

DUNCTON AND SUTTON, WEST SUSSEX



Moderate Terrain

**5 miles
Circular
2.5 to 3 hours**

080816



Access Notes



- The walk has several gentle climbs and descents throughout but there are no particularly steep sections.**
- The paths and bridleways can be very muddy at times and, whilst most of the paths are of generous width, there are about three short, narrow sections that are prone to becoming overgrown in summer.**
- You will need to negotiate several kissing gates plus 5 stiles (all of which have gaps in the surrounding fencing that should be suitable for most dogs to pass through).**
- You will need to cross two pastures that may be holding cattle so take care in these fields, particularly with dogs.**

Hi, I'm Katherine and this is my West Sussex Weekends walk.

This 5 mile walk from Duncton takes you through a mix of landscaped parkland, mature woodland, pastures, fields and streams with a pretty village and pub at the halfway point – perfect! A great route and a memorable day. To read my full story visit www.west-sussex-weekends.com so I can tell you why I think you will love this walk and what highlights to expect. The West Sussex Weekends website is a great resource where you will also find ideas for places to stay, eat and drink plus plenty more inspirational stories to tempt you to explore more corners of West Sussex.

Getting there

Duncton is located about 3 miles south of Petworth in West Sussex. The walk starts and finishes from the Burton Park N-bound bus stop which sits at the junction between the A285 and Willett Close. If you are coming by car, park in Willett Close (with respect for the local residents).

Approximate post code **GU28 0LA**.

Walk Sections



Start to Burton Park Chapel



The walk begins at the Burton Park N-bound bus stop which is on the A285, at the junction with Willett Close. Standing with your back to the bus shelter, turn right along the pavement and cross over the entrance for Willett Close. Immediately afterwards, cross over the A285 with care to turn left through the black entrance

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gates for Burton Park (signed as a public footpath). Follow the driveway passing West Lodge on your left and then continuing through woodland.

As you reach the cattle grid ahead, do NOT go through the gate to the left of this, instead turn left alongside it to join the fenced public footpath. This enclosed path leads you out of the trees and then on between open meadows and paddocks. Across to the left you will be able to see Holy Trinity Church in Duncton.

Before the end of this path, you will have a good view of the mansion of Burton Park at about 1 o'clock. There has been a mansion on this site since the 1400s, but the present building dates to the 1820s. It was a private residence until World War II, after which it spent time as a girls' boarding school and then a police dog training centre. Today it houses private apartments.

At the end of the grass path you will reach a junction with the entrance drive. Turn left along this and follow it as it bears right, passing the chapel on your right. This tiny church is dedicated to St Richard.



turn right to join the woodland path, signed as a public bridleway. This site, known as The Warren, is a nature reserve managed by Sussex Wildlife Trust. At the end of the woodland you will emerge to a junction with an access drive, with a house to your right. Bear left along this drive and keep right at the fork to reach a junction with the road.

Turn right along the road, taking care of any traffic. Follow the road for about 500 metres, crossing a pretty stream and passing between a handful of properties in Sutton End, including The Old Poor House on your left. Ignore the first path signed to the left (a bridleway by the entrance for Keyzaston) and take the next footpath on the left, immediately before Locketts Cottage.

1 ➔ 2 Burton Park Chapel to Crouch Farm



Continue on the driveway with open fields to your left and the buildings of Burton Park to your right. Stay with the driveway as it swings left, leading you away from the main buildings and out between open fields. Just before the drive swings right, look out for the ancient sweet chestnut tree on the left (thought to be 400 years old). It is worth taking a moment to appreciate the gnarled twisting giant trunk of this ancient beauty. Turn right here, continuing on the main driveway and follow it between a handful of properties each side.

Where the driveway swings left towards the Lodge Green properties, go straight ahead to join a gravel track between hedgerows. Pass through the gate ahead and continue on the fenced stone track which leads you past Chingford Pond on your right. Before you reach a field gate ahead, fork left to join a narrower stone path leading you through the woodland.

Keep right at the fork and further along you will come to a gate ahead, marking a junction with a concrete farm track. Cross straight over this track via the two metal gates and continue ahead along the grass track. Pass through the wide wooden gate ahead to reach a junction with a lane, with the buildings of Crouch Farm across to your left.

3 ➔ 4 Locketts Cottage to Sutton Village



Cross the stile and join the grass path which passes a timber garage block on your right and then swings right to pass behind the cottages. You will come to a kissing gate ahead. NOTE: You may come across cattle in the next two fields. Pass through the kissing gate and another one in quick succession to reach the edge of a large pasture. Walk at about 11 o'clock, following the sparse line of oak trees on your right.

