

Halnaker to Chichester (Full Walk)			Halnaker to Chichester (Short Walk)		
1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check	1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check
14 <sup>th</sup> Febr. 2015	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2022			
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## Halnaker to Chichester (via Goodwood)

**Start:** Halnaker Crossroads Bus Stop

**Finish:** Chichester station

Halnaker Crossroads, map reference SU 907 080, is 6 km north east of Chichester and 37m above sea level. Chichester Station, map reference SU 858 043, is 22 km east of Portsmouth and 11m above sea level. Both are in **West Sussex**.

**Length:** 22.9 km (14.2 mi), of which 4.0 km (2.5 mi) on tarmac or concrete (2.7 km of that in Chichester).

**Cumulative ascent/descent:** 475/501m.

For a shorter or longer walk, see *below* **Walk Options**.

**Toughness:** 6 out of 10 (with several steep ascents around lunch, so may feel tougher than that)

**Time:** 5 hours 30 minutes walking time.

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

**Transport:** Halnaker Crossroads is a stop on the number 55 bus service from Chichester to Tangmere. The service runs every 20 minutes Mon-Fri, half-hourly Sat and hourly on Sundays. It is seamlessly linked to (on-time) trains arriving from London. It then takes 21 minutes to Halnaker (with a fare of £3.80 in 06/22). Chichester station is on the London Victoria to Southampton West Coastway Line. Journey times (two trains an hour) are 91 minutes Monday to Saturday and 106 minutes on Sunday.

**Saturday Walkers' Club:** Take the train closest to 9.30 hours (earlier if aiming for the pub in Singleton).

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

**OS Explorer Map:** OL8 (Chichester) and OL10 (Arundel & Pulborough)

### Walk Notes:

This West Sussex walk makes for a relatively long day out for the length of the walk, as it involves a bus connection to the start after an already long train journey to Chichester. Its main purpose is to explore the scenic steep chalk downlands well north of Chichester around the Upper Lavant Valley, between St. Roche's Hill and the South Downs chain, while passing through the Goodwood estate as well as through Chichester's Old Town at the end. The lonely grassy or wooded hillsides of the beautiful Lavant Valley are dissected by quiet flat-bottomed valleys, and feature several pretty villages, as well as providing for stunning views. Most of the climbing is done between the lunch pubs, but the longest ascent comes straight after the late lunch option, up to St. Roche's Hill, from whose treeless summit you have grand views in all directions.

Optional out-and-backs at the start, to Halnaker Hill (with its windmill) and/or Boxgrove Priory, make it an up to 30 km walk.

### Walk options:

**Out-and-backs at the start to Halnaker Hill or Boxgrove Priory** add 5.1 and 2.6 km respectively.

A **shortcut** around lunch reduces the length of the walk by 3.6 km & the ascent by 167m.

Another **shortcut** around lunch reduces the length of the walk by 800m & the ascent by 93m.

An **infrequent bus service** (number 99 Mon-Sat) runs past the early lunch stops in East Dean and Charlton. **You need to phone ahead to book a stop though (01903-264 776)!**

An **Alternative Ending in West Dean** cuts out 6.5 km.

A **half-hourly bus service** runs from Singleton, West Dean and Lavant to Chichester (hourly on Sundays).

An **hourly bus service** from the fringes of Chichester cuts 2.5 km at the end (Mon-Sat only).

### Lunch (details last updated 12/06/2022)

**The Star and Garter** East Dean, West Sussex, PO18 0JG (01243 811 318, <http://thestarandgarter.co.uk/>). Open all day Tue-Sat and 11.00-18.00 Sun. Food served 12.00-14.30 & 18.00-21.30 Tue-Sat and 12.00-17.00 Sun. The Star and Garter is located 5.6 km (3.5 mi) into the walk and is a flint and brick country pub with rooms.

**The Fox Goes Free** Charlton, West Sussex, PO18 0HU (01243 811 461, <http://www.thefoxgoesfree.com/>). Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.30 & 18.15-21.00 Mon-Sat and 12.00-16.30 Sun. The Fox Goes Free is located 9.4 km (5.9 mi) into the walk on Shortcut II and is a 400-year-old inn with home cooked food.

**The Partridge Inn** Singleton, West Sussex, PO18 0EY (01243 811 251, <http://www.thepartridgeinn.co.uk/>). Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-15.00 & 18.00-21.00 Mon-Fri, 12.00-21.00 Sat and 12.00-17.00 Sun. The Partridge Inn is located 11.4 km (7.1 mi) into the full walk and is a 16<sup>th</sup> century pub with great character.

### Tea (details last updated 12/06/2022)

**West Dean Stores and Tea Room** West Dean, West Sussex, PO18 0QY (01243 818 163, <http://westdeanstores.co.uk/>). Open 8.00-17.00 Mon-Fri, 8.00-16.00 Sat/Sun and Bank Hols. Located at the end of the West Dean ending.

