

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



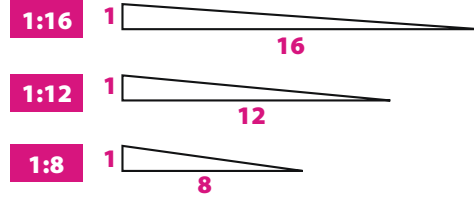
Public Travel



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



Chichester Canal

<i>Distance</i>	4.1km (2.5 miles) one way, 8.2km (5 miles) return trip
<i>Terrain</i>	Tarmac. Low level staggered entrance barriers allow access for most wheelchairs Maximum gradient: 1:10 for short section only. The whole route gradually climbs going north. Some entrance points are fairly steep
<i>Start/finish</i>	There are a number of entrance points onto the Centurion Way (shown on map). The easiest to use with only minimal gradients is at the southern end off Westgate by Bishop Luffa School, Chichester (limited on-road parking along Westgate). The route can be done in either direction but is described from south (Chichester) to north (Lavant). Parking at the Lavant end is difficult on the residential roads Grid reference: SU 848 047 Post code: P019 3HR
<i>Directions</i>	From the A27 take the A259 (Cathedral Way) signed to Chichester. Pass Tesco and then take the first exit off the roundabout and then the first exit again into Westgate. The entrance on to the Centurion Way is at the back of the lay-by near the end of the road
<i>O.S. Maps</i>	Explorer 120, Landranger 197
<i>Public Transport</i>	Train station: Chichester 1.5km (0.9 miles) Bus stop: Chichester, Westgate Lavant, Midhurst Road (near St Nicolas Road)
<i>Points of interest</i>	Wildlife, views, sculpture and history
<i>Facilities</i>	Open area and benches at Hunters Race. The nearest disabled toilets are at Tesco (Cathedral Way), visit Chichester District Council, website www.chichester.gov.uk , for details of others nearby

This route follows a disused railway and is therefore easy to follow and is mostly level. The tarmac surface provides a relatively easy and interesting walk into the countryside. It can be accessed from a number of points although car parking (roadside) can be limited. Some access points can be fairly steep for a relatively short distance. The easiest access point is from the southern end; details above.

The Centurion Way follows the line of the disused Chichester to Midhurst railway line which was opened in 1881 to improve access to London. The railway's decline started with the withdrawal of passenger services in 1935. The line north of Lavant was closed in 1957, however the section between Lavant and Chichester remained

open and was used to transport sugar beet and gravel until 1991. Two years later the tracks were removed.

The trees and vegetation along the route provide an important corridor for a variety of wildlife and there are a number of sculptures reflecting local history to discover. Several areas are of archaeological importance, such as Brandy Hole Copse and the Devils Ditch, where there is evidence of the Chichester Entrenchments which were Iron Age territorial divisions and/or defences. Brandy Hole Copse is open to the public via a kissing gate (unfortunately not accessible by wheelchairs) from the Centurion Way.

At the amphitheatre, where the route meets Hunters Race there is a wide grassy area which lends itself to a picnic.

This walk ends at Lavant but it is possible to continue on the Centurion Way up to West Dean (a further 4.5km/2.8 miles). To

do this head north through the housing estate (it is signed but signs sometimes go missing). The tarmac surface is soon replaced by crushed stone which in places could be difficult to use especially in wet weather. The final section is on a tarmac cycle path which runs parallel to the A286.

