



ABOUT THE TRAIL

This is a self-guided walking trail.
Please read the information below.



HOW TO FIND US

Start point: Church St, King's Head car park; park at rear, by kind permission of the owner. Please consider visiting the pub. Arriva 63 bus stops here

ACCESS & FACILITIES



Walking grade: Easy

Distance: 5 km (3 miles), allow 2 hours. Alternative shorter route, suitable for disabled, leaving trail after point 9, 2.3 km (1.5 miles), allow 1 hour.



Refreshments: Refreshment locations shown on map.



Toilets: Toilets available in café/pub for customer use only.



Dogs: Please keep dogs on leads and clean up mess.

Please respect the privacy of local residents.

FIND OUT MORE:

To learn more about the heritage of the wider district and discover additional trails, please visit www.horshammuseum.org

Created by Rudgwick Preservation Society
supported by Horsham District Community Partnerships Forum and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Horsham
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Forum

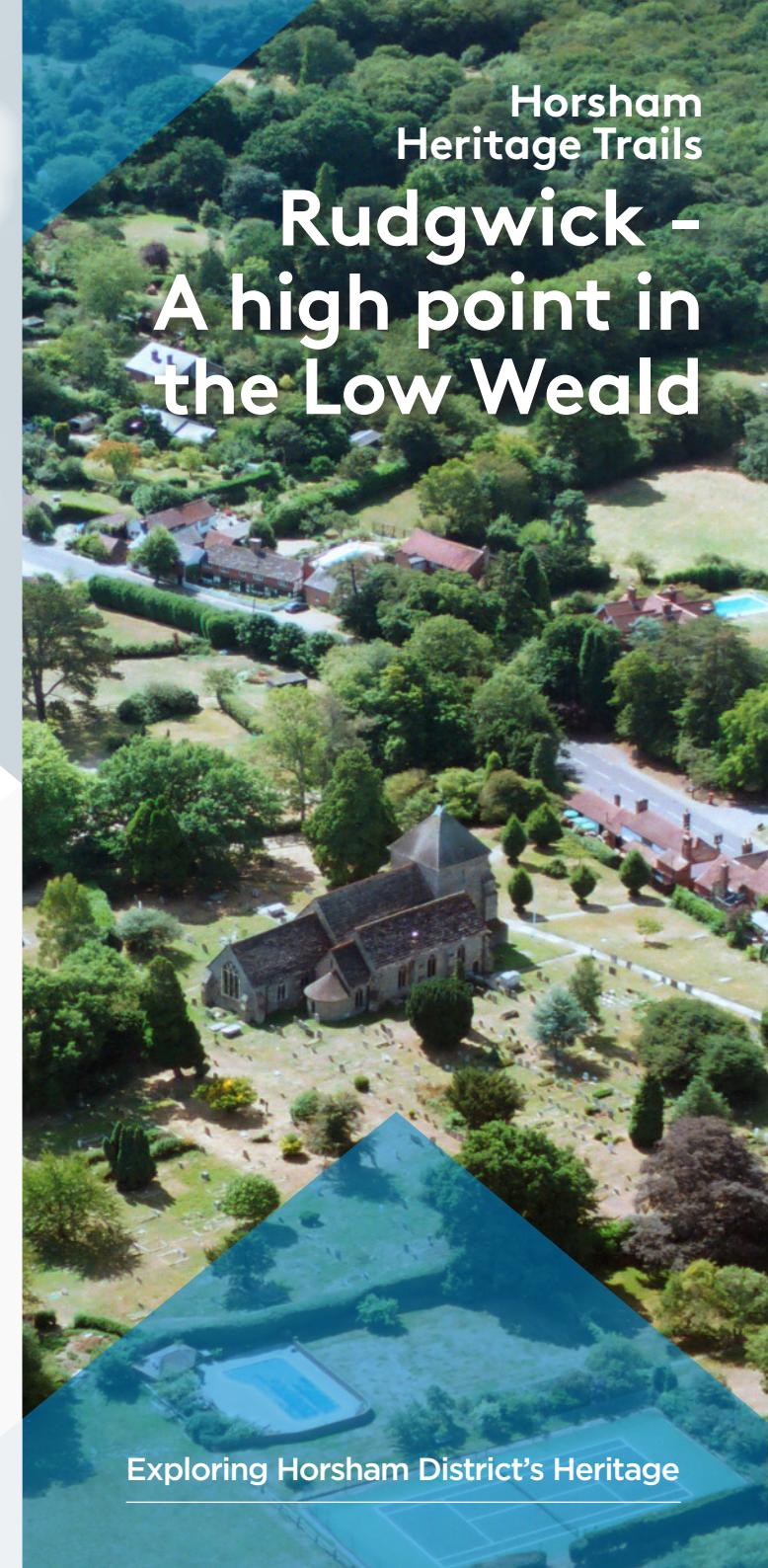


HERITAGE
FUND

Information is correct at time of going to press.

Horsham
Heritage Trails

Rudgwick - A high point in the Low Weald



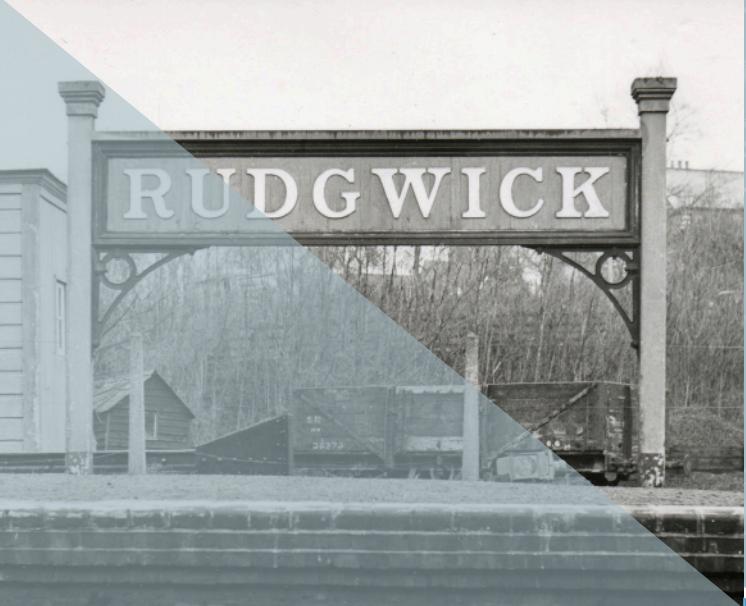
Exploring Horsham District's Heritage

Rudgwick – A high point in the Low Weald

In this trail you will discover the heritage of a Sussex border village. The village is celebrated for its old houses, many from the 14th to the 16th century. The railway, now Downs Link path, opened up the community to the outside world in 1865. The ancient county border is defined by the Rudgwick Ridge of which the underlying clay was excellent for brickmaking, leading to the discovery of a new species of dinosaur.

You might like to consider the following:

- The population of our parish is approaching 3000, most of whom live in Rudgwick itself.
- Rudgwick is one of six hamlets and villages in the parish – there is much more you could explore another day - Bucks Green, The Haven, Tisman's Common, Rowhook and Cox Green
- Rudgwick is “the dairy farm on the ridge”, “wick” meaning farm, often a dairy farm. It reminds us that there was very little settlement here before the 14th century, and then only scattered farms and cottages, and our 13th century church.
- You are standing on the English Channel/ North Sea watershed at over 80m above sea level. To the north, water drains to the Thames via the Wey; to the south, it drains via the Arun to Littlehampton. On the trail, there are great views to the Surrey Hills and the South Downs.
- Rudgwick Church is on the historic ridge top county boundary, a very unusual location. Surrey started at the churchyard boundary.
- In the 1990s boundary changes, most of Cox Green (north of the church) moved from Ewhurst into Rudgwick, and therefore, into Sussex.
- The walk begins in Rudgwick Conservation Area – many old houses on the west side have strips of land sloping down to a small wooded valley and stream (which you cross on the Downs Link section). These medieval and Tudor houses provide a rich heritage of timber-framed buildings, no two alike.
- The King's Head is not as old as it seems - a