At the far side you will find a tall waymarker post which directs you through a gap in the hedge to reach a kissing gate. Go through this, cross the sleeper bridge and you will reach the corner of a meadow. Bear left to follow the left-hand edge of this meadow and pass through the kissing gate at the far side to reach a signed junction of paths. Turn right here and follow the enclosed path which zig-zags between fenced meadows and pastures.

At the end of this path, go through a kissing gate, pass through a narrow belt of trees and you will emerge out into another meadow. Walk at about 1 o'clock, heading uphill and staying close to the line of tall bushes on your left. At the top the path swings left, leading you through a section of scrub and alongside an old stile to become a grass path with a wall on

2 ➔ 3 Crouch Farm to Locketts Cottage

Turn left along the lane, taking care of any occasional traffic. Follow the lane through the dip and just as it begins to climb,

your right. You will emerge to the end of a stone access track. Walk directly ahead, passing the property called Seven Doors on your right. You will come to a T-junction with the road at the edge of Sutton village.

4 → 5 Sutton Village to Stream Bridge



Turn left, following the road downhill and taking care of any traffic. Ignore any paths signed off to the sides, simply follow the village road passing between the various stone and flint properties. Just before a sharp left-hand bend, you will come to The White Horse pub, perfect for mid-walk refreshments. Turn right immediately before the pub, into the pub car park, and then fork right up the embankment to join the fenced footpath.

Pass through the gate and follow the path as it swings left between a fence and a tall wall. As you reach the next gate ahead, do NOT go through this instead turn right through a side gate. Turn immediately left up a set of concrete steps. At the top, do NOT go through the gate ahead, instead turn right, passing stone outbuildings on your right. When the building on your right ends, keep straight ahead through an avenue of trees within these private grounds which belong to Beckhall, a farmhouse dating to the 1600s.

Pass alongside an old gate to reach the edge of a crop field. You will automatically want to pause here to take in the far-reaching views including the beautiful wooded hillside across to your left. When we walked, the field was sown with a crop of flax, creating a beautiful carpet of blue flowers. Cross the field on the obvious track heading diagonally left (at about 10 o'clock). At the far side you will come to a crossroads. Go straight ahead (leaving the crop field) and at the next junction keep ahead, still following the line of a fence on your left. The path leads you downhill to reach a bridge over a stream within a woodland belt.



swings right behind the church and leads you out of the grounds via a wooden gate.

Turn left along the tarmac access lane and, where this swings left, fork right onto the gravel driveway signed for Barlavington Stud. Stay close to the hedge line on your left and, as you draw level with the stable block entrance, go through the small gate to join the enclosed footpath. Stay with this path as it leads you steeply downhill through a tunnel of trees. Cross the sleeper bridge and you will emerge to a quiet lane.

Cross over and go straight ahead up the bank between hedgerows to reach a stile. NOTE: You may come across cattle in this next field. Cross the stile and walk directly ahead following the line of hedgerow on your right. When the boundary on your right ends, continue across the centre of the pasture (a disused stile in the centre of the pasture marks your direction). You will find a stile in the left-hand boundary (just before a metal field gate). Cross this to reach a road, Folly Lane.

6 → 7 Folly Lane to End



Turn very sharp right (almost back on yourself), passing through the gap alongside the pair of metal vehicle gates. Follow this farm vehicle track with a fence running on your right. Down in the valley bottom to your right you will be able to make out the mansion of Burton Park. In the distance at about 11 o'clock you will see another mansion house sitting at the base of a hillside. This is Lavington Park which today houses an independent school, Seaford College.

At the first junction, ignore the bridleway signed to the right, instead keep straight ahead on the main grass and stone track. At the end of this track you will reach a T-junction with a tarmac access drive. Turn right along this and follow it leading you between the various old buildings and waterways of Duncton Mill. The mill is fed by a natural spring giving a constant water temperature of 10 degrees Celsius. Today the mill is home to a fishery and also hosts wedding receptions and corporate events.

5 → 6 Stream Bridge to Folly Lane

Cross the bridge and the stile ahead to enter a meadow. Walk ahead, staying close to the right-hand fence line, for about 25 metres to reach a fingerpost. Take the path at about 1 o'clock, leading you uphill to reach another stile. Cross this and turn immediately left to join a path with a tree line on your left (and probably an electric fence on your right). At the top of the field, keep straight ahead to join the stone farm track.

