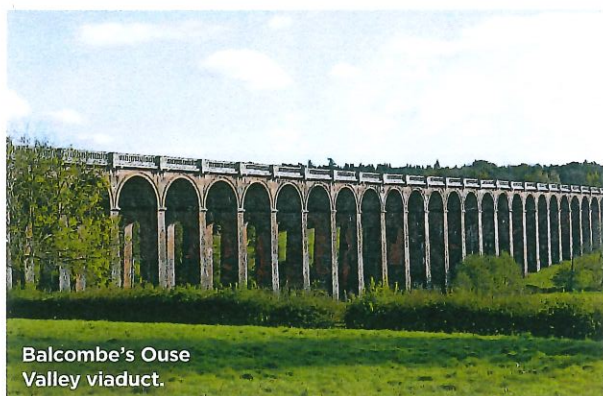


04 WEST SUSSEX  
ARDINGLY TO BALCOMBE

► Distance: 7½ miles/12km ► Time: 4 hours ► Grade: Moderate

SOUTH EAST

SOUTH EAST

04 WEST SUSSEX  
ARDINGLY TO BALCOMBE► OS Explorer map 135 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

Balcombe's Ouse Valley viaduct.

PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP

CHOSEN BY...  
FIONA BARLTROP

Regular travellers on the London to Brighton railway line will know that the best views on the journey are those between the stations of Balcombe and Haywards Heath, when the train crosses the Balcombe Viaduct. The viaduct itself is just as impressive a sight – but to view it properly the best way is on foot, as you'll do on this walk which takes you underneath the arches. Ardingly Reservoir, where the route starts, is a popular venue for sailing and other watersports as well as angling and bird watching. The last leg of the walk is a very pleasant stretch along its eastern

shoreline. If preferred, the route can be just as easily started from Balcombe railway station near point 5.

## 1 Start

Near entrance to car park follow path up grass to boat-park area, where Ardingly Activity Centre is based. Access road bears L up to disabled car park. Follow path up on its R – over to your R you'll see a signpost; the direction to head is L, i.e. south following High Weald Landscape Trail.

## 2 ½ mile/0.6km

After crossing a second footbridge bear R along Sussex Ouse Valley Way (SOVW). Before long you'll spot first of Balcombe Viaduct's arches

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

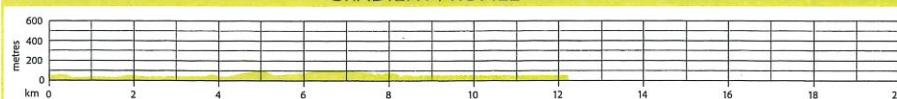
**Start/parking** Car park S of Ardingly Reservoir, RH17 6SQ, grid ref TQ335288. Alternatively Balcombe railway station, which also has car park **Is it for me?** Fairly gentle walking through fields and woodland and on reservoir shoreline, short stretches on lanes/village roads **Stiles** 7

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Haywards Heath  
**Refreshments** Ardingly Activity Centre café (01444 892549); Balcombe Tea Rooms (01444 811777) and Half Moon Inn, Balcombe (01444 811582)  
**Public toilets** At start  
**Public transport** Station at Balcombe (London-Brighton line); Bus 62 Crawley-Haywards Heath  
**Maps** OS Explorer 135; Landranger 198



## GRADIENT PROFILE



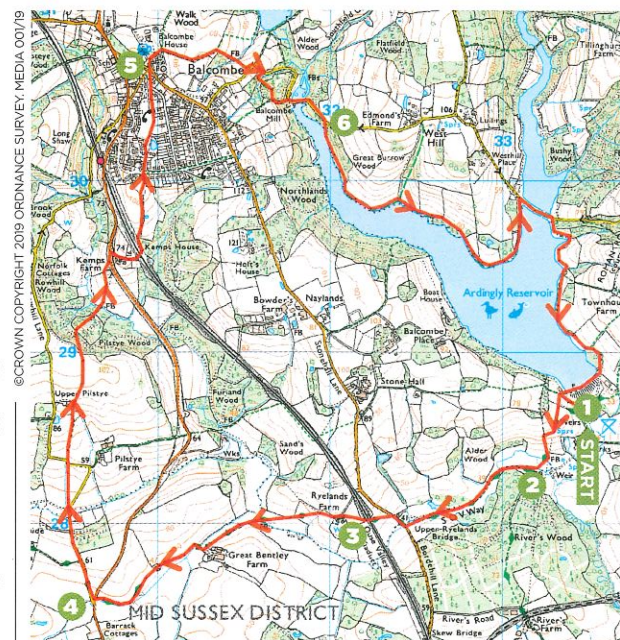
ahead. At road turn R along verge and soon L along footpath across a field which takes you underneath the arches.

