

The **Woodland Walk**



A walk through one of Pulborough's areas of outstanding natural beauty with open countryside, peaceful river, historic buildings, old earthworks and interesting woodland.

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 Woodland Walk

A walk through one of Pulborough's areas of outstanding natural beauty with open countryside, peaceful river, historic buildings, old earthworks and interesting woodland.

This walk:

- is 11-12 kilometres (7-8 miles) long;
- takes about 4-5 hours;
- has some hills and is fairly easy walking;
- is unsuitable for a pushchair/wheelchair;
- has 6 stiles and 2 kissing gates;
- can be slippery and requires boots when wet;
- uses OS map 197, or Explorer maps 121 and 134;
- has a café and a pub at the car park start and end and a cafe with toilets about three quarters of the way round.

When walking always follow the countryside code. 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.

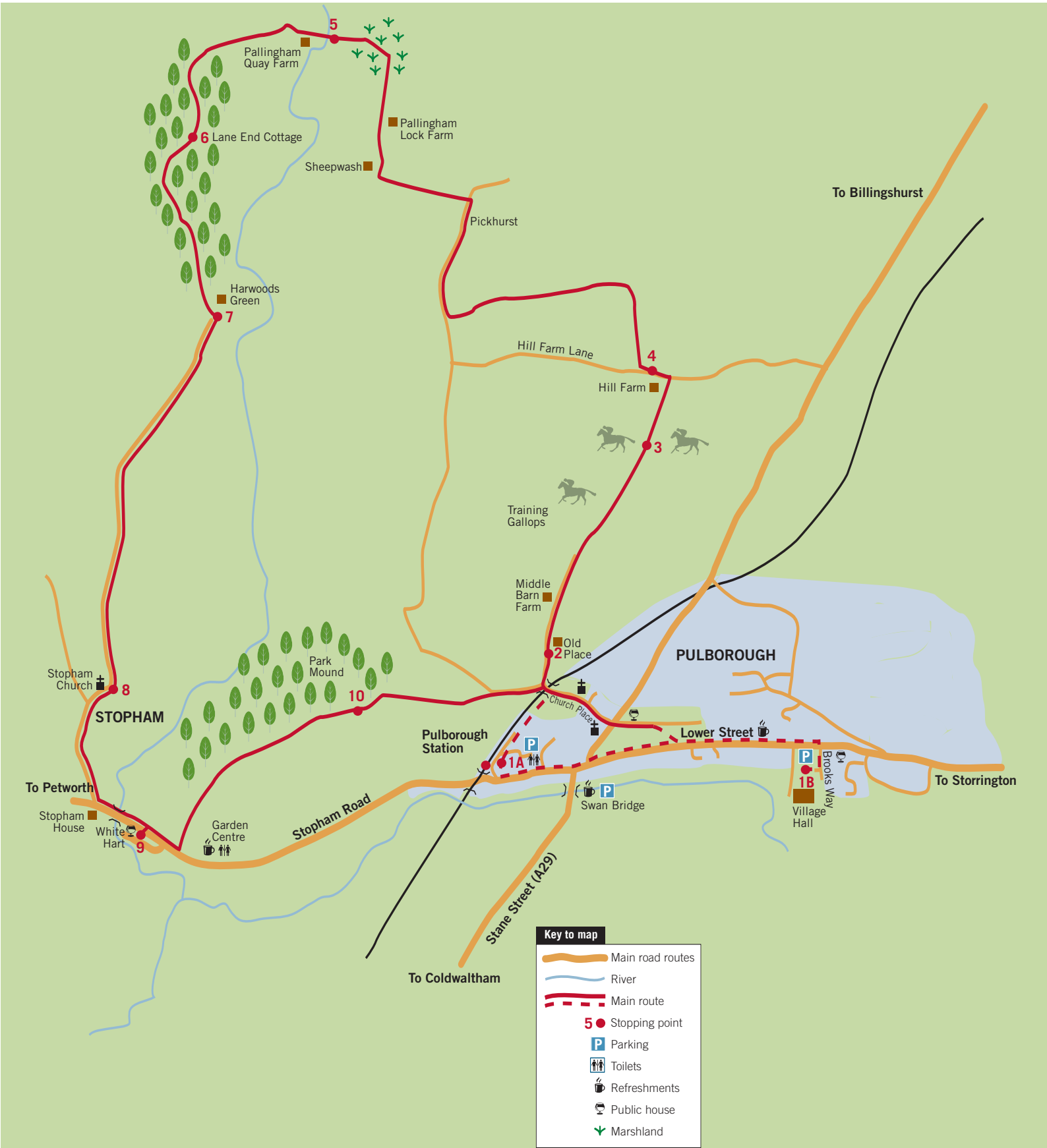
The coming of the railway in the mid 1800's took over trade from the river barges and enabled the station to become the centre of trade for the area with cattle markets, warehousing and distribution for the wider area.

