




# SUSSEX HOSPICES TRAIL PART 24

## PULBOROUGH TO AMBERLEY


### Challenging Terrain


# 6.5 Miles Linear 3.5 hours

120519





### Access Notes



1. This stretch of the route has several climbs and descents throughout, including one steep climb up to the South Downs ridge.
2. Several of the paths follow the River Arun and cross its flood plain so it can be very muddy at times (and may be impassable with floodwater in wet winters or after periods of heavy rain).
3. In summer, some of the narrow paths can be a bit overgrown.
4. You will need to negotiate several kissing gates and a few stiles.
5. You will be sharing a few of the fields with cattle and at least one field with sheep so take particular care with dogs.

## A 6.5 mile linear walk from Pulborough rail station to Amberley rail station forming Part 24 of the Sussex Hospices Trail.

This is a fascinating walk of contrasting landscapes such as wooded heathland, managed wetlands along the Arun, the picture box village of Amberley and the chalk scarp slope of the Downs. The return leg can be completed with a single 6 minute train journey.

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

Pulborough is a large village where the Rivers Arun and Rother meet. It looks southwards over the broad flood plain of the River Arun to the South Downs and is on the northern edge of the South Downs National Park. Pulborough rail station is on the London Victoria - Bognor Regis line. The station has a ticket office, coffee shop, toilets and a taxi rank. If you are coming by car the post code for Pulborough Station is RH20 1AH and parking is £5.50 per day or £2.00 on Sundays (correct June 2016). For the return train journey from Amberley to Pulborough there are usually two trains per hour on weekdays and one train per hour at weekends.


## Walk Sections







### Start to Pulborough Garden Centre

With the station buildings to your left, head in the direction of the top of the car park but then take an immediate right turn just behind the cycle rack. This leads you to a narrow tarmac footpath which runs along the left-hand side of the road. Continue under the trees and, at an open gate into a lane, turn left. Follow the lane over the bridge as it bears left. Continue until just before the lane bears slightly to the right. At this fingerpost, leave the lane and take the public footpath to your left. (NOTE: If you are continuing from Trail Part 23, pick up the directions from this point). Go up one step and then up a slight rise to emerge into a crop field with open views all around.



Get the AllTrails App for a smarter walking experience. 75K walking guides in the palm of your hand with live maps that show your progress as you walk. Say goodbye to wrong turns.

[alltrails.com](https://www.alltrails.com)







Follow the trodden path, which may be muddy, across the left-hand side of the field. You will see a concrete pillbox ahead of you (just to your right) which is part of the line of defence built in 1940 along the river from Arundel.

Follow the path as it enters the trees (to the left of the pillbox) then bear left. There is a sunken lane to your right as the path widens. Cross a tarmac lane and then continue straight ahead alongside a chestnut paling fence which is to your right. Keep ahead and enter a wooded area through a gap to the right of a wooden gate. The path bears left and into pines. (It may be muddy here and there may be horse droppings). The pines become a mixed woodland with walnut trees and plentiful ferns in the summer. The path widens and becomes sandy as you meet the heathland with its characteristic gorse bushes on your left. Follow the path as it narrows again and enters another wooded area where you should see a striking looking clump of dead fir trees on your left. At a fork in the path, follow the public footpath to your left and continue to bear left. Continue straight on through a gateless opening onto a gravel path. When you see allotments ahead, take a sharp right marked West Sussex County Council Footpath into the woods between the wooden posts.

Follow a narrow path, go through an opening in the wire and post fence then straight ahead to a metal barred gate with a trimmed hedge to your right. Take the opening at the side of the metal gate and join a gravel track which is just to the right of Pulborough Garden Centre. Continue towards the road.

## 1 ➔ 2 Pulborough Garden Centre to London Road



NOTE: In wet winters and after periods of heavy rain this next section is prone to flooding and so could be impassable for walkers.