## 3 1 mile/1.75km

The splendid Grade II listed Balcombe Ouse Valley Viaduct, completed in 1842, is 1480ft/450m long and 96ft/29m high and comprises 37 arches with pierced piers. 11 million bricks are said to have been used in its construction. Though the Ouse today is just a stream where it flows beneath the viaduct, it was a navigable waterway in the 19th century. Continue along SOVW past Ryelands and Great Bentley Farms, joining access road from latter which leads to B2036.

## 4 2½ miles/3.5km

At road cross diagonally L to turn R along Cherry Lane, heading north. Cross Ouse again and take footpath on L continuing north, crossing lane again. Path climbs through open fields, then continues on R of hedge into and down through woodland (go straight over crossing track) to B2036 again. Go L then R along access road to last house, through small gate and along path to railway line, crossed via bridge. Continue to Balcombe maintaining direction at road junction soon joining a paved path which runs beside Recreation Ground. Bear L at road then R. If starting from



Balcombe station ascend steps on E side to B2036, turn briefly L, cross road and walk up paved path to residential road, turning R to join main route at above mentioned road junction.

## 5 4½ miles/7km

Cross Haywards Heath Road and bear L to pass pub and village shop. Soon bear R following along access road/footpath which leads down to cricket ground. Cross this as footpath sign indicates. Fork R at next junction, L along road, soon R along bridleway and L at junction to rejoin road turning R past Mill.

## 6 5½ miles/8.5km

Take bridleway on R that leads along eastern shore of Ardingly Reservoir. This is route of Kingfisher Trail – info panels and numbered posts along the way. Cross east arm of reservoir by roadside path, then turn R to continue along shoreline path back to car park. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON  
OS MAPS ONLINE:

lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING



# 04 WEST SUSSEX HENFIELD

► Distance: 10½ miles/16.7km ► Time: 5 hours ► Grade: Moderate



SOUTH EAST

SOUTH EAST

# 04 WEST SUSSEX HENFIELD

► OS Explorer map OL11 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)



Truleigh Hill from the banks of the River Adur.

PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP



## CHOSEN BY... FIONA BARLTROP

Situated on a ridge above the Adur valley, with views towards the South Downs, the village of Henfield dates back to 770AD. Criss-crossed with footpaths, bridleways and twittens (a Sussex word for a narrow enclosed passageway), the village is well worth exploring on foot. There are numerous routes into the surrounding countryside, including along the Downs Link, which runs north to south on the west side of Henfield. This 37-mile surfaced route follows an old railway line, one of those closed in the 1960s as a result of the Beeching cuts. The outward leg of the walk

follows the Downs Link to Bramber, another historic village with picturesque castle ruins, returning along the river bank of the Adur and then across fields back to Henfield.

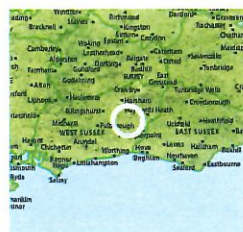
## 1 Start

L out of car park and R down Station Road opposite Cat & Canary past Beechings residential road on R. As road bends L turn briefly R into Hollands Lane, then L along Downs Link track. About 1km along where a bench is situated (another soon after) there are good views on R across Adur floodplain – fields (around Rye Farm) flood regularly in winter.

