notes:

Arundel/Arundel Castle/Arundel Cathedral

The much-conserved town with large green buffers has a medieval castle and Roman Catholic cathedral. Although smaller in population than most other parishes, Arundel has a museum and comes second only behind the much larger Chichester in its number of listed buildings in West Sussex. Arundel is located where the Arun valley opens out into the coastal plain, and the Arun runs through the eastern side of the town. Arundel is home to Arundel Castle, seat of the Howard family, who, as Dukes of Norfolk and Earls of Arundel, are the most prominent English Catholic family, and rank first (below the royal family) in the Peerage of England, as well as to Arundel Cathedral, seat of the (Catholic) Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. The cathedral is Grade I listed and regarded as one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the French Gothic style in the country.

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 and is walked along on this walk.

Monarch's Way

The Monarch's Way is a waymarked linear 990 km (615 mi) long-distance footpath in England that approximates the escape route taken by King Charles II in 1651 after being defeated in the Battle of Worcester. It runs from Worcester via Bristol and Yeovil to Brighton. The waymark is yellow and shows a picture of the ship The Surprise above the Prince of Wales's three-point feathered crown which is superimposed on a Royal Oak tree (which is at Boscobel House) in black.

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.

West Sussex Literary Trail

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

Bignor Roman Villa

Bignor Roman Villa is a large Roman courtyard villa which has been excavated and put on public display on the Bignor estate. It is well known for its high quality mosaic floors, which are some of the most complete and intricate in the country, both in terms of preservation, artistic merit and detailing. It is located close to Stane Street, about 15 km north-east of Chichester (the Roman city of *Noviomagus Reginorum*) and the nearby and much larger Fishbourne Roman Palace. It is on the south-facing slope of a ridge of greensand which provided better conditions for agriculture than the nearby chalk. The earliest structural remains are of a simple timber farm structure dating to around 200, but in its final form, the villa consisted of some sixty-five rooms surrounding a courtyard, with a number of outlying farm buildings. Open April–October, with seasonally varying opening hours, check <http://www.bignorromanvilla.co.uk/> for details.

Nyetimber Vineyard

Nyetimber was mentioned in the Domesday Book as 'Nitimbreha', likely referring to a newly timbered house or perhaps a small timber plantation. It has 350 hectares of vineyards as of 2023, planted across many separate sites in West Sussex and Hampshire. Nyetimber's vineyards were the first to be devoted exclusively to the trinity of Champagne grapes: chardonnay, pinot meunier and pinot noir and it is now the second largest producer of English sparkling wine with a market share of 10%. <http://nyetimber.com/>

Burton Park

Burton Park is a 19th century country house, now converted into flats, which stands in its own estate in the parish of Duncton. It is a Grade I listed building. The mansion was built in three storeys faced with Roman

cement and has a five-bay west-facing entrance frontage and a 10-window eastern frontage. The interior contains a Grecian hall and an impressive staircase possibly rescued from Michelgrove near Arundel, which was demolished in 1828. The staircase had been built in 1800 and made of cast and wrought bronze with a figure of a greyhound on alternate steps and is largely responsible for the house's Grade I listing. The house is surrounded by 6 hectares of pleasure gardens, parkland and formal gardens laid out in 1738 and subsequently altered in the 1920s and 1930s. The parkland dates from the 13th century and was landscaped in the 18th and 19th century. The house and park were requisitioned by the army during WWII after which the house, gardens and southern half of the park were sold to St. Michael's, a girls' boarding school. It remained in occupation until the 1980s after which, in 1994, the site became a police dog-training centre. Since then the house has been divided into apartments. In the park stands the small Norman parish Church of St. Richard, a Grade I listed building.

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.

Upperton Vineyard

Upperton is a small family-run vineyard specialising in sparkling wine with a terrace bar visible from the walk route. Open Tue-Sat (May-Sep only). <http://www.uppertonvineyards.co.uk/>

The River Lod

The River Lod is a short river draining only about 52 km² of north west Sussex, but still one of the main tributaries of the River Rother. The source is on Marley Heights near Haslemere, about 140m above sea level. From here it flows west past Linchmere, then south to Furnace Pond, where iron cannon were cast during the English Civil War. It then turns south east, flowing south of Fernhurst to Lickfold and Lurgashall where it formerly powered Lurgashall Mill, now moved to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. From Mill Farm it heads south between high banks, which it only overflows after the heaviest of rainfalls, passing between the hills of Lodsworth and River to Halfway Bridge then joining the River Rother at Lods Bridge.