**The Selsey Arms** West Dean, West Sussex, PO18 0QX (01243 811 465, <https://www.selseyarms-westdean.co.uk/>). Open all day Mon-Sat and 10.00-19.00 Sun. Located at the end of the West Dean ending.

**The Earl of March** Lavant Road, Mid Lavant, West Sussex, PO18 0BQ (01243 533 993, <https://theearlofmarch.com/>). Open all day. Food served 12.00-14.30 and from 17.30 (18.00 Sun). Located 5.0 km (3.1 mi) from the end of the walk.

**The Royal Oak Inn** Pook Lane, East Lavant, West Sussex, PO18 0AX (01243 527 434, <http://www.royaloakeastlavant.co.uk/>). Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-21.00 Mon-Sat and 12.00-15.00 & 18.00-20.00 Sun. Located 4.6 km (2.9 mi) from the end of the walk.

**In Chichester City Centre (selected): Sit & Sip, Fenwicks Café, The George & Dragon Inn, The Ship, Purchases, Wests Bar, The Buttery, Trents, The Fountain, Artie's Kitchen, The Foundry.**

**H&M Coffee** Chichester Railway Station, Southgate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8DL (07533 056 740). Open 06.00-20.00 Mon-Sat and 07.00-19.00 Sun.

## Notes:

### Chichester

Chichester is a cathedral city and one of the great well-preserved Georgian cities in the UK. It is the only city in West Sussex, and its county town. It has a long history as a settlement and had great importance both in Roman and in Anglo-Saxon times. The city centre stands on the foundations of the Romano-British city of Noviomagus Reginorum, capital of the Civitas Reginorum. The Roman Road of Stane Street, connecting the city with London, started at the east gate, while the Chichester to Silchester road started from the north gate. The plan of the city is inherited from the Romans: the North, South, East and West shopping streets radiate from the central market cross dating from medieval times. The original Roman city wall was over two metres thick with a steep ditch. It survived for over one and a half thousand years but was then replaced by a thinner Georgian wall. An amphitheatre was built outside the city walls, close to the East Gate, c. 80 AD. The area is now a park, but the site of the amphitheatre is discernible as a bank approximately oval in shape.

According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle Chichester was captured at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, by Ælle, and renamed after his son, Cissa. It was the chief city of the Kingdom of Sussex. The cathedral for the South Saxons was founded in 681 at Selsey though, but the seat of the bishopric moved to Chichester in 1075. In terms of local government in England, Chichester is a civil parish, but it has the status of a city, and is one of seven so designated (the others being Ely, Hereford, Ripon, Salisbury, Truro and Wells). The Chichester Conservation area, designated for its architectural and historic interest, encompasses the whole of the Roman town, and includes many Grade I and II listed buildings. Further to the north lies the separate conservation area around the former Graylingwell Hospital, and to the south, the Conservation Area has been extended to include the newly restored canal basin and part of the canal itself. The city holds an annual four-week arts and music festival, held in June and July, and has several important cultural institutions, amongst which are the Festival Theatre and Pallant House Gallery.

### Halnaker House

Ruin of a fortified manor house dating from the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. Altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it fell into ruin in the 1880s.

### Halnaker Windmill

A mill on top of Halnaker Hill was first mentioned in 1540 as belonging to the manor of 'Halfnaked' as the feudal mill of the Goodwood Estate. The current mill was built in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is a four-storey tower mill, a type of vertical windmill consisting of a brick or stone tower, on which sits a wooden beehive 'cap' or roof, which can rotate to bring the sails into the wind. At 128m above sea it has a commanding view of the Sussex coastal plain. Halnaker Mill (or Ha'nacker Mill, reflecting the true pronunciation) is the subject of a poem by the English writer Hilaire Belloc.

### 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.

<https://www.friendsofsussexhospices.org.uk/sussex-hospice-trail/>

### Goodwood Estate/Race Course/Racing Circuit/Aerodrome

Goodwood House is a country house and the seat of the Dukes of Richmond. It was built ca. 1600 and was acquired by Charles Lennox, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Richmond in 1697. A south wing and a north wing were added later. It may be that there was an intention to build the house in a unique octagonal layout, but that intention has never been proved. The estate has subsequently built a race course, a racing circuit, an aerodrome, a golf course and a cricket pitch in its grounds.

### 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.

### West Sussex Literary Trail

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

### St. Roche's Hill/The Trundle

The Trundle (Old English: Tryndel, meaning 'circle') is a Neolithic Camp and an Iron Age hillfort on the domed Saint Roche's Hill. It is one of just four hillforts built in Sussex. The hillfort boundary is well preserved and was built in the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC but within it are the much slighter remains of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure ca. 6000 years old. There is little evidence for any activity in the intervening bronze-age, but there are two linear earthworks to the north-west, and the remains of a possible round barrow within the ramparts, which may have been built during this period. The highest point

once hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> century St. Roche's chapel, now marked by a heavily disturbed mound. St. Roche was the favourite saint of travellers (the London – Chichester road used to run along the hill). The site was used in The Civil War by the Clubmen as a base and subsequently as a beacon site to warn against attack by the French.

