

# The Viewpoints

## Viewpoint 1 – Old Place Mill Pond

Old Place is a converted farmstead and Manor House, dating from the 15th century. The mill pond was a source of power for the mill, probably one of two mills mentioned in Pulborough in the Domesday Book.

## Viewpoint 2 – The Gallops

This extensive area of racehorse stables and training is owned by the Harwood family – they have bred and trained many winning racehorses.

## Viewpoint 3 – View of Toat Hill Monument

The Tower monument is a folly built in 1827 as a memorial to Samuel Drinkald, who fell from his horse and died here in 1823. Local legend has it that Mr Drinkald, and his horse, were buried upside down under the tower – the tower is on private land.

## Viewpoint 4 – Pallingham on the River Arun

The remains of the Wey and Arun canal, which linked London to Portsmouth, are under the hump back bridge; the Canal joins the river Arun 250 metres south of the bridge.

Here were Pallingham Docks for the repair and building of barges.

Sadly, the last barge to be built here, in 1864, was blown to smithereens in the same year after taking a cargo of gunpowder!

The Arun is tidal to Pallingham and therefore a public waterway.

Opposite is Pallingham Quay Farm; the quay was used since Elizabethan times for shipping timber down river to Arundel for shipbuilding.

The Pulborough area has an enormous range of wildlife – here you can find more varieties of dragonfly than anywhere in Sussex.

## Viewpoint 5 – Lane End Cottage

Look back to the river to see the line of the canal and the lock where it joins the Arun.

Lane End Cottage is the last of five cottages and a pub that used to stand here serving the river and canal users.

As you walk up the hill, you may see the remains of these cottages and the hand laid brick trackway surface shown on the cover of this leaflet.

## Viewpoint 6 – The woods from Lane End Cottage to Harwoods Green

In early April wild daffodils grow here then bluebells and in the Autumn you can collect sweet chestnuts. Sweet chestnuts were introduced by the Romans to make a porridge called *Polenta*.

Throughout these woods you see the results of years of coppicing – the art of cutting trees to ground level allowing vigorous re-growth and a sustainable supply of timber. Coppicing here is largely of chestnuts – the wood is used for fencing – especially the “rails” of “post and rail” fencing – you can see an example of “rails” when you reach Harwoods Green.

Formerly coppiced wood would also have been made into charcoal, here in these woods, for iron smelting, brick making and other local industrial use.

The land and the houses in Harwoods Green are part of the Stopham Estate owned and managed by the Barttelot family who came to England with the Norman conquest.

## Viewpoint 7 – Stopham Church

This 11th century church is dedicated to Saint Mary, the Blessed Virgin, as are many churches in this area. The church has a long association with the Barttelot family and has memorials to them.

Again Pulborough’s clean air has meant that the churchyard is able to support over 100 varieties of lichen – more than any other churchyard in Sussex!

## Viewpoint 8 – the White Hart

Across the river is Stopham House, originally built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The house has suffered architecturally from later restoration and additions.

You are beside old Stopham Bridge which was built in 1309, and rebuilt in 1423; it is probably the best known bridge in Sussex; the centre arch was raised in 1822 for barge traffic.

The board beside the bridge tells you more about the bridge and the canal.

## Viewpoint 9 – Pulborough Castle (Park Mound)

Today the “castle” is just the earthworks of a Norman motte and bailey fortress built shortly after the Norman conquest in 1066. It stands on the highest point of the ridge, overlooking the River Arun down a steep slope on the far side – the top is now covered in pine trees.

The castle provided a strong defensive site for the area with its commanding views of the river and the land around.

During the autumn you can collect sweet chestnuts here.

We hope you enjoy your walk and will, on a future occasion, do another of the fascinating walks around Pulborough’s beautiful countryside.



- 11-12 kilometres (7-8 miles)
- 4-5 hours
- Terrain: some easy hills
- Can be slippery when wet
- 5 stiles
- Unsuitable for a pushchair/wheelchair
- Uses OS map 197
- Parking: Pulborough Station and Lower Street



# The Woodland Walk

This is a round walk of 11-12 kilometres (7-8 miles) through lovely countryside, featuring buildings of historic interest, open gallops, the river Arun and the remains of the Arun/Wey Canal, woodland and coppicing, a famous pub and a Norman Castle. The walk is on public footpaths or roads. Most of the stiles are dog friendly, but please keep to the paths and keep dogs on the lead.

