

# Horsham Riverside Walk



**Horsham:** First recorded in AD947 as a place or settlement (ham) where horses were grazed. The spelling of Horsham has remained constant over the centuries however stories of the name's origin have proliferated. For example, it has been suggested that Horsham was named after the Saxon prince 'Horsa', or that so many horseshoes were produced in the local iron works for Edward I's army that the name reflected this. Another story was that the Wealden mud was so thick in the town that it came up to horses hams or flanks.

## HORSHAM RIVERSIDE WALK

The Riverside Walk is open all year round but paths can be muddy and slippery at any time. Following heavy rain parts can be flooded, especially in winter. Please take care.

Dogs should be kept under proper control at all times.

The walk is signposted in both directions and is described below in a clockwise direction.

Follow the way markers which guide you to the walk.



Look also for the Riverside Walk logo, an oak leaf above a river which represents the characteristic trees and rivers of the walk.



There are interpretation boards at each of the six sections giving guidance, illustrations of wildlife and nearby places of interest. These boards describe an anti-clockwise directional walk. A north directional compass bearing is indicated with a path guide on each board.

More detailed walk maps with interesting local facts can be found on our website – <http://www.horsham.community/>



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### Car parks:

Warnham Local Nature Reserve, Roosthole, Leechpool and Owlbeech Wood and Main town car parks

Be aware of car park opening times before setting off.

## PLACE NAMES AROUND THE RIVERSIDE WALK

**Warnham Local Nature Reserve:** The 92 acre site was bought by Horsham District Council in the 1980s. The millpond dates from the 15th century when Boldings Brook was dammed to produce water power for the iron furnace and hammer. Later in the 17th century it was converted to a flour mill and remained in use until the 1930s. The poet Shelley grew up at Field Place on the Warnham estate and knew the mill pond well and it is said he learnt to sail on the pond and had a favourite picnic spot under a sweet chestnut tree nearby.

**Carfax:** There is only one other Carfax and that is in Oxford but it did not get its name the same way, it is not from the Latin quadrifurcus, four forked, or the French Quatre Voie, four ways, but more likely from the Saxon Scarfolkes or Scarfax, meaning empty of people, a market waste.

**Giblets Way and Lane:** The name does not appear to have anything to do with the guts of fowl, but more likely from the family of William Gibelot of Sedgwick castle as the land was all originally under the control of the Norman De Braose dynasty who built the 11th century Chennellsbrook Castle, now known as the Motte and Bailey, which is nearby.

**Owlscastle Farm:** Sussex smugglers were known as 'Owlers' due to the warning hoots they used. Myth has it that this farm was used by smugglers to hide their bales of wool that were being shipped illegally to France in the 18th century.

**Leechpool Woods:** Leeches were once used to suck blood and reduce fevers, and the word 'leechcraft' once meant 'medicine'. In the 1770s a Dame Railey apparently made a living from collecting leeches from Middle Park pond in the wood and selling them to doctors and apothecaries for their bloodletting practices.

**St. Leonard's Forest:** It is likely the forest takes its name from a medieval chantry chapel founded in 1208 in the forest and dedicated to the French hermit St. Leonard of Noblac. St. Leonard, patron saint of prisoners, was brought to Britain by returning Crusaders who knew all about being kept prisoner, their King, Richard I being a prime example. The chapel was dissolved in the mid-16th century by the Duke of Norfolk following Henry VIII's dispute with Rome.

**Bens Acre:** Named after Ben, a horse that was owned and lived in nearby pasture.

**Doomsday Green:** This may have been known as Dubbin's Green, near to the then Coolhurst estate, of which Howard Dudley wrote in 1836 "a romantic and beautiful glen...one of the wildest and most secluded spots in the district...", enclosing of the adjacent common, has almost entirely destroyed the beauty of the scenery and robbed the visitor of a truly rural and picturesque treat.'