You will come to a junction with the barns of Barlavington Farm ahead. Turn left, continue on the stone track as it swings right and then turn left (on a path marked with a yellow arrow) through the gate to enter the grounds of Barlavington Church. The pretty small church dates from the 1100s. Walk ahead, with the church on your right, and then join the paved path which

Pass the Barlavington estate office on your left and the courtyard on your right, which houses the fishery shop and club room. Simply keep directly ahead on this tarmac (and then stone) access lane, with hedgerows each side which conceal the large fishing ponds. Follow the lane for about 500 metres and you will emerge out to a junction with the A285. Just across to your left you will see The Cricketers pub if you are looking for post-walk refreshments. Otherwise, cross over the main road with care and turn right along the pavement for just 200 metres to reach the bus stop where the walk began.

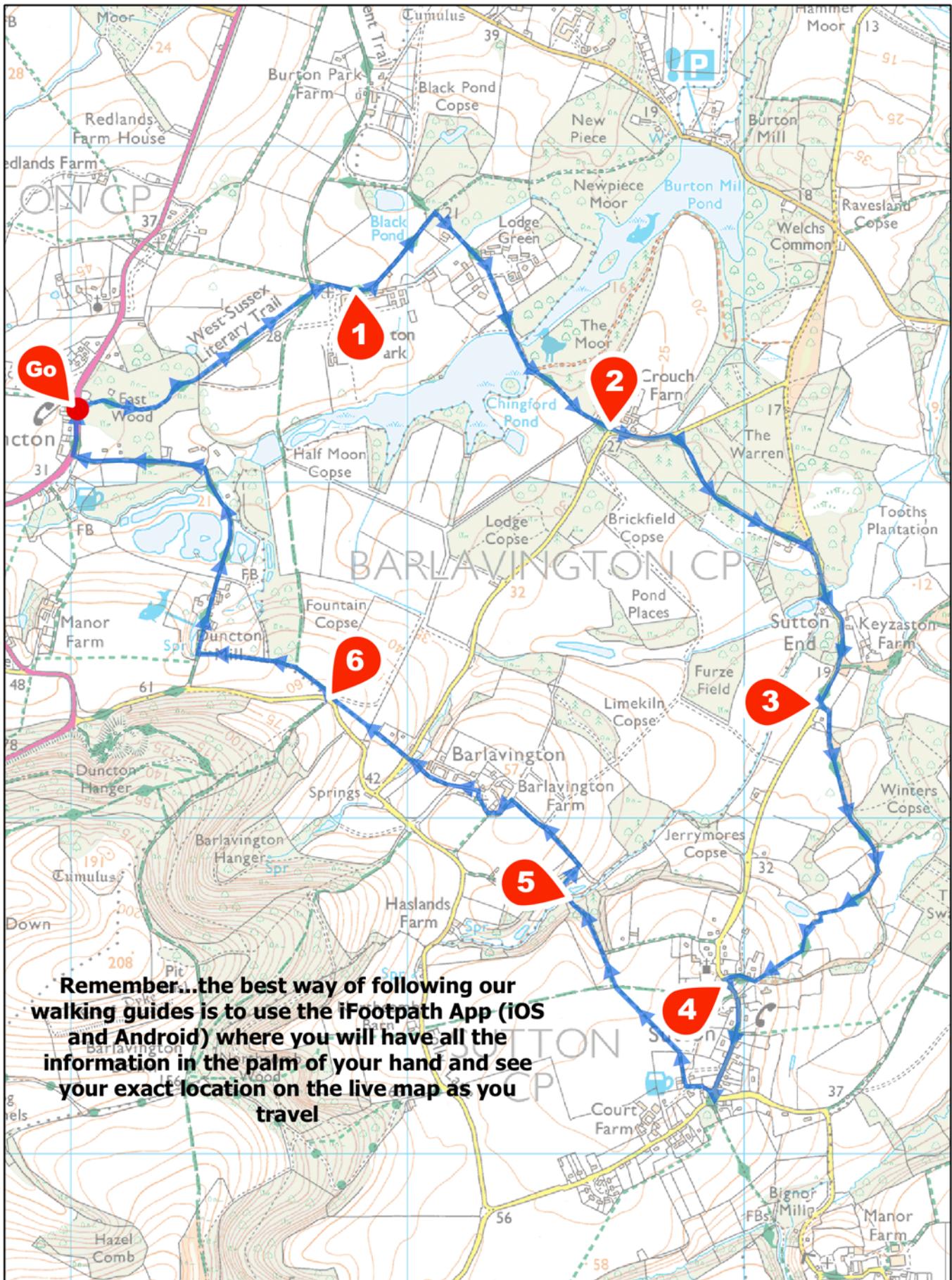
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Disclaimer

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 an Ordnance Survey 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.



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Start/Finish

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