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 entrance turn left and take the footpath between the station car park and the road. (The industrial area on your right used to be a brickworks – at the far end you can see how much clay and sand must have been dug out by hand to create the cliff above the builders yard – just imagine the number of bricks that must have been made here!) Follow the path for 400 metres up the slope alongside the railway line to Coombelands Lane at its end. Here turn left, walk down this for about 70 metres to the lake which is **viewpoint 2**.

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

The Car Park in Lower Street [A283] (OS map reference TQ 052 185) – leave your car here observing the parking arrangements and go back to Lower Street [A283], turn left and walk on the right hand side of the road about 320 metres where you will find some steps leading to a sloping pathway across a field; follow this to the top through the kissing gate and turn left. Here there is a plaque which tells you about the hill on which you are standing and also the Chequers Hotel. What it does not tell you is that the old Chequers Hotel burned down on November 5th!



Now walk on and cross the main road by the Chequers Hotel on to the lane opposite (Church Place) that runs alongside the Parish Church of St Mary. Follow the lane and shortly after crossing the railway bridge there is a track-way to your right, walk down this for about 70 metres to the lake which is **viewpoint 2**.

2. **Viewpoint of the Watermill and Old Place Manor (OS map reference TQ 049 191)**

The lake by which you are standing is fed from springs that also used to feed the fish ponds in the old rectory grounds, which you passed if you walked from the car park, and then the stream goes under the A29 to feed this mill and fish pond. On the far side of it you can see the imposing house known as Old Place Manor, which was built around 1450. It has a large medieval hall, and the mill pond was also used as a source of fresh fish.

Adjacent to the trackway you will have passed a house called Old Place with various old windows and stonework that has been taken from a former building and included within this interesting building – it and the adjacent buildings were part of the farmstead of the Manor House. A detailed account of the history of Old Place can be found in David Morris' booklet 'To the Lord's Place and Beyond', available from the Pulborough Society.

On the other side of the trackway to the mill pond is the mill which is now converted to a house – this probably is one of the two mills in Pulborough mentioned in the Domesday book. The short flight of stone steps up to the front of the cottage is where the corn would have been off-loaded from a wagon at this height and the mill wheel was immediately



Viewpoint 2: Old Place and Old Place Manor House

below. When facing the cottage on the right hand side you can still see some pieces of the mill wheels and pulleys and way down below is the stream that was the outflow of the mill.

If you go a little further up the track-way you will see the overflow and sluice gates that by-passed the mill when the water was not needed to power the mill; this then joins the mill stream below the old mill.

