

The Windmill Inn

FREEHOUSE LITTLEWORTH

The small community of Littleworth sits on a quiet country road to the north of Partridge Green. With a network of surrounding footpaths and bridleways, it provides an excellent starting point for a number of exploratory walks. On this occasion, we travel south, joining-up with the River Adur for a short stretch, and returning along level paths.

1. From the road junction with Mill Lane in Littleworth, walk south for 50 yards and turn left on to the enclosed footpath between houses. Keep direction along the rise and fall of the path among scrub for 300 yards, descending to cross a stream and crossing a plank bridge.

In a sloping field, turn right to the corner, climbing left up the rising hedgeline. In 100 yards, cross a stile on the right and turn left along the hedgeline for 250 yards to the fieldcorner.

Pass through metal gates to a three-way junction in woodland and turn right.

On clearing the tree-cover, in a short distance, continue over an open field, along a right hedgeline to a crossing bridleway (Reeds Lane).

Climb to the top of the field ahead, to a stile.

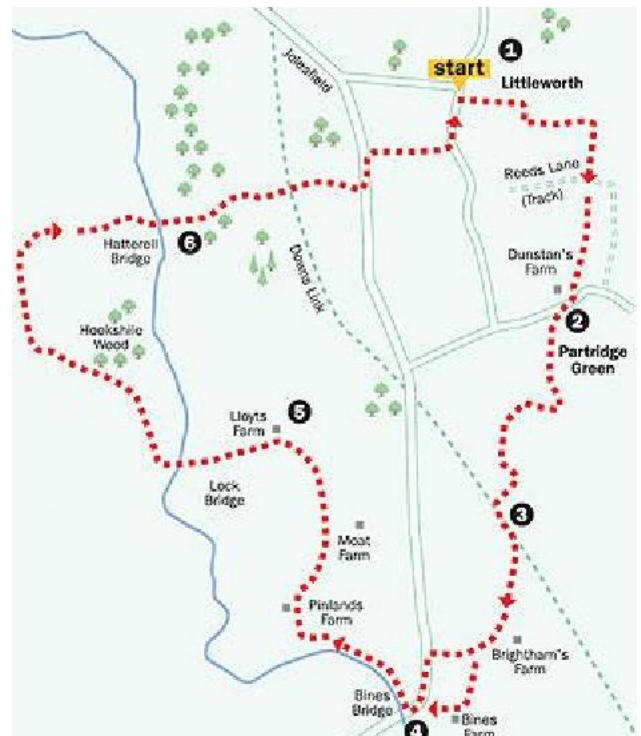
Take the enclosed, descending path to the minor road beside Dunstan's Farm and turn right along the pavement.

2. In 100 yards cross the road, with care, to the edge of the recreation ground at Partridge Green.

Pass a reedy pond, keeping to the left edge of the grounds and at the far left corner, in 300 yards, pass through a stile into a field.

Take a half-left line across the trodden path to a hedge corner in 200 yards. Just past the corner, locate a right turn in the hedge, take this and continue along the right hedgeline.

In 150 yards, note the footpath sign on the right and turn half-left, as signed, across the field to the corner and a footbridge. Pass ahead through the scrub to walk by the side of a sewage works.



At the end of the works take the track ahead, ignoring the right turning. In a few yards, turn right to arrive in 100 yards at the Downs Link path.

3. Turn left along the bridleway for 225 yards, turning right over a stile, going half-left for 150 yards on a footpath between paddocks and small stable.

Cross a stile and climb up a right hedgeline to a field-corner stile at Brightham's Farm.

Cross into a flat, grassed field, going half-right and arriving at a metalled drive. Turn right along the drive for 50 yards and leave the drive through a hedge gap on the left, walking along a field-edge to pass through a gate at Bines Farm.

Go half-right towards the farmhouse and buildings and then right across the yard beside a large open barn towards a small timber-framed barn on the left. Just at the end of that building, in a short section of high fence, locate and pass through a gate, continuing down the fenceline to the roadside.

4. Cross the road with care and go left towards Bines Bridge. At the bridge, drop right to the riverbank path and follow it for a quarter-of-a-mile to a footpath sign.

Divert half-right across a low-lying meadow to a corner stile. Continue in the next field and at the corner turn right, climbing beside a paddock to Pinlands Farm. At the top of the climb, turn right over a plank bridge and stile, going behind a stable block. Follow the right hedgeline, leaving the property through a gate opening.

Keep to the drive for 75 yards and take a left turn through hedgerow over a plank bridge and head across two wide fields. Moat Farm is off to the right.

Pass through a hedge opening and go half-left across a field to a plank bridge and stile. Continue up a small orchard, along the left side, to a gate in 75 yards at Lloyds Farm.

5. Turn left along the metalled lane and 150 yards after crossing Lock Bridge, take the footpath up the drive that leads towards the impressive Gate House Cottage. Pass beneath the archway and climb to cross the rail fence on the right at a drive, turning right.

Follow the well-maintained drive for 250 yards and, where it veers left, continue ahead into Hookshile Wood on a footpath. Keep to the path for 400 yards, passing over crossing tracks, finally descending to a bridge and coming to a field-edge.

Go ahead up the field, as signed, turning half-left at the midway point. At a three-way junction of tree-lined tracks, turn right for 250 yards, dropping to the right through a metal gate into pasture.

Turn left along the fieldedge for 200 yards and, at a sign, branch half-right, passing beneath a field-centre clump of trees, heading for a mid-fence stile.

Maintain direction for a short distance to a four-way junction and turn right along a bridleway. Walk to a fieldcorner, turn left and, in a few yards, turn right beside a reed-filled pond. Pass through a metal gate, crossing the field ahead, crossing over Hattrell Bridge, beside a weir.

6. Walk towards the woodland ahead, pass through a gate and climb up the track to a field.

Keep generally to the left side of the first field, but follow the obvious line that, in 300 yards, descends to cross the Downs Link path.

Climb out the opposite side and continue along a left field-edge, passing a small copse and continuing between houses to come to the roadside at Jolesfield. Cross the road and turn left.

In 150 yards, turn right through kissing gates to pass across the end of a recreation ground. At the right corner, continue on an enclosed path ignoring a left turn, to arrive back at the road through Littleworth.

Turn left up the road to arrive at the road junction in 300 yards, from where this walk began.

Distance/time: Six-and-a-quarter miles taking three hours.

By car: Littleworth is on the minor road, half-a-mile north from the mini-roundabout on the B2116 road in Partridge Green village. Start point Grid Ref. TQ192203

By public transport: Details from www.traveline.info or phone 0871 2002233. Bus stop in the village.

What's underfoot: Level Wealden walking with stiles, plank bridges and some undergrowth. Possible with a baby backpack. Not possible with a baby buggy.

Thirsty work: The Windmill pub, 200 yards north of the starting point.

So you don't get lost: OS Explorer map 122 and a compass.