If you enjoyed this walk there are two others available in the same area.



## Your Route

The viewpoint numbers on your route are the points on the map and the viewpoints which are described on the reverse of this leaflet.

- 1 You may start from A Pulborough Station or B Lower Street car park to get to the first viewpoint.  
A Turn left out of the station and take the public footpath between the car park and the industrial estate (north-east from the station) to Coombelands Lane.  
Turn left over the railway bridge and almost immediately take the footpath to the right down to the lake – this is **viewpoint 1**.  
B Having parked go back to the main road (A283), turn left and walk about 1.6 km, passing two mini roundabouts, to the railway station. From here follow route A above.

2 Continue along the trackway, northwards, past Middle Barn Farm and follow the path beside an arable field to “The Gallops”. You cross the Gallops at a gate in the fencing – watch for horses – this area is **viewpoint 2**.

3 Continue up the slope until you reach an old quarry on your left. Cross the gate and continue through the Hill Farm farmyard to Hill Farm Lane – look north to see a tower – this is **viewpoint 3**.

4 Turn left along Hill Farm Lane, in 100 metres take the footpath on the right, over a stile and down the escarpment 450 metres to a T junction of footpaths. Here turn left (west) and continue 800 metres west (over 3 stiles) through Oak House Farm to a lane. Turn right and continue 500 metres along the lane to Pickhurst Farm. Turn left here, follow the path which goes right at a property called Sheepwash Farm – here the path is marked as “the Way South Path”. Ignore the footpath to the left at Lock Cottage and follow the marked Way South Path to Pallingham Bridge crossing the old canal, and to the two bridges crossing the Arun – this is about 1100 metres from Pickhurst Farm – this route is **viewpoint 4**.

5 Cross the Arun, and immediately at Pallingham Quay Farm continue straight, on the public footpath. In 100 metres go over some gallops, then turn right with woods to the right, follow up, round the edge of the field for 700 metres until you reach a stile at the top of the field, ignoring the footpath turning right 70 metres preceding it. Go over the stile into the wood, in 40 metres go straight across a track, then over a stile, turn left along the bridleway leading up to Lane End Cottage – this is **viewpoint 5**.

6 Continue to follow the main path through the woods until you reach a group of cottages known as Harwoods Green – the whole of this part of the walk is **viewpoint 6** and its total length is 1.2 kilometres.



Stopham House



Stopham Church



The River Arun at Pallingham



7

Now take the tarmac lane down the slope and follow the road for 1.6 kilometres to where it branches to the left to Stopham church. This is **viewpoint 7**.

8

At the "T" junction in front of the church turn left to the A283, cross the road and turn left following the road to the entrance to Stopham House, on your right, and across the old bridge over the River Arun to the White Hart Inn, a total distance of 750 metres – this is **viewpoint 8**.

9

Cross to the far side of the main road via the narrow path between the pub and the Old Bridge. (If you wish to visit a café or toilets these are available a short distance to your right at the garden centre). Now follow the "Wey South" marked path up the slope. Keep close to the field on your right along the main path. After 350 metres, and shortly after you re-entered the woods you will pass a mound covered with fir trees on your left. This is the site of Pulborough Castle on Park Mound and is **viewpoint 9**.

10

Now you continue following the Wey South path which will turn right after 150 metres leaving the woods, follow the path across a driveway (leaving the Wey South path) up the bank on the opposite side and down the side of the field towards St Mary's Church ahead of you. This joins Coombelands Lane, here turn right and you shortly come to the railway bridge and footpath of stage 1 leading back to the station – about 400 metres, or to the Lower Street car park – about 1.2 kilometres. An alternative, and more interesting route back to the Lower Street car park is shown on the map and is covered in the Pulborough History Walk.





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When walking always follow the countryside code as below.