Carefully cross the busy road (A283) onto a small tarmac area. Go through a steel kissing gate and follow the public footpath to your left with the River Arun to your right. The path is grassy

and could be muddy. At the first of the two bridges you see ahead, turn right through a gate onto this first bridge. At the far side of the bridge go through another gate into a field (which may contain cattle). Bear slightly left across the field following the trodden path. At the hedge, go through a kissing gate and continue on a concrete road to cross the bridge over the River Rother (the two rivers, Rother and Arun, meet a few hundred yards to your left). Continue ahead with the Southern Water pumping station to your left.

Continue then take a sharp right turn along a paved drive lined with a chestnut paling fence and head towards Hardham Mill Business Park. Just before the buildings, turn left through a steel gate then bear right at the railway gate. Follow the footpath along through a field and, at a metal bar gate, turn left where you see a small sign for the Wey South Path. Cross a narrow trodden path over the field, go through two steel gates to cross a bridge over the railway. Continue on the path for a few yards until you reach the kissing gate onto London Road. Take this gate and cross carefully to the other side of the road, to reach a building (which is currently a Vintage Garden shop).

## 2 ➔ 3 London Road to Greatham Bridge



Turn right for just a few paces then take an immediate left onto a public footpath. Go over the stile (which has a raised bar for dogs) and continue into a small downward sloping field, which may contain sheep. At the kissing gate, continue along a narrow path, which is part of the Wey South Path. This narrow pathway leads you through a narrow wooded area with streams on both sides and goes on for about half a mile. In wet weather it may be muddy and in summer parts of the path may be overgrown.

At the end of this path go over the stile and emerge onto Brook Lane. Turn left and continue ahead (ignoring a footpath going into a field on your right) until you come to Greatham Bridge. This fine medieval bridge is a very striking feature of this part of the Arun Valley.

## 3 ➔ 4 Greatham Bridge to Amberley Village

After crossing Greatham Bridge, turn immediate right over the stile and follow the footpath which has a small sign saying Wey South Path. Continue along the narrow grassy path with the River Arun to your right. Emerge onto a sandy lane and take a right turn along this, uphill. The track lane bears left, right then left at Quell Farm. At the fence follow the footpath, which is still the Wey South Path, as it bends again and then becomes a wide grassy track with open views to your right.





Continue into the open field and bear immediately right to cross Amberley Wildbrooks towards the Downs and the village of Amberley.

NOTE: In wet winters and after periods of heavy rain this area is prone to flooding and so could be impassable for walkers.

Follow the trodden path on the edge of the field, keeping close to the fence on your right. The floodplain of the River Arun extends across this open grassland with its reeds and wildlife-rich ditches. It is part of a Special Protection Area and has unusual grasses and many wildfowl such as teal, lapwings and snipe.

Continue over a stile and over a small wooden bridge. Depending on the time of year it could be very muddy here and there are wooden platforms to help give walkers a more secure footing. The grassy path takes you through a wooden gate and then the route follows a chalky lane which bears right and uphill. As the path opens out, go through a kissing gate and continue up a slope into Amberley.

## 4 → 5 Amberley Village to End



As your path meets Amberley village turn immediately left. The pretty thatched cottages along this lane are typical of this village. Turn right at the junction with High Street where there is a tea room on your left next to the phone box. Continue ahead along School Lane to the junction with the busy B2139. Cross this road very carefully and continue up Mill Hill ahead. This lane is the steepest part of this walk as you are climbing up the scarp slope of the South Downs. At the first junction turn sharp right and follow the lane along the contour of the hill. The buildings of Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre are visible to your left in the little valley below. At the T-junction, carefully cross the B2139 and then turn left onto the concealed pavement on the right-hand side of the road. At the bend, be aware the pavement is narrow and oncoming traffic may be very close. When you see the railway station sign, carefully cross the road

to enter the railway courtyard and Amberley Station where this stretch of the Sussex Hospices Trail ends.

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](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.

## Sponsored by Lord and Lady Fellowes

The creation of this stretch of the trail was possible thanks to the kind donation from Lord and Lady Fellowes.

To read more about the sponsors of this Trail visit [hospicetrail.co.uk](http://hospicetrail.co.uk)