### **Levin Down**

Levin Down is a Sussex Wildlife-run Nature Reserve in the upper Lavant Valley, as a superb example of chalk grassland and scrub, rich in flowers and butterflies. It exists due to its unique geography: Levin Down is a high steep hill that proved impossible to cultivate for agriculture and therefore was given the original name of 'Leave Alone Hill', over the centuries this was transformed into Levin Down. It fills the dip between the Trundle and the heights of the South Downs.

### **New Lipchis Way**

The New Lipchis Way is a waymarked 61 km (38 mi) long distance footpath which runs from Liphook in Hampshire to West Wittering in West Sussex, running north–south across the Western Weald and South Downs to the Sussex coastal plain and Chichester Harbour. The original Lipchis Way, opened in 1985, was between Liphook and Chichester, with the name being an amalgam of the two. The extension to the coast has led to the trail being renamed 'New Lipchis Way'.

### **River Lavant**

The River Lavant is a winterbourne (a stream which is often dried up in summer) that rises at East Dean (in the village pond) and flows west, then south to Chichester. From east of Chichester its natural course was south to the sea at Pagham, but the Romans diverted it to flow around the southern walls of Chichester and then west into Chichester Harbour.

### **The Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Singleton**

The Anglican parish church has Anglo-Saxon nave walls and massive square tower. The aisles were added later. This was a hundredal church, the central church of the Hundred of Singleton, a Saxon administrative grouping of parishes. The tower has three Saxon windows and a Saxon doorway leading into thin air high up in the nave, showing that there was once an upper room for priests above the nave. The Saxon tower arch was rebuilt in 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century with a pointed arch. The village name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon 'sengel', which means 'burnt clearing'.

### **Chichester Cross**

... is a type of Buttercross familiar to old market towns, and was built in 1501 as a covered market-place. It stands at the intersection of the four main roads in the centre of the city.

### **Chichester Butter Market**

... in North Street was designed by John Nash, and was opened in 1808 as a food and produce market. In 1900, a second storey was added to the building, originally housing an arts institute.

### **Chichester Cathedral**

..., founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and contains a shrine to Saint Richard of Chichester. Its spire, built of the weak local stone, collapsed and was rebuilt during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the south aisle of the cathedral a glass panel in the floor enables a view of the remains of a Roman mosaic pavement. The cathedral is unusual in Britain in having a separate bell tower a few metres away from the main building. Within the cathedral there is a medieval tomb of a knight and his wife, the inspiration of the poem 'An Arundel Tomb', by Philip Larkin. A memorial statue exists of William Huskisson, once MP for the city, but best remembered as the first man to be run over by a railway engine.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train in **Chichester Station** on platform 2 and leave through the station building onto a road. *Turn left* either through the level crossing or over a footbridge to the left of it. **[!]** *Turn right* immediately after the level crossing and *before crossing* the **Station Approach Road** to continue along a narrow tarmac path to the right of a two-storey red brick building and with the railway line to your right. In 50m *turn left* on a dog leg at the house corner on the left into **Chichester Bus Station**. Take the **number 55 bus service** to **Halnaker Crossroads** (silent 'l'), usually departing from Stand 6. Journey time is 21 minutes. Family tickets are available, but no group tickets. PLUSBUS tickets are not valid.

[Should you have missed the bus due to a late train, there is a kiosk selling **hot drinks and refreshments by bus stand 2**. A better option may be: **H&M Coffee** back in the railway station (this side of the level crossing, service is through a window).]

Alight at **Halnaker Crossroads** and continue in the direction of travel along the pavement of the **A 285**, on the course of the Roman **Stane Street** (Chichester to London). In 40m, past **The Old Store** guest house on the left, *turn left* at the crossroads. In 15m you *turn right* (350°) along **Park Lane**, with a high flint wall and a bridleway signpost on the left. In 210m continue in the same direction on a gravel lane with a bridleway signpost on the left, where the tarmac lane turns right. In 120m the trees on the right discontinue and you get views of the remains of the ruined **Halnaker House** as well as glances between trees of **Halnaker Windmill** on **Halnaker Hill**.

In 400m, where a gravel farm track joins from the left and with houses on the right, continue in the same direction through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate with a **Sussex Hospices Trail** marker (entering the **Goodwood Estate**), and walk along a left-hand grassy field boundary. In 60m you get more views of the remains of **Halnaker House**, half back on the right, with **Little Halnaker** to the left of it. In 170m enter a wood through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate with a bridleway signpost and continue along a forest track. The path soon veers right, away from the flint wall. Ignore all ways off this forest track for 820m, where - at a signposted four-way junction of forest tracks - you continue in the same direction.

