

Note: This walk is currently provided in electronic format only to be used in conjunction with Walk 25 Lewes via West Firle Circular in the "Time Out Country Walks near London - Volume 2" book.

1 st walk check	2 nd walk check		
27 th June 2009			
Current status	Document last updated Friday, 25 th September 2009		
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Lewes to Berwick

These directions are to be used in conjunction with the printed book "Time Out Country Walks near London – Volume 2". They provide a shorter and easier afternoon route for the Lewes via West Firle Circular (Walk 25) in this book.

Length: About 17.5km (11 miles)

Toughness: 4 out of 10

OS Explorer Map: No. 123

Walk Notes: This walk variation goes past [Charleston Farmhouse](#) (01323 811 265) and Berwick church, both lavishly decorated by members of the Bloomsbury Group. The church is freely open at most times but check the Charleston website for details of their opening times and admission charges.

Transport: Twice hourly trains run between London Victoria and Lewes (hourly on Sundays). Journey time is just over an hour. Trains back from Berwick are hourly; you will usually need to change at Lewes or Brighton. Buy a day return to Berwick (Sussex). If travelling by car, Lewes station has a car park (free on Sundays).

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train nearest to **9.45am** (before or after) from **Victoria** Station to **Lewes**.

Lunch: The **Ram Inn**, West Firle (details as for the standard walk).

Tea: You are spoilt for choice. If you spend time visiting Charleston Farmhouse, you could have tea in its café (although it is 7km or so before the end of the walk). 2½km after Charleston, you pass the pretty [Rose Cottage](#) pub (01323 870 377) in Alciston, but the suggested tea stop is 2km later at the [Cricketers' Arms](#) (01323 870 469) in Berwick village; this pub has a particularly attractive beer garden. However, be aware that the station is nearly 2km from the village by road, and 3km along the cross-country route. If you have to wait for a train, the **Berwick Inn** is very near the station.

Shortening the Walk: You can save 1km (0.6 miles) at the end of the walk by taking a shorter route along a minor road to Berwick station.

Walk Directions

1. Follow the instructions in the standard Lewes via West Firle Circular for the morning section to Glynde and West Firle, with lunch at the Ram Inn. After lunch, continue to follow the book route through the grounds of Firle Place. 700 metres after entering the grounds you exit them through a small gate onto a car-wide track, and on the standard walk you would turn right here.
2. *Do not turn right* on the track, but go across it onto a narrow path which passes to the left of a cottage. Go through a gate and bear right with the path through a field, your direction 140°.
3. On the far side of the field, join a wider track in front of some trees and follow this round to the left. You will soon see **Firle Tower** in the trees on your left.
4. Follow the main path eastwards through several fields for a further 1km to reach **Charleston Farmhouse**. Tickets are sold in the shop in the courtyard up ahead on your right, but you can use its café (on your left) without visiting the house or garden.
5. To continue the walk, leave the property along its access road, your direction 110°. In 200 metres, at a T-junction, *go over a stile* and continue in the same direction along the side of a field, passing a copse after 250 metres.
6. 200 metres later, ignore a footpath forking left diagonally across a field and aim for the corner of a wood projecting out 150 metres ahead. In 250 metres go past another projecting corner and then alongside the edge of the wood for a further 500 metres, your direction now 120°, to reach a lane.
7. Turn left onto the lane for a short distance, then *cross a stile in the hedge on your right* to go along the left-hand edge of a field, your direction 200°.
8. In 200 metres, cross a brook and follow the path round to the left, towards the village of **Alciston**. In 200 metres you come to a hedge and have a choice of routes into the village.
9. The shortest route here is to *turn right*, with the hedge on your left. In 100 metres veer left through it and head diagonally across a field towards the church, due south.
10. If you want to stop at the **Rose Cottage** pub, however, continue ahead here (with the hedge on your right), your direction 130°. In 200 metres, turn right onto a lane through the village to reach the pub and then the church.
11. From either route, take the footpath through the churchyard (or you could detour around it on the lane to go past an old **Tithe Barn**). Past the churchyard, continue on a long straight footpath towards Berwick Church, your direction 120°.
12. In 550 metres you reach a path T-junction and have to turn left for 125 metres. You then turn right to resume your original direction towards the village.
13. In 500 metres the path leads into a lane and you continue ahead to reach a road junction. Fork right at the junction to visit **Berwick Church**.
14. From the church, it is simplest to return to the road junction and bear right to go through the village, soon coming to the attractive **Cricketers' Arms** on your left, the suggested tea stop.
15. From the pub, continue along the lane to the A27 and cross this very busy road with great care. You now have two possible routes to Berwick station: 1.5km along a minor road, or 2.5km along the Vanguard Way.
16. For the shorter route, continue ahead on the lane on the other side of the main road. In 250 metres turn left at a T-junction and now take this minor road northwards for 1.25km, going over a cross-roads after 1km and later passing the **Berwick Inn** on your right shortly before reaching the station. Trains to London leave from the platform on the near side.
17. For the longer route along the **Vanguard Way**, turn left on the main road for a short distance, then *turn right* onto a public footpath. In 100 metres cross over a brook and continue along a field edge, your direction 20°.

18. In 200 metres, at the end of the field, *turn half-left* to go diagonally across two fields. After 350 metres, ignore a footpath going half-right alongside a hedge and continue in the same direction through more fields and a small copse to reach a minor road in a further 450 metres.
19. Cross the road and take the car-wide track opposite, signposted as a bridleway. In 200 metres, after crossing a stream, the track bends round to the left and climbs for another 200 metres, reaching a path junction in front of Stonery Farm.
20. *Turn right* at this path junction to head east. Follow this path for 900 metres to reach a minor road opposite the **Berwick Inn**. Turn left onto the road to reach the station. Trains to London leave from the platform on the near side.