

SUSSEX  
HOSPICES  
TRAIL

## SUSSEX HOSPICES TRAIL PART 18

### UCKFIELD TO NORTH CHAILEY



Moderate Terrain

6 Miles  
Linear  
3 hours

120519



#### Access Notes

1. The paths are generally firm but after rain a few parts could be muddy.
2. You will need to negotiate a number of stiles, kissing gates and footbridges.
3. There is a short, fascinating section through Bellbrook Business Park at the beginning of the walk and the walk ends with a pavement walk along Station Road to North Chailey.
4. For most of the walk you are in gently rolling open countryside.
5. You will be sharing several of the fields with grazing livestock (including cattle, goats and donkeys), so take particular care with dogs.
6. There are several road crossings that need care, including the busy A22.

## A 6 mile linear walk from Uckfield bus station to the North Chailey bus stop in East Sussex, forming the 18th stretch of the Sussex Hospices Trail.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This linear walk uses a bus journey for the return leg which runs Mon-Sat ONLY. On Sundays you will need to use taxis or make other arrangements.

The route takes you from the busy edge of Uckfield into some surprisingly lovely, tranquil countryside. On route you will skirt through woodland, cross several streams and walk south of Newick village. The return leg can be completed with a single 20 minute bus journey (Mon-Sat).

There are no facilities for the bulk of the walk, but you will find cafes and pubs in Uckfield (at the start of the walk) or a garage and tea shop in North Chailey (at the end of the walk). Call to check opening times. The pond just before Buckham Hill is a particularly good spot for a picnic 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

Uckfield is a town in the Wealden district of East Sussex, located on the southern edge of the Weald and on the River Uck, one of the tributaries of the River Ouse. The walk starts at Uckfield Bus Station. If you are coming by car the approximate postcode is TN22 1QL.

Alternatively, you can get there by bus from Brighton by using bus numbers 28, 29, 29B, 29X, N29 OR from Haywards Heath on Sussex Bus Number 31 (which is also used to make the return leg of this walk).

There is also a rail station at Uckfield with an average of one train per hour to London Bridge. The return journey from North Chailey to Uckfield can be completed with a single 20 minute journey on the hourly Sussex Bus Number 31 (Mon-Sat).

## Walk Sections

Go 1 **Start to Farm Gate**

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Standing with your back to the rail station, cross over to the opposite pavement and turn right (heading north). At the crossroads turn left and then turn left again at the roundabout into Bell Lane. Follow Bell Lane through the Bellbrook Business Park. This lively estate was established in the 1960s and is now home to more than 100 light industrial and commercial businesses which provide a wide range of jobs.

As you approach the junction with Brookside, swap to the right-hand pavement and turn right into Brookside. Swap to the left-hand pavement and, at the junction with the B2102, turn left. Follow the grassy path to the roundabout and turn left again, alongside the A22 Uckfield Bypass. After just a few metres, **CROSS THIS BUSY ROAD, THE A22, VERY CAREFULLY** to the grassy area opposite.

## 1 → 2 Farm Gate to Clump of Trees



Go through the farm gate (which is in a gap in the pine trees) to join a footpath. Follow the well-trodden path diagonally to your left across the first field. Go through the opening into the second field, bear right immediately and then left to continue to follow the narrow footpath which goes along the left-hand side of the next two fields. At a fork in the footpath, bear right towards a clump of trees ahead. (These trees mark the end of a disused railway.)

## 2 → 3 Clump of Trees to End of Grass Path

At the trees, go through the metal gate on the left and follow the footpath around the side of the wood (an overgrown wall marks the site of an old railway building) then cross a stile on the left (which was found to be broken in May 2016 and reported to ESCC). Continue straight ahead along the wide grassy path.



## 3 → 4 End of Grass Path to Beeches Farm Road



At end you will reach a field. Turn right and walk uphill along the right-hand side of this field. Go through an opening into the next field and then keep to the right-hand side of this second field. When the hedge on your right peters out, take a diagonal route following the well-trodden path across the field towards the house and trees. (It may be marshy here after wet weather). At the top of the field you will find a tranquil spot by a natural pond which has a lovely view and is perfect for a picnic.

Go over the stile and walk up the path (which is fenced off from the bottom of a private garden to your right). Go over the stile at the wooden gate and you will emerge to Beeches Farm Road.

## 4 → 5 Beeches Farm Road to Wooden Bridge



The driveway ahead looks like private property but don't be put off, the public footpath does go along this drive. Keep to the left of the private house, go over the stile and then, keeping the fence to your left, continue downhill. There is a particularly lovely view of the landscape here.

At the bottom you meet the driveway to Buckham Hill House. Turn left onto this and, when it divides, take the right-hand fork passing along the front of the house. Continue alongside an old wall and pass Hippocrene Farm on your left. Go through an open metal gate and cross the field straight ahead towards the line of trees. It may be boggy here. (There are pheasant cages to your right and you may hear the sounds of a shoot during this section of the walk.) At the line of trees you will hear the River Ouse as there is a weir ahead.