Cowdray Estate/House

The evocative ruins of Cowdray House - the former home of the Montague family and immortalized by JMW Turner - form the central focus of the 16,500 acres Cowdray Estate. It was a fortified Tudor manor house built in the 1520s on the site of an original manor house called Coudreye (the Norman word for the nearby hazel woods) built across the River Rother 1273-1284. The structure was badly damaged by a fire in 1793 during a restoration project and left to decay. In its heyday, Cowdray House saw many influential visitors including Henry VIII, Edward VI, Elizabeth I and Guy Fawkes. The last surviving member of the House of Plantagenet was imprisoned in the house before being taken to the Tower of London for execution. The estate also includes world class polo fields and a Farm Shop and Café with wine tasting room. The window frames of many of the Estates cottages around Midhurst are painted in unusual yellow paint.

Sussex Diamond Way

The SDW is a waymarked 97 km (60 mi) long distance footpath running west to east from Midhurst to Heathfield through the Low Weald area and crosses mainly heathland, woodland and farmland, including some vineyards. The route was created by the Sussex Ramblers in 1995 to mark their 60th anniversary and was revised in 2017. <https://www.sussexborderpath.co.uk/sdw.htm>

Midhurst

Midhurst is a medieval market town nestled in the South Downs National Park, with some remains of a Norman motte-and-double bailey castle built in 1102 (along with Pulborough, Chichester and Bramber castles) to safeguard the Norman stronghold in Sussex after the Conquest in 1066. Also surviving are the town stocks and pillory, last used in 1859. Like Pulborough castle, near the confluence of the River Rother and the Arun, Midhurst Castle was built on a high point (St. Ann's Hill) along the River Rother, an important transportation link in the Middle Ages due to poor roads in the area. Midhurst Castle led to the growth of Midhurst as a thriving town but was abandoned in 1317 and ultimately replaced with Cowdray House, built just across the river. The name Midhurst was first recorded in 1186 as *Middeherst*, meaning "Middle wooded hill", or "(place) among the wooded hills".

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train at **Arundel Station** on platform 2 and go over the bridge to platform 1 and leave through the station building. [!] *Turn right* immediately along a new tarmac path to the right of a taxi shed (signed 'Town Centre') and follow the path under the raised **A27**. In 30m *turn left* with the shared cycle-/footpath and in 120m the path runs to the right of the A road. The view is dominated by **Arundel Castle** on the right hand side of town and **Arundel Cathedral** on the left hand side. In 80m pass a set of lights and continue in the same direction to the right of a large roundabout. In 120m from the far end of the roundabout *turn right* along a signposted footpath with a brick wall on the right and a ditch on the left to reach the banks of the **Arun River** in 60m and *turn left* along the river bank with footpath and **Monarch's Way** markers.

In 300m you *turn left* away from the bank through a fence gap and *turn right* with a Monarch's Way marker post across a tarmac drive and through another fence gap to go along a tarmac area and between some houses. In 40m *turn right* at a T-junction with a main road to cross the river on a road bridge. On the other side continue in the same direction across a roundabout and along the narrow **High Street** one-way street to in 50m emerge on the main square in the town centre with a war memorial in its centre. Walk diagonally across the square and in 40m, by **The Norfolk Arms** hotel and pub on the right and the **Motte & Bailey Café** on the left, *turn left* along **Tarrant Street**. In 250m, by **The Kings Arms** pub on the right and where Tarrant Place turns left, you get **good views of the Cathedral** up along an alleyway on the right. In 130m *veer right* with **Surrey Street**, ignoring School Lane on the right, Surrey Wharf on the left and The Slipe ahead.

