

# The **Brooks Walk**



A walk through Pulborough's nature reserve and the historic flood plain of the River Arun to see some of the area's most interesting scenery.

This Booklet has been published by the Pulborough Community Partnership and researched by the people of Pulborough.

The Pulborough Community Partnership is committed to creating a better future for Pulborough.

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# The Brooks Walk

A walk through Pulborough's nature reserve and the historic flood plain of the River Arun to see some of the area's most interesting scenery.

## This walk:

- is 5.6-8.0 kilometres (3.5-5 miles) long;
- takes about 1.5-3.5 hours;
- has no steep hills and is easy walking;
- is unsuitable for a pushchair/wheelchair;
- has eight stiles and two kissing gates;
- can be slippery and requires Wellington boots when wet;
- uses OS map 197;
- has a café and a pub at the start and finish and a tea room with toilets half way round on the longer route.

**When walking, always follow the countryside code. [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)**



## A short background to Pulborough and its history:

The landscape features that have dominated the history and development of the Pulborough area are the river and floodplain, the greensand ridge that runs east-west through Pulborough village and the fertile area to the north of the greensand ridge.



**From left: The Old Rectory; cattle in brooks; Lower Street**

This has generated the development of Pulborough Village as the heart of the area, the hamlets of Nutbourne, Mare Hill and Codmore Hill around the greensand ridge and isolated agricultural buildings to the north of the greensand ridge. Hilaire Belloc, who lived in the area and wrote about it, says that the name Pulborough, is derived from the ancient Celtic meaning 'The Town upon the Marsh'.

The Pulborough area closer to the river Arun has been inhabited since very early times due to the river providing both fish and a waterway for trade.

Pulborough is a "linear village", that is a long straggle of houses under the greensand ridge that were served by wells that drained out of the greensand at this level.

Stone age people inhabited the area 4-5000 years ago and their flint tools, which would have come from the South Downs, are still being found today.

In the bronze age, over 3000 years ago, it is known that the people of the area were part of the Wessex Culture; you can still see their burial mounds on the nearby Wiggonholt Common. The finding of a gold brooch from this period is the most recent evidence of their habitation in the area; these people traded with mainland Europe as far as Scandinavia in the north and Greece in the south.

In the late iron age there were people living and working here – a pot from that period was found in the early 20th century on Pot Common at the top of Potts Lane in the centre of the modern Pulborough Village.

Since the time that Julius Caesar came to Britain, in 55 BC, Pulborough has been an important trading post with the Roman Empire, as the many amphora and other items of the period found here show.

The route of the military road, Stane Street, from Chichester through Pulborough to London has long been a source of debate. It is straight to Pulborough and then nearly straight to London – but Pulborough is some miles off the straight line between Chichester and London!





**From left: Roman coins; a lead cistern; bath house pot**

There are various schools of thought for this odd situation; a recent view is that when the Romans invaded in 43AD they deemed the village of Pulborough important enough to build Stane Street to link it to the coast at Dell Quay. Only later, after the defeat of Queen Boudica, Stane Street (now the A29) was extended to London, thus connecting London to the harbour and palace at Fishbourne outside Chichester – for more information see Miles Russell's book "Roman Sussex" – ISBN no 0-7524-3601-5.

On Stane Street, just south of the Arun, there is a Roman posting station which is about one day's march from Chichester; it is probable that the Roman road forded the Arun at the point of the old Swan Bridge. At that time the Arun was known as the Tristantona.

In Roman times there were major wharves and public buildings including a temple, mausoleum and bath house in Pulborough, as well as at least one very large villa.

Pulborough is probably the most important Roman site in Sussex after Chichester and some of the Roman objects found in Pulborough are shown above.

In the late 11th century the Domesday Book records significant dwellings here; they also defended this important place and controlled the area by building a castle on Park Mound.