Bear left at the river, then continue along, keeping the river on your right. The path is wide here but may be muddy. When the path opens into a field follow the well-trodden route across the centre of the field then bear right over a large wooden bridge across a small stream.

## 5 → 6 Wooden Bridge to View of Newick Church



Go over the stile ahead into a narrow field. NOTE: There may be cattle grazing in this field. Cross to the opposite corner and go through the open V-shaped stile. Follow the narrow path through the crops in the next field to meet a gravel path at the hedge (near the corner of some farm buildings).

You will see a line of pylons ahead. Continue, keeping the hedge to your right, until you meet a metal gate onto the lane. Cross Sharpsbridge Lane and take the wooden steps ahead to pick up the footpath at a stile. Follow the wide path straight across the field with the unmissable pylon to your right. At the end of this field turn left onto the gravel path, keeping the fence on your right. Continue, passing some beehives along the way, into the next field.

Here, bear right and continue keeping the wooded area to your right. The path dips into a clay area and then opens into another field. In this field follow the path to the left of the field with Founthill Wood on your left. Take extra care to keep to the paths in this part of the walk as these are managed areas for young trees and wildfowl. At the end of this path there is a metal farm gate and open V-stile which takes you over a stream. Turn left and go through another gate (where it may be muddy) and you will see Newick Church ahead.

## 6 → 7 View of Newick Church to Church Road



Follow the footpath diagonally across the field to reach St Mary's Church in Newick. The church dates mainly from the Victorian era, but it still has a Norman window. The whole area is peaceful and looks well kept.

Go through the churchyard and exit via the gate on the other side to reach the road. Follow Church Lane ahead on the right-hand pavement and you will reach a junction with Church Road.

## 7 → 8 Church Road to Allington Road



Cross over Church Road and take the driveway ahead. The pebbled driveway immediately divides in two, so take the right-hand fork (which is also a drive), then follow it as it becomes a narrow footpath between hedges. This footpath soon opens out into the King George V playing fields. Follow the footpath which heads along the right-hand side. The quiet and birdsong here maintain the country-feel of this section of the walk even though the large village of Newick is just a hundred yards away to your right.

Follow the yellow waymarker through an open gate into another playing field and keep to the right-hand side until you pass the skate park. Now take the footpath diagonally left across the field towards the visible metal farm gate. Go through the kissing gate and the path becomes narrow but is very clear and easy to follow.

At the junction of paths go through another kissing gate and take a left into an open field. Keep to the right-hand side of this field and follow the footpath. At the end of the field the path bears left. Keep to the right-hand side on the grassy track into the next field. Continue, keeping to the right as you see farm buildings to your left. You may hear the sound of

horses as there is a stud farm nearby.

When you reach the trees follow the right-hand path into the trees at another open kissing gate. As the path bears right, take a left turn following the yellow waymarker through a wooden kissing gate (which also bears a plaque in memory of keen walker Paul Berry). NOTE: There may be donkeys and goats in this field and this area could be muddy.

Keep the trees on your left. At the kissing gate, take the path diagonally to your left and then go through another kissing gate onto the driveway. Turn right onto Oxbottom Close. When it meets the Allington Road turn left.

## 8 → 9 Allington Road to End



At the T-junction, turn left onto Western Road, which is the A272, then stay on the left-hand pavement and continue heading west. The pavement passes a mixture of fields, detached houses and also the Chailey Stud Equestrian Centre. Just before the roundabout, cross carefully to the right-hand pavement. At the roundabout, cross the A275 carefully to go straight ahead. Walk along past the tea rooms on your right until you are opposite the garage. The bus stop here is where this section of the Sussex Hospices Trail ends. From here you can take the hourly Sussex Bus No 31 back to Uckfield which takes 20 minutes.

This point of the Sussex Hospices Trail marks the nearest point to St Peter and St James Hospice which cares for patients from Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Lewes, Uckfield and the surrounding villages. The staff at the hospice make a positive difference to the experience of those who face death or bereavement, by offering choice and support through expert care, knowledge and understanding. All their hospice services are free of charge and they rely on the local community for 86% of their funds. They receive less than 14% of our funding from the Government and so have to raise more than £2.6 million every year through fundraising.

## In Celebration of St Peter and St James Hospice

The creation of this stretch of the trail was possible thanks to the kind donation from Mr Hugh Thwaites in appreciation of the excellent work done by St Peter and St James Hospice. To read more about the sponsors of this Trail visit [hospicetrail.co.uk](http://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 **SHTRI6 £5 to 70070**

Friends of Sussex Hospices, Registered Charity No. 1089306

<http://www.friendsofsussexhospices.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donations>

### 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.