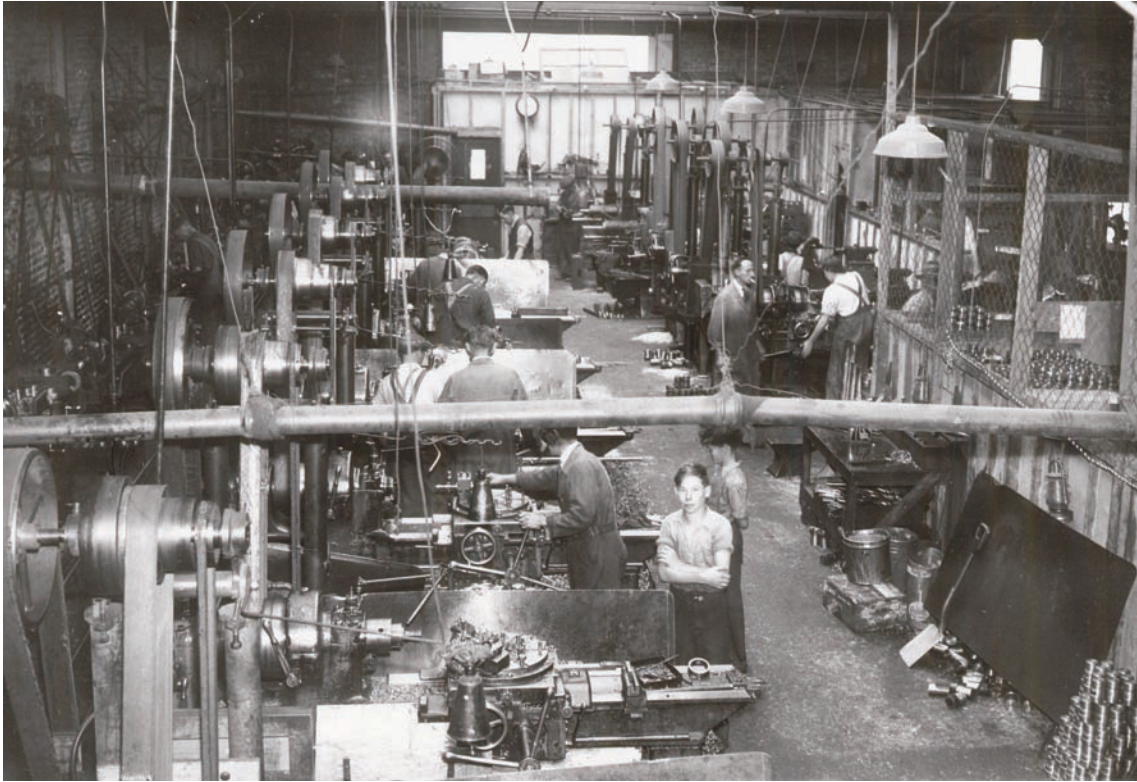
You now continue along the trackway northwards past Middle Barn Farm and follow the path over an arable field, where you may find skylarks, and to “The Gallops”. You cross the Gallops at a gate in the fencing – watch out for horses – this area is **viewpoint 3**.

3. Viewpoint of “the Gallops” (OS map reference TQ 050 200).

This land is owned by the Harwood family, who have a history of at least four generations in Pulborough. The racing stables at Coombelands, adjacent to the Gallops, were established in 1966 by Mr Guy Harwood with the support of Horsham Council, who were keen to see local rural development providing employment in the countryside. Guy Harwood's grandfather was the village police sergeant at Pulborough, and his father in 1931 started in business on the site now occupied by the Colonnades and over the years developed the hugely successful Spiro Gills business on the site now occupied by Tesco, the Medical Centre and housing. Starting as a garage, and expanding into a munitions factory with the outbreak of war in 1939 and subsequently into an engineering business, Spiro Gills was sold to APV in Crawley in 1965, but the Harwood family retained the garage business, which transferred to the other side of London Road.



**Men and women working
in Harwoods Munition factory**



Harwoods Munitions factory

The racing stables have had up to 160 horses trained at any one time during the period between 1966 and 1996, when Guy Harwood handed over the control of the training stables to his daughter in order to concentrate on the garage business, and she currently has 120 horses in training here.

The racing business has been very successful, and famous horses trained at Coombelands include: Dancing Brave, Ela-Mana-Mou, To- Agori-Mou, Brocade, Kalaglow, Young Generation, Recitation, Lear Fan, Alphabatim, Raft, Rousillon, St Hilarion, Warning, Assatis, Ile de Chypre, Polish Patriot, and Defensive Play.

Now continue up the slope until you reach a quarry on your left. This quarry has been a rich source of stone for the local area for centuries. When you walked from Old Place there is a short length of sunken lane lined with old trees leading northwards, and this is all that remains of the original road which once led to the buildings here which is Hill Farm. The stone from the quarries was probably used for the construction of Old Place. Cross the stile and continue through the Hill Farm farmyard to Hill Farm Lane – this is **viewpoint 4)**

4. Viewpoint from Hill Farm Lane (OS map reference TQ 049 202)

From here there is a splendid view in front of you to the north to the Toat Hill monument and the low Weald, and west to the wooded ridge to which you are heading. The Toat Monument is a 'folly'. It is an octagonal four storey tower which takes its name from an adjacent farm. The old English 'tot' (toat) means look-out point and that is what it is – especially over the Roman road, Stane Street. The sons of Samuel Drinkald, a London tea merchant, built the Toat Monument as a memorial to their father, who fell from his horse and died here in 1823. He was the owner of Toat. Local legend has it that Mr Drinkald, together with his horse, was buried upside down under the tower – sadly the tower is on private land and cannot be visited.