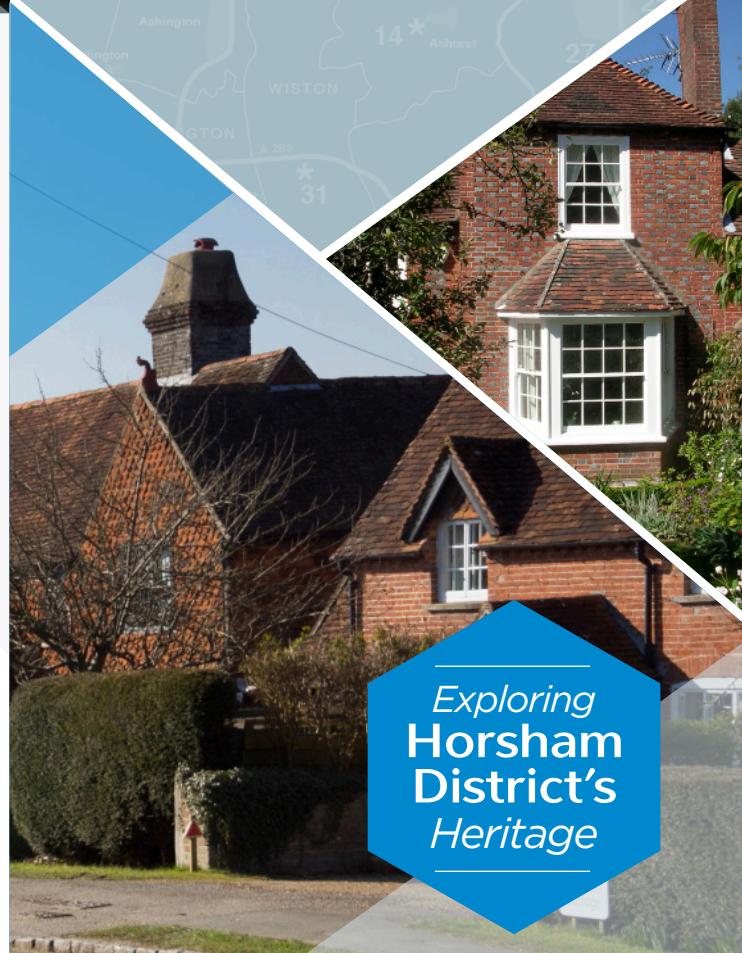


1733 building; a pub from the late 18th century. That has never stopped some people claiming it is much older!

- A Horsham District Millennium Plaque near The King's Head car park has information on Rudgwick's houses and our very own dinosaur, Polacanthus rudgwickensis, recently renamed Horshamosaurus rudgwickensis. Fossils were found in the brickworks you will pass on the trail. They are now in Horsham Museum.
- Our church is dedicated to The Holy Trinity. Alard le Fleming, then lord of the manor of Pulborough, is believed to have built the church in his manor. He also started a fair which continued well into the Victorian era. In later years the 'fair stuff' was stored in the King's Head pub basement. Holy Trinity Fair was held in late Spring with livestock sales, and all the 'fun of the fair'.
- You will see how modern Rudgwick grew around the former railway station which closed in 1965 after 100 years of steam trains on the Guildford to Horsham line. Imagine, the station never had electricity, even in the 1960s!
- Trains crossed Rudgwick Ridge through Baynards Tunnel, which you will see. As an optional deviation you can turn to the left, at the top of the ridge. Here, there are great views, just the place for Rudgwick's medieval motte, believed to have been a look-out post.
- The ridge top is followed today by another

long-distance path; the Sussex Border Path, which takes you back to the village and the church through fields and secluded woodland. The slopes were quarried for Weald Clay to make the famous Rudgwick stock bricks - where the dinosaur was found. Brickmaking has ceased; the land infilled for farming, with businesses like The Milk Churn coffee shop and Firebird Brewing Company in its buildings and former kilns.