**Hammerpond Road:** This road links the two major 16th century iron workings in the forest, Upper Forge at Hammerpond and Lower Forge and furnace at Hawkins Pond. These ponds provided the power needed for the bellows and the hammers of the iron industry and were formed by damming Newstead and Frenchbridge gills which ran south out of the forest.

**Chesworth Farm:** Worth is an Old English term for an enclosed settlement; a settler called Ceor probably owned it as a farm. It was recorded in 1281 as Cherseworth and in 1418 as Chusworth, before becoming its present Chesworth. Owned by the De Braose family it is recorded that both Edward I and Edward II stayed there. The mansion is still in private hands.

**Remembrance Gardens:** These were laid out in 1927 in a quiet area between St Mary's parish church and the Arun River. Originally it was well shaded by large oak trees and consisted of a motley collection of iron benches, but now it is more formal with hedges and railings. A bridge crosses the Arun here and a footpath leads to the cricket ground with a sporting history going back to 1851.

**Tanbridge:** The main industries in Horsham during the 17th and 18th centuries were brewing and the tanning of leather. Horsham was an ideal place for tanning to develop as supplies of running water, hides and oak bark were needed and Horsham had these in plentiful supply. Because of the awful smell this industry tended to be at the edge of the town but by mid-18th century there were still tanners west of the town near Tan Bridge as there had been since the mid-15th century, although most had moved to the common, north east of the town.

**The Needles:** Now a housing estate built in the 1950s, either side of Blackbridge Lane. It was named after a local farm house which was said to be built using timbers from ships wrecked on the Needles, Isle of Wight. In the 1920s the Farm House was owned by J.C. Graham, Director of Lasky Production Company, later known as Paramount Pictures.

**Hills:** The manor of Hills was mentioned in 1548 as land in the parish of Shortfield and held by the Hill family since the 14th century. Inherited by Richard Ingram, Viscount Irwin, whose family had estates and a mansion, Temple Newsam near Leeds. Hills had a small formal garden which was redesigned by Capability Brown in 1768 into a serpentine lake, bridge and parkland using the river Arun. The Jacobean mansion was pulled down in the early 19th century, the park open to the public, but Hills Farm and land was sold for development in 1972 and houses built over the site in 1980.

