

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



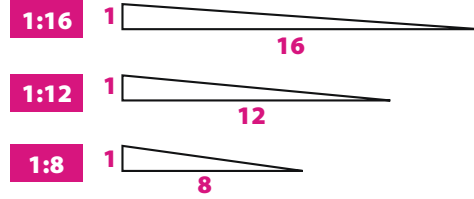
Public Travel



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>	3.0km (1.9 miles) return trip (Shorter circuit – 1.1km/0.7 miles)
<i>Terrain</i>	Compacted stone, can be bumpy in places Maximum gradient: <1:16, generally level
<i>Start/finish</i>	Pagham Harbour Visitor Centre, Selsey Road Grid reference: SZ 856 965 Post code: PO20 7NE
<i>Directions</i>	Take the B2145 to Selsey. The turning on the left (if heading south) to Pagham Harbour and Local Nature Reserve car park is approximately 2 km (1.2 miles) south of Sidlesham
<i>O.S. Maps</i>	Explorer 120, Landranger 197
<i>Public Transport</i>	Bus stop: Pagham Harbour Visitor Centre
<i>Points of interest</i>	Wildlife (particularly wintering birds and summer flowers and butterflies), coastal views
<i>Facilities</i>	Visitor Centre with displays, information and toilets (disabled access using RADAR key). Bird hides, benches, Crab and Lobster pub (accessible to wheelchairs), Mill Lane, Sidlesham



View over Pagham Harbour

© Katherine Eds & WSSCC

This walk has been made as a circular easy access trail. Even when the Centre is not open it is usually possible to obtain a useful introduction leaflet to Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve from a cubby-hole at the Visitor Centre. The area is a wetland of international importance and is of interest in all seasons for flowering plants, butterflies, summer breeding birds and the winter visiting seabirds. It is slightly preferable to do the walk in an anti-clockwise direction,

as described, as it is easier to get through the gates.

Take the path going south from the car park. After a short distance there is a bird hide on the right overlooking the Ferry Pond. There is good access into this hide and there is a window at the end at the right height for wheelchairs. Keen birdwatchers recognise this as one of the best spots in Sussex to see birds resting on their Autumn migration.



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The next part of this walk follows the track of the old light railway known as the 'Selsey Tram', which ran between Chichester and Selsey until 1935. The views are lovely all along the margins of the harbour and on a fine day much time could be spent here, perhaps with a pair of binoculars or just enjoying the atmosphere. There are three well placed seats along the route.

For a short cut take the path to the left which turns inland and back to the car park, otherwise continue straight on, as far as Sidlesham Quay and the attractive

little mill hamlet at the top of Pagham Harbour. The route along to Sidlesham Quay becomes narrow and can be bumpy. It is hard now to imagine that it was once a busy commercial port with what was reputed to be one of the finest mills in the country, with three great water wheels, all sadly now demolished.

From Sidlesham Quay retrace the route, and after about 650m take the surfaced path on the right which returns to the Visitor Centre and car park.