- If you enjoyed this trail, why not consider joining us on one of our evening Summer Walks, organised by Rudgwick Preservation Society? The society's website and Facebook page have details. Further information about Rudgwick and this trail can also be found in the website. <https://rudgwick-rps.org.uk/>



Exploring
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Rudgwick - A high point in the Low Weald



Church Street, Rudgwick

The trail begins and finishes near the parish church. We suggest you visit at the end of the trail

1 Top of Church Hill: Horsham Heritage Trail Plaque. 18th century King's Head, next door to former shop (17th century). 'Woes', opposite, oldest house in the street, medieval open hall, c1375.

2 Church Hill House: built for Rudgwick's first doctor, Frank Boxall, in 1896.

3 Foot of Church Hill: Jubilee Hall commemorates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897.

'Eames House', former butcher's house & attached shop. An early 20th century owner was Billy Butcher, the butcher!

'Kings', formerly a tuberculosis sanatorium - Dr Annie McCall presided, one of UK's first female doctors.

4 Old Rudgwick Street: from former Congregational chapel as far as Plough Cottage
Do you know how timber-framed houses evolved?
Plough Cottage is a 15th century hall house,
whereas Hencocks is a 16th century smoke bay
house. Chimneys were added later.

5 Two Wells: an open hall, c1400; near the roundabout are weather-boarded cottages c1820.
For your safety, cross the road with care; cross again before bridge.

6 Martlet Corner: Martlet Hotel, a railway hotel, once stood on the site of the Co-op. Station Garage (now in Broadbridge Heath!) was replaced by a pharmacy and hairdressers.

After passing the shops, the view (right) from the bridge is towards the site of Rudgwick station.

The Guildford to Horsham railway opened 1865 and closed in 1965. Rudgwick station opened several months late after the government inspector declared the bridge over the Arun too low, giving an unsafe gradient at Rudgwick. The bridge (1km south-east) was raised with a new higher span, and all was well.

7 Gaskyns: built 1891. The Barker family lived here until 1930. Then, home of David Jamilly, a cinematic film distributor (previously a travelling showman in Asia). The house was requisitioned by the army in the war, with a camp opposite (now Queen Elizabeth Road). Pennthorpe School here from 1948.

Return to the bridge; turn left, steps down to Downs Link, which takes you to point 8. Alternative disabled access via Gaskyns Close.

Downs Link

8 Rudgwick Station: now Medical Centre. Buildings and goods sidings removed 1960s.

Continue along the Downs Link for 1.2km.

The 'tip pond' on the right retained flood water to protect the embankment from erosion. Now silted-up; the pond was once a favoured walk and feature of Rudgwick.

9 Lynwick Street bridge: remarkable skills of railway engineering, the bricks probably from nearby Lynwick Farm. Other brick features by the path.

Disabled access/exit at Woodsomes Farm (public footpaths to The Milk Churn Café, Lynwick Street and Rudgwick).

10 Baynards Tunnel: the 116m tunnel shortened the route into Surrey. Note no public entrance is permitted to the tunnel

Did you know...? John Browne was the only fatality, killed on 27 August 1863 inspecting construction. The Rudgwick entrance is a protected bat roost.

Downs Link path forks left to climb the hill. Border Path may be muddy in bad weather.