# HORSHAM RIVERSIDE WALK

## KEY

Walking Surfaces

Can be suitable to include cycling and wheelchairs

Generally only suitable for walking but could be muddy

River

Interpretation Board

Bus Routes near Walk

Public Houses

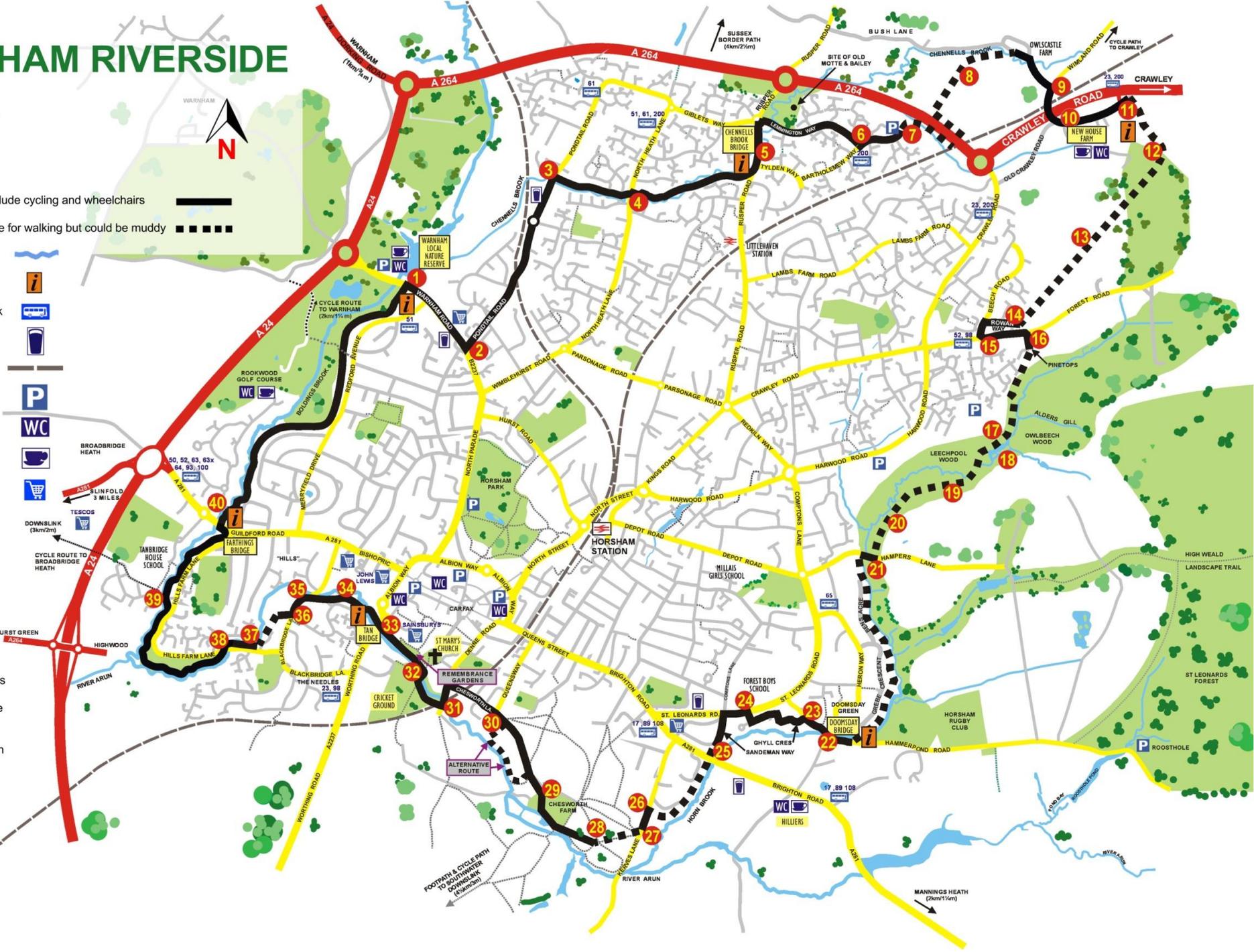
Railway

Car Park

Toilets

Refreshments

Food Shop/  
Supermarket



The text overlaid takes you in a clockwise direction. On the route look out for these Waymarker signs to help follow the route in either direction

## **DIRECTIONS FOR GOING CLOCKWISE (About 13 miles / 4 hrs)**

### **SECTION 1: WARNHAM LOCAL NATURE RESERVE TO CHENNELLS BROOK BRIDGE (3.5km/2.2m - 40 mins)**

(1). Go onto Warnham Road towards Horsham and turn left at Pondtail Road (2). Continue under a railway bridge and past The Rising Sun pub. On the right side of the road, opposite Gorringes Brook (3), the walk continues alongside the river. Go straight across at Cook Road and turn left onto North Heath Lane (4). On the right take the path next to the river and follow this to Rusper Road (5).

### **SECTION 2: CHENNELLS BROOK BRIDGE TO NEW HOUSE FARM (About 3.5km/2.2m/40 mins)**

(5) Go left up Rusper Road and turn right at the roundabout into Lemmington Way. At Bartholomew Way (6) turn left and go around to the left of Roffey FC building (7) and over the footbridge. Follow a path to the right which leads to the railway line and goes under and back along the other side of the dual carriageway. Where the path opens up turn right to keep to the left hand edge of the field. Reach the footbridge (8) and turn across the next field. Follow the path to the right and along to a metal barred gate and follow the track to the right past Owlscastle Farm. (9) Go right along Wimland Road and carefully cross the rail crossing and up to the A264. Cross both carriageways carefully to join a footpath on the other side (10). Turn left into Old Crawley Road, go past New House Farm and continue straight ahead until you reach some houses (11).