## 2 1½ miles/2.8km

Meandering River Adur is

## PLAN YOUR WALK



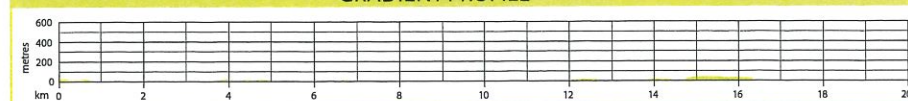
## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Car park next to Cat & Canary pub, Henfield BN5 9PJ, grid ref TQ206162. Alternative start at Bramber (Street car park)  
**Is it for me?** Easy, level outward leg along well waymarked Downs Link: surfaced track/lanes. Mostly level return along riverbank and through fields (some paths muddy during/after wet weather)  
**Stiles** 10 (a few with gates alongside)

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Steyning  
**Refreshments** Cat & Canary at start and other pubs and cafés in Henfield, and choice in Bramber  
**Public toilets** Henfield & Bramber  
**Public transport** Bus 17 Horsham-Brighton; Bus 100 Burgess Hill-Horsham  
**Maps** OS Explorer OL11; Landranger 198

## GRADIENT PROFILE



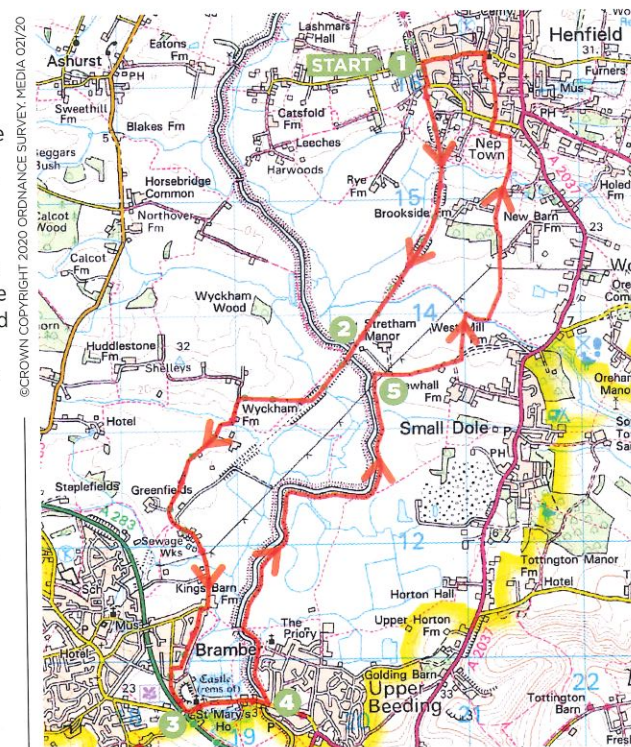
crossed just after a path intersection, another on far side of bridge. After 0.5km Downs Link track bears R (footpath turns off L). Continue to T-junction and turn L, soon passing some dwellings. Carry on along lane, which becomes King's Barn Lane leading to Bramber. Follow road round to R then L along Kings Stone Ave and L at T-junction. Keep ahead at next junction along narrow lane to A283 roundabout. Turn immediately L just before it up access road to car park for Bramber Castle and church. Norman castle ruins situated on knoll above village provide good views of Adur valley – allow time to look round (castle in care of English Heritage, free entry, info panels). The church was built at same time by castle founder William de Braose.

## 3 4½ miles/7.5km

Follow path below church down to road and turn L past car park on L and 15th-century timber-framed St Mary's House on R. Continue along road to bridge over River Adur.

## 4 5 miles/8km

On far side turn L along river bank path. Beyond kissing gate Saltings Field passed on R (salt made here – see info panel). Head N passing footbridge on L. After about 2km river and path bend R heading E, before resuming N direction again. Two path



junctions passed here – bear L at second (can be muddy, after rain) over stile by gate.

## 5 7½ miles/12km

R at next junction along field edge, then on access road. Next L along field edge heading N. Cross footbridge, turn R then L at field corner before gate. Head N through fields descending to five-armed fingerpost. Keep ahead uphill, L along top edge of field past benches joining residential road. Next R to crossroads

and ahead along Black Gate Lane, then paved path beside Tanyard (pond and pasture, site of former tanning industry) to Church Lane, passing church on R. L at Upper Station Road back to start. [CW](http://cw)

## VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING