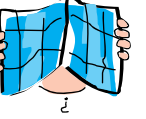


1:50 000 Landranger Series –  
187 Dorking, Reigate & Crawley  
198 Brighton & the Downs  
1:25 000 Explorer Series -  
135 Ashdown Forest

## ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

We recommend use of the following Ordnance Survey maps in conjunction with this guide:



The maps in the guide are an indication of the walks and not precise routefinders. Always use Ordnance Survey maps in conjunction with the guide and the waymarkers to ensure you follow the right routes.



Short sections of the walk are on narrow and enclosed lanes with no pavements. Please take care on these sections. Generally face oncoming traffic and take great care at corners, ideally walking on the outside of the bends.



The unique Wealden landscape is due in part to the heavy clay soils. It can be wet and boggy in places even in summer. Always wear appropriate footwear.

walking in the High Weald:

## WATCH OUT!!

This guide promotes a 13km (8 mile) walk between two railway stations, introducing the many delights of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The route follows public footpaths, bridleways and minor roads, and is designed to link closely with the public transport network to give you the opportunity to leave your car at home. There are some common sense things to think about when walking in the High Weald:

## FEATURES OF INTEREST

### HAYWARDS HEATH

The administrative centre of Mid Sussex District, which grew up as a railway town. It has an attractive Victorian and Edwardian Conservation Area and is a lively centre for shopping, sports and the arts.

The station was rebuilt in the 1900's. The public house opposite bears the name of the local family who were important at the time of the railway opening.

### WICKHAM WOOD

There was a brick kiln at the north end of Wickham Wood in the 1860s, next to the abandoned Ouse Valley Railway, run by Messrs. Finch, builders of Haywards Heath. It may have produced the bricks for the abandoned railway abutments at the nearby Skew Bridge.

### COPYHOLD LANE

Here you see a rail embankment, the only real evidence of the abandoned Ouse Valley Railway that was to run from Balcombe south to Hellingly in East Sussex. The line was begun in 1865 at a time of much competition between local railway companies, seeking to expand their "territories". Competition eased in 1866 and the line, an expensive project, was abandoned.

### RIVERS WOOD BRIDGE

Here you pass over the single track railway, which once linked Ardingly to Horsted Keynes. Arney Roadstone now use the track to move stone from the main line to their depot. The line leaves the main line at Copyhold Junction, the scene of a fatal rail crash in the 19th Century. Ardingly used to have a station, an indication of how important the college was to the railway. The line was built in the hope that it would bring expansion to Ardingly. This was not achieved and the line finally closed in 1963.

### OUSE NAVIGATION

In the 19th Century this was a navigable waterway which followed the line of the River Ouse from Newhaven to Upper Ryelands Bridge, near Balcombe. Formerly there was a wharf and basin nearby for turning the barges. The houses near the bridge, still called 'Wharf Cottages', were built for the keeper of the wharf. During the

### BALCOMBE

Balcombe is a picturesque village surrounded by beautiful woods and a variety of lakes, ponds and reservoirs. There are fifty five listed buildings in the village. St. Mary's Church was restored and enlarged in the 19th Century.

### ARDINGLY

The Saxon word leah, used to denote a cleared area of woodland, has given us -ley or -ly. The clearing at Ardingly was settled by a tribe known as the Eardingas, or Eardas people. The village is famous for its public school, Ardingly College, opened in 1870. It also has an attractive timber framed public house, the Oak Inn, first recorded as a public house in 1625. The church, St Peter's, was built in the early 14th Century with a massive tower. The first parish church of Ardingly is believed to have been founded by William de Warenne, a Norman who came over with William the Conqueror, who also founded Lewes Priory.

### ARDINGLY RESERVOIR

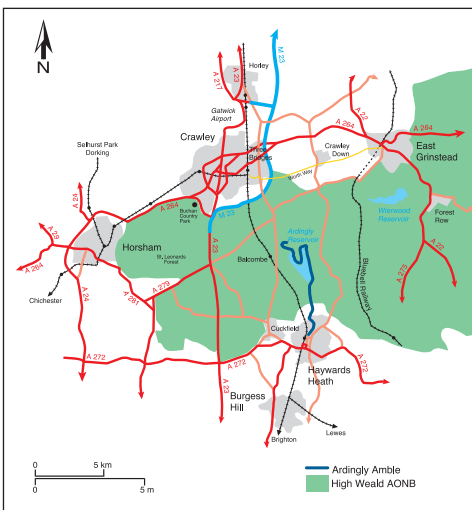
The reservoir was completed in 1979 to provide new water resources for South East Water customers, receiving water from the Shell and Ardingly Brooks. It also provides a tranquil setting for walking, including an easy access trail, angling and nature study. Educational sailing, canoeing and windsurfing takes place from the Activity Centre (telephone 01444 892549). The area is now designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

6m below the surface.

