



Walk 1

OS Explorer Map OL10

Distance 9.2km / 5 ³/₄ miles. Average time around 2 ¹/₂ hours. A moderate walk in The South Downs National Park. Several inclines and descents. Includes short stretches on little used roads and a very short stretch (50 yards) on B2139. Great views along the way with regular sightings of birds of prey including buzzards, kites and kestrels. Not pushchair friendly. Dogs would enjoy it but would need to be on a lead at times.

Leave the Amberley Black Horse by the main door and turn left. Carry on along this road (School Rd), ignoring all joining paths and roads until you come to a crossroads with the B2139. Cross straight over the B2139, join Mill Lane and begin to climb. As the lane is joined on the right by another note the sign for the South Downs Way (SDW). Take the route signed for Washington Village, past the sign for Downs Farm and after about 100 yards follow the signpost on the left for the SDW and start climbing again. Pass through a gate and continue up the hill. Once you are parallel with some farm buildings there are great views of the wild brooks behind Amberley village and on a good day you will also be able to spot Amberley Castle and, to the South, Arundel Castle overlooking the River Arun.

Continuing on up the slope go through a pedestrian gate and turn right at a finger post on to a Restricted Byway, leaving the SDW. Distant views of the sea to the South can be enjoyed and gliders can often be spotted travelling along the escarpment to gain lift. Carry on along the Byway with a field fence on your right (do not take the farm track which heads off to the left). The path soon starts to descend fairly steeply and then passes through a wooded area bringing you to a gate on the right with a fingerpost for a Public Bridleway. Pass through the gate, noting the dew pond just off the path on the right and then pick up the well defined steep track which heads left and up. Pass through another gate near the top of the slope and at the 4-way fingerpost take the Restricted Byway to the left, but not before stopping to take in the distant views of the Arun Valley down towards Arundel, the coastal plain and the sea.

Continue on along the Byway and at the t-junction with a 3-way finger post take the left Restricted Byway. Carry on along the Byway carrying straight on at two, 3-way finger posts close together. The Byway continues to gently slope upwards. As you arrive at the t-junction by a wood with a 3-way finger post, take the left path and rejoin the SDW. Carry on along the SDW, ignoring a path to the right signed for the Springhead Estate. Look out for an Ordnance Survey triangulation point a bit further on to your left and to your right Parham House and its extensive grounds can be seen as well as the distant RSPB Reserve at Pulborough Brooks.

Not too long after the triangulation point, when you come to a 4-way finger post take the right hand Public Bridleway passing through the gate then turn immediately left then immediately right and start to follow the steep downward path (don't go over the stile into the adjoining field). This path continues its steep descent towards some distant farm buildings. Cross over a farm track and continue straight on down to the gate just before the road. This is the B2139 and can be busy at times. Care needs to be taken as there is no footway. Pass through the gate, cross the road and turn left along the grass verge for about 50 yards to the junction with a small road signposted for Rackham. Take this small road. Again there is no footway but it is a much lesser used road. Continue along the road, passing Rackham Farmhouse on your left then Skinners Barn and Cottage on your right, shortly after coming to a group of terraced house on your left. At the end of the terrace look out for a finger post on the left. Take the Public Footpath and pass behind some gardens. Cross the stile and travel straight across the field and cross another stile into another small road where you turn left. Carry on straight along this road with views of the escarpment you recently descended on your left and extensive views of the wildbrooks on your right. Pass the Sportsman Inn and continue straight along the road to soon arrive back at the Amberley Black Horse.