

SUSSEX HOSPICES TRAIL PART 16:

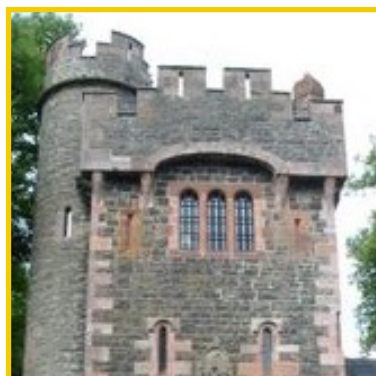
BURWASH COMMON TO HEATHFIELD



Challenging Terrain

6 Miles
Linear
3 hours

120519



Access Notes

1. The terrain has both flat and hilly sections.
2. The walk difficulty has been slightly upgraded due to the fact that several of the paths are very rarely used so not well-trodden and careful attention to the map is required (an OS map may be a useful addition).
3. You are likely to be sharing several path stretches with livestock, including cattle in a few fields and horses in the fifth section.
4. There are a variety of stiles to cross. Some of these are tall so could be challenging for humans, but they are suitable throughout for medium sized dogs. There are two gates that appear to be impassable for dogs, but closer inspection reveals chains with spring gate clips



A 6 mile linear walk from Burwash Common to Heathfield, forming the 16th stretch of the Sussex Hospices Trail.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is a linear route which relies on a bus for the return journey which runs Mon-Fri only. At weekends you will need to use taxis.

The route includes woodlands, grazing pastures, streams and meadows with short stretches of country lane, all within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Along the way you will see Braylsham Castle (pictured), a medieval-style castle built from scratch in 1993, as well as the Grade II listed Pottens Mill Farm.

The only available hospitality on the route is at your destination in Heathfield where a variety of cafes and restaurants can be found.

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

Buses run from Haywards Heath (via Uckfield and Heathfield) to Burwash Common, terminating at Hurst Green. This bus can be used for the return leg. Buses normally run about every 2 hours Mon-Fri, with NO SERVICE on a Saturday or Sunday. Check timetables before you travel and at weekends you will need to make other arrangements, using taxis or two cars.

Walk Sections

Go ➡ 1 Start to Cross A265

From the No. 31 bus stop on the main A265 in Burwash Common, walk on the pavement for a few metres until you see the junction of Vicarage Road and the A265 at the 40mph sign. Just into Vicarage Road you will find a rather concealed waymarker sign pointing right uphill. This takes you up a narrow incline with a hedge to your left and a picket fence on the right.

After about 150 metres you emerge on to a road and turn right. Ignore the private drive on the right and turn right opposite a gate marked 'Common Service Reservoir'. Go



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through the double gate and pass through a covered enclosure between two farm buildings. Proceed straight ahead then through a small gate. The direction shown on the waymarker is slightly misleading; you must go straight ahead with the wire stock fencing on your right. Take a moment to admire the fabulous views across the High Weald towards Mayfield. At the end of the field, turn left and follow the hedge for a few metres (going past a small gate), until you find and go through a gap in the hedge on your right.

Cross a small patch of scrub, ignoring the path to the left, and find a stile straight ahead. Cross the stile and keep direction with a dense gorse hedge on your right. NOTE: There may be cattle in this field (pictured), they were curious but calm when we walked. At the end of the field there is a stile on the right which takes you to meet a small lane. Turn right and walk down the lane for about 200 metres where you will once again meet the A265.

1 → 2 Cross A265 to Bigknowle Hill



Cross the busy A265 with care and turn left at an acute angle down Foxhole Lane (unnamed). Follow this road for about 800 metres, admiring the panoramic Wealden views to your right.

This area is served by the aptly named Hospice in the Weald. The hospice works to ensure that anyone affected by a terminal illness, whether that is a patient, a family member or carer, has the best possible quality of life from the moment of diagnosis. Find out how to make a donation to support this excellent work at the end of this walking guide.

When Foxhole Lane bears right, take the turning on the left, and keep straight ahead until you meet the crossroads with Swife Lane. Go straight across into Bigknowle Hill (signposted) and then turn right. At the next crossroads, turn left, signposted to The Chalet Farm and Taylors Farm.

2 → 3 Bigknowle Hill to Pottens Mill Lane



Follow the metalled road which soon changes into a track, passing Chalet Farm and The Old Workshop. When you reach the gate to Taylors Farm on your right, turn left (signposted) into the field, passing some stables on your right. Climb the slope to the top where you will find a bridleway sign directing you right. Proceed a few metres to the next bridleway sign which points you down a hay field with trees and hedges on your right.

At the bottom of the field, curve left ignoring the gate on your right. Within a few metres you will find a bridleway sign and path that lead you into a wood on the right. An ancient oak tree on the left is visible. Continue straight ahead ignoring a footpath sign pointing left and any temptation to stray off the track. The criss-crossing and winding paths can seem confusing in the extreme! Keeping to the straight (and not too narrow) path, you go through a metal gate for riders and, within a few metres, you will find a short track leading left to an intriguing view of a balustrade. This is worth a quick detour. Venture down this track and you will be rewarded with a glimpse of Braylsham Castle with its castellated tower, Elizabethan-style wing and complete with moat and drawbridge. Here (according to the website) you can book a romantic weekend for two with fine food and intelligent conversation, hosted by owner Professor John Mew.

