

04 WEST SUSSEX AMBERLEY & PARHAM

► Distance: 9¼ miles/14.8km ► Time: 5 hours ► Grade: Moderate

SOUTH EAST



Views back on the climb to Amberley Mount.

PHOTO: FIONA BARTROP



CHOSEN BY...
FIONA BARTROP

Described as the 'Pearl of Sussex', Amberley is a picturesque village with many thatched cottages and a 12th century church and castle (now a hotel). Situated at the foot of the South Downs on a low ridge above the River Arun floodplain (known as the Amberley Wild Brooks), it is duly popular with walkers with three long distance paths, notably the South Downs Way, passing through it. Next door to the railway station, sited in a former chalk quarry, is the Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre, a 36 acre open-air site dedicated to the industrial history of the south-east.

The walk follows a fine stretch of the South Downs Way eastwards for its outward leg, then descends the northern scarp slope joining the West Sussex Literary Trail through Parham Park for its return. Parham is one of the country's finest Elizabethan houses – both the house and beautiful gardens are open to the public (from Easter day until October – parhaminsussex.co.uk).

1 Start Exit station, cross road and turn R along pavement. After c.500m cross road again and turn R up lane called High Titten. Further up another lane joins from L. Soon after turn L up bridleway (South Downs Way/SDW) to ascend

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Amberley station car park, BN18 9LR, grid ref TQ026118 (if full, alternative on roadside up High Titten)

Is it for me? A couple of climbs, otherwise easy gradients. Route follows South Downs Way ridge-top track and West Sussex Literary Trail: estate drives, parkland, woodland and field footpaths; country lanes & village roads

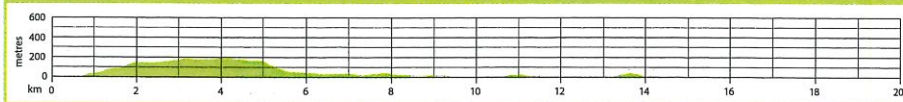
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PLANNING

Nearest town Arundel
Refreshments Choice on route
Public toilets At start
Public transport London-Bognor Regis trains via Amberley. Buses 74/74A/74B Amberley & Horsham, www.compass-travel.co.uk
Maps OS Explorer OL10; Landranger 197



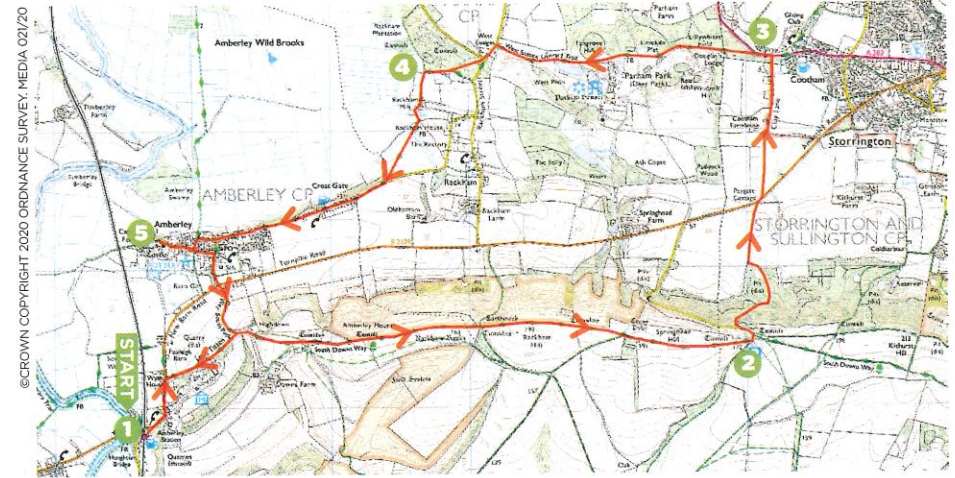
GRADIENT PROFILE



04 WEST SUSSEX AMBERLEY & PARHAM

► OS Explorer map OL10 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

SOUTH EAST



Amberley Mount. It's quite a climb but once on top the walking is easy along the crest of the Downs over Rackham Hill and Springhead Hill to Kithurst Hill car park.

2 3 miles/5km Turn L onto road and as it curves L at a junction with a surfaced track on R leave it on R at fingerpost and head down grass to gate continuing diagonally downhill to another gate. Carry on descending through woodland and further down keep ahead past conifers. Join a track bearing L and soon turn R along grassy track leading to road. Turn briefly R, then L across road along Clay Lane to A283.

3 4½ miles/7.2km Turn L along pavement, and as road curves R keep

ahead along drive/public footpath – route of the West Sussex Literary Trail (WSLT) – towards Parham House. Go through gate by lodge, ignore junctions and when drive curves L follow waymarked path alongside it, soon bearing away across parkland to another drive at a T-junction (dovecote and Parham House can be seen over to L). Keep straight ahead along drive passing lake on L, ignore L fork and continue to West Lodges and road. Turn L and fork R at junction, then cross road to follow footpath through trees to T-junction and turn R rejoining WSLT to footbridge.

4 6¼ miles/10km Turn L across bridge to Rackham Mill, bear R over stile along path through woodland following waymarks, soon

heading uphill across field to lane. Turn R to Amberley, passing through village. As road curves L past Black Horse keep ahead along lane. Follow it round to T-junction, then turn R to church, notable for its wall paintings. To view castle walls continue to end of lane.

5 8 miles/12.7km Retrace steps along Church Street and turn R at T-junction to B2139. Cross road and continue up Mill Lane, then R back down High Titten, retracing outward steps. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

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