During the Middle and late Middle ages, glassmaking developed in the Mare Hill area – you will still find evidence of waste glass and the quarries today. The greensand ridge provided the local building materials of sand and stone while the oak forests to the north and west provided building



**Norman Motte and Bailey**



**From left: Oddfellows Arms; picnicking by the Arun; Lower Street**

and boat-making timber. The river continued to provide much of the livelihood for the area with fishing, and as a waterway, with limeburning and other wharf-side activities taking place. During this period the road that is now the A283 became an important route from Winchester to Canterbury – Stopham bridge was built at this time – and Pulborough provided inns and other services to travellers and their horses. The wealth generated during this period allowed many of the listed buildings that still survive to be built; the most important are St Mary's Church and New Place – there are well over 100 listed buildings of historic or architectural interest in Pulborough.

In the late 1700's the building of the Wey and Arun Canal and the old Swan Bridge brought new wealth and opportunity to the area and a new set of historic houses were then built, many of which still survive; probably the most impressive being the Old Rectory.

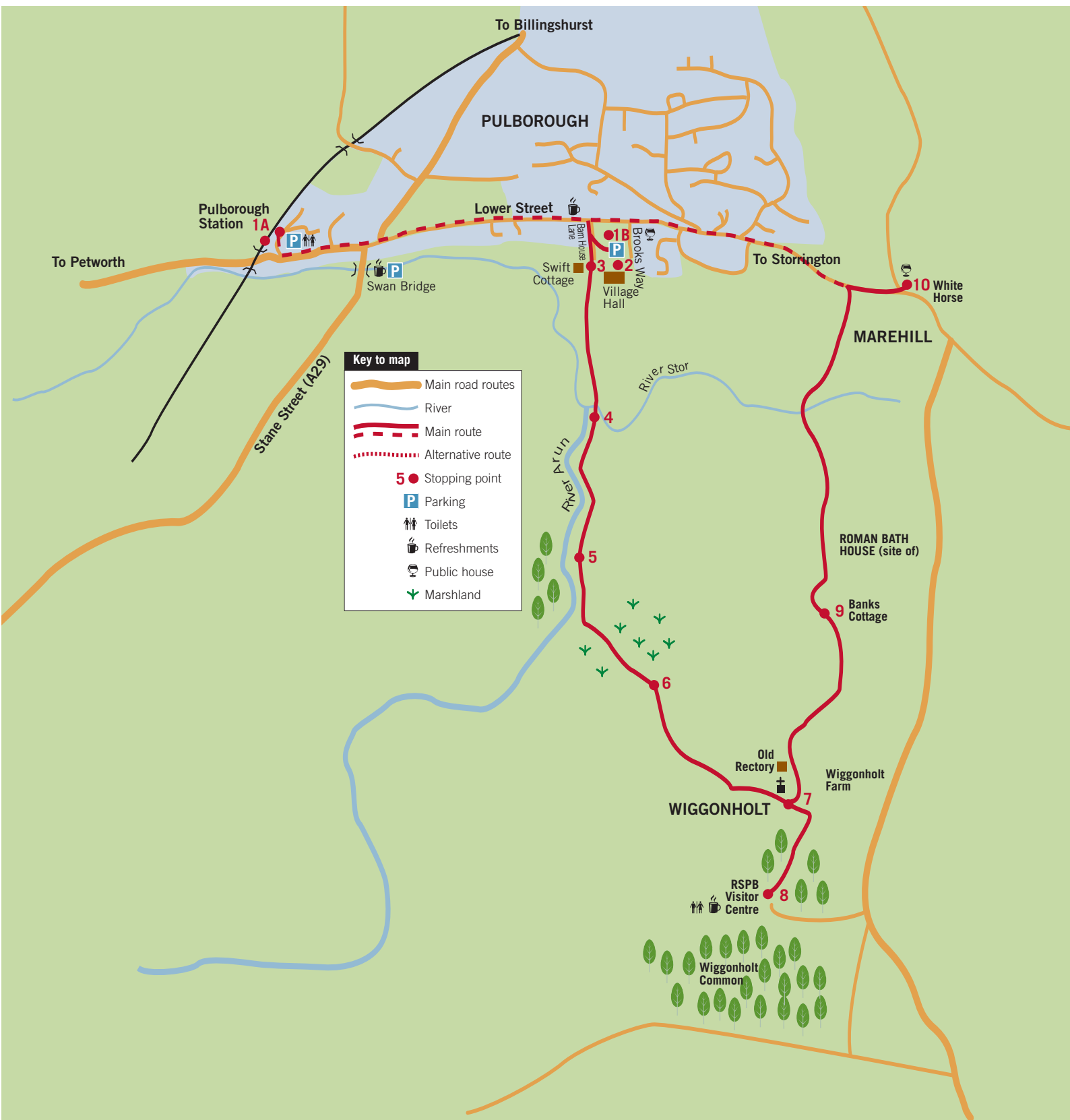
The coming of the railway in the mid 1800's took over trade from the river barges and enabled the station to become the centre of trade for the area with cattle markets, warehousing and distribution for the wider area.

In the late 1800's and the 20th century the railway provided the commuting capability to the south and north as far as London which was the reason for much of the 20th century development and expansion of the Pulborough area.

Throughout the 19th century Pulborough was an industrial centre with seven brickworks and its fine sand being mined for mould making in the iron casting industry. This industry finally ceased in the mid 20th century and we still see its legacy in the caves and disused quarries around Pulborough.

The second half of the 20th century saw major changes in the lifestyles of the majority of the people here – employment moved from agriculture and industry to services. People's personal mobility grew with the growth in car ownership and the demand for leisure activities grew with the increasing levels of disposable income of many.

# Overview map



## The walk:

The walk is broken into short stages between numbered starting and stopping points. Each numbered point is shown on the overview map and also has its Ordnance Survey map reference.

### 1. Your start – there are two options:

#### a. Pulborough Railway Station (OS map reference TQ 043 186)

From the station go down the hill to the main road [A283] turn left towards Pulborough village, at the mini roundabouts – about 500 metres – go straight on along Lower Street until you reach the Oddfellows public house on the right hand side – about 800 metres – turn right and enter the car park. Just behind the information boards there is a paved viewing area – this is **viewpoint 2**. If you need refreshment before you start you could go to The Tea Room that you will pass as you walk along Lower Street, or the Oddfellows public house close to the entrance to the car park.



#### b. The Car Park off Lower Street [A283] (OS map reference TQ 052 185)

Leave your car here observing the parking arrangements and go back to the car park entrance. Just behind the information boards there is a paved viewing area – this is **viewpoint 2**. If you need refreshment before you start you could go to The Tea Room in Lower Street, or the Oddfellows public house close to the entrance to the car park.



### 2. Viewpoint of Pulborough Brooks (OS map reference TQ 053 184)

If you look downhill to the south to the hills on the horizon, the South Downs, you are looking at much of the landscape that is the foundation of the economic development of Pulborough. You are standing on the lower edge of a greensand ridge that provided sand for building and glassmaking in the area as well as much of the ironstone, out of which many of the old houses in the area are built – you will see examples of these houses later on the walk.

The field in front of you is a historic water meadow with a Roman Causeway crossing it, and beyond is the RSPB Pulborough Brooks Nature Reserve – you will see more of these meadows as you walk. The water-meadows were allowed to flood to fertilise the ground to improve the grazing – today parts are still flooded by the RSPB to encourage many species of migrating water birds such as the Bewick swans which come here from Siberia.



**Viewpoint 2: Brooks and South Downs**



As you continue to look south to the hills on the horizon you can see the embankments to the River Arun. In Roman times this was an important waterway and Pulborough had wharves for loading and unloading from the flat bottomed boats that traded up to this point and a little beyond.

The river transport was improved with a canal in some of the upper parts during the late 18th century to provide a secure inland waterway from Portsmouth to London.

The river was also fished for eels for which Pulborough was famous in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In the distance you see the South Downs on which sheep still graze and which maintain the increasingly rare traditional downland meadows; their organic meat is sold in the local butchers.

The Downs, which is a chalk ridge, was heavily mined for flint in the stone age and for chalk until quite recently. The chalk was brought up the river to Pulborough and beyond, for lime burning to make lime for building mortar and improving the soil for crops. Today, at one of the largest chalk quarries at Amberley, just four miles away, is an industrial museum showing much of the industrial and rural history of West Sussex – well worth a visit.