In 120m cross a road at a T-junction and *turn left* along its opposite pavement towards a roundabout. Continue along the right hand side of the roundabout to cross a first road (the **A284**) and in 30m *turn right* along a second road's pavement (the **A27**). In 15m you *turn right* along a tarmac drive between flint-and-brick houses (Waterwood Lodge and Waterwood Cottage), signposted '**Chalk Springs**'. In 30m [!] *veer up left* along a car wide gravel track (a signposted bridleway) into trees (**The Waterwoods** on the OS map), ignoring the continuation in the same direction (a restricted byway). In 500m at the top of the rise *turn right* with the bridleway at a three-way signpost, ignoring the footpath ahead into a field across a stile. You walk along the top of a hanging wood and in 270m continue in the same direction at a three-way junction (a footpath joins from the left along a car wide track). In another 60m you pass the pretty **Screenings Cottage** on your left and [!] *fork right* immediately afterwards at a four-way junction down along a signposted footpath (due N). In 50m go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate and continue down the forest track through **Screens Wood**.

In 240m continue in the same direction at a three-way junction at the bottom of the wood (the restricted byway joins from the right through a wooden field gate) to start a gentle ascent. In 170m you emerge from the trees and continue between fields, with an overgrown barbed wire fence on the left and a row of trees on the right. In 230m *turn left* along a car wide gravel track at a T-junction. In 480m you pass a footpath marker post on your left and in 70m enter a lightly wooded area (**The Rough**) and start a gentle descent. The track curves to the right and in 180m you ignore a left turning car wide track to continue in the same direction at a staggered four-way junction by a two-way footpath signpost on your right. *Bear up left* with the car wide forest track, with **Screens Wood** on the left and **Sherwood Rough** on the right (300°). In 150m by a footpath marker post on the left [!] *bear left* (further left than the marker suggests: 320°) along a narrow forest path away from the car wide track, which keeps ascending the hillside (i.e.: if – in 50m – you emerge in a clearing, you have missed the turning!).

Ignore a couple of right turns towards the clearing on the right and in 160m pass a footpath marker post. In another 70m continue in the same direction through a newly planted wood; in 50m start to descend more prominently and in 70m cross a car wide forest track to re-ascend along another wide track through trees. You soon continue through an area of newly planted trees. In 320m ignore a left turning forest track but in another 15m – at a bend in a car wide gravel forest track – *bear left* along the car wide track. [The conurbation visible in the back around a large building on a bearing of 160° is **Littlehampton**.] In 30m from the signpost [!] *turn right* along an unmarked narrow track through the bracken and newly planted trees (310°). In 90m you enter trees and in 65m pass a two-way signpost and in 15m walk to the left of a wooden field gate (**Yewtree Gate** on the OS map) into a yew and beech wood (part of Fairmile Bottom LNR and SSSI).

Continue in the same direction at a bend in the track and in 20m *veer right* with a footpath signpost, where a couple of tracks join from the left, and in 70m start to descend **Rewell Hill**. The gradient increases in 40m and eventually you walk down a steep stepped section and in 70m from the bottom of the steps emerge into a clearing at a two-way footpath signpost. [!] Ignore the direction of the signpost (to the right) and continue in the same direction towards a road. In 40m pass a redundant wooden field gate and cross the **A29** and continue in the same direction down a signposted car wide gravel bridleway. In 90m, by a kissing gate near the bottom of the drop (and with a shallow U-shaped valley on your left), you *turn right* with the gravel path. You continue in the same direction for 800m, initially along the car wide gravel track (can be overgrown), then in 500m along an earth track. A bridleway joins from the right along the way and 60m after that the path curves left inside a wood to continue through a dip.

You now ignore all ways off for the next 2.4 km. **In more detail:** In 220m cross a road a little to the right to continue past a two-way bridleway signpost and in 250m ignore a right forking track by a marker post on the left. In 850m the **Monarch's Way** Long Distance Path re-joins from the right and in 230m you ignore a left turning bridleway and in another 350m ignore a track joining from the right to continue in the same direction with a marker post on the left.

In 500m [!] *turn right* with a three-way bridleway signpost along a car wide forest track (70° initially), where the Monarch's Way continues in the same direction. In 130m ignore a right forking path by a bridleway marker post and in 90m ignore another right running forest path. You start to descend through **Barkhale Wood** and in 130m *bear right*, ignoring a 'Private – No Right of Way' turn to the left. In 30m emerge from the wood into a large arable field and continue in the same direction through the field towards the corner of a wood along an obvious and usually well-cleared path (70°), with the flank of **Bignor Hill** on your left. [The right-of-way on the OS map runs somewhat to the left of this route, but there is no evidence of a path there]. In 340m at the wood's corner *bear left* (along the right hand side of the wood) with a bridleway marker post along a car wide track. You have **King's Buildings** (on the OS map) 100m away to the right, and in 40m continue in the same direction at the corner of the wood along an arable field on the left. In 60m, where the track turns left, continue in the same direction through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate into a grassy slope.

