

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



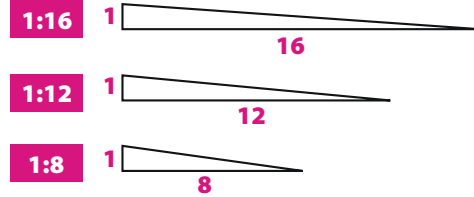
Public Travel



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.



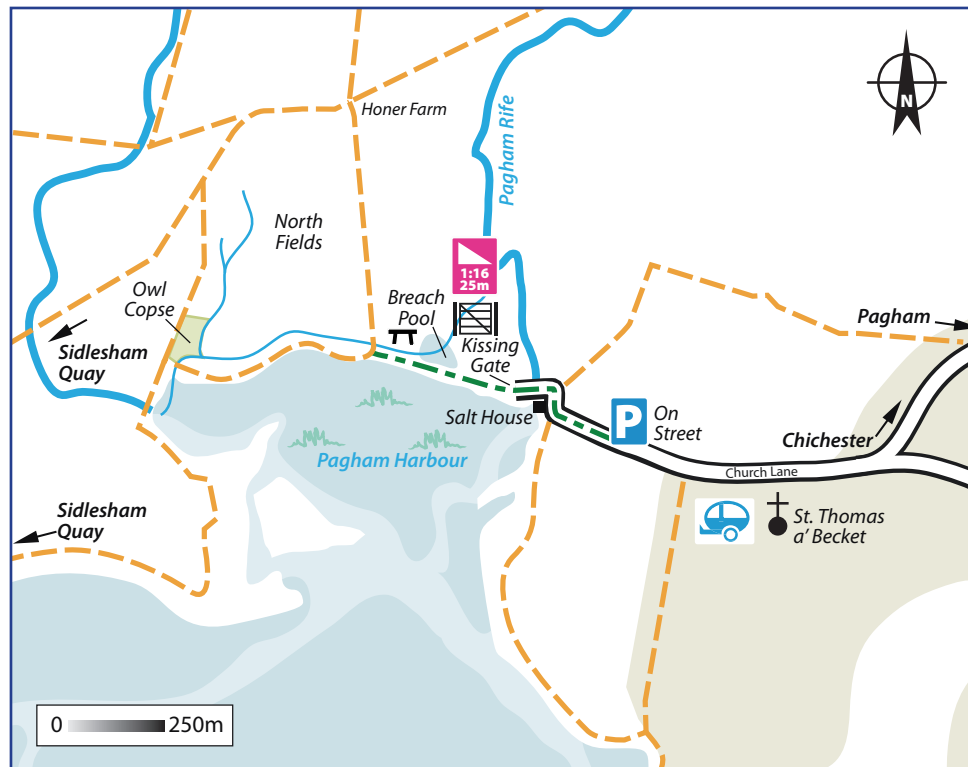
Key to maps Please note that some symbols may not be used on this walk.

- 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>	1.4km (0.8 miles) return trip
<i>Terrain</i>	Firm earth /compacted stone on harbour wall, can be bumpy. Tarmac on slope and one large kissing gate (suitable for most chairs) Maximum gradient: 1:14 on the slope up to sea wall, the section on the sea wall is generally level
<i>Start/finish</i>	End of Church Lane, Pagham Grid reference: SZ 879 975 Post code: PO21 4NX
<i>Directions</i>	Follow Pagham Road down to Pagham. At the end by Church Farm Holiday Village turn right into Church Lane. Some parking spaces can be found on the right, past the Church, near the end of the lane
<i>O.S. Maps</i>	Explorer 120, Landranger 197
<i>Public Transport</i>	Bus stop: Junction Pagham Road/Church Lane (650m, 600yds)
<i>Points of interest</i>	Coastal and country views, wildlife, particularly waders
<i>Facilities</i>	The nearest disabled toilets are at Sandy Road, Pagham (1.3km/0.8 miles) from the start. There is a bench approximately 380m from the Salt House. Either side of the Salt House there is a bench though these are difficult to access with a wheel/push chair



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This walk at Pagham Harbour is such a peaceful one with no sounds of traffic. There are splendid country views inland contrasting with the landscape of the harbour.

The walk starts with a right turn at the end of Church Lane onto the footpath marked 'To Harbour' along a level unmade earth and stone lane. Shortly, bear left and you will arrive at the harbour by the side of the Salt House. It is thought that this was used 250 years ago as a store house for the salt obtained by the evaporation of sea water. Straight ahead, just after a large kissing gate, is a short steepish stretch of tarmac path which takes you up onto the sea wall. This is a wide path with a hard firm surface made of compacted stone and earth. It continues for about 1km (0.6 miles) to join another footpath. The path to the left continues further around the harbour to Sidlesham and beyond but the surface gets softer and can be very difficult for wheelchairs.

The area of the harbour here is part of the 700 acres of the inter-tidal saltmarsh, where at various states of the tide some of the resident or migrant birds may be seen. This area is used as a breeding area by little terns which returned to the harbour in 2007 after an absence of more than a decade. Given reasonable weather it can be very rewarding to come here in the winter with a pair of binoculars or just to listen to the sounds and absorb the atmosphere. It is hard to imagine now that in the 13th century Pagham was the ninth largest port in the Kingdom. In 1341 Pagham suffered such severe gales that great areas were devastated by the sea. Huge banks of shingle more or less blocked the harbour and it faded into obscurity.

After enjoying the surroundings retrace the route back to the starting point.

St Thomas a'Becket Church is 450m further up Church Lane. It is fully accessible and well worth visiting.



View from North Wall

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