[www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)



Old Place Manor House

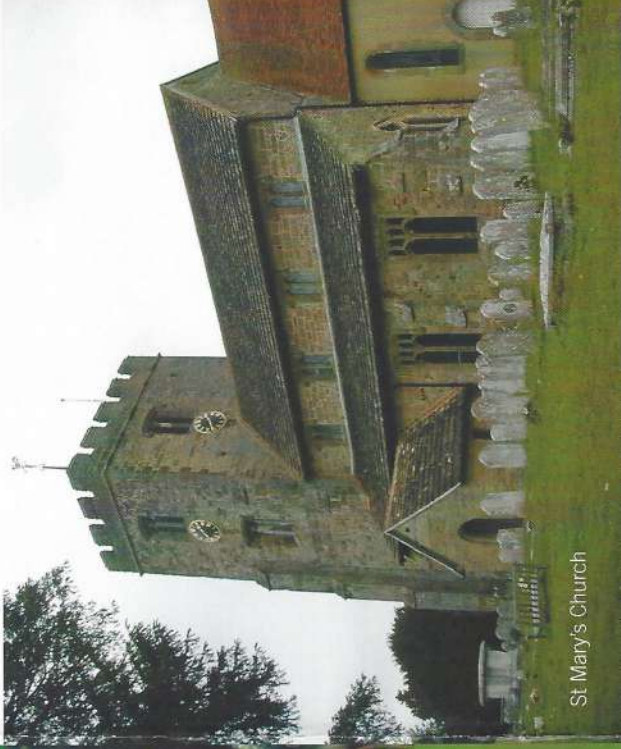
## The Countryside Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

## About Pulborough

The landscape of the River Arun, the water meadows and the greensand ridge along which the 'linear village' of Pulborough runs, have dominated the history and development of the area.

Today its magnificent views, local produce, friendly people and easy access make Pulborough the natural heart of rural West Sussex.



St Mary's Church



Deer in the woods



Lower Street

Historic Pulborough stretches back to the stone, bronze and iron ages with finds still being made today.

In Roman times the Pulborough area was a major industrial and trading centre on the River Arun and on the military road, Stane Street. Pulborough has some important known Roman buildings including a bath house, temple, mausoleum and a villa with undoubtedly many more waiting to be discovered – Pulborough was the most important Roman town in West Sussex after Chichester.

Following the Norman conquest in 1066 a castle was built on Park Mound and the Domesday Book records significant dwellings here. Pulborough today has over one hundred listed buildings of historic or architectural interest dating from the 12th to the 19th century – they demonstrate the historic importance of the area.

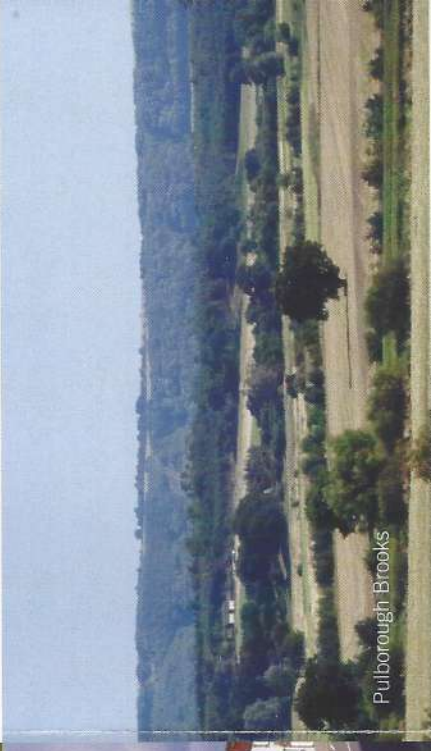
Its road and river communications were enhanced by the Wey and Arun canal in the late 1700's linking it to London and Portsmouth and later in the 1800's the railway replaced the canal.

These communications supported its position as the centre of local industry, such as glass and brick making, and commerce with a cattle market at the station.

Today Pulborough is the natural heart of rural West Sussex with its specialist and everyday food shopping, local produce, vineyards, traditional pubs and other restaurants, the RSPB Nature Reserve plus scenic, riverside and other walks.

Pulborough is the ideal centre from which to visit the historic, scenic and visitor attractions of rural West Sussex and the South Downs National Park.

**For lots more information on this walk and the Pulborough area visit [www.pulborough.org](http://www.pulborough.org)**



Pulborough Brooks