You have far views ahead to the north past **Westburton Hill** on the right towards the **Rother Valley**. Go through the grassy slope on a bearing of 40°, somewhat to the right of a clump of trees, whose tops you can just about see ahead. In 110m walk through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue along a clear track, bending left ever so slightly towards some farm buildings at the bottom of the valley (these may not be visible initially, depending on foliage). In 190m go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and in 150m continue in the same direction at a three-way signpost where the **South Downs Way** joins from the left. In 20m, by the farm

buildings, you reach a four-way junction (South Downs Way to the right, bridleway to the left) and cross the track and continue a little to the left with a bridleway signpost (355°) along a narrow track into **Egg Bottom Coppice**, ignoring a right forking farm track. In about 160m you have a steep drop on the left and in another 170m the path curves to the right and descends further through the hanging wood.

In 500m you emerge from the trees by a bridleway signpost, where a chalky car wide track joins from the left. Continue in the same direction along the chalky track (in 100m with fine views on the left towards **Barlavington and Duncton Downs** on a bearing of 300°) and in 90m – by some houses in **West Burton** – you *turn left* along a car wide gravel track at a T-junction with a footpath signpost and a **West Sussex Literary Trail** marker on it. In 40m at the last house on the left continue in the same direction along a narrow path with a stream on the left and in 75m cross a plank bridge to continue to the left of the stream. In 90m cross some planks over a ditch and in 20m pass a pond on your right. In 50m you *turn left* into the arable field on the left and *turn right* along its right hand grassy boundary, with **Bignortail Wood** on the left across the field. In 300m in the field corner you *turn right* over a two-railed plank bridge with a marker post into the adjacent field and *turn left* immediately over a plank bridge by a signpost (last seen very overgrown, i.e.: turn left across the ditch a little further along).

You continue along the left hand boundary with **Bignor Roman Villa** away to the right on a slope, surrounded by some of **Nyetimber's** vineyards, and in 180m continue in the same direction with a signpost where the field boundary veers to the left and cross the field diagonally on a usually clear path (300°) towards some red roofed cottages. Pass a low wooden marker post en route and in 370m in the field corner leave the field through gap to *turn left* along a tarmac lane into **Bignor** village. In 170m ignore a right turn and in another 35m ignore a left turn to continue to the right of **Jay's Farm**. In 150m *turn right* with the lane by **Streamfield House** and in 20m ignore a left turning footpath. 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 kissing gate 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 through a wooden kissing gate somewhat to the left of a metal field gate and up some steps and cross an arable field a little to the right along a grassy strip between fields (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 White Horse**, Sutton, and a **bus stop for services to Petworth and Chichester**, a little to the right. Pass the pub and immediately left again with a footpath signpost through the car park and in 15m continue in the same direction along a narrow path to the right of the car park. Ascend with a wooden railing on the left and in 20m walk through a wooden gate and continue in the same direction between a wooden fence and a high brick wall.

In 50m *turn right* through a wooden gate and *veer left* up some steps and *turn right* at the corner of a barn on the right with a marker post. You follow a hedge on the left and in 30m continue in the same direction across a grassy area in the same direction. In 20m continue in the same direction between trees and in 40m pass a redundant wooden kissing gate into an arable field. *veer left* across the field along a usually clear path (320°). In 270m at the opposite field boundary you cross a bridleway and continue in the same direction with a footpath signpost along a grassy path with a barbed wire fence on the left. In 100m ignore a right turning footpath at a three-way signpost and in

150m enter a wooded area, steadily descending, lastly along a stepped path. In 50m you cross a stream on an earth bridge and go through a metal kissing gate to re-ascend with a barbed wire fence on your right hand side. In 30m at the corner of the fence *turn right* with a signpost to a stile 60m away, 10m to the left of a metal gate.

