



Moderate Terrain

**4 Miles
Linear
2 hours**

120519



Access Notes



1. This quiet section rises and falls gently as your route takes you on the lower edges of the High Weald.
2. Some sections of the woodland paths can be very muddy at times and could also be a little overgrown.
3. You will need to negotiate some stiles and several farm gates.
4. One field has grazing livestock so take particular care with dogs.
5. There are no facilities or refreshments until you reach Battle but there are several places to stop for a picnic on the way.
6. The return leg can be completed with a single 5 minute train journey.

A 4 mile linear walk from Crowhurst rail station to Battle rail station in East Sussex, forming the 12th stretch of the Sussex Hospices Trail.

The route passes through Fore Wood, a little known woodland which is an RSBP Nature Reserve, takes you past an oast house and has plenty of wildlife to enjoy along the way.

The hospices of Sussex are dedicated to providing specialist end-of-life care. Friends of Sussex Hospices has worked with partners and supporters to create the Sussex Hospices Trail, a 200 mile long-distance path to support and raise awareness of the twelve hospice care providers that serve the adults and children of Sussex.

Getting there

The walk starts at Crowhurst rail station and ends at Battle rail station. The two stations are connected by an hourly train service and the journey takes just 4 minutes. Crowhurst rail station is on the main London - Tunbridge Wells - Hastings line. The typical off-peak service is one train per hour to London Charing Cross via Tunbridge Wells and one train per hour to Hastings. Crowhurst parking rates are: Mon-Fri £2.80, Sat £2.00, Sun and Bank Holidays £1.00 (correct May 2016).

Nearest postcode for Crowhurst rail station **TN33 9DD**.

Walk Sections



Start to Forewood Lane



With Crowhurst rail station behind you (and the sound of



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birdsong all around in the spring and summer months) head downhill along the right-hand pavement of Station Road. Follow this road until you see the church ahead of you at the junction with Forewood Lane. The parish church, which is dedicated to St George, has a sandstone tower dating from the 15th century. A ruined manor house is nearby which was built by Walter de Scotney in 1250 but is now mostly rubble overgrown with ivy. However you can still see its distinctive gable end with a pointed doorway and large window.

1 ➔ 2 Forewood Lane to Farm Gate



At the junction with Forewood Lane, turn right. (NOTE: If you are continuing your walk from Trail Part 11, pick up the directions from this point). Follow the pavement just a few yards until you are alongside the wall of Crowhurst Primary School. Then swap to the left-hand side of the road and take the path which skirts to the right of the church grounds. Stay on this path as it joins the pavement and then continues along the left-hand side of Forewood Lane.

As the lane bends right (and just before the houses), take the well-signed pathway to your left by going through a farm gate. This is part of the 1066 Country Walk: Bexhill Link.

Follow the pathway straight ahead, keeping a row of gardens to your right. As you leave the houses you will see an open field ahead of you. Continue straight across the centre of the field until the path enters the edge of a wooded area.

Here the pathway slopes downwards and is slightly uneven. It may be muddy in poor weather. Soon you will see a farm gate in front of you and a rising open field ahead.

2 ➔ 3 Farm Gate to Wooden Bench



NOTE: There may be livestock in this next field. Go through the

small wooden gate (to the left of the farm gate) and cross the open field heading slightly to your right. A yellow 1066 Country Walk arrow shows the direction.

At the end of the path go over a stile (which has a lifting dog gate) into Fore Wood Nature Reserve, where there is an RSPB Information Panel. This truly lovely and peaceful woodland has rare ferns, bluebells and wood anemones in spring, butterflies in summer and is full of birdsong.

Once you are in the woodland, follow the path down towards a small pond and continue to follow it as it bears left. Head up the gently rising slope keeping the bulk of the wooded area to your right. This must be one of loveliest parts of the entire Sussex Hospices Trail.

At a low and backless wooden bench you will see that the path divides. Take the right-hand fork which goes uphill.