Continue in the same direction, steadily - and increasingly steeply - uphill, and ignore all ways off. In 1.4 km continue in the same direction at a forest track crosspaths. In 200m *turn left* (320°) at another four-way junction at the brow of the climb with a bridleway signpost and a metal field gate on the right. In 280m walk through a gap to the left of a large metal field gate and in 15m **[!]** *turn right* over a stile with a **Monarch's Way** marker on a footpath signpost into a grassy strip between trees, *just before* reaching a road at a T-junction. Follow a clear path parallel to the road on the left. In 45m ignore a narrow gap on the left, but 20m further along **[!]** *turn left* through another narrow gap in the trees and in 15m cross the road. Walk through a tarmac car park area and in 20m continue through a fence gap along a wide earthen path through a wood (320°), with the fringe of the wood about 30m to the left. In 150m ignore a footpath forking down to the right.

In 450m continue in the same direction at a four-way junction. In 15m *veer right* with the path and in 25m ignore a path forking down to the right, but in 200m *turn right* down a narrow earthen path with a bridleway signpost on the right, where a grassy path continues ahead. In 100m pass a bridleway marker post to continue in the same direction. In 120m a footpath joins from the right at a three-way signpost. In 30m at the corner of the trees on the right you get views across a beautiful valley to the southern flanks of the **South Downs**. Continue along a grassy field boundary and in 75m walk through a gap to the left of a hedge into the adjacent field and continue along

its left-hand side. In 230m in the far-left corner leave the field through a hedge gap into a holloway and *turn left* along it. In 15m ignore a footpath turning right up some steps and in 90m continue in the same direction along a tarmac lane by a **Public Way** signpost. In 130m you reach the main road through **East Dean** at a T-junction, with the recommended early lunch stop **The Star and Garter** on the right (the best place for a picnic is 50m to the left: benches on the village green by the pond).

### Here you have a choice:

**For a shortcut** *turn left* along the road and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut I**.

**For the full walk** through the surrounding downland valleys and past **The Partridge Inn** (5.3 km and 200m height gain away), *turn right along the road*. In 110m ignore a footpath turning left over a stile to the right of a double metal field gate. In 100m *turn left* along a narrow grassy path at a fence corner by a sign for **All Saints Church, East Dean**. In 30m continue through a wooden gate into the churchyard. In 65m *turn right* around the church and leave the churchyard in the top-right corner through a wooden gate into its car park. *Turn right* towards a chalky lane and then *turn left* uphill along it with a bridleway signpost on the right. In 110m walk through a metal field gate – or climb over remnants of a stile to the right of it – into an open grassy hillside.

[!] In 40m *turn right* off the gravel lane along a narrow and steep grassy path (a bridleway; an also unmarked footpath turns left along a tree line). The path soon runs between earth banks, while rising steeply up the hillside. In 110m go through a wooden gate and continue uphill along a holloway with trees on either side. In 180m walk through remnants of a gate, where the trees on the left discontinue, and *turn left* with a footpath marker on a gatepost to cross a large field on a usually well-cleared or -trampled path (320°), ignoring the bridleway along the field boundary. In 270m you *turn left* along the opposite field boundary with a marker post, with a wood on the right. In 470m enter trees with a footpath marker post on the left and continue along a winding narrow path. In 200m *turn left* at a four-way footpath junction in the wood with a **West Sussex Literary Trail** marker post (250°).

In 170m leave the wood over a stile in a fence and continue in the same direction (260°), descending through a large field on a clear path towards the opposite hill with fantastic views over the surrounding coombes. The prominent hill half left (with two radio masts on top) will be the last climb on this walk: **St. Roche's Hill**. In 320m leave the field through a kissing gate in a fence line. *Turn right* with a footpath signpost along a grassy strip with the fence on your right. In 160m *turn left* with another footpath signpost, where the fence on the right veers right and follow a grassy track (initially across a narrow field) further downhill. In 25m follow the track through bushy growth and *turn right* with it, but in a further 20m [!] continue in the same direction along a narrow grassy path down the slope with a footpath marker on a fence post (245°), where the car wide track turns left ever more steeply down into a branch valley. In 130m continue down a stepped section towards a metal field gate (often open) and in 30m walk to the left of the gate onto a car wide gravel farm track at a T-junction.

### Here you have a choice:

**For a shortcut** (cuts 820m distance and 93m of ascent) *turn left* along the farm track between hedges and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut II**.

**For the full walk** *turn right* along the track (**North Lane** on the OS map). In 220m *turn left* at a three-way gravel farm track junction. In 60m, where the track turns right, you have a choice:

- a **less strenuous** option is to follow the track for 330m where a signposted footpath joins from the left out of trees, continue uphill, and pick up the directions at the next paragraph;
- the **more interesting** option is to walk through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate into a steep-sided wood, part of **Levin Down**, a **Sussex Wildlife Trust-run Nature Reserve**. Follow an earthen path (190°), with a barbed wire fence on the left. In 20m *continue in the same direction* where the fence and a narrow fork of the path turn left. The path starts a steep ascent and in 150m curves right to emerge from the trees. Continue along a grassy path through low growth (255°) – still uphill – and in 20m *turn right* along an unmarked footpath at a somewhat indistinct four-way junction of narrow paths along the side of the hill (355°). In 50m enter trees again and follow a narrow and uneven path along the top of the steeply dropping wood. In 90m go through a wooden gate in a fence and continue in the same direction through the wood. In 130m leave the wood through a wooden gate and *turn right* along a fence at the wood's boundary in a large grassy hillside. In 250m cross a stile into trees and in 30m emerge on the gravel farm track left earlier. *Turn left* and uphill along it.