To the right of the line of the river you may just see the A29 road which at this point nearly follows the course of the Roman road, Stane Street. Stane Street originally linked the coast to Pulborough and later extended to provide the route from the Chichester area to London – many parts of the old Roman road are still visible where it is not covered by the modern road.

Now walk across the car park to the opposite corner and go down the steps, turn to your left down the track-way now known as Barn House Lane to the stile at the bottom – this is **viewpoint 3**.

### 3. **Viewpoint from the stile at the bottom of Barn House Lane (OS map reference TQ 052 184)**

The cottage on your right was originally a barn in which animals and their feed were kept; the barn which was timber framed was built about 350 years ago– the lane was then called Fowl Mead Lane after the field onto which it leads which was called Fowl Mead. The barn was converted to a house over 200 years ago; the timber frame was filled in with local ironstone rubble and a large central chimney with a bread oven was built. In the 1850's the house was converted to be two or three dwellings and the additional chimney built with its own bread oven. The cottage is now again one house in spite of the two front doors!



**Viewpoint 3: Swift Cottage**

In the winter, when the foliage of the wisteria has died back, you can see high up, close to the alarm bell, the “fire mark” – the fire mark shows that the house had paid its insurance and in the event of a fire the fire fighters would be paid for putting out the fire – for more information on fire marks see – [www.fireservicecollege.ac.uk/AboutUs/Heritage/HistoricCollections/CrestsBadges](http://www.fireservicecollege.ac.uk/AboutUs/Heritage/HistoricCollections/CrestsBadges).

Now looking across the field, with the South Downs along the horizon, you are seeing a water meadow that was still called Fowl Mead up until the late 1930's.

This meadow had, until the 1930's, a number of 'Lammastide' rights on it owned by various people who had inherited them and were passed down from father to son from time immemorial.

Lammastide is on 1st August and is an old Saxon Christian festival first mentioned in King Alfred's Chronicals. Lammas-rights holders could cut hay on their strips of land but had to be off it by Lammas day when all and sundry could turn their cattle on it to graze. In fact it was often used as a holding area for the cattle market that used to be at Pulborough station.

The land was owned by the Rector in the early 1800's and, at that time, divided into twenty seven strips each marked by boundary stones – one of these stones still exists to the far left of the field.

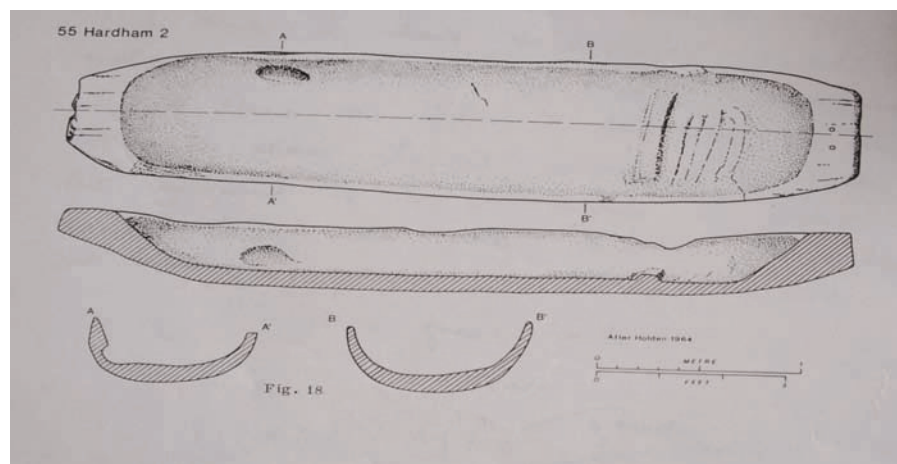
Until the embankments to the river were built in the 1960's this land used to flood regularly – there could be a flash flood at any time to a depth that would require even large cattle to swim to escape. The floods made this a very lush grazing area as it brought down the silt and nutrients from upstream and deposited them on the water meadow.

