

# Walk 16: Shoreham mk2

A different view of the Darenth Valley from high on its eastern rim. Ancient woodlands, chalk hillside with butterflies and wild flowers. A lovely walk

How long? 3.5 miles (5.7km), 1½ hours  
Public transport: Thameslink train from Kings Cross St Pancras/Blackfriars, Peckham Rye, Nunhead, Catford etc direct to Shoreham (Kent)  
Parking: Shoreham station  
Start of walk: Shoreham station or on big layby on A225 opposite  
Steep slopes? Steep section early in the walk in Dunstall wood  
Easy to navigate? Yes  
Walk highlights: Dunstall woods, valley views, chalk hillside wildlife  
Refreshments: Four pubs at Shoreham – Olde George is closest

## THE WALK

**POINT 1-2** 850m Take the footpath uphill on the other side of the road from Shoreham train station slightly to the right. Ignore the path off to the right up White Hill after about 100 metres (although it also ends up roughly in the right place). Continue (slightly left) to the top of the hill (steep) through glorious, ancient-feeling Dunstall woods. The path eventually goes up steps as the hill steepens further. Almost at the top you hit at a path T-junction.

**POINT 2-3** 250m Turn right at this path t-junction (beyond, in front to the east, are the fields of Dunstall Farm and beyond that, Romney Street eventually). Emerge soon on quiet Fackenden Lane.

**POINT 3-4** 230m Turn left (facing east) on Fackenden Lane. After 230m on this

quiet lane, take the footpath on the right at Warren Farm heading south.

**POINT 4-5** 800m This path goes past Warren Farm buildings. Leave the farm track and go over a stile into a field. Follow the path across two fields admiring a great view of the valley heading south across the second field. Exit the second field on a path reached just before the right hand corner. Start descending on this path, ignoring another path heading sharp right and enter light woods still with a great view ahead over Otford and to the right.

**POINT 5-6** 350m Keep right (ignoring hillside path going straight on), to descend hill slightly diagonally, heading generally south west on a path between wire fences through a site of special scientific interest with brilliant chalk

plants and wildlife including, if you are lucky, buzzards soaring on thermals.

**POINT 6-7** 150m When you reach Shoreham Rd (the busy A225), cross carefully, then turn left and walk along the road for about 100 metres then look out for and take a signposted path heading 90-degree right (west) into the valley.

**POINT 7-8** 700m Follow this path. Soon, cross the railway by foot (CAREFUL) on the pedestrian level crossing. Continue until it meets the main Darenth Valley path just past a kissing gate/stile. Turn right (north) towards Shoreham. (You can carry on all the way back on this path if you like but I prefer the lower path closer to the river.)

**POINT 8-9** 1km On reaching a path crossroads, take the left-hand path slightly downhill heading west. On reaching a t-junction, turn right (north) and follow it past a large field and water meadows to your left and the river beyond. Enter a sort of tree tunnel and emerge on to a quiet lane (can turn left here to pick up Shoreham circular mk1).

**POINT 9-10** 1km At this lane turn right (east) uphill and soon (100m) pass a Shoreham Village CC cricket ground on your left. A few metres after this turn sharp left on the Darenth Valley Path signposted to the village. This passes behind the cricket pavilion and fringes the green. The path continues over the golf course and back to Shoreham, emerging between the Olde George pub (just round the corner 150m to your left) and the station (400m right). Have a drink then return to the station or do another Shoreham walk (walks 2, 3, 5 and 14 on this website.)

Corrected on May 5 (erroneous reference to Mill Lane removed and more details added)  
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