3 ➔ 4 Wooden Bench to Lane at Stumblett's Wood



Follow the path until you come out of the woodland and then turn left to cross a wooden bridge over Powdermill Stream. Follow the path right across the centre of the open field ahead of you.

At the opening at the end of the field, turn into a narrow tarmac lane and go up the slope into another lovely small wood which is called Stumblett's Wood. At the junction, in front of the pretty Pump House Cottage, turn right and follow the tarmac lane downhill. Then cross the stream which you will hear ahead of you as there is a weir.

4 ➔ 5 Lane at Stumblett's Wood to Powdermill Lane



Continue on up the lane, taking care of any occasional traffic. Continue past the oast house at Pepperling Eye Farm. Its pointed roof with a Sussex blinkered cowl has recently been reconstructed, after many years of disuse. Traditionally the 'oast' was a kiln with a chamber fired by charcoal below with the drying floor for the hops directly above. The steep pitched roof channelled the hot air through the hops and then it escaped through the top. The barn section was called the stowage because it had a cooling area and storage space at ground floor level.

Continue along the lane until you meet Telham Lane. Bear left along this then shortly afterwards you will come to a junction with the busy B2095, Powdermill Lane. There is a gate here as the lane you have been walking along is a private road.

5 → 6 Powdermill Lane to Junction of Pathways



Despite its pretty name, Powdermill Lane is a very busy road so cross carefully and head for the footpath on the bank opposite, slightly to your right and signed 1066 Bexhill Link. Go over the stile and follow the narrow, single file pathway which skirts the right-hand side of the large field.

Carefully cross the entrance drive to The Powder Mills Hotel and then go through the steel gate ahead into the open scrubland area. Follow the footpath uphill, keeping the fence and line of trees to your right. This ridge is part of Senlac Hill, the site of the Battle of Hastings.

Go through a wooden gate near a large tree and continue uphill and straight on. Just before the top of the hill you meet another section of the the 1066 path approaching from your left.

6 → 7 Junction of Pathways to Battle Abbey

Continue to follow your footpath to the right, where the line of trees on your right becomes a wider wooded area. As you walk towards the town of Battle you will see the rooftops ahead. This area is known as George Meadows, Upper Stumblets (and you may come across livestock here). Continue, keeping a wall to your right until you enter Park Lane and you see ahead the unmistakable and imposing entrance to Battle Abbey.

This is both a Grade I listed building and a scheduled monument. It is said that William the Conqueror founded Battle Abbey as part of the penitence imposed on him by Pope for waging war on the English. If so, it was probably began around



1070 and was then the home of a community of Benedictine monks until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538. The Abbey was owned by the Browne family and later the Webster family. Since 1922 part of the Abbey has housed a school. The Government has owned the Abbey since 1976 and it is now in the care of English Heritage.

7 → 8 Battle Abbey to End



Follow the pavement in front of the Abbey entrance. If you are continuing onto Trail Part 13, turn left along the High Street. Otherwise, turn right to continue along the busy High Street with the Abbey wall on your right. This road becomes Upper Lake. At the roundabout, turn right into Lower Lake and carefully swap to the left-hand pavement. Continue and, where the road widens in front of Senlac Inn, take the turning on your left, Station Approach. Cross to the right-hand pavement and continue to Battle rail station where this stretch of the Sussex Hospices Trail ends.

Dedicated to Fore Wood Reserve

The creation of this stretch of the trail was possible thanks to the kind donation from Robert Batcheller and dedicated to beautiful countryside near Battle where Robert is so lucky to live and work and, in particular, the RSPB Nature Reserve at Fore Wood. To read more about the sponsors of this Trail visit hospicetrail.co.uk

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and a map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

We hope you have enjoyed walking this stretch of the Sussex Hospices Trail. Hospices deliver their services for free but such care is not cheap and they largely depend on funds raised from their local communities. We would be very grateful if you would consider making a donation either to your local hospice, wherever that may be, or to the Friends of Sussex Hospices in order to support these invaluable services.

To donate £5 to the Friends of Sussex Hospices text
SHTRI6 £5 to 70070

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