

## Trails by Rail: Balcombe

Welcome to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; a beautiful and historic protected landscape.

This walk takes you through wooded valleys and over gently rolling hills with spectacular views over the Ouse valley, the railway viaduct and the South Downs. Sunken lanes, ponds, a sandstone outcrop and historic buildings are features to look out for.

<b>Distance and duration</b>	6 miles / 9.5 kilometres – approximately 3 hours
<b>Level</b>	Moderate – hilly with four stiles
<b>Start point</b>	Balcombe Station, Balcombe, Haywards Heath RH17 6JQ
<b>Map reference</b>	TQ 306301 OS Explorer 135 and OS Explorer Crawley and Horsham 34
<b>Other information</b>	Parking: pay and display parking at Balcombe Station Refreshments: Balcombe Tea Rooms, the Half Moon Inn, village store.

### I-Spy - things to look out for in the landscape



**Views** over the High Weald look much the same today as in the 14th century: gently rolling hills, irregular-shaped fields, small, scattered settlements and wooded areas.



**Spicers Farmhouse** has been built using styles and materials typical of the area. You can see a timber frame, clay-tiles and sandstone roof tiles.

## Walk directions

1. Start from Balcombe Railway Station and exit via steps from the railway bridge up to the road. Turn left and continue until you reach a road on your right, Bramble Hill, signposted to the Tea Rooms. Follow this road into Balcombe village. At the Tea Rooms turn right onto the road opposite with Victory Hall on the corner. Shortly after Victory Hall turn right along a signposted tarmac footpath to walk along the left edge of the recreation ground and then pass between houses. Turn left onto Jobes to reach Newlands Road. Cross over the road and follow the footpath opposite. Turn right as it joins a wider track that leads to a field. Keep to the left-hand field edge and continue straight ahead to reach a kissing gate in the corner of the field.
2. Turn left to reach and cross a railway bridge. Follow the footpath through a garden and bear left on the drive to reach the main road. Cross this road (take care this is a fast road) and turn left to follow a path that runs through the grass verge and bears right into woodland. Follow the path through the woods to cross a stile. Turn right to walk down the field edge and follow it along the bottom of the field.
3. Pass through a kissing gate on the right and walk down steps and over a footbridge into woodland. Follow the path up the hill and continue to take the uphill path at footpath junctions. Pass a sandstone outcrop on your right to then emerge from the woodland and reach the top of the hill. Follow the path straight ahead and down the other side. Cross a stile on your right and a small footbridge and continue to a gate. Carry on downhill bearing right at the bottom to meet the lane.
4. Turn right to walk up the lane and when you reach a pond on your right turn left into Whitethroat Lane towards Spicers Farm. Pass the barns and farm on your left and carry on downhill. Bear left to pass through a gate and continue uphill. Pass the White House pond and bear left to follow the drive. Continue as it becomes a small road and walk downhill and around a lake. Stay on the road as it goes uphill and then follow it all the way until the end is in sight. As the road turns sharply right, just before it meets Brantridge Lane, look carefully for a waymarker, as the footpath continues straight ahead to go down some steps to meet the same lane.
5. Turn right to follow the lane uphill. Carry on for almost a mile until you reach Ditton Place on your left and just past this a footpath on your right. Bear left for a few metres then take the narrow, waymarked path on the right to head straight downhill through the woods to the valley. Follow steps down to a footbridge and up the other side. Turn left then right to carry on uphill.
6. Walk through three fields keeping to the top left-hand edge. At a footpath junction ignore the stile on the left and stay on the path as it follows around the wood on your left. In the fourth field, walk straight ahead then follow the waymarker to veer right keeping a pond surrounded by trees to your left. Follow the footpath around the pond and then to the

corner of the field and over the stile by a white house. Turn left and continue to cross a driveway and reach a small lane.

7. Turn left down the lane and at the cottage at the bottom of the hill take the footpath straight ahead off the road. Climb steps and two stiles to reach the road. Turn left to walk back to Balcombe station.

## **Please follow the Countryside Code**

### **Respect other people**

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

### **Protect the natural environment**

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

### **Enjoy the outdoors**

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared







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