The path turns left and over the next 90m ignore all signposts and ways off to the right and finally walk through the upper-left metal gate to the left of a metal field gate into the large grassy slope of **Levin Down**. Follow the right-hand boundary for about 15m and *veer left* uphill across the grassy slope, aiming for a protruding corner of the wood on the right (240°, i.e.: **not** towards the peak of the slope). From there continue in the same direction for 220m to a wooden gate in barbed wire fence line, where you *bear left* with the fence on the right (215°), still uphill (i.e.: ignore the bridleway signed ahead). You reach the brow of this rise in about 250m and continue with ever changing views across the neighbouring valleys and also a first sight of the sea (and the **Isle of Wight**) half right to the field's far right corner. Eventually emerging in view from behind the wood on the left is the **Grandstand** of the **Goodwood Race Course** on top of the ridge to the left of **St. Roche's Hill**.

In 140m leave the field through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate, ignoring a double metal field gate on the right. Continue on a grassy path, ever so slightly to the left (190°) and in 90m *fork right* to stay on top of a rim curving right with the sloping field, ignoring a path continuing in the same direction. In 125m continue in the same direction at a footpath/bridleway crosspaths by a signpost (broken and on the ground at time of last inspection) with a **New Lipchis Way** marker and in 140m, just after walking through a gap in a treeline, follow the path *veering left* down towards a wooden kissing gate (with a late-seen footpath signpost hidden behind a bush on the right), in the general direction of the church tower in **Singleton** visible in the valley. In 50m walk through the wooden kissing gate and then in 10m walk through a wooden gate to continue through a grassy field on a clear path. [The bench on the left behind is a **perfect picnic spot** with views.]

In 140m *bear left* to stay left of a row of small trees and in 150m walk through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue along a fenced grassy path. You have a **Primary School** on the left and a small cemetery on the right, including a lychgate. In 70m *turn right* at a T-junction with a road into **Singleton**. In 10m cross the **River Lavant**, a **winterbourne** (they form in chalk downland bordering clay valleys, and hold water in an underground aquifer, meaning they are often dry in summer, but very flood-prone in winter). In 75m *fork left* with a narrow lane, where the main road turns right. In 40m, with the late lunch stop, **The Partridge Inn**, another 60m along the lane, *turn left* along a narrow lane with a concrete **New Lipchis Way**-marker post towards the church seen earlier, between **The Old School** on the left and **Easter Cottage** on the right. In 55m enter the churchyard of **The Blessed Virgin Mary, Singleton** (usually open).

\*) With the church in your back, *turn left* to the corner of the churchyard. In 25m *turn left inside the churchyard* with a footpath signpost (**The Trundle** 1.4 mi) and **New Lipchis Way** and **West Sussex Literary Trail** markers along the churchyard wall, ignoring a wooden gate. In 50m leave the churchyard in a tight corner through a wooden gate into the yard of **Manor Farm** and continue to the left of farm buildings along a car wide track. In 50m go through a wooden gate to the left of a double metal field gate and continue along a more than car wide farm track between fences. The track gently rises (this is just the deceptive beginning of what is a continuous ascent of 148 height metres though), and in 180m you go through a wooden gate to the left of a double wooden field gate and ascend more steeply in a grassy field along a fenced path. In 550m leave the field in the far-left corner through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate and continue along a fenced path up a more gently ascending field.

After a while, you get a more complete view of the horseshoe-shaped race course on **Charlton Down**, from the **Grandstand** on the right to the far turn on the left, aptly named '**Accident Corner**'. In 350m go through a wooden gate and *turn up right* at a road-junction (or along the mostly good-to-walk raised grassy verge). In 470m cross a triangular grassy car park along its left-hand boundary and in 90m – at the top left corner – *veer right* to cross a road (with a **New Lipchis Way**-marker on a pillar of a crash barrier) and continue up a flight of steps. In 25m *turn right* with a footpath signpost towards a wooden kissing gate and – once through it – *turn left* along the left-hand side of a steep grassy slope (200°). In 170m *turn right* through a gap in high earth banks, remnants of an **iron-age hill fort** around the perimeter of the top of **St. Roche's Hill**. In 20m *fork left* (225°) towards the trig point – 125m away – close to the highest point of the hill and the highest point of the walk. Shortcut I joins from the left.