Now turn left (west) along Hill Farm Lane and in 100 metres take the footpath on the right going north down the escarpment 450 metres to a T junction of footpaths. Here turn left (west) and continue 800 metres west through Oak House Farm to a lane – this is Coombelands Lane.

(The area which you have just walked through is managed for conservation under the Country Stewardship scheme, the key aims being to encourage the return of wildlife and habitat lost through intensive agriculture during the last 30 years or so. New hedges are being planted, the remaining hedges



Toat Monument

either cut and laid or coppiced to regenerate. Small pockets of woodland are planted to connect areas of habitat. The lower-lying fields have been returned to permanent grass encouraging the re-establishment of wild flowers and plants by careful management and sheep grazing and a series of small ponds have been created to support aquatic life and attract birds such as snipe and lapwing.) Turn right and continue 500 metres along the lane to Pickhurst Farm. Turn left here, follow the path which goes right at a property known as Sheepwash – at this point the path is marked as “the Wey South Path”. Ignore the footpath to the left at Lock Cottage and follow the marked Wey South Path to Pallingham Bridge crossing the old canal, and to the two bridges crossing the Arun – this is about 1100 metres from Pickhurst Farm – this is **Viewpoint 5.**

5. Viewpoint at Pallingham on the River Arun (OS map reference TQ 036 216)

The river Arun and the old Canal – the remains of which you have just crossed on the hump back bridge – joined London to Portsmouth by the Thames, the river Wey, a series of canals, the river Arun and a route through Chichester Harbour.

At this point the old Arun Navigation Canal was constructed in 1785-7 to provide a waterway from Newbridge, five miles up-stream near Billingshurst, to here at Pallingham, where it meets the Arun 250 metres south of the bridge.

A further length of canal downstream was completed in 1790 between Hardham and Coldwaltham to facilitate access to the sea.

In 1813-16 the canal was extended northwards from Newbridge to provide a link with the Wey, and thus to the Thames and the rest of the country’s canal system.

The advent of the railways caused the gradual demise of this canal system, and it was abandoned by 1888. The canal is now in the care of the Wey and Arun Canal Society, who have done much work in restoring a significant proportion of the waterway, and even providing a regular passenger service on the Loxwood Link.



Wey & Arun Canal Bridge and River Arun from Pallingham Bridge

The hump-backed Pallingham Bridge was restored by the Wey & Arun Canal Trust, with the aid of the Pulborough Society, and reopened in 1976.

Just south of Pallingham Bridge, on the east side of the Canal, were the Pallingham Docks, created by the Arun Navigation Company for the repair and building of barges. Sadly, the last barge to be built here, in 1864, was blown to smithereens in the same year after taking on a cargo of gunpowder at Stonebridge Wharf, on the Godalming portion of the River Wey. For more information on the Wey and Arun Canal and a map of the canal at this point see www.weyandarun.co.uk. The Arun is tidal as far as Pallingham and as such is a public waterway. The Arun rises in St Leonards Forest near Horsham and flows into the sea at Littlehampton.



Southern hawker dragonfly; deer and deer footprint

The house opposite is Pallingham Quay Farm, which still had a riverside wharf in front of it in the late 19th century. This quay and wharf had been used since Elizabethan times, centuries before the canal, as the point from which timber was shipped down the river to Arundel for their shipbuilding industry. This was one of many buildings in the area supporting the shipbuilding and repairing, wharfing and canal traffic – few of which survive.

The Pulborough area has an enormous range of wildlife due to the very pure air – at this part of the river, for example, you can find more varieties of dragonflies than any other place in Sussex.