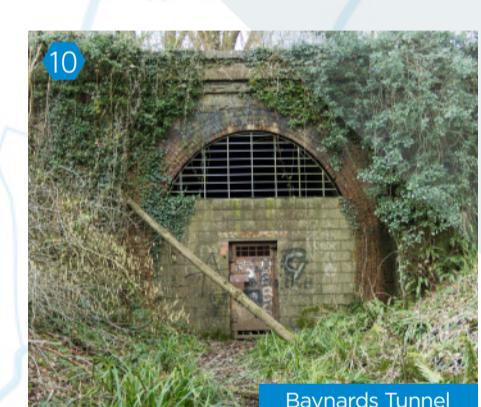
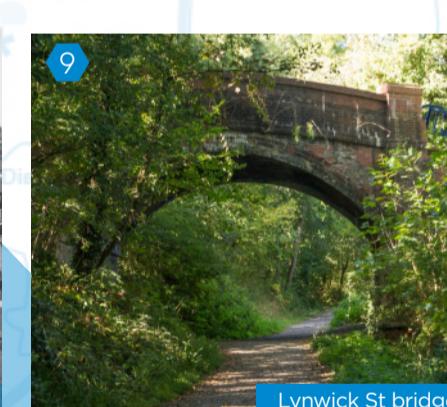
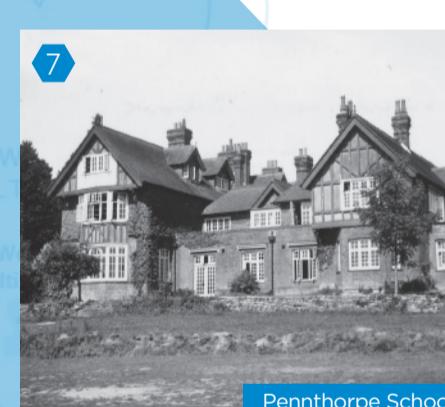
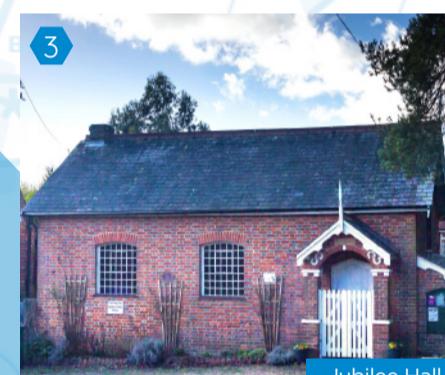
Sussex Border Path

This path (from Emsworth to Rye) runs along the ridge. Take a sharp left to points 11 & 12 (or turn right for 13).

11 Rudgwick motte: a medieval mound and circular ditch, 27m diameter, in Broomhall Wood, a few metres to the right of the path. Probably, at the time, a treeless lookout to the South Downs and Surrey Hills. Archaeologist SE Winbolt excavated here in 1928. He believed it to be a castle; now thought unlikely.

12 Viewpoint in the next field
Go no further than the concrete track crossing the path.

The view. Due south, Kithurst Hill, Storrington, with Chanctonbury Ring to its left (238m); east, Blackdown (280m); far SW, Ditchling Beacon; near SW, Christ's Hospital water tower. Turn north to see Pitch Hill (257m).



Retrace your steps. Stay on Border Path, crossing fields (above the former brickworks), then ahead through woodland.

13 Former Rudgwick brickworks. More views, across reclaimed farmland, to the Sussex landscape beyond.

Rudgwick brickworks, clay extracted from 1920s to 2012. Now filled in and landscaped, farmed by R Harrison & Sons (Woodsomes Farm). Horshamosaurus rudgwickensis fossils discovered in 1985. A spiky smallish herbivorous dinosaur that flourished in the tropical wetlands which laid down Weald clay.

In about 800m the path emerges onto the street in Cox Green. Turn right. Then cross Lynwick Street.

14 Return to the King's Head, passing 'Dukes' (Georgian, previously in Surrey), 'Cousens' (smoke bay), and 'Church Cottage' (hall house)..

Did you know...? Rudgwick church is right on the historic county boundary, the watershed between

Wey and Arun (North Sea and English Channel)! The King's Head is unusual in backing onto the churchyard.

Take care crossing on the hilltop! Take a path into the churchyard by King's Head

15 Rudgwick church

Holy Trinity church is well worth seeing; perhaps to rest and contemplate a while.

Did you know...? The walls have 4 types of sandstone and Roman tile. The roof - Horsham Stone.

The tower is 13th century, the remainder a little later.

Inside is a Sussex marble medieval font. Most windows and furnishings have dedications. The altar window commemorates the Braby family, who gave much to the village - Jubilee Hall, a school (Bucks Green) and the Martlet Hotel. Window by the door remembers Edward Busk (killed 1914, Farnborough), an important aircraft engineer. Note also the two war memorials (there being none outside in Rudgwick). Downs Link path forks left to climb the hill. Border Path may be muddy in bad weather.