Norman Wyatt who farmed this area during the second world war remembers swimming here to save a cow! (see Norman Wyatt's book "An Ever-Rolling Stream" ISBN 0 9512619 3 2)

When the embankments were built in the 1960's, five Anglo Saxon dugout canoes were found of various dates from the dark ages – the picture below is of one found about a mile downstream from here and is dated as being between 250 and 530 AD; it is about 5 metres long and dug out of a local tree – you can see a preserved example in Worthing museum. Since the river now follows a new course over the Brooks it is probable that there are still others waiting to be discovered!

These days when the meadow is flooded, as it may in the winter, you might see people canoeing in modern boats or windsurfing across the fields! Before you leave this spot listen for the song of a nightingale which has nested in the nearby bushes.

Now walk across the field following the footpath to the footbridge across the River Stor which joins the River Arun at this point – this is **viewpoint 4**; as you walk you may see skylarks which are rare in many parts but flourish here.



**Dugout canoe**



#### Viewpoint 4: Stor Bridge “the sailing ditch”

#### 4. Viewpoint on the bridge over the River Stor also known locally as “the sailing ditch” (OS map reference TQ 053 180)

The main river in front of you is the River Arun which flows from St Leonards Forest, near Horsham, to the sea at Littlehampton. The Arun is still tidal at this point and is so for a further three miles upstream (to your right). Because it is tidal it may be flowing in either direction and you will often see seaweed floating in the river, and if you are very lucky, you may even find a cuttlefish bone washed up on the flood bank. You can see the normal height of the tide by the marks on the reeds around the river bank or the “beach” by the river as you walk to the next viewpoint – the “beach” is pictured on the first page of this walk information.

The river has a large variety of fish. Pulborough used to be a centre for eel fishing up to the end of the 19th century and at that time they were one of the principle delicacies of Sussex. Because the river is tidal, sea trout and sea bass come up to breed. Additionally there is the normal range of river fish including a good number of fair sized pike – it is these that the fishing clubs that use these banks prize most.

From here you can also see the flood-banks that were built in the 1960's to prevent regular flooding; at this time both the river and river bank were cleared in parts to improve the flow. On the river bank you will find all the normal riverside plants and trees – this includes willow trees; in the Spring look out for the yellow Kingcups on the river bank and then in the Summer yellow

Iris and purple Loosestrife. At any time of the year you will see a huge variety of riverside birds such as swans, ducks, coots, herons, kingfishers and egrets.



Kingfisher and heron in the brooks



If you look at the muddy banks of the River Stour you may see some “slide marks” where an animal or a swan has slithered into the water – both otters and minks have occasionally been seen around here – see <http://www.yorkshire-wildlife-trust.org.uk/otters.htm> for more information on otters. It was in this river that a large lead Roman cistern was found during dredging in 1943 – it can now be seen in the long gallery of Parham House.



Now cross the bridge and continue along the path, either by the river or on top of the bank, until you reach a stile – this is **viewpoint 5**.

**A lead cistern**

## 5. **Viewpoint of the Roman Causeway and the RSPB wetlands (OS map reference TQ 052 174)**

If you look from this point, with your back to the river, there is a slightly raised strip of land with one or two trees on it – this is a Roman causeway to a Roman bath house just over the higher ground on the far side of the flat wetlands and water meadow – for more information on Roman bath houses see <http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/baths.html> and <http://www.falcophiles.co.uk/facts/romanbathing.html>.

When the Romans came to Britain in 43AD, the river probably was not where it is now but may well have flowed round the edge of this flat area, close to where the cottage is on the far side, just to the right of the causeway. The causeway was a straight raised roadway about half a mile in length through this marshy land from the Roman road – Stane Street – which is close to where the A29 road is now – see [http://www.iaie.org/dt\\_material/noordhoff/greek\\_roman/romanroad.htm](http://www.iaie.org/dt_material/noordhoff/greek_roman/romanroad.htm) for information on the construction of Roman roads.

The place where you are standing was the site of the finding of a Roman pot.