Now you cross the Arun, and immediately at Pallingham Quay Farm, leave the Wey South path to wend its way upstream, and continue straight on (west) on the public footpath. In 100 metres go over more gallops, then over a stile, and turn right along the edge of



Lane End Cottage and road surface

a field which is on your left and woods to the right (in which you may spot deer or, almost certainly, their tracks), follow up and round the edge of the field until you reach a stile at the top of the field (south west corner), ignoring the footpath turning right 70 metres preceeding it. After a total distance of 700 metres you go over the stile into the wood, then in 40 metres go straight across a track which leads left to Duke's Copse, a prime area of coppicing, then go over a stile along the bridleway leading up to Lane End Cottage – this is **Viewpoint 6**.

6. Viewpoint from Lane End Cottage and the immediate area (OS map reference TQ 031 213)

From here you can look back over the river and land over which you have just walked. You may be able to make out the line of the old canal on the far side of the river Arun and the old lock where it joined the Arun a little downstream. Lane End Cottage is the last of five cottages and a pub that stood here in the past; they were only finally demolished and cleared in the 1950s. These cottages would have probably been home to the woodsmen who coppiced the area and burned charcoal long before the canal came; with the coming of the canal the pub would have been created to serve the barges, those working at the wharf and at the shipyard. When you continue your walk, you may see some of the remains of these old cottages just further up the hill. You will also notice that a little further up the trackway the surface of the trackway has been well hand-laid in the past to give a hard roadway surface for these cottages.

Now continue to follow the main path through the woods until you reach a group of cottages – the whole of this stretch of this part of the walk is **viewpoint 7** and its total length is 1.2 kilometres.

7. Viewpoint through the woods from Lane End Cottage to Harwoods Green (OS map reference TQ 031 213 to OS map reference TQ 032 204)

On this stretch of the walk you will see different things at different seasons. In early April you will find the most magnificent display of wild daffodils, this is then followed by bluebells and later, in the Autumn, you will be able to collect sweet chestnuts on the ground from the larger of the sweet chestnut trees. Sweet chestnuts were introduced by the Romans to make a very nutritious type of porridge called Polenta.



Sweet chestnuts and daffodils in Spring

Throughout these woods you can see the results of years of coppicing the hazel and sweet chestnut trees. Coppicing is the art of cutting trees and shrubs to ground level allowing vigorous re-growth and a sustainable supply of timber for future generations. Trees cut down in this way can produce shoots that grow over 30cm in a week and a coppiced tree can live many times longer than if the tree had not been cut down at all. The coppicing here is largely of chestnuts, and the wood is used for cleft chestnut paling fencing and for the “rails” of “post and rail” fencing. The market for this is sadly diminishing but you can see an example of the rails used in post and rail fencing when you reach Harwoods Green.

In the past much of the coppiced wood would have been made into charcoal here in the woods and then sold for iron smelting, brick making and many other local industrial uses – for more information on charcoal from coppiced woodland see <http://www.englishcharcoal.co.uk/index.html>. While modern charcoal making uses round metal containers, traditional charcoal would have been made with a pile of wood covered with turf – this was still the practice of some woodsmen well into the 1960s.

The woods are kept going for additional new uses for the wood, for example the creation of beams by blocks of laminated chestnut fastened together – examples of this can be seen at Singleton Museum. The coppiced woods on the Estate cover 250 acres – for more information on coppicing see – <http://www.coppice-products.co.uk/AboutCoppiceManagement.html>

As you leave the woods you come to a group of houses that were, from the early 1800's to the 1920's, on the edge of a large brickyard – they are probably made from bricks that were made here – this area is called Harwoods Green. The land behind the houses was formerly the quarry where the brick making materials were dug by hand. Bricks made here were transported by barge to Pallingham Quay or Pulborough where they were then carried by barge to London or by horse and cart around the area.



