

# PETWORTH AND SHIMMINGS VALLEY, WEST SUSSEX



*Challenging Terrain*

**3.5 miles  
Circular  
1.5 to 2 hours**

070916



## Access Notes



- 1. The walk has several steady but long gradients throughout and there are a couple of steeper short slopes that can be a little slippery after wet weather.*
- 2. There are several kissing gates throughout plus 6 stiles (a couple of the stiles are tall with mesh wire fencing across so dogs may need a lift over).*
- 3. Some of the fields are likely to be holding horses.*

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

It's a 3.5 mile figure of eight walk from the historic market town of Petworth in West Sussex. The walk gives an opportunity to explore the town, a haven for antique and art collectors, before heading out across the beautiful Shimmings Valley to reach the village of Byworth and returning to Petworth alongside the small meandering river. The views across the Shimmings Valley are stunning throughout the year. To read my full story visit [www.west-sussex-weekends.com](http://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

Petworth town is located at the junction of the A272 (Heathfield to Winchester road) and the A283 (Milford to Shoreham-by-Sea road). The walk starts from the war memorial in front of St Mary's Church on Church Street in the centre of the village. Parking is available in the town car park or the National Trust Petworth House or Petworth Park car parks, all of which are just a short walk from the village centre.

Approximate post code of start point **GU28 0AE**.

## Walk Sections



**Start to Golden Square**



The walk starts from the war memorial in front of the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin on Church Street. Standing on the pavement facing the war memorial, turn

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left for a few paces. When you draw level with the gated entrance to the church on the right, cross over the road to turn left down the cobbled Lombard Street.

Follow the cobbled street enjoying the variety of shops each side. Petworth has more than 30 art and antique shops as well as a number of boutiques and independent gift shops all clustered around the small centre.

You will emerge out onto the Market Square with the large stone imposing Leconfield Hall in its centre. Built in 1794 as a courthouse and council meeting place, the bells on the roof served as the town fire alarm until the 1920s.

Continue straight on passing the hall and then The Star pub to the right and keep ahead to reach Golden Square. Golden Square was renamed in the 19th century as part of a gentrification programme which aimed to smarten up the town.



through the kissing gate ahead and go down the steps and grass slope (take care as this slope can be a little slippery). Note there may be horses (polo ponies) grazing here during the winter months. Keep straight ahead to reach a small concrete bridge over the small river.

## 1 → 2 Golden Square to Angel Street



Turn left into the High Street. Continue straight on as the road steadily climbs and bends to the right to become Grove Street. On the left you'll pass the row of Percy Terrace cottages.

These are the finest example of the remaining estate cottages that were built to serve the Petworth Estate owned by Lord Leconfield. The estate with its grand house and Capability Brown landscaped gardens provided the livelihood for most of the town's residents for many centuries. During the mid-19th century more than 400 workers' cottages were constructed in the town. You will notice that all of the front doors are a light brown – the estate colour – and the unusual house numbering system relates to the estate's rent records.

Continue past the GP surgery on the right and a few yards later opposite house number 332, turn sharp left up a stone track called Cherry Orchard Lane. Pass through the gap alongside the vehicle barrier and continue straight ahead, passing the backs of the estate cottages to the left. Follow the main stone lane as it bends right to reach a tarmac road.

Turn left down Sheep Down Drive and you will reach a T-junction with Angel Street at the bottom of the slope.

## 2 → 3 Angel Street to River Bridge

Turn left onto Angel Street, cross to the right hand side of the road and pass by the large Catholic Church over to the right. Immediately after passing the church, swing sharp right down the tarmac lane passing directly in front of the church.

You will reach a junction of paths by an old lamppost. Pass

## 3 → 4 River Bridge to Brinksole Heath



Cross the bridge and continue straight ahead going gradually uphill heading to the left of the row of oak trees ahead. After passing the trees, keep in the same direction across the field heading for the brow of the hill to join the left hand field boundary.

When you reach the fence boundary, keep right to follow the grass track climbing further uphill. At the top of the field pass through the kissing gate ahead and take a moment to look back and enjoy the views across the Shimmings Valley.

Continue uphill following the hedge on the left for a few paces and then follow the main grass track as it bends gradually left. Follow the path over the brow of the hill and then pass to the right of a small fenced copse of trees. Continue downhill passing under the power lines to reach the hedgeline ahead. Turn left for just a few yards and then pass through the kissing gate on the right.

Follow this fenced woodland path, which is part of the long distance Serpent Trail, as it climbs uphill through a tunnel of trees. At the top you which reach a small wooden barrier which marks the start of Brinksole Heath.

## 4 → 5 Brinksole Heath to Village Road

Continue ahead for a few paces to reach a T-junction with a wide level track. Turn right onto the track. Follow this for a little distance and then take the first right hand track which is immediately after the garden of a property on the right.



Follow this track downhill as another track merges in from the left and as it bends right passing a water pumping station on the left. Continue ahead on the track as it goes downhill passing between open fields, taking time to enjoy the views.

Pass by some farm outbuildings on the left and under the power lines then, a few paces later, as the track bends right, fork left over a stile. (UPDATE: If this stile is missing or the crop field obstructs the footpath, simply stay on the track to reach the road, turn left along the pavement and then cross over right to take the stile into the horse paddock. Now skip to the next paragraph). Follow the footpath across the crop field passing to the right of the first tree ahead and then aiming for a point on the bottom boundary a little way to the right of the clump of three trees. Cross over the stile to reach the road. Turn right and follow the narrow pavement for just a few yards then cross the road to turn left over a stile into a horse paddock.