The Bathhouse was extensively excavated in the 1960's when the site was exposed by the building of a new road; the excavations discovered hundreds of Roman items some of which are shown on the page, together with pictures of the excavation.



**Roman Causeway**





**From left: Bathhouse excavated pot; Bathhouse excavation site**

In addition, a huge find of over 1500 Roman coins in a silver Roman strainer was found in a ditch a little to the south of the bath house – these and other Pulborough finds are on display in Worthing museum.

The causeway runs through the part of the wetlands, known locally as “The Brooks”, that is now owned and managed by the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) as part of the RSPB Pulborough Nature Reserve. The Brooks were the main reason for RSPB interest. Scientifically called lowland wet grassland – ‘brooks’ is the local term. They are also often referred to as “wet meadows”. They are the river’s floodplain, a natural shock absorber for heavy rain or high tides, and due to nutrients being deposited by flooding, they are fertile and can produce rich grassland good for grazing. Originally the Brooks would have been swampy with high reeds and little drainage.

The Brooks were part of the nearby Elizabethan Parham estate. Tenants used the Brooks as grazing meadows. They created the man-made ditches which were used not only to drain the ground, but also to actively flood the meadows briefly at the start and end of the grazing season, to extend the season and to protect the grass from frost damage.

This use resulted in the valley being important for wintering waterfowl, breeding waders, and numerous invertebrates and aquatic plant life.

The reserve is now managed in a way similar to the valley’s traditional farming techniques. The ancient ditch system and modern sluices to the River Arun are used to back-up rainwater and spring-water in winter, and hence create flooding. Cattle are used rather than sheep because their grazing creates grass structures better suited to the needs of winter and breeding waterfowl. They are also better adapted for the damp ground. There are a number of types of cattle used on the reserve – the most unusual are the British White and Highland cattle.



**Roman coins**



### **Cattle on Brooks**

Different habitats which offer different feeding, roosting and breeding opportunities at various times of the year are created on the brooks by controlling water levels using ditches, flexipipes and sluices and managing vegetation structures by grazing intensities and cutting rotation.

The RSPB now works to keep water levels in the ditches relatively high by using sluices to damn the water in. In the winter the sluices are set to shallow flood about 50% of the area, and during the spring and summer this is reduced to about 5-15%. The cattle help to conserve meadow soft grasses, and to create an environment friendly to many other wetland inhabitants; during summer some fields are cut for hay.

It is interesting to note that in Roman times the cutting of hay for winter feed had not been discovered and as a consequence the Romans used animals to a very limited extent when compared with England in the Middle Ages and after.

The ditches are cleared out on a 3-10 year rotation, to provide the right conditions for many rare or scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates such as the Little Ramshorn Whirlpool Snail.

Pulborough Brooks has been recognised by the government for its importance for wildlife. In July 1998 it was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Because of the RSPB management of the brooks, it is now home to many thousands of wintering wetland birds, such as wigeon, teal, shoveler, pintail, Bewick's swans, lapwing and snipe. In the spring the brooks support important breeding populations of lapwing,



### **Widgeon; Lapwings; Swans in flight**



redshank, reed bunting, sedge warbler and many others – see <http://www.rspb.org.uk/> for more information on these and other birds.

Over the grassland area you may see a barn owl patrolling back and forth in search of mice, voles, etc.

You can often see on the brooks a herd of wild deer descended from black fallow deer bred at Parham Park for their dark forms. They are gradually reverting back to their natural lighter fallow colouring because they are no longer exposed to selective breeding – if you look in some of the muddier parts of the walk you will often spot their small two hoofed tracks.



### Berries

The low buildings to your right at the edge of the wetland are RSPB birdwatcher hides.

In the late Summer and early Autumn from this point on you may well find ripe blackberries and sloes (with which to make sloe gin!).



### Deer and deer prints

We continue our walk over the stile and along the embankment to the fence where the path turns left across the wetland to a gate on the far side. Go through this gate or over the adjacent stile and up the slope to the stile and gate at the top; this slope is known as the “Pig Run” from the days when pigs were herded from the brooks to the woods in the Autumn to eat the fallen acorns and beech nuts. The top of the “Pig Run” is **viewpoint 6**. (The two gates either side of this point are only accessible from the RSPB Visitor Centre).

