

# ACCESSIBLE RAMBLES IN SUSSEX Chichester area

last revised 21/05/2010

Please read the introduction before reading this section

## CHICHESTER AREA

### CHICHESTER CANAL AND SALTERNS WAY CIRCULAR Grade 1/2/4



In Chichester the ramble follows cycle routes. A detailed cycle route map of the town can be had from West Sussex Council or at:

[http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset\\_id=3741200](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=3741200)

**Researched:** 4/5/10

Map: Explorer 120, Landranger 197

**Grid reference:** Chichester Station SU859043, Marina, SU 835010

**Summary:** This is a smashing long ramble on level ground taking advantage of the disability friendly facilities offered by the Chichester Canal Trust and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Short out and back routes on the circuit are also rewarding, especially on the canal. There are links with other routes. The grade is 1 throughout except for the stretch between Donnington and the A286, which is currently 2, although may be the subject of later improvement.

**Public Transport:** Trains to Chichester station which is the start of the ramble. Chichester bus station is opposite the railway station. Fishbourne Railway station is near the ramble and offers the opportunity to shorten the route by cutting out the Chichester suburbs.

**Car parking:** Large number of car parks in central Chichester. For details see <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4528> or ring the tourist office on 01243 775 888. Car parks at Little London, by Marks and Spencers and East Palland have wheelchair accessible toilets. Car parking is possible in side streets in Hunston. At the Marina there is a large visitors car park. If this is full there is parking on the drive which runs along the side of the canal from the A286 to the Marina. Car parking is also possible in Fishbourne on the street and in Westgate and Fishbourne Street, Chichester, which are on the route.

**Accessible toilet:** Wheelchair accessible toilets in central Chichester can be found in East Palland and Little London car parks, in West St, Tower St, East St, Bussins Lane and Friary Lane. There is a wheelchair accessible toilet at the Chichester Canal Trust Shop at Chichester Canal basin. At Chichester marina the toilets inside the Spinnaker cafe/bar are wheelchair accessible.

**Refreshments:** Numerous in Chichester city centre which is flat. For accessibility details phone the tourist office on 01243 775 888

**Length:** 13km for the full circuit. The whole route is between 3 and 10 metres above sea level.

**More details:**

This ramble is described from Chichester Station, but you could join the ramble at a number of places where there is car parking.

From the station leave the platform by the (only) exit. Go east to the main road and turn right for about 100 metres, to the first turning on the left. Turn left down this and then immediately right to find yourself by the canal (5 metre descent at about 1 in 10). Pass a pub and pick up the tow path.



Follow this along the canal for nearly two kilometres of 2 metre wide compacted earth and stone path. The path then rises at about 1 in 10 for 10 metres to turn left to cross a bridge (25mm step) and then descends to a road at Hunston. Turn right here along the pavement to see the path about 5 metres along on your right, again along the towpath and with a similar surface to before, except now about 1.5 metres wide. Shortly afterwards you rise slightly to cross the remains of the Selsey tramway. On your right you will see the remains of the old bridge, with a small piece of track and a pair of wheels.

*Chichester Canal at Chichester* © Copyright [Chris Gunns](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#)

A kilometre after Hunston you cross a bridge at Donnington. Here the standard of the path deteriorates, although it is hoped to improve it when money becomes available. In the following kilometre the towpath is compacted earth and grass and has some depressions. The largest of these on the day of inspection was about one metre long and about 70 mm deep.

Then you reach the busy A286. Here you must cross the road and the canal. You can take a grass route next to the canal which joins the road to the marina after about 100 metres in an area which can be churned up by cars. To avoid this travel 50 metres north on the A26 to a road on your left- the road to Chichester Marina. Whichever way you travel you will find yourself on a tarmac road which leads to the Marina. There are lines on either side denoting areas for pedestrians.

You come to the marina itself. On your right you will find the visitors car park, which was nearly empty when I was there in mid week, but may be more busy at weekends. You could park along the access road.

From the visitors car park you can turn north west, winding your way round the gate across the road (space of about 70mm on the left, or go round on the right via rough grass) and then follow this road to the end.

But if you would like to see the marina lock or you would like to visit the shops, cafe and toilets, carry straight on. After about 100 metres see signs to the “Spinnaker” on your right. This rather antiseptic complex has a bar/cafe shop and wheelchair accessible toilets.

After leaving the Spinnaker continue west. Then turn right at the end of the marina and head north towards a black building with a red roof. This is the lock building. Head for the right of this and over the lock (1.1 metre wide, but kinks in the gate mean that the minimum effective width is about 0.9 metres). Once over the lock the quickest route is across the gravel to the left, but the smoothest route is along the concrete path ahead of you. Follow this to the toilets (not wheelchair accessible, public toilets at the rear of the building). Pass these on the right and then turn left. The road coming in from the right is the one from the visitors car park.