\*\*) From this treeless summit – and at 206m above sea – on a clear day you have fantastic views in every direction: the coastline (left to right) from **Worthing** and **Littlehampton** via **Bognor Regis**, **The Witterings** and the **Isle of Wight** to **Portsmouth**; between the hill and the sea on the left you see **Halnaker Windmill** (seen from below at the beginning of the walk), the rest of the **Goodwood Estate** (the Motor Racing Circuit, the Aerodrome, but not Goodwood House) and **Chichester** with its **Cathedral**, as well as on the other side inland the flanks of the **South Downs**, including the valleys walked through (on the full walk) between **East Dean** and **Singleton**, and – through a saddle behind Singleton – a peek across the **Rother Valley** to the hills north of **Midhurst** (due N).

Continue towards the right of the left of two radio masts (300°) and in 70m *turn left* along a car wide gravel-and-grass track (260°). In 90m walk through the remnants of the **iron-age earth banks** and in 20m through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a wooden field gate with a **West Sussex Literary Trail**, **Monarch's Way** and **New Lipchis Way** markers. Continue downhill along a car wide gravel track between fences. In 330m walk to the left of a metal field gate and then past **Seven Points** – **Goodwood Country Park** car park and through a double metal field gate to a four-way track junction by a seven-way signpost on the right. Continue in the same direction along a gravel track and in 40m pass the gate of **The Rubbing House** on the right and continue along an earthen path, then along a raised grassy path between fields.

### **In 35m you have a choice:**

**For an Alternative Ending in West Dean** (cuts out 6.5 km), with its College, Gardens, Village Store (with tea room), pub and a bus to Chichester, *fork right* along an unmarked bridleway (**The Monarch's Way**), enter woods and in 1.8 km cross the **Lavant River** on an arched bridge. *Turn right* long a tarmac lane and in 130m *turn left*



along another tarmac lane. In 40m you pass **West Dean Stores & Tea Room**, and in 90m reach a road at a T-junction with **The Selsey Arms** and a **bus stop** on the right.

**For the main walk** continue along the raised path, which eventually starts descending and in 1.1 km enters trees. In 60m leave the small wood through a wooden gate into a steep grassy field, with **West Dean** village on the right-hand side, and the **Lavant River** running right-to-left through the valley with the audible **A286** behind. *Veer left* along a clear path (260°), which soon curves left and in 360m *turn left* before a wooden gate at a four-way bridleway junction. In 25m continue with a fence on the right through a fence gap (missing wooden gates and field gates) along the valley bottom. In 410m go through a wooden gate and continue along a shady grassy path between trees on the right and a fence and a field on the left. In 400m *veer left* with the path through open ground and in 100m continue between hedges again. In 100m *fork left* and then ignore a few paths joining from the right in 50m and in another 75m.

In 25m walk to the right of a redundant metal field gate (now briefly next to the **Lavant River**) and in 150m continue with a barbed wire fence on the right and a hedge on the left along a car wide grassy path. In 1.1 km you cross a bridge over **The Lavant** at a T-junction with **Sheepwash Lane** onto the village green in **Mid Lavant**. **The Earl of March** pub and a bus stop are away on the right. *Turn left* along the pavement. In 80m cross the road on the left and in 40m cross a bridge over the river along a walled path to the left of the road and continue into **East Lavant**. In 70m the flint wall on the left discontinues and you get partial views of **St. Mary's Church, Lavant** on a hill. In 50m you reach a three-way road junction. **The Royal Oak Inn** lies 160m ahead along **Pook Lane**. [!] For the onwards route *turn right* along the pavement of **Fordwater Road**. In 150m ignore **Lower Road** turning left and continue along the road. Cross over to the right-hand road side where the grassy strip ends and continue along a narrow path parallel to the road between a wall on the left and a barbed wire fence on the right.

In 100m by an overgrown footpath signpost on the left by the road *turn right* through a wooden gate into a grassy field and follow a clear path to a two-railed wooden plank bridge 140m away (225°). Walk through a set of metal kissing gates either side of the bridge over the often dry (but very flood-prone in winter) **Lavant River** and *veer left* with a footpath marker through another grassy field (due S). Near the end of this field you get good views back to **St. Roche's Hill** and the **Goodwood Race Course's Grandstand**. In 240m leave the field through a wooden kissing gate in a hedge into an adjacent arable field and cross it along a usually well-cleared path (155°). In 190m *veer right* in the field towards the field exit (a hedge gap) 25m away (190°). The path then veers left and continues along a grassy left-hand field boundary.

In 150m in the far-left corner *fork left* along a narrow path between hedges, ignoring a footpath turning right along the field boundary. In 60m *turn right* gently uphill along a tarmac lane on the fringes of **Chichester**. Ignore all ways off **Fordwater Road** until in 630m you *veer left* at a T-junction with the more major **Summersdale Road**. In 65m pass a bus stop (hourly to Chichester Bus Station, a possible **Shortcut**). In 130m ignore **Broadway** turning off right and continue with a high flint wall on the right (and a new housing estate behind it). In 470m *turn right* at a four-way road junction along **Wellington Road**, ignoring **Connolly Way** to the left and **College Lane** ahead. In 70m *turn left* along a gravel lane to a car park (for **Chichester RFC** and **Chichester Rifle & Pistol Club**). In 30m continue to the right of a club house. Continue through **Oaklands Park** to the left of some rugby pitches, then through a line of trees and continue in the same direction (190°) through a grassy area towards some large buildings.

