

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



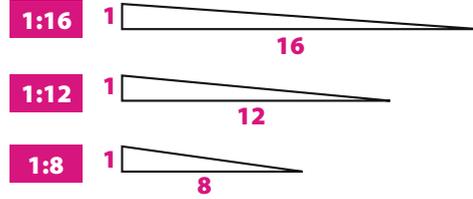
Public Travel



Some of the routes are accessible by public transport, for further information please visit 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



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<i>Distance</i>	Short circuit 2.5km (1.6 miles), long circuit 3.6km (2.3 miles)
<i>Terrain</i>	Hard surfaced tracks Maximum gradient: 1:10, one steepish section, otherwise gently undulating
<i>Start/finish</i>	Buchan Park Countryside Centre, Crawley Grid reference: TQ 245 346 Post code: RH11 9HQ
<i>Directions</i>	Buchan Country Park is on the south west edge of Crawley. It is accessed directly from the west bound section of the A220 between Crawley and Horsham and is signed from major roads locally
<i>O.S. Maps</i>	Explorer 134, Landranger 187
<i>Public Transport</i>	Bus stop: Breezehurst Drive, Bewbush
<i>Points of interest</i>	Woodland, lake, wildlife, wooden sculpture
<i>Facilities</i>	Countryside Centre with disabled toilets (RADAR key), information and displays on the park and wider countryside - open at weekends and during the week when staffing permits. Various benches and picnic tables throughout the park. Refreshments are not available, the nearest shops are at Dorsten Square, Bewbush, 0.8km (0.5 miles) from the Centre

The network of hard surfaced paths in Buchan Country Park ensures good access for all in most weather conditions. The Park is largely wooded and also has areas of heathland, meadows and ponds which attract a wide variety of wildlife, and make it an ideal place for walking, birdwatching or enjoying a picnic.

The walk starts outside the Countryside Centre – from here follow the signs into the main park area. There is a short climb on the approach to the road bridge. Just before reaching Douster Pond turn left and take the path to the east side of the pond which gives wonderful views of the pond and the area of heathland to the left. Here there is a wooden sculpture of a wasp. The path continues around the pond.

At the furthest point the route divides, with those doing the shorter route continuing along the path around the edge of the pond. This short section descends to join the main track and may require steadying hands if using a chair or a strong pusher if

going the other way. Continue around the pond and then retrace your tracks back to the car park.

For a longer walk turn left just after the bridge - this section of path is slightly uphill along a picturesque meandering path. There are plenty of seats along the way for a rest or a spot of lunch while admiring the surroundings. This is an area of glades and woodland with beech and oak trees. At the junction with the footpath turn right. The path is reasonably level and passes through a beautiful wooded area; the route continues for some way heading back towards the ponds and the start point.

There are many other paths suitable for exploring the park – a map of the park is available to purchase from the Centre.