Go over the stile and *turn left* further uphill with a barbed wire fence on the left. In 160m continue in the same direction towards **Barlavington Farm** (where a farm track joins from the right) and in 120m *turn left* with a signpost. In 75m *turn right* with the farm track, ignoring a footpath continuing in the same direction between fences. In 20m continue in the same direction through a wooden gate into a church yard by a marker post where the farm track turns right. Pass **St. Mary's, Barlavington** (usually open) and leave the churchyard in the far corner [notice the seats carved from old trees in the churchyard] and *turn left* along a tarmac lane. In 80m continue in the same direction along gravel towards **Barlavington Stud Farm**, where the tarmac lane turns left and in 30m continue through a wooden gate along a narrow path to the left of a hedge. In 50m the path starts a steep descent, and in 40m it crosses a stream on a railed plank bridge, and in 15m crosses a tarmac lane. Walk up some steps and in 30m go over a stile into a pasture and continue in the same direction along its right hand boundary.

In 100m you continue in the same direction at a fence corner on the right. You have fine views on the right across **Burton Park** and the **Rother Valley** and in 150m go over a stile about 10m to the left of a metal field gate to emerge by a tarmac lane. *Turn right* immediately **[!]** before the tarmac lane along a signposted bridleway through a gap to the right of a double metal field gate and continue between fences. You have **Burton House** in the valley below and in 140m *turn right* with the bridleway at a three-way junction, now with **Fountain Copse** on the left. In 280m continue in the same direction where the wood ends, with a barbed wire fence on the right and in 320m enter a wooded area and walk past a pond on the left. In 60m you walk through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction across a grassy area, initially uphill. In 170m continue in the same direction, where a tarmac drive joins from the left. In 140m ignore a tarmac drive turning right to **Burton House**.

In 70m continue in the same direction with a fence on the left, where a footpath and the West Sussex Literary Trail join from the left. In 50m you reach **St. Richard's Church** on the right (well worth a visit) and *bear left* along the fence (the tarmac drive and the WSLT turn right). In 40m continue in the same direction along a car wide farm track (345°), ignoring a footpath turning left through a wooden kissing gate. In 50m go through a wooden gate to the left of a double wooden field gate and in 260m ignore a footpath joining from the right (the **Serpent Trail** runs along it) and continue in the same direction along the farm track. You walk through some buildings of **Burton Park Farm** and in 300m the track continues as tarmac with grassy margins, and in 100m a driveway joins from a house on the left. In 210m a grassy footpath joins from the left along a fence and in 70m you cross a tarmac lane and continue in the same direction along a tarmac drive with a bridleway signpost.

In 60m **[!]** *turn left* along an earth track with a bridleway signpost and a wood (**The Rough**) on the right, ignoring a track ahead, and in 300m emerge on the **A285** and *turn right* along its pavement (the Serpent Trail turns left). In 250m the pavement discontinues and in 50m you cross the dismantled **Pulborough to Midhurst Railway** line on a narrow road bridge. On the right below, you have the former **Coultershaw Halt**, now **The Old Railway Station Waiting Room**, with afternoon tea provision. [The approach to it is another 100m down the road, as is **The Badgers**.] *Turn left* immediately after the bridge to cross the road and continue along a tarmac lane, with one arm of the **River Rother** below on the right. In 300m you cross a stream on the lane and in 50m another one. In 80m ignore a left turn to **Kilsham Farm** and in 170m

you reach the top of this little rise, with Tillington's church now visible ahead (foliage permitting) and Bexleyhill with its transmission mast in the distance on the left. In 180m the track continues on gravel and you descend to the Rother River.

In 190m you *veer left* through a wooden gate and cross the river on an elevated footbridge. Continue in the same direction by **Rotherbridge Farm** with the bridleway car wide lane (Rotherbridge Lane on the OS map), ignoring a left turning footpath. In 100m *bear left* (355°) at a three-way bridleway junction along an earthen path (**Hungers Lane**) with **sandstone bluff** on either side, away from the right turning tarmac lane. In 500m *turn left* at a crosspaths along a car wide gravel farm track (a public footpath). In 190m this continues as a tarmac lane by **Sokenholes Farm**, and in 50m you *turn right* with the lane, uphill between hedges, ignoring the continuation around some more farm buildings. In 600m by some buildings on the left, *veer right* with the lane where another tarmac lane joins from the left. In 500m you reach the main road through **Tillington** at a T-junction, with a **bus stop for services to Pulborough** station 30m on your left (Pulborough buses leave from the opposite side).

