

SUSSEX
HOSPICES
TRAIL

SUSSEX HOSPICES TRAIL PART 14 ROBERTSBRIDGE TO ETCHINGHAM



Moderate Terrain

3 Miles
Linear
2 hours

120519



Access Notes



1. This is the shortest and also one of the most rural of all the walks that make up the Sussex Hospices Trail.
2. Underfoot you are walking on clay which can be muddy. There are a few stiles and there may be livestock in some of the fields.

A 3 mile linear walk from Robertsbridge rail station to Etchingham rail station in East Sussex forming the 14th stretch of the Sussex Hospices Trail.

This fairly easy stroll is mainly through fields, with lovely views of the distinctive oak trees of the wooded valley of the River Rother. The return leg can be completed with a single 5 minute train journey.

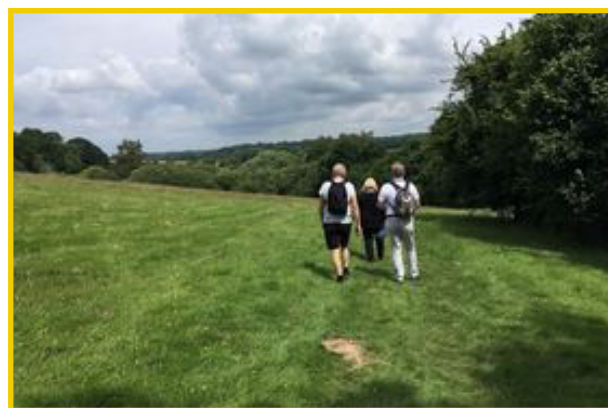
The hospices of Sussex are dedicated to providing specialist end-of-life care. Friends of Sussex Hospices has worked with partners and supporters to create the Sussex Hospices Trail, a 200 mile long-distance path to support and raise awareness of the twelve hospice care providers that serve the adults and children of Sussex.

Getting there

Robertsbridge rail station is on the Hastings Line and train services are provided by Southeastern. The ticket office is open on weekday mornings only. If you are coming by car the post code for Robertsbridge rail station is **TN32 5DJ**. The return journey can usually be made by a peak time hourly train from Etchingham rail station which takes 5 minutes.

Walk Sections

Go → 1 Start to Pathway Turn



With Robertsbridge rail station on your right turn right onto Brightling Road. Staying on the right-hand pavement, cross the level crossing and then continue a few steps until you come to the signed footpath on your



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right. Turn right and continue between the houses and a wooden fence. (NOTE: If you are continuing your walk from Trail Part 13, pick up the directions from this point). Follow the footpath as it bears right, then left and then go through a circular kissing gate to emerge into a field.

Stay on the right-hand side of the field and follow the trodden path ahead. At the end of this field cross the stream on the little wooden bridge and then go up the wooden steps into the next field. Follow the right-hand path through this second field and then, at the end of the field, cross the footbridge and turn sharp left.

1 → 2 Pathway Turn to Squibs Farm



Follow the wide grassy track between the trees. At the end of the track, where there is an opening in the fence, turn right and go up the slope into the next field. Follow the narrow path closest to the right side of this field and, when the path meets a fenced area, continue on the narrow path to the right of the fence. Turn right at the metal gate into the next field then left to follow the footpath along the left edge of this field. Continue across a track to the corner of a crop field and then bear left along the narrow path diagonally across this field.

At end of this field cross a brick-sided bridge and follow the path which bears slightly to the left. Then bear right into the next field, keeping the trees on your right. Follow the path into the next field as it bears left, up a slope. The path is furrowed and follows alongside a hedge with open views across the Rother Valley. Enter the next field and follow the wide track to Squibs Farm ahead.

2 → 3 Squibs Farm to Farm Lane



The track bears left of a house (where you may come across barking dogs behind a fence) and onto a lane. Continue ahead

and take the concrete path between a grass verge and silver birch trees. Follow this path as it veers to the right in front of two farm cottages and then bear left to follow the footpath along the left hand side of the field ahead. At the end of the field the path briefly bears right before dipping into a wooded area with lots of fallen trees. Underfoot it may be uneven here and may also be muddy, although the way is clear.

The path emerges from the wood and follows alongside a stream to your right. Cross the little bridge and follow the trodden path along the right side of the next field where there may be livestock. Go through the gate into the field with the farm buildings on your left. There may be livestock here. The trodden way is not very clear but you need to make a wide anti-clockwise arc around the farm buildings, keeping them on your left. You will emerge over a stile onto the lane near a large tree.

3 → 4 Farm Lane to End



Go straight across the lane, cross the stile and follow the trodden path through the two fields ahead. You will see the impressive Etchingam Church to your right. When you reach the village, cross the concrete bridge over the little River Dudwell. The building on your left is Etchingam Village Shop (where tea, coffee, cakes and savouries are available) which has stood on this site since 1860 and is now owned by the community. If you are continuing onto Trail Part 15, turn left along the High Street. Otherwise, carefully cross the busy road and turn right to follow the pavement along in front of the church. The village War Memorial in the churchyard was dedicated in 1921 and Rudyard Kipling attended the ceremony. Henry Corbould, who designed the stamp, The Penny Black, is buried in the churchyard. Turn left into Etchingam rail station where this part of the Sussex Hospices Trail ends.

Sponsored by Harriet and John Phipson

The creation of this stretch of the trail was possible thanks to the kind donation from Harriet and John Phipson. Harriet and John love the idea of the Sussex Hospices Trail and are sponsoring this section as it is nearest to their home. To read more about the sponsors of this Trail visit hospicetrail.co.uk

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and a map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

We hope you have enjoyed walking this stretch of the Sussex Hospices Trail. Hospices deliver their services for free but such care is not cheap and they largely depend on funds raised from their local communities. We would be very grateful if you would consider making a donation either to your local hospice, wherever that may be, or to the Friends of Sussex Hospices in order to support these invaluable services.

To donate £5 to the Friends of Sussex Hospices text SHTR16 £5 to 70070

Friends of Sussex Hospices, Registered Charity No. 1089306

<http://www.friendsofsussexhospices.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donations>

