

**Introduction**

This is one of a series of routes that may be enjoyed by all including wheelchair users, families with pushchairs, those wanting a more gentle walk and walkers who are less mobile. The route has been selected as it has no barriers, such as stiles or steps. Detailed information on the route is provided - it is up to the user to decide what is suitable for them. Every effort has been made to ensure the information is correct at the time of publication, however things change over time. West Sussex County Council would like to thank John and Jenifer Fox for providing the inspiration to publish easy countryside trail information.

**Other routes can be found on the West Sussex County Council website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)**



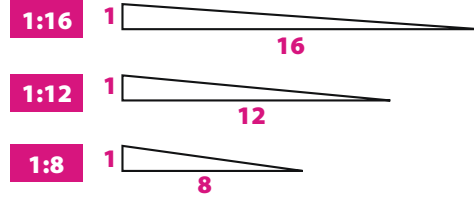
**Public Travel**



Some of the routes are accessible by public transport, for further information please visit [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk) or contact Travel line on 0871 200 22 33



**Gradients**



Gradients of slopes have been shown to help you decide if a route is suitable. To help you relate to these gradients we have attempted to describe them below assuming an average wheelchair user with an averagely strong pusher.

**1:16**  
Gentle slope. Extra effort may be required over long distances. Gradients less than 1:16 have not been measured as they are considered easy going.

**1:16 - 1:13**  
Fairly gentle slope, extra effort will be noticeable over longer distances.

**1:12**  
Slope noticeable but not particularly steep, extra effort will be required over medium to long distances.

**1:11 - 1:8**  
Steeper slopes, will require extra effort even over short distances. Only short sections of gradients of this steepness are found on any of the routes in this booklet.

**> 1:8**  
Steep slope - nothing of this steepness will be encountered on these walks.

**Please follow the Countryside Code and respect the local area you are visiting.**



**Key to maps** Please note that some symbols may not be used on this walk.

- Easy Access Trail
- Extension to Easy Access Trail
- Public Footpath or Bridleway
- Permissive Path
- River/Stream/Canal
- Waterway/Water Channel
- Parkland/Wooded Area
- Urban/Built-up Area
- Parking
- Gradient Information
- Seating or Picnic Area
- Refreshments
- Church
- Caravan Park
- Gate
- Marshland



Chichester Canal

<i>Distance</i>	0.5km (0.3 miles) return for southern leg, 0.8km (0.5 miles) return for northern leg to Shoreham Toll Bridge – with possible extension further north
<i>Terrain</i>	Tarmac. Generally level with one steeper section near the southern end. Ramps up on to the timber Toll Bridge. Maximum gradient: <1:16
<i>Start/finish</i>	Access point onto the Downs Link from Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, limited on-road parking (park on the west side to avoid crossing road). There are other entrances as shown on the map Grid reference: <b>TQ 209 0563</b> Post code: <b>BN43 5TF</b>
<i>Directions</i>	The A283 (Old Shoreham Road) runs to the west of Shoreham near the River Adur; travelling from the north the entrance on to the Downs Link is approximately
<i>O.S. Maps</i>	Explorer 122, Landranger 198
<i>Public Transport</i>	Bus stop: A283 (Old Shoreham Road)
<i>Points of interest</i>	Views of the River Adur and Lancing College, historical disused railway line, wildlife, Old Shoreham Bridge
<i>Facilities</i>	Benches and picnic tables (wheelchair accessible) at various locations. The Red Lion pub (near the Toll Bridge) and a good selection of shops and refreshment outlets in Shoreham. Disabled toilets at various locations in Shoreham, the nearest to the start is at Adur Recreation Ground (Brighton Road, TQ 210 048, 900m)