Cross the **A272** carefully and continue in the same direction up **Upperton Road** into Tillington. In 100m **Cemetery Lane** turns left. The recommended very late lunch/early tea stop **The Horse Guards Inn** is a further 50m up the road on the left, opposite the well-worth-a-visit **All Hallows Church, Tillington with Upperton and River**. [!] *Turn left* along **Cemetery Lane** cul-de-sac. In 110m you *turn right* with the lane, or walk through the lychgate and then the cemetery ahead. In 150m *turn right* off the lane with a medium high footpath signpost through a gap to the right of a wooden field gate and along a broad fenced earth-and-grass path (320°). In 250m a permissive footpath joins from the right by a three-way signpost as you enter **Upperton Vineyard** (shop and terrace bar are a bit further along up on the right) through a high wooden gate. *Bear left* along a clear track through the rows of vines.

In 170m the track continues with a hedge on the right and another vineyard on the left and in 100m you go through a wooden gate to cross a tarmac lane and continue a little to the right along a narrow path through a hedge and then down some railed steps. You cross a signposted 'Public Way' in a deep Holloway and re-ascend some railed steps on the other side to continue in the same direction between hedges. In 110m go through a high wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate and ignore a signposted footpath off to the right to continue along the left-hand boundary hedge, with more rows of vines on the right (Nyetimber this time). In 250m leave this field in the far corner through a high wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate, cross **New Road**, and continue a little to the right along the tarmac **River Lane** in the previous direction.

Follow this pleasant lane with occasional South Downs views on the left, ignoring all ways off for 1.6 km. **In more detail**: in 200m go through **Dene Dip** where a lane turns left, in 520m ignore a footpath turning left through a metal kissing gate into a vineyard (Nyetimber again) and *turn right and left* with the lane and in 200m *turn right* with the lane *and then left* again in another 50m. In 200m a tarmac drive joins from the right by a small triangular green and in 30m **Brookfield Lane** joins from the left by another triangular green. In 260m River Lane turns right on the fringes of **River** hamlet.

In 90m, just after passing **Goldneys** cottage, [!] *turn left* along an unmarked car wide grassy track between hedges and trees, gently descending. In 170m the path turns left and descends more steeply into **River Wood**. In 50m *turn right* by a three-way bridleway signpost, still descending, and in 100m continue in the same direction at a crosspaths. In 80m *bear left* by a signpost with the bridleway where a footpath joins from the right and in 30m cross **The River Lod** on a concrete bridge (**Eel Bridge** on the OS map). Go through a metal field gate and continue up a pasture (**Lodsworth Common**) along its left hand boundary fence (265°) and in 40m continue ahead where

the boundary bears left (and ignore a signposted footpath to the right). In 240m go through a wooden gate and *turn left* along a grassy path by a three-way signpost. In 70m *turn right* along **Vicarage Lane** at a bend.

In 140m pass the Old Vicarage on your right and in 60m *turn right* along the main road through **Lodsworth** (The Street) at a T-junction. In 180m by a triangular green *turn left* along **Gills Lane** past **The Hollist Arms** (currently closed) in 20m, with **The Lodsworth Larder** community shop to its right. In 220m continue in the same direction at a small triangular green, where School Lane joins from the right. In 450m where the tarmac lane turns left, by **Heath End Farm** on the right, continue in the same direction along a signposted bridleway (concrete for 15m, then earth-and-gravel), with **Heathend Copse** on the left. In 200m *turn left* at a three-way signposted bridleway junction (the route down from the right is shared by SWC 48 (Haslemere to Midhurst via Lurgashall or Lickfold) and SWC 263 (Haslemere to Midhurst via Henley). In 50m *turn right* at a three-way signpost into an arable field in 10m.