Head down the paddock, aiming to the left of the white house in front of you, to reach the stile in the bottom left hand corner. Cross this stile and go down a short grass slope and through a metal gate to reach the village road.

## 5 → 6 Village Road to A283



Turn right along the village road. As the road bends right, fork left down the tarmac slope alongside the telephone box. At the bottom of the slope pass through the wooden gate onto a narrow grass path. Cross the bridge over the stream and soon after cross over a stile. Keep straight ahead into the open grass meadow, climbing over the brow of the hill, to reach the far corner.

Cross the stile here and you will reach a junction of footpaths. Turn left, taking care down the slippery narrow slope. You will pass a bend in a stream to the right, and go straight ahead over the old arched bridge across the narrow river in front of you. Go up the short slope to reach a T-junction with a level path ahead.

Turn right and follow the woodland path as it gradually climbs. Pass through an old wooden kissing gate into a meadow. At the

fork keep right and follow the grass path lined with bracken climbing steadily until you emerge onto a grass path with a fence ahead. Keep right following the fenceline on the left as the path bends left and becomes a stone track between properties. You will emerge out to reach the main road – the A283.

## 6 → 7 A283 to End



Turn left along the pavement of the A283 and pass by the Catholic Church (again) on the right. Keep ahead to pass the Angel Inn on the right and at the cross roads turn right into East Street.

At the top of East Street you will reach the church and war memorial where the walk began. Take time to explore the town and/or the estate Park (free entrance) and House (entrance fees apply) which are managed by the National Trust should you wish.

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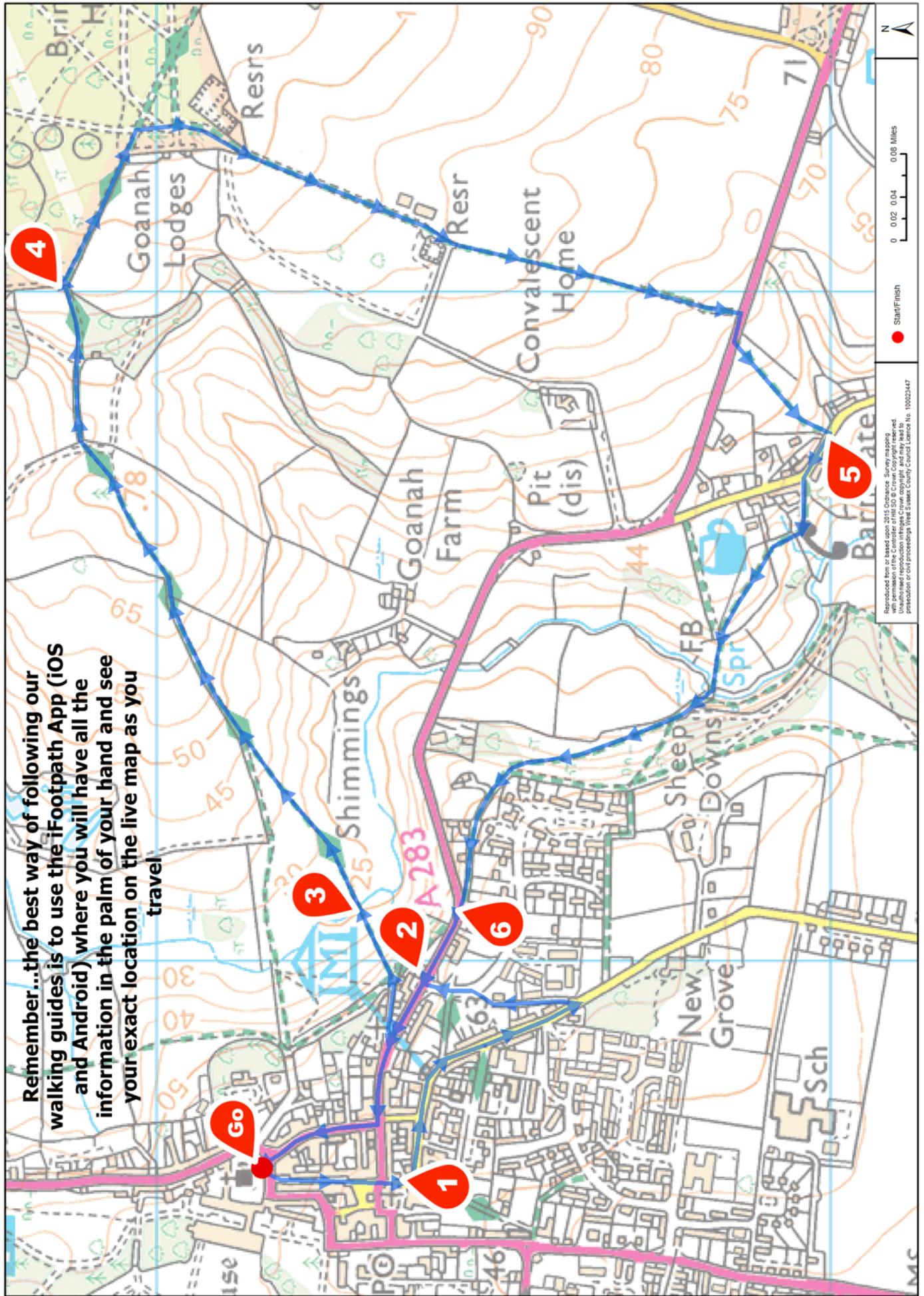
### Disclaimer

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.

Remember...the best way of following our walking guides is to use the iFootpath App (iOS and Android) where you will have all the information in the palm of your hand and see your exact location on the live map as you travel



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