

SLINDON AND NORE HILL, WEST SUSSEX, SOUTH DOWNS



Challenging Terrain

**4 miles
Circular
1.5 to 2 hours**

221214



Access Notes



1. The walk follows a mixture of village pavements and woodland/farm tracks, the latter of which can be quite muddy after periods of rain.
2. The route includes several climbs and descents throughout.
3. There are no stiles or gates to negotiate. A couple of sections follow the edge of quiet roads so take care of any traffic.

The Forge, the community cafe and shop, provides the perfect place for refreshments before or after your walk

Slindon Forge, Reynolds Lane, BN18 0QT
T - 01243 814324
www.slindonforge.co.uk

A 4 mile circular walk from the downland village of Slindon in West Sussex. Nestling in the foothills of the South Downs, Slindon is charming and unspoilt, its brick and flint houses surrounded by beech woods, farms and open downland. The walking route heads north through the village to reach Nore Hill, with its beautiful woodland and impressive folly. There are bluebells to enjoy in the Spring, plenty of wildlife and great views out to the south coast.

Getting there

Slindon is a small village which is located about 6 miles east of Chichester and 2 miles west of Arundel in West Sussex. The village is accessed from the A29, close to its junction with the A27. The walk starts and finishes from The Forge cafe/shop on Reynolds Lane in Slindon. The cafe is next to the village hall and there is roadside parking on Reynolds Lane, alongside the small orchard (just beyond the Forge).

Approximate post code **BN18 0QT**

Walk Sections

Go → 1 Start to Top Lane



The walk starts and finishes at The Forge, the community cafe and shop, which is a great place for refreshments

You'll find this and many more walks at iFootpath.com. All iFootpath walks are available to download on the iFootpath App, allowing you to follow your real-time progress on the live satellite map as you are walking (no more getting lost!). You can also add your own comments, ratings and photos to each walk. If you notice any changes required to this walk please contact us at walks@ifootpath.com



before or after your walk. The café is licensed, serves delicious coffee, light meals and cakes – much of it homemade, or sourced from local suppliers. There's free wi-fi and dogs, cyclists and walkers are made very welcome.

Standing on Reynolds Lane, facing The Forge, turn right and follow the pavement heading uphill. You will pass the community orchard on the left. As you reach the road junction you will pass the Slindon Millennium village sign, topped with a cricket bat and wicket, signifying the village's long association with the game. Keep straight ahead on the main road, as it swings right (keep to the left-hand edge and take care of any traffic on this short section without pavement). Join the right-hand pavement to continue on the village road heading uphill.

Slindon village is part of the larger Slindon estate and many of the cottages were once cottages for the workers on the estate. Constructed in brick and flint, they mostly date from the 1700s, but the oldest cottage dates from the 1400s. For more details of the history of Slindon village, download the Slindon Village History Trail, also available on iFootpath.

Take the first turning on the left, Church Hill. After a little distance a pavement begins on the left. Follow this uphill passing the duck pond and then St Mary's Church on the left. At the top of the hill you will come to a T-junction with Top Lane, with a circular bench at its centre.

1 → 2 Top Lane to Row's Barn



Turn left along Top Lane and you will pass the Catholic church of St Richard's on the right with the flint boundary wall for Slindon College running on the left. Continue until you reach the entrance gates for the college on the left, once the manor house of the estate.

At this point do NOT follow the road swinging left, instead go straight ahead on the small footpath into the woodland (the path between the chevron sign and the speed limit sign). Follow this path fairly steeply downhill – take care as it can be a bit slippery when wet.

The path leads you out to a T-junction with a tarmac lane. Turn right along the lane and after just a few yards you'll come to the buildings of Courthill Farm ahead. Turn left just before the buildings onto the farm track signed as a public footpath. If you look ahead at about 1 o'clock you'll see a stone folly on the edge of the woodland, the folly you will be visiting later on this walk.

Follow the track steadily uphill for some distance. Ignore the track off to the right and a few paces later you'll pass an old barn on the left, Row's Barn.

2 → 3 Row's Barn to Nore Hill Folly



Keep straight ahead on the track and a little further along it swings hard right and begins to climb. Ignore the path signed off to the left, just stay on the main track uphill. As the track, known as Lees Lane, enters woodland you will reach a junction of paths. Keep straight ahead here, signed with the yellow arrow.

Slindon was once famous for its magnificent ancient beech woods, but most of the old trees came down in the great storm of 1987. The woods are regenerating naturally after the devastation of the storm and today you'll find mostly beech with a typical downland mixture of holly, yew and ash. In spring the woods are famous for a fabulous show of bluebells, accompanied later by early purple orchids. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife, you may come across woodpeckers, nuthatches and stag beetles.

Ignore the first track off to the right, simply continue on the steady climb up the main track. The track begins to level off and then swings right. A few yards later, take the next track on the right, a sharp right-hand turn passing a wooden vehicle barrier.

Follow this wide track, a welcome section of more level walking! At the fork, keep left marked with a yellow/black arrow for the public footpath. Soon after, the path passes through an open gateway and swings right, with the edge of the woodland to the right. Ahead you'll have your first glimpse of the views afforded by Nore Hill. As the woodland on the right ends, you'll come to Nore Hill Folly on the right with a bench alongside.

3 → 4 Nore Hill Folly to Courthill Farm



This early 19th century flint folly, built under the instruction of the Countess of Newburgh, is one of Slindon estate's best known landmarks. Originally there was a round house behind the arch, which was used for tea and lunches during shoots. Take time to enjoy the panoramic views across the coastal plain

and out to sea.

Stay on the track as it swings left and then right, continuing your descent from the hill. The track leads you down to a T-junction with the track you used on your outward leg. Turn left and follow the track all the way back out to the junction with the road at Courthill Farm.

4 → 5 Courthill Farm to End



From this point you will be retracing your steps back to The Forge. Turn right along the road and, after just 50 yards, fork left onto the narrow woodland path running alongside the road. Follow this uphill and you will emerge out opposite the entrance gates for Slindon College.

Go straight ahead along Top Road and then turn right down Church Hill. At the T-junction turn right and follow the main road until you reach The Forge on the right, for some well earned hospitality.

Please support The Forge community shop and café which has sponsored this walk together with the National Trust and the South Downs National Park.

A brilliant transformation and an example of what can be achieved when villagers work together.

Mr & Mrs & G, Boxgrove

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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.