This spectacular viaduct opened for rail traffic in 1841. The architect was David Mocatta who also designed the stations at Balcombe and Haywards Heath. He is responsible for the Italianate style including the four ornamental square open towers. There are over 11 million bricks in the structure. The arches are pierced to reduce the number of bricks required and are tapered in elevation. The foundations are said to be

### OUSE VALLEY VIADUCT (BALCOMBE VIADUCT)

time of the viaduct construction, when brick, stone and timber were unloaded at the wharf, one was the Bricklayers Arms, a lodging and ale house for workers.



### FURTHER CONTACTS

For more information on walking and other countryside activities in the High Weald of West Sussex, contact:

Mid Sussex District Council – Leisure and Amenities Department. Tel 01444 458166

West Sussex County Council Environment and Development. Tel 01243 777610

West Sussex County Council  
Buchan Country Park. Tel: 01293 542088/544120  
email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council Public Rights of Way Interactive Maps. www.westsussex.gov.uk

### TOURIST INFORMATION

Further information on attractions, accommodation and public transport is available from:

Burgess Hill Tourist Information Centre, 96 Church Walk, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AS. Tel: 01444 238202

East Grinstead Tourism Initiative, Library Buildings, West Street, East Grinstead, RH19 4SR. Tel: 01342 410121

West Sussex County Council Tourism Officer. Tel 01243 777488

## TRAVELWISE

### RAIL

There are regular services from London Victoria to Crawley, Balcombe, Haywards Heath, Horsham and East Grinstead. These link to Lewes, Brighton, Worthing, Chichester, Southampton and beyond. To find out more about travelling on trains and any bargain offers, no matter which operator, just ask at the nearest staffed station. It is best to check before you travel, especially at weekends.

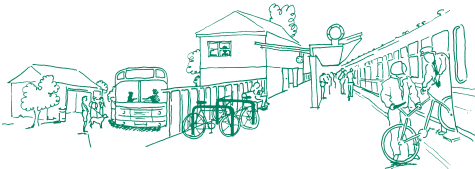
NATIONAL RAIL ENQUIRIES: TEL 08457 484950

### BUS/COACH

Regular coach services run from Victoria Coach Station in London to the main towns in the area. Local routes run between most villages and towns, but can be infrequent. More information can be found in the Rural Rides Leaflet and Passenger Transport 2002 Route Map – Telephone 01243 777610. Suitable bus stops are indicated on the map.



