



Bignor Roman Villa and The Rolling Downs

This charming moderate walk includes a nature reserve, rolling countryside plus optional entry to the magnificent Roman mosaics at Bignor.

Essential Facts

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Route distance: | 13.6 kms (8.5 miles) |
| ▪ Approximate time: | 3 hours 30 mins |
| ▪ Approx. total ascent: | 95 metres |
| ▪ Start point Grid Ref: | SU 978 180 |
| ▪ GPS Ref: | SU 97852 18056 |
| ▪ Recommended O.S. Map: | Explorer 121 |
| ▪ Toughness Rating | Sussex 2 |

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

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CHALLENGE ?**

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Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

The start of this walk is the small car park concealed behind undergrowth opposite the lake at Burton Mill, off the A285 south of Petworth.

Walk out of the car park, **S**, and across the road. With the lake on your left, go right, and almost immediately turn left, through the gate and into the Nature Reserve. Follow the path for about 0.8 km to point **A**, where the path joins the driveway. Go straight ahead along the drive, go right and then left round the small church at Burton Park.

Just after the church, take the path that bears right between two fences, and when the driveway is reached again, turn right and follow it out to the main gates. Turn left onto the A285, the pavement is across the road and after 200 metres turn left at **B**, into Dye House Lane. The Cricketers pub is in the lay-by just beyond this point.

Follow the lane as it bends to the right, then goes past Duncton Mill and halfway up the hill take the footpath up to the left. Keep straight on and when the path comes to the lane continue into the next field. Go downhill, across the small lane and up the other side. On coming to the next lane take it to the left and at St.Mary of Barlavington turn right into the churchyard.

Go round the church, keeping it on the left, out onto a footpath. Go left round the farm and at the trees turn right onto a grass track. Go straight on into a field and keeping the hedgerow to the right, walk down the hill. 50 metres from the bottom of the hill, the path turns right through the hedge and bears left towards the footpath signs. Walk into the woods, over the stream and uphill coming to the crossing paths at **C**.

Keep straight on across the field, through the gate and follow the path through the garden. By the buildings turn left to the gate, through it and turn left downhill coming out at the White Horse Inn. From the pub, go across the road to the right and take the footpath signposted to Bignor.

Now go straight across the field and downhill over a stile to a gate. Through the gate turn right and follow the winding path along a narrow valley before emerging through a garden. Turn right onto the lane, go round the left hand bend, past Jay's Farm and at the signpost to Sutton and Bignor turn left along the lane. After 300 metres, point **D** is reached at the historic Yeoman's House. Turn right for 400 metres along the path and then turn left into the car park of the Bignor Roman Villa.

Having viewed the magnificent Roman mosaics in the villa museum, return the same way to **D**, and turn right. On the bend take the footpath straight ahead then follow the signposts right round the barns and then left across the fields. Turn right along the edge of the wood and then the footpath turns left into the woods and goes steeply downhill. Once out in the field keep the trees on the left, walk down to the lefthand corner, over the stream and on exiting the woods bear right across the field towards Bignor Park.

On reaching the driveway, go straight across and into the farmyard. Go through the gate onto a track and just before reaching a second gate the path goes right through the hedge at point **E**. Go left keeping the hedge on the left until the bridleway is reached. Turn right, along the bridleway, and after 500 metres turn left. In another 400 metres come to point **F**. Turn left along a sandy bridleway for 600 metres, turn left and follow the track round the farm coming out to the lane. Turn right along the lane for 400 metres and turn left into a driveway, then straight on a sandy bridleway which comes out to another lane.



Grazing On The Downs



Burton Park Church



Gateway To The Church Of The Holy Cross Bignor

Turn left onto the lane, up the hill and as the lane goes left, keep straight on over two stiles and into a sunken footpath. This goes over a causeway with Chingford Pond on the left and on to a driveway. Keep straight on through the estate and at the sharp left-hand bend, **A** is reached again. Turn right into the woods and take the path back through the Nature Reserve to Burton Mill and the start, **S**.