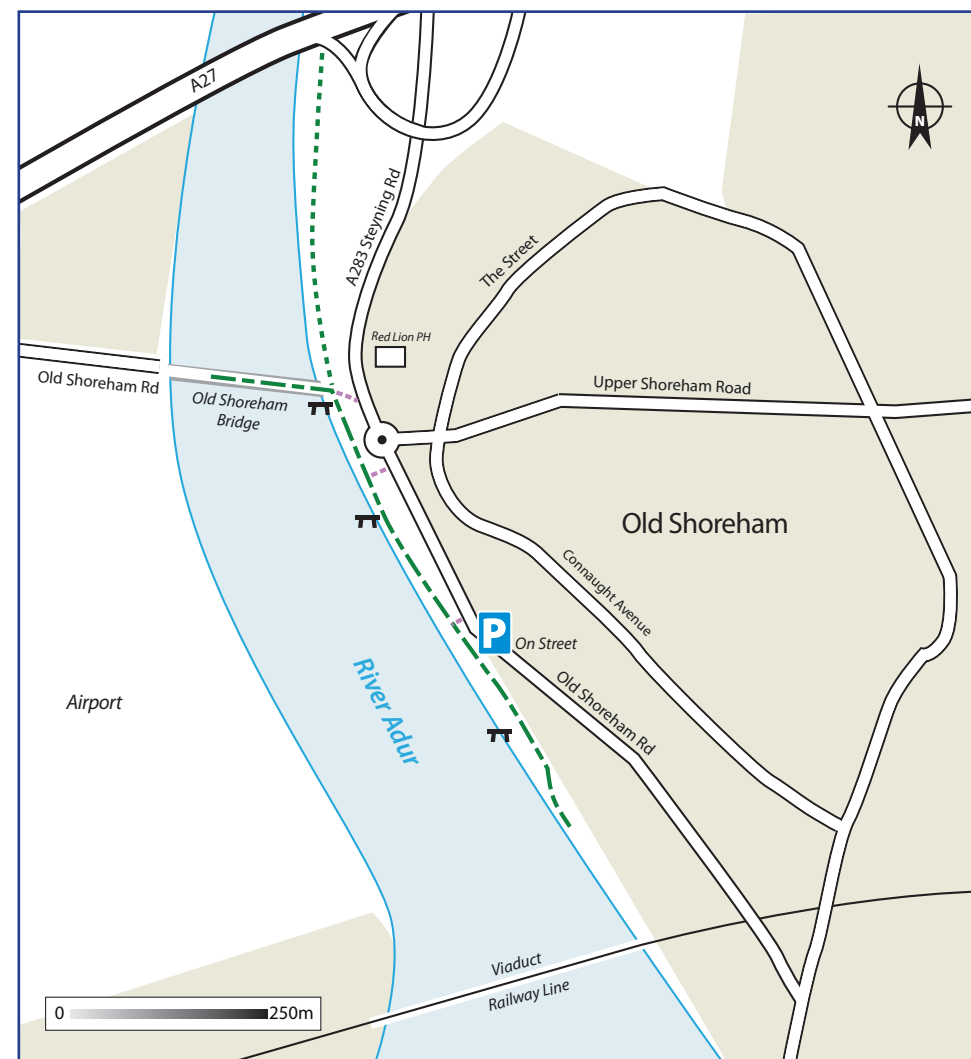
The Downs Link is a 59km (37 mile) recreational route, used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. It links the North Downs Way with the South Downs Way and beyond to Shoreham-by-Sea. It follows disused railway lines and provides an invaluable green corridor for wildlife and people to enjoy. This southern section of the railway opened in 1861 to serve local communities and industries but it was not profitable and closed in the 1960s, although a small section remained operational until 1981 to transport cement to Shoreham Harbour.

Recent surface improvements and construction of viewing bays with picnic tables and benches make it suitable as an easy access trail. The route follows the banks of the River Adur.



© Jane Noble/WSSCC

From the designated start point there are two choices: to head south towards the sea or north towards the Old Shoreham Bridge. Both offer good views of the River Adur away from the hustle and bustle of the town centre. Much of the route is edged with buddleia bushes, which when flowering in late summer attract many butterflies. Going south you have to turn back once the surface becomes broken and bumpy.



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Heading north you are soon rewarded with views over to the other side of the river with Lancing College Chapel perched above the valley and of the refurbished Shoreham Toll Bridge. You can go onto the bridge for views up and down the tidal river. This is where the route ends and you should retrace your steps to where you joined the trail. It is possible to explore the Downs Link and the Adur Valley further by

continuing north. Some surviving railway tracks can be seen near the bridge. Initially the path is firm compacted stone but beyond the flyover, sections can be muddy and rutted after wet weather.

Most of the Downs Link is relatively flat and easy going and some other sections are suitable for exploring; for further information contact West Sussex County Council – details at end of the booklet.