Follow its right-hand boundary, *turning left* with it in 190m, and in another 150m *turn right* towards a wooden kissing gate 15m away. Enter the **Cowdray Estate** through the gate and continue along an avenue of young lime trees (240°). In 330m you pass a solitary tall tree, where there is another prominent old tree 100m off to the right: this is the well-worth-a-detour fenced **Queen Elizabeth I Oak**, one of the 50 'Great British Trees', with a diameter of 3 metres. Continue in the same direction to the left of the obscured **Steward's Pond** and in 80m *veer away from the fence line* towards a wooden kissing gate to the left of a wooden field gate 60m away (275°). Through the gate, you *turn right* to continue in the same direction up a shallow valley (carpeted in **bluebells in season**). In 300m, at a signposted three-way footpath junction with a **Sussex Diamond Way** marker, *fork right* through some trees heading gently uphill.

In 100m emerge from the trees onto the fairway of a golf course (played from the right) and continue in the same direction, passing a two-armed signpost and a young oak tree in 55m. In 120m pass a two-way signpost, cross a fairway (played from the right) and in 65m continue in roughly the same direction as the footpath dips down into a valley with some trees on a more distinct track. Carry on straight ahead along a car wide gravel track past another two-way signpost. In 120m you cross another car wide track to continue in the same direction with a two-way signpost and in 30m cross the last fairway (played from the left) to enter a wooded strip in 50m with a yellow arrow. In 40m you go through a wooden kissing gate to in 10m continue in the same direction across a large arable field along a usually clear path. In 150m *turn left* at a four-way signpost along an avenue of old sweet chestnuts: **The Race**, a permissive footpath.

In 650m go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate to continue in the same direction through a grassy area and in 90m go through a wooden gate to the left of a double wooden field gate to reach the busy **A272**. Cross the road and continue down a wide tarmac drive into the heart of the **Cowdray Estate**. You pass **Easebourne Priory** on your right hand side in 30m and in 70m **Cowdray Farm Shop & Café**, a recommended **tea stop**, is on your right. Continue along the tarmac drive with some polo fields on the left. In 100m go through or around a double wooden gate to continue in the same direction on the – soon gravel – drive (the tarmac forks to the left).

In a further 270m go to the right of a double wooden field gate to carry on in the same direction along the right hand side of a wooden fence along the car wide track. In 200m you go to the right of a double wooden field gate to continue in the same direction. In 30m *take the left hand fork* on a car wide gravel track, which in 110m continues as a tarmac drive, with the ruins of **Cowdray House** ahead on the left. In 120m you arrive at the metal gate in front of **Cowdray House**, a fortified Tudor courtier's house, on the left hand side. *Turn right* through a couple of gates to cross the **River Rother**.

Once across the river, you have a choice:

For a shortcut to the bus stop, *continue* down the wide track for 330m emerging into the **Midhurst bus terminus** and take Bus 1 to Pulborough station (direction Worthing).

For the Main Walk route through Midhurst *turn left* on a faint footpath along the Rother and follow this path on the right-hand side of the river. In 120m this curves to the right and in a further 60m you walk through a wooden kissing gate. In a further 25m, where the riverside path turns left at a three-way footpath signpost, *continue in the same direction up* a stepped path with a wooden railing on the left, leaving the riverside footpath. At the top of the steps (ignoring a path to the left along the way), the path soon levels out and you reach a clearing with several large trees and the low stone remains of (the Norman motte-and-double bailey) **Midhurst Castle** on your left.

Follow the hedge on your right as it curves gently to the right. In 70m go through a wooden gate onto a road (**St. Anne's Castle Road**) and continue along it. In 70m you cross another road to arrive at **Midhurst's** market square with **St. Mary Magdalene and St. Denys Church** on the right, a **stock & pillory** to the left in the corner of **The Old Town Hall**, **Garton's Coffee House** also in the building on the left (entrance at the far side of the building), **The Swan Inn** opposite the square and **The Spread Eagle Hotel** (Lounge Bar with 'Luxury Afternoon Tea') to the left of it.

Cross the market square to continue to the left of The Swan Inn along **West Street**, in 40m pass **The Crafty Pint** on the right and in 50m *turn right* along **Wool Lane** by **The Bricklayers Arms** on your right. In 75m reach **The Wheatsheaf Inn** on your left at a junction with **North Street**. Continue along North Street (past several restaurants, **The Angel Inn** (currently closed), **The Olive & Vine** (currently closed), and **Fitzcane's Café Ice Cream**) and in 300m reach **Midhurst bus station** on the right hand side.

Catch the number 1 bus to Pulborough Station (direction Worthing).