Coppicing and coppiced chestnut rail on fence

The land and the houses in Harwoods Green are now part of the Stopham Estate, which currently covers about 1000 acres, but over the centuries has fluctuated. It is owned and managed by the Barttelot family. The original family was named Atte-Ford who lived close to Stopham Ferry, long before the bridge was built. The Stopham lands were granted to Brian (de Stopham) by William the Conqueror after the Norman Conquest and he married into the original family; the family name then became De Stopham. In 1379 John Barttelot, then Treasurer to the Earl of Arundel, married Joan, who was the sole heiress of the land of Stopham (Stopham is the home of Stoppa) thereby giving the family the Barttelot name which survives to this day. The Barttelot family has remained as land owners of Stopham ever since, and has provided many holders of high office in the County and State, and many distinguished soldiers of the Crown – later in the walk we will visit Stopham Church where there are impressive memorials to the Barttelot family. The current owner of the Stopham Estate and head of the family is Sir Brian Walter de Stopham Barttelot. His father was killed in the war, and his mother (with Brian as a small boy) moved into the gamekeeper's cottage which is now an integral part of the new house, Stopham Park, built in 1959.

Now take the tarmac lane down the slope away from Harwoods Green and follow this for 1.6 kilometres to Stopham church. This is **Viewpoint 8**.

On your way you will pass many large holes in the bank which are made by badgers. These are called setts. You are unlikely to see a badger except at dusk.

For more information on British badgers see <http://www.badgers.org.uk/badgerpages/eurasian-badger-64.html>. Where the road forks by a pond you should take the left fork and go up the hill to the church, which is normally open to visitors.



Badgers

8. Viewpoint of Stopham Church (OS map reference TQ 027 189)

This ancient church, which dates back to the 11th century, is dedicated to Saint Mary, the Blessed Virgin, as are many churches in this area of Sussex. The earliest date of which there is any record of a Rector is 1288, when Selfridius held that office. The church is notable for its long association with the Barttelot family and the many memorials to them through many generations; embedded in the Sussex marble floor of the chancel and nave are the brass effigies of some twelve members of the Barttelot family and of their children. In the north window two kneeling figures represent two of the de Stopham ancestors, Brian and Ralph, his son, who may have been crusaders and flourished in the reigns of John and Henry III – there are two crusader tombs in the churchyard. The windows with the Barttelot shields were moved here from The Manor, a beautiful Elizabethan house behind the Church, in the 17th century. The windows also show the Barttelot family crest which includes a castle which was granted to John de Stopham by Edward the Black Prince in 1360 in recognition of him storming the Castle of Fontenoy in France and a swan which reflects the fact that in the early 17th century William Barttelot was the Swan Upper of the river Arun under the Duke of Norfolk.



Viewpoint 8: Stopham Church

The stained glass in the East window was transferred to the Church in 1638. It is by an artist from The Netherlands named Roelandt, whose signature with the Tudor Rose is to be seen in the bottom panel of the north window of the nave. Some reconstruction was effected in this north window in 1853, when the third kneeling figure, in a red cloak, modelled on one of the brasses, was added. The yellow medium used by Roelandt is unknown to some modern stained glass artists – a full description of all these memorials is to be found in the Sussex Archaeological Society's Collections vol. 80.

The tower is, in part, of 12th century workmanship. The wooden shutters to the belfry windows form a very unusual and interesting feature. The bricked in west door is another indication of an early date for the tower.

The font is 13th century, octangular, ornamented with quatrefoils.

An excellent booklet 'Stopham Remembered' by Joan Masefield may be available in the Church: the information here is taken from that book and from a leaflet that may be available in the Church as well as help from the Barttelot family.

Again Pulborough's clean air has meant that the churchyard is able to support over 100 varieties of lichen – more than any other churchyard in Sussex!

At the "T" junction in front of the church turn left (continuing south) to the A283, cross the road and turn left here following the road to the entrance to Stopham House on your right, across the old bridge over the Arun and to the White Hart Inn, a total distance of 750 metres – this is **viewpoint 9**.



Stopham House and Stopham Bridge

9. Viewpoint from White Hart (OS map reference TQ 030 183)

If you look back across the river you have a good view of Stopham House, which for a long time was the home of the Barttelot family, the oldest part of which dates from the early 17th century. The house has suffered architecturally from much restoration and additions, notably an almost complete reconstruction in 1787 then other changes in 1842 and a new wing being added in 1896.

During the early part of the Second World War young children from London were evacuated to Pulborough and some stayed at the house. Also during this war Canadian troops stationed here before D-Day erected a camp in this area. The house ceased to be a private residence in 1946 and was then used by West Sussex County Council as an old people's home, with about 70 residents, and was, understandably, very popular.