### **SECTION 3: NEW HOUSE FARM TO DOOMSDAY BRIDGE (About 5km/3m - 60 mins)**

(11) Go up the pathway between some houses and follow it up a hill and into a gap in the trees (12). Go straight ahead through woods and across a field (13) before entering trees again. Follow the path to Rowan Way (14) and left into Beech Road and again left at the roundabout (15) onto Forest Road. About 200 metres on the right (16) turn into 'Pinetops' and follow the path going left of a house. This leads down across a small field, through trees and down to a made up path. (17) Follow this past a notice board, downhill and follow the large sign for 'Leechpool Woodland Walk' pointing to the right. (18) Pass Leechpool Pond on the left and at a cross path continue straight ahead. This leads to a boardwalk, back to a path, and left where two posts point downhill. (19) Cross the river on the boardwalk, which carries on to criss-cross the river, with a final bridge leading up to some steps (20) to a path which leads to Hampers Lane (21). Turn right and after 50 metres turn left and before the other side of the field turn left again. The path follows the river and runs parallel with Bens Acre and Grebe Crescent. Continue on this uneven path eventually passing 3 bench seats (100m apart) and over a bridge where the path goes right to meet up with Hammerpond Road (22)

### **SECTION 4: DOOMSDAY BRIDGE TO TANBRIDGE (About 4km/2.5m - 45 mins)**

(22) Turn right up Hammerpond Road and turn left into Ghyll Crescent (23). Follow the alleyway between Nos 9 and 10 to Dickins Way, which goes around to the right and up to St Leonards Road (24). Turn left and left again into Sandeman Way. Between Nos 18 and 20 follow an alleyway down to the Brighton Road (25) and carefully cross to the opposite path. Bear right after 200 metres and go behind the gardens of houses on the right. Turn left at Kerves Lane (26) and after 150 metres go right (27) through a gate and across a field. On the other side go through the swing gate, turn right and pass viewing areas. Where the track meets another track go straight ahead onto a path (28). Turn right onto another track that leads to the right side of Chesworth Farm buildings (29). This path leads onto the junction of Queensway and Chesworth Lane (30) (alternatively there is a signposted short detour to the left that can be followed to go alongside the river and back to this main path). Follow Chesworth Lane ahead and under a railway bridge. Turn left at Denne Road and before the next railway bridge (31) go right onto a footpath that goes alongside the river. Turn right over the next footbridge (32) and continue with the river on your left to Tan Bridge (33).

### **SECTION 5: TANBRIDGE TO FARTHINGS BRIDGE (About 2.5 km/1.5m - 30 mins)**

(33) Continue on the other side of the Worthing Road, to the left of Staples store, and after the footbridge turn right. Follow this path with the river on your right past buildings (34). Go left into Blackbridge Lane (35) and past the school turn right into Arunside (36) . At the end of this road follow the path past a seat and across grass. On the other side the path continues to Shandys Close and then turn right into Hills Farm Lane (37). Turn left after the bridge (38) onto a path that rejoins the riverside. Continue for some way with the river on your left side, past The Boulevard (39), and onto Hills Farm Lane again, passing Tanbridge School. Turn left and follow this up to Guildford Road. Turn left and use the pedestrian crossing to continue on the other side(40).

### **SECTION 6: FARTHINGS BRIDGE TO WARNHAM LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (About 2km/1.5m - 30 mins)**

(40) Keep the river on the left for some way and houses on the right. Cross a footbridge and after 400m follow the path past another footbridge and up and to the right, carefully around a golf tee. Continue up to Warnham Road and turning left leads to Warnham Local Nature Reserve (1).