Refreshment

The Cricketers

Public House

A285, Duncton

Tel: 01798 342473

Real ales, restaurant and bar food

Bignor Roman Villa

Tea Room

Near Bignor

Tel: 01798 869259

Coffee, teas and light snacks

The White Horse Inn

Public House

The Street, Sutton

Tel: 01798 869221

Restaurant and bar food, garden



The Cricketers Pub

LOCAL INFO

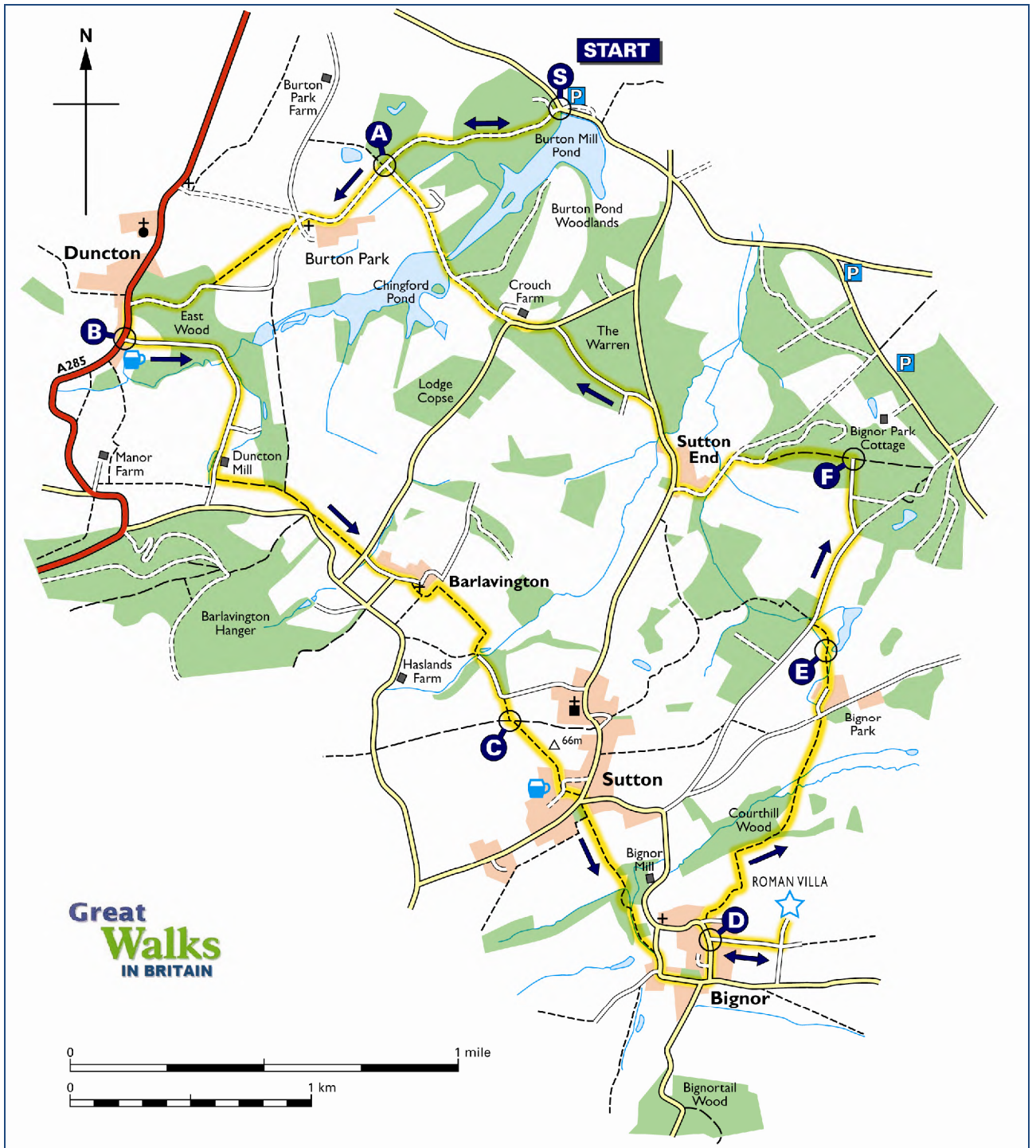
Bignor Roman Villa is one of the most important Roman excavations anywhere in the UK. Housed in the museum are items of interest from the many excavations but the most impressive displays are of the superb mosaics. One is no less than 24 metres in length. There are several exhibitions to give an excellent insight into rural Roman life. The museum is surrounded by beautiful countryside set below the South Downs.



























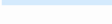


More details can be got from the website www.bignorromanvilla.co.uk. The museum is closed in the winter.

At many points along the walk, the waymark posts of the **West Sussex Literary Trail** can be found. This is one of the country's newest public trails. Opened in Easter 2007, the trail winds for 55 miles from Horsham to Chichester and links many places that have a connection with authors such as Shelley, William Penn, John Galsworthy and Hilaire Belloc. The website www.westsussexliterarytrail.co.uk gives a lot more information and details of how to get the trail guide that would add fascinating information to the walk.

**BIGNOR ROMAN VILLA
& ROLLING COUNTRYSIDE
G.P.S. WAYPOINTS**

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF		CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
BRV S	S	SU	97852	18056	14
BRV A	A	SU	97087	17810	20
BRV B	B	SU	96024	17078	40
BRV C	C	SU	97619	15500	69
BRV D	D	SU	98457	14578	46
BRV E	E	SU	98930	15800	31
BRV F	F	SU	99031	16595	30



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route				
	Motorway		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	Main road		Church with spire		Information centre
	Secondary road		Other place of worship		Parking
	Minor road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Other road		Building		Public house
	Track		Built up area		Picnic site
	Footpath		Woodland		Camp site
	Bridleway		Sand		Major tourist feature
	National trail		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Sussex & The South Downs** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Brecon Beacons.