In 1979 the home was closed and converted to eleven flats for owner occupation.

From here you also have a good view of the old Stopham Bridge which was built in 1309, and rebuilt in 1423; this road was then the main road between Winchester and Eastbourne, and predates the old stone bridge at Pulborough which was built much later, in the 1700s.

It is probably the best known bridge in Sussex, famous for its beauty, for the dignity of its masonry, and the rare setting of swirling waters and green banks.

Six of the seven arches are original, but the seventh in the centre was raised in 1822 to permit the passage of barges. There are mighty cutwaters between the arches, and the parapets above have recesses for pedestrians, a necessary provision in view of the narrow roadway, only twelve feet wide. This bridge bore all the traffic between Pulborough and Petworth until 1986 when the new bridge was opened. For a long time it had traffic lights at either end and these were reputed to be the first traffic lights in Sussex.

Beside the bridge is a plaque which tells you more about the bridge and the Wey and Arun Canal.



The White Hart building itself has probably been there since the 13th century, and an inn since the 15th century. However the first historical reference to it dates to 1807 with the following story:

'In the late 1700s and early 1800s England was very dependent on the County Militia, which was a constitutional military force which succeeded the Train Bands of the earlier

17th century. Each county was given a quota of the number of men it had to raise, the men had to be between the ages of 18 and 50, and if the County failed to raise the required number, it was heavily fined. During the period of the Napoleonic Wars the various County Militias were encouraged to transfer to the Line Regiments by the offer of £7.10s per man.

Some 500 volunteers from the Royal Lancashire Militia made their way to Sussex, but when they arrived in Chichester they were told that they would have to go on to Horsham Barracks before they could collect their bounty money. On 23 August 1807 a party of these rather disgruntled men set off from Chichester to march to Horsham.

They stopped for a drink at the White Hart Inn, but the landlord did not serve them as quickly as they would have liked. They turned him out of the Inn and helped themselves to his stock. They ate and drank everything they could find and then proceeded to smash up the place. In the meantime, somebody must have run into the Constable at Pulborough with the news of the riot. The constable collected a number of men who, armed with pitchforks, set out for the White Hart. When they arrived there, a pitched battle took place and men on both sides were injured, some of them badly. It seems that rowdy behaviour at pubs is nothing new!

Now cross to the north side of the main road, the A283, via the narrow path between the White Hart and the Old Bridge. (If you would like to visit a café or toilets these are available a short distance to your right at Wyvale Nurseries). Now return to following the “Wey South” marked path up the slope (north-east) keeping close to the field on your right when the path has options. After 350 metres, and shortly after you re-entered the woods you will pass a mound covered with fir trees on your left. This is Pulborough Castle and is **viewpoint 10**.



10. Viewpoint of Pulborough Castle (also known as Park Mound) (OS map reference TQ 037 189)

Pulborough Castle is the earthwork remaining of a Norman motte and bailey fortress built shortly after the Norman conquest in 1066. It stands on the highest point of the ridge, overlooking the River Arun down a steep slope on the far side. Today the top of the castle is covered in pine trees. The castle provided a strong defensive site for the area with its commanding views to the south towards the South Downs. The low land before the downs would have been heavily wooded. Looking along the ridge to the east from the castle you can see beyond Chanctonbury Ring and to the west as far as the settlement at Butser Hill near Petersfield. To the north you can see the river valley and the Sussex weald.



Norman motte and bailey



Sweet chestnuts and Park Mound

During the autumn you can collect sweet chestnuts along this path which you can take home to cook.

Now you continue following the Wey South path which will turn right after 150 metres (the signpost is on your right), and, on leaving the woods, follow the path across the driveway which leads to Park Farm (leaving the Wey South path) up the bank on the opposite side and down the side of the field towards St Mary's Church, which you see ahead of you.

This joins Coombelands Lane, where you turn right and you will shortly come to the railway bridge and footpath of stage 1 leading back to the station – about 400 kilometres or to the car park – about 1.2 kilometres (3/4 of a mile).

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

The Woodland Walk

has been possible with the assistance of the following organisations.



Local Heritage *initiative*