For all your local bus, coach and rail enquiries



**LINE OPEN**  
**7.00am to 8.00pm** **8.00am to 8.00pm**  
**Monday-Saturday** **Sundays**

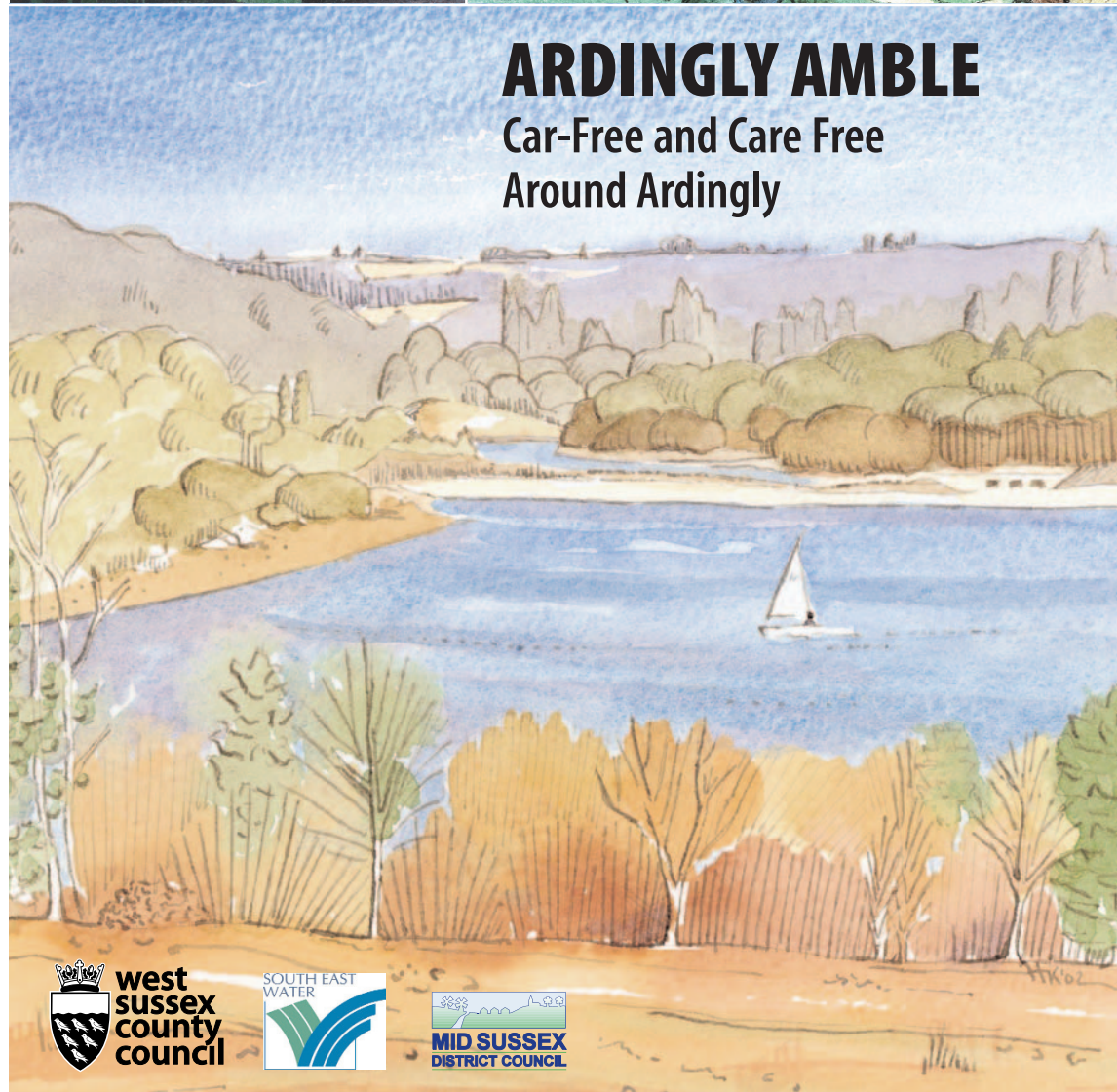
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PASS THIS ON TO SOMEONE ELSE  
& THEN RECYCLE**

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## ARDINGLY AMBLE

### Car-Free and Care Free Around Ardingly



## ARDINGLY AMBLE HAYWARDS HEATH TO BALCOMBE

A 13 kilometre (8 mile) walk between two railway stations

1. From the Station follow the signs along Mill Green Road, College Road and Wickham Way.
2. Head east on Old Wickham Lane to join the footpath heading north near the entrance to Wickham Farm.
3. Follow footpath down to stream and up to Golf Course.
4. Please keep to the footpath, west of the line of trees.
5. Head west along footpath through Wickham Wood to Copyhold Lane. From here follow the footpath marked with the High Weald Landscape Trail logo through River's Wood to the Reservoir.
6. Follow the footpath and bridleway all the way around the edge of the Reservoir to Mill Lane.
7. Follow Mill Lane towards Balcombe, past 'The Mill' and 'Mill House'. Turn right onto the footpath to reach Balcombe Lake.
8. Cross farm drive by Balcombe Lake. Take the footpath, through two gates, then up the hill and cross the cricket ground to Balcombe.
9. Head along Bramble Hill, passing the 'Tea Rooms'. Turn left onto London Road to reach Balcombe Station.

### Kew In The Country

A circular walk between Balcombe and Ardingly waymarked with High Weald Circular Walk discs in one direction only and follows Public Rights of Way. This is one of five High Weald Landscape Trail Circular Walks in West Sussex.



### KEY

- High Weald Circular Walk
- Ardingly Amble
- Car Park
- Bus Stop
- Telephone
- Toilets
- Environmental Art
- Public House/Refreshments
- Places of Interest
- Gardens
- Golf Course
- Rivers Wood Bridge
- Viaduct