In 150m walk through an outdoor eating area and continue on a paved path between the **Festival Theatre** and the **Minerva Theatre**, with the **Café on the Park** on the left and the **Minerva Bar & Grill** on the right. In 65m enter a large car park and *veer right*

through it to the far-right corner 160m away, where you leave the car park through a metal gate to the left of a red brick building (public toilets) onto the pavement of the **A286 Ring Road**. Cross the A-road using a subway and *turn right* on the other side. In 40m *turn left* into the **Old Town** along **Northgate**, passing **Sit & Sip**. In 40m ignore **Priory Lane**, signposted left to **Pallant House Gallery** and the **Walls Walk** (along the Georgian Town Wall) and continue in the same direction along **North Street**, a partly pedestrianised road, for 900m through the **Old Town** and across the central crossroads with its **Chichester Cross** before *turning right* to **Chichester Station** in another 50m.

Along the way you pass plenty of options for tea as well as some sights. They are...

- off to the left in **Priory Park**: **Fenwicks Café**;
- along **North Street**: **The George & Dragon Inn**, **Café Paradiso**, **The Ship Hotel**, **Bar Fifty Four**, **Purchases** bar & restaurant, **The Old Cross** pub, **The Assembly Rooms**, **The Real Eating Company**, **Kokoro**, **St. Olav's Church** (the oldest surviving building) and the **Chichester Butter Market** (with **Bill's**);
- along **West Street**: **The Dolphin & Anchor** freehouse (Wetherspoon), **Wests Bar** (a bar/restaurant in a converted church), **Chichester Cathedral** and **The Bishop's Palace & Gardens**;
- along **South Street**: **Trading Post Coffee Roasters**, **Côte Brasserie**, **The Buttery** café and tearooms, assorted other Chain Restaurant Branches, **Trents** bar/restaurant, **The Fountain** pub, **The Chantry** cocktail bar, **Artie's Kitchen** tapas bar, **The Vestry**, **Wildwood** and **Santorini** restaurants;
- at the **Station**: **The Foundry** and in the **Station Building**: **H&M Coffee**.

### **Boxgrove Priory and Halnaker Windmill Options (Out and back: add 2.6 km for Boxgrove Priory and 5.1 km for the windmill)**

*Turn right* to cross the A road and briefly commence down **The Street** but *bear left* immediately through a gap in the trees on the left to a wooden kissing gate by a footpath signpost. Go through the gate into an arable field corner and *turn hard left* along a clear narrow path into a wooded strip. In 20m the path curves right and continues along the left-hand edge of the wooded strip.

**In 140m, at a three-way footpath signpost, you have a choice:**

**For Boxgrove Priory**, continue in the same direction along a wide grassy path between arable fields and in 160m *turn right* with the path at a signpost. You have a vineyard on the left (**Tinwood Estate**) and in 230m ignore a right turning footpath. In another 140m ignore a left turning footpath and in 80m you have a wooded strip on the right. In 100m *turn right* at a three-way signposted footpath junction along a clear grassy strip between arable fields. In 150m enter some trees and continue along a gravel path and in 60m walk through a wooden kissing and *turn right* into the churchyard. In 60m reach the entrance to the **Church of St. Mary and St. Blaise**, incorporating some cloister remains of a 12<sup>th</sup> century Benedictine priory. *Turn right* out of the church along a gravel path and in 70m walk through a gateway in the high brick wall and *turn right* (ignoring the car park ahead) through a grassy area and in 35m *turn left* through a hedge gap and in 35m reach the imposing ruin of the 13<sup>th</sup> century **Priory Guest House**.

**For Halnaker Windmill on Halnaker Hill**, *turn hard left* and in 15m *bend right* with the path between lines of trees. In 90m emerge briefly from the trees, now with a vineyard on the left (**Tinwood**) and in 250m go through a wooden kissing gate and turn right along **Tinwood Lane**. This leads to the **Tinwood Estate** (open daily 10.00-17.30, guided tours daily at 15.00), but you *turn left* in 100m with a footpath signpost over a stile to the left of a metal field gate and cross a pasture to a stile on the opposite boundary. The house on the left is the **Grand Folly Hotel** (The Folly on the OS map). In 100m cross the stile and continue in the same direction through an arable field along a usually well-cleared path. In 200m leave the field and in 30m *bear right* with a signpost along a grassy track (i.e. *do not* cross into the adjacent arable field). In 25m the track curves to the left and in another 25m you pass a signpost and continue through an arable field along a usually well-cleared path, which curves to the left broadly parallel to the left-hand field boundary, at about 30m distance from it.