Returning to the bridle path, continue straight ahead then left over a footbridge (pictured) after which you curve between two ponds, complete with lily pads and wild iris in the summer. Walk up towards the farm buildings on the right, through a gate and on to a rough track. Soon you reach a metalled track leading to Pottens Mill Farm; here you turn left. Follow the track ignoring a footpath sign to the left but admiring the horses head gateway and catching a glimpse of the Braylsham Castle turret through the trees.

Continue straight up the track for a total of about 500 metres until you reach Pottens Mill Lane at a house called Woozels.

3 → 4 Pottens Mill Lane to Street End Lane

Turn left down Pottens Mill Lane, ignoring the stile and waymark straight ahead. Walk for about 500 metres down this very quiet and charming country lane, between ancient hedgerows, until it swings left to meet (just after Rock Farm and at an acute angle) Street End Lane. Turn left and walk down Street End Lane, passing Street End Farm and a post box on the left.



4 → 5 Street End Lane to Newick Lane



Continue past the large house called Hornbeam Wood on your right and walk downhill past various well-kept detached properties. Pass the French and Son garage on your right and continue until you see a side branch of Street End Lane on your right, in front of a white weatherboarded house. Take this right turn and stay on the pavement, along the left-hand side of this quiet residential road.

Continue for about 500 metres to reach Magreed Lane on your right (a narrow tarmac lane between hedgerows). Cross over to turn right into Magreed Lane, follow it downhill and then turn immediately left at the sign for Blackdown Cottage. Continue along this gravel and grass track as it bends to the left. Pass stables and a stile on your right and follow the track as it bends sharply to the right, heading downhill towards the two dwellings ahead.

In front of the white cottage, turn immediately right along the grass and tile path and then turn immediately left down towards the brick cottage in front of you. Continue ahead as the path takes you along the left-hand side of the cottage (this is waymarked but be careful of the slippery bricks underfoot). Follow the path down some gravel and wooden steps into a copse and cross a wooden footbridge over a rusty stream. Once again we are reminded that the whole of this area was once the major iron producing region of England. Bear left up a wooded bank to a waymarked stile.

You are now in a rising field with a tall hedge on your left. After a few metres up the slope you will see in the distance another hedge at right-angles for only part of the width of the field; you are aiming for its right-hand edge, whence another hedge drops down the reverse slope. You must keep this final hedge on your left as, keeping direction, you descend the slope. Several of these fields ahead of you are inter-connected and likely to be occupied by a large number of bullocks. Descend the hill with final hedge on your left.

At the end of this hedge you enter a wood through a waymarked gate. Follow the track (which is likely to become very muddy) up to an apparent fork. Go to the left round the edge of a field, up some formal stone steps and keep to the extreme left-hand side of the cultivated garden. Continue straight ahead, keeping all buildings on your right. At the ornate iron gate take the small rusty gate on the left, keep the house on your right and emerge onto Newick Lane.

5 → 6 Newick Lane to Marklye Lane



Turn left down Newick Lane and cross with great care as this is busy short-cut for traffic to Mayfield. Keeping on the right-hand verge you will find in 75 metres a waymarked narrow path to the right (by a safety mirror) which takes you between close-boarded fences to a field. Keep straight ahead with the hedge on your right, to a waymarked stile (which may be hidden in bracken).

Cross and walk ahead through two gates. Ignore a track entering from the left and take the concrete pathway until it bears right to a house. At this bend, cross the waymarked stile on the left and walk straight ahead across the field to enter a wood. Keeping a wire stock fence on your left, cross a gate and two stiles (both waymarked), pass an official diversion sign and two further waymarked stiles, keeping straight ahead until, via an overgrown path, you reach Marklye Farm on your left and Marklye Lane ahead.

6 → 7 Marklye Lane to End



Turn left down Marklye Lane and walk for about 900 metres until you meet the crossroads with the A265. Cross at the traffic lights to the kitchen shop opposite and turn right

down the main road. After 800 metres you are now in the town centre of Heathfield. If you are continuing onto Trail Part 17, turn left at the mini-roundabout into Station Road. Otherwise, cross the mini-roundabout keeping straight ahead and, in 200 metres, near the end of the parade of shops, you are by Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council offices and the bus stops that mark the end of Part 16 of the Sussex Hospices Trail.

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.

Sponsored by Janie Childs

The creation of this stretch of the trail was possible thanks to the kind donation from Janie Childs in memory of her mother, Margie Childs. Janie is delighted to support Friends of Sussex Hospices by sponsoring this part of the trail which passes near to her home in Newick.

To read more about the sponsors of this Trail visit hospicetrail.co.uk

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
SHTR16 £5 to 70070

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