## 6. Viewpoint of the Brook Field (also known locally as “the Rabbit Field”) and a large rabbit warren (OS map reference TQ 055 170)

The Brook Field shows a major contrast in the types of plants, trees, birds and wildlife that it supports. This field is managed by the RSPB without artificial fertilisers or pesticides to maximise the diversity of plants and wildlife and this is evidenced by the wide range of natural grassland species in the meadow and wild flowers such as Campion and Birdsfoot Trefoil at its margins.

This area is bounded by old hedges while the wetland field areas were bounded by old ditches – you can estimate the age of a hedge by counting the number of different species in each twenty seven metres of hedge and multiplying by 100. In this area you may find the following species – blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, grey willow, dog rose, field maple and elm!



**Rabbit warren**

If you have approached the gate quietly you will probably see close to you many rabbits eating close to the hedge and somewhat further from the hedge about 100 metres into the field. The further rabbits will have mainly come from a very large rabbit warren well into the field – when you enter the field or make a noise you will see them disappear into it. To see what the inside of a rabbit warren looks like see the picture above right.

Cross the stile into the Brook Field and follow the path to the gate on the far side then turn half left to the gate and stile across this field. Cross the stile past the pond which contains newts, then cross the next stile and follow the track-way to the little church at the top – this is **viewpoint 7**.

## **7. Viewpoint of Wiggonholt Shepherds Church (OS map reference TQ 060 167)**

This little church, which has no patron saint, has records going back to 1422. It was built after the Norman Conquest for the use of yeoman and tenant farmers plus the shepherds and herdsman on the brooks. At that time, Wiggonholt was administered by the Abbey at Fécamp in Normandy.



**Viewpoint 7: Wiggonholt Church**



The original walls are 12th or 13th century and most of the windows are in the Perpendicular style (1360 – 1485). The stained glass east window was made by Powell and Sons in 1859. The font is late Norman and is made of Sussex marble.

The remaining parts of the Jacobean chancel rails are now in the nave, and an old sundial can be found on the south west corner of the outside of the church.

Records of rectors and curates are known from 1422 and the parish records for baptisms go back to 1510.

While the church has no electricity – only oil lamps, it is regularly used for worship. Among the other things that mark out this old church is the practice of using the old prayer rite in which it still says “God save the King”!

The parish of Wiggonholt has been combined with the adjacent parish of Greatham since 1508 and with Parham since 1958.

In the spring the churchyard is covered with primroses and at all times of the year you will find the gravestones covered with an amazing range of lichens.



At this point you can choose to take the longer route and visit the RSPB Visitor Centre (**viewpoint 8**) and its tea room and then rejoin the route at this point.



To take the longer route, take the narrow fenced path slightly up the slope and opposite the entrance to the church; follow this down the slope and up through the woods for a total of about 300 metres until you reach a building on your right – this is the RSPB Visitor Centre and **viewpoint 8**.

To avoid the loop to the RSPB Visitor Centre, continue the walk by walking up the slope in front of the church across the road that leads into The Old Rectory and at the corner of the wall of the Old Rectory is a stile; cross this. Now follow the path across a field alongside the Old Rectory to another stile, cross this and the field beyond to a further stile. Cross this and at the far side of the field beyond and leave the field through the squeeze gate or the stile onto the track-way and turn right. After about 20 metres along the track-way the path is marked to the left down some steps with a narrow path leading to a stile – cross this stile into the field in front of a cottage – this is **Viewpoint 9**.

## 8. Viewpoint of RSPB Visitor Centre and café (OS map reference TQ 059 165)



Within the centre buildings you can use the free telescopes to view the reserve to the south and west and learn much more about the plants, wildlife and birds on the reserve – see <http://www.rspb.org.uk/> for more information on the RSPB and the reserve.



While at the RSPB Visitor Centre you can use the toilet and tea room facilities.