In 180m leave the field through a gap in the boundary hedge and cross the **A285** towards the entrance to **Warehead Farm** opposite. Do not continue along the farm's drive though, but *turn right* with a footpath signpost along a car wide gravel track (**Mill Lane**, on the course of the Roman **Stane Street** – Chichester to London). In 75m stay to the right of **Mill Cottage**, ignoring a left turn and in 310m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and continue along the signposted footpath, above of and parallel to the car wide track. You cross a stile in 60m and in 100m pass a three-way signpost and *turn left* back down to the car wide track. In 40m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and follow an arable field's boundary but in 20m re-join the track. You follow the track gently up **Halnaker Hill** and in 500m reach **Halnaker Windmill**.

A circular path cut into the grass around the windmill is a good opportunity to take in the views (clockwise): out to sea in a westerly direction towards the Isle of Wight and the Witterings, back towards Chichester and its Cathedral, inland to the Goodwood Estate and the wooded hills flanking the South Downs, easterly to the hilltop Houghton Forest (SWC Walk Arundel to Midhurst) and south to Bognor Regis (with the white-roofed Butlin's resort).

### **Shortcut I (Cut 3.6 km and 167m of ascent around lunch. Lunch is in East Dean)**

In 50m pass the village green and pond (the source of **The Lavant River**) on the right and **East Dean Chapel** on the left. In 70m continue in the same direction at a three-way road junction, signposted **Goodwood** and **Chichester**. In 280m *fork right* along a car wide gravel track through a gap in the bank with a **Monarch's Way** marker and footpath signpost (250°). In 35m pass a redundant stile on the right and *veer right* along a car wide grassy margin through a dipping field with a barbed wire fence on the right. In 200m in the far-right field corner go over a stile into a grassy hillside and *veer left* uphill towards a gap in the treeline at the (apparent) top of the rise (210°). In 200m enter a wooded area and continue along a clear and wide path, with a barbed wire fence on the right. In 80m emerge in a large clearing and continue in the same direction, still uphill. In 170m *veer left* at a corner of the wood of the left where the clearing widens and head for the far-left corner.

In 120m go over a stile to the left of a barbed wire fence/field gate-construction and continue uphill with a footpath marker along a wide forest track, ignoring all ways off for 690m, while passing through a small clearing along the way. Cross a stile to the right of a metal field gate and in 70m reach a road at a bend with a wide forest track turning half right through a metal field gate. *Turn right* along the grassy road boundary. In 85m the trees on the right discontinue and a low flint wall runs on that side, with one of the

starter positions of **Goodwood Race Course** behind it. In 560m a wide gap between the wall end and a tall fence provides the best opportunity on race days to watch passing race horses, as well as to take in the views beyond the race course to the main **South Downs** ridge. Cross over to the other road side's grassy boundary and continue in the same direction, sometimes between low railings and crossing several drives to car parks. In 570m pass the corner of the **Grandstand** on the right and curve left with the road, briefly still on the grassy boundary, then through a car park, then again along the boundary. In another 300m *turn right* at a three-way road junction.

In 160m cross a tarmac lane and in another 150m *turn left* with a bridleway signpost and cross the road to continue through a gap to the left of a double wooden field gate past the **Owner's and Trainer's Car Park**. In 60m *turn left* with Monarch's Way and bridleway markers – set back 10m on a wooden pole – along a narrow winding path into trees. In 40m pass a reservoir behind a fence on the right, just before the path ascends more steeply. In 60m **[!]** *turn right* with a **Monarch's Way** marker on a pole on the right, along a narrow path towards the fence running to the right, leaving the bridleway, which veers left along the flank of the hill. In 10m *turn left* with the fence and more steeply uphill. In 30m a path joins from the left below. In 50m leave the trees through a wooden kissing gate with a footpath signpost and *veer left* towards a wooden pole 20m away (250°). In 35m cross a path at the bottom of earth banks belonging to an **iron-age hillfort** site and ascend the bank along a chalky path. *Veer right* (320°) and in 80m reach a **trig point** at the top of **St. Roche's Hill**. The main walk joins from the right.

Pick up the directions in the main walk text at the double asterisk **\*\***).

## Shortcut II

**(Cut 820m and 93m of ascent. Lunch is in East Dean or Charlton)**

In 1.0 km *turn left* at a crossroads in the village of **Charlton**. In 100m reach the recommended lunch stop **The Fox Goes Free**. After lunch *turn left* out of the pub in the pre-lunch direction, but in 15m *turn right* along a tarmac lane at a bus stop on the right, cross the **Lavant River** on a bridge and *turn right* with the lane. In 35m ignore a bridleway turning left at a small triangular green. In 15m *fork right* and in 150m cross a road and go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate into a large grassy field. Continue in the same direction (290°) to a point 30m to the right of the far-left hand field corner. In 650m go through a wooden kissing gate and follow a fenced path through some houses. In 30m continue in the same direction along a road (**The Leys**) and in 50m *veer right* along a tarmac path at a footpath marker post. Follow the path under a covered passageway between houses and in 40m continue through a grassy area. In 90m enter the churchyard of **The Blessed Virgin Mary, Singleton** on the left.

Pick up the directions in the main walk text at the asterisk **\***).