Beyond the RSPB Visitor Centre there is an area of woodland and the old Wiggonholt Common which is now owned by the RSPB. This is the subject of heathland restoration as a vital habitat for species of high conservation concern, these include nightjar and Dartford warbler. It is also a habitat which contains several unique species of plant and invertebrate, as well as being the only type of habitat in the UK which supports all native reptiles – here you will find the Adder and Smooth Snake as well as other reptiles.

From here you return to the church (**viewpoint 7**) along the route you took to get to the RSPB Visitor Centre. Then follow the directions at the end of the **viewpoint 7** information to **viewpoint 9**.



**Viewpoint 8: RSPB Visitor Centre**

## 9. **Viewpoint of Banks Cottage (OS map reference TQ 061 173)**

Banks Cottage is a timber framed house on random rubble foundation, using Fittleworth stone (Fittleworth is a village two miles to the west of Pulborough). Until 20 years ago the cottage was part of Parham Estate but is now privately owned.

500 years ago the River Arun is believed to have run through an Oxbow in front of the cottage, as it probably did in Roman times.

Technically the cottage stands in the district of Wiggonholt; the name is thought to derive from Waggonhalt where the stagecoach horses were changed.

Records show that in 1641 someone in Wiggonholt was fined for running an illicit alehouse – which may have been this cottage. The river would have been tidal up to here, and goods were carried to and from Littlehampton.



**Viewpoint 9: Banks Cottage**

The cottage was built in 1370 as a long hall house, with 3 bays. The chimney stack was added in Tudor times; the original fire would have been a hole in the middle of the roof, and part of the building was subsequently burnt down. The southern side was added in the 15th century and probably thatched, it was constructed of wattle and daub on split oak (not the usual hazel) – for more information on wattle and daub construction see <http://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/wattleanddaub/wattleanddaub.htm>

Now follow the path towards Pulborough village, that is to the left as you face Banks Cottage, over a stile, across a marshy field and through a gate on the other side or climb the stile. The path then runs alongside a wetlands ditch on the left until you reach another gate; go through this or climb the stile and you will see ahead of you an embankment to the River Stour. From the top of the embankment you will find a small bridge with a kissing gate either side, cross this and follow the embankment to the right to a stile on the far side of the field. Climb this stile and follow the pathway up to the main road – this is the A283.



Turn right here and walk about 150 metres until you are opposite the White Horse public house – this is **viewpoint 10**.

## 10. Viewpoint of the White Horse and the old Chapel (OS map reference TQ 064 183)

The pub and chapel are on the edge of an area of Pulborough known as Mare Hill. The majority of this area, prior to the 20th century, was woodland and fields bordering an area of sand mining which supported glass manufacture in the area – it is still possible to find the remains of glass slag and the caves that were the sand mines. (It is not possible to see in the caves however as they are a restricted wildlife reserve)

A number of the houses in Batts Lane, which is to the right of the chapel, date from the 17th and 18th centuries and may be of earlier origins. The White Horse pub and the adjacent chapel are 19th century. The pub was probably formerly a butchers shop and the former Methodist chapel was known as Providence Chapel.



You may want to visit the pub for food and a drink before you continue walking back along the road back to your starting point – this is about 1.2 kilometres (¾ mile) to the car park and a further 1.2 kilometres (¾ mile) to the station.



**Viewpoint 10: Old Chapel and White Horse**



Close to the car park there is the Oddfellows public house on the left hand side and a little further on the right hand side the Tea Shop; at both you can get food and a drink.



The Oddfellows was built in 1460 as farmhouse in the “Wealden” style that is typical of this area – you can see examples in the Weald and Downland Museum near Chichester – it then became an inn later in the 17th century.

The Tea Room is an interesting 19th century building with the original fireplace and low beams.

**We hope you enjoyed your walk and will, on a future occasion, do another of the fascinating walks around Pulborough’s beautiful countryside.**

## The Brooks Walk

has been possible with the assistance of the following organisations.



**Local Heritage *initiative***



**Heritage  
Lottery Fund**



**Nationwide**



**The  
Countryside  
Agency**