*The lock at the marina* © Copyright [Basher Eyre](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#)

You will now see a wood with two paths through it. Take the one on the right (The Salterns Way). For half a kilometre this compacted earth and stone path runs through woods and by fields. At New Barn farm turn slightly left, following Salterns Way signs, along a tarmac farm access road. After a further kilometre you turn right into the sometimes busy Dell Quay Road and then first left into busy Appledram Road. Fortunately, 100 metres up this road there is a kissing gate on the right that takes you off road again. The kissing gate is designed for wheelchairs and bicycles and has a 1.8 metre recess. You are now on a recently laid stone and shale path which winds parallel to the road. About half way along you pass the Appledram centre (gate on left about 0.8 metre wide, bolt on top left of far side of the gate. The centre has a shop and sells teas 10-3.30 (0.5 metre steep ramp into tea room.)

At the first houses the path joins the road via a kissing gate the same size as the first one. Cross the road to join the pavement on the other side. Either go straight across (kerb 70mm) or continue north in the road for 30 metres to find level access. Follow the pavement north. Shortly it parts company with the road. You then turn left on a busy slip road, following the bicycle route.

The remainder of the route is through Chichester suburbs. Walkers might want to think about getting a bus from the opposite side of the road to Chichester station. Otherwise cross the road at the island and continue going west north west to a point where blue signs point to a cycle route junction. Here walkers could turn left to follow the signs to Fishbourne and its (once an hour) trains. The rest of us turn right under the bypass tunnel.

And then its straight ahead through the suburbs for a kilometre on Fishbourne Road and Westway. You cross a pedestrian crossing of the railway- be careful (Signs near the crossing suggest it is under threat. If it is closed you will have to go right and then left at the roundabout) Pass one roundabout and then another. After the second roundabout the scenery is less suburban as you approach the city centre. If you want to look at the Cathedral and the city keep straight on, but to return to the station look out for signs to the right indicating a cycle route to the station. This route winds its way through the south west of the city centre to come out in the railway station car park, your starting point.



Both Chichester canal Trust and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy run wheelchair accessible boat trips and other activities. See <http://chichestercanal.org.uk/> and <http://www.conservancy.co.uk/>

## **SALTERNS WAY grade1?**

**Researched:** 28/12/09

**Grid reference:** SU865043

**Summary:** This route from Chichester to the sea at West Wittering has been designed as a cycle and wheelchair route. It is a linear route. Roughly half of the route is covered in the ramble above.

**Public Transport:** See above

**Car parking:** See details

**Accessible toilet:** See above

**Refreshments:** See details

**Length:** 18km each way

### **More details:**

[http://www.conservancy.co.uk/uploads/user\\_documents/salternsway.pdf](http://www.conservancy.co.uk/uploads/user_documents/salternsway.pdf) Chichester Harbour Commissioners also promote some other short routes and have details of a local wheelchair rental service. <http://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/Access-for-All/343/> Or ring the Commissioners on 01243 512301

## **OTHER RAMBLES IN THE CHICHESTER HARBOUR AREA**

Chichester harbour commissioners have a number of suggested walks in the Chichester area. They can be found at: <http://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/Walking/352/> or ring the Conservancy on 01243 789173

Staff at the conservancy tell me that the following walks will fit into grade 4.

Walk 1-Emsworth to Langstone, (but there is a ramp at location 4 which is quite steep and there is no handrail)

Walk 3- Chichester Marina to Dell Quay (one squeeze gate with a small step as the shoreline path joins the Dell Quay Road)

Walk 5- West Wittering and Itchenor circuit (extended route has no stiles)

Walk 8 Thorney Island Circular (Has one stile on the route described, but could be started at point 4 on the walk. Public parking is available at Thornham Marina. A circular walk back to this point would be about 7.5 miles.



Walk 10- Chidham Circular ( but there are a couple of places with steps- these are not too onerous))

Walk 11- Chichester to Bosham

Walk 12- Across the harbour. Has one stile which can be avoided by walking up Thorney Road and turning left onto the A259. Then walk about 10 minutes along the pavement to Emsworth.

## **SHORT ROUTES**

Near Selsey, the Sidlesham Ferry Nature Trail is a short accessible route

[http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/prow/pdfs/Sidlesham\\_Ferry\\_Nat\\_Trail.pdf](http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/prow/pdfs/Sidlesham_Ferry_Nat_Trail.pdf)

## **Routes we have not researched yet. Would you like to research them?**

The Centurion Way, a cycle path running north from the West side of Chichester, and linking to a number of bridleways.

<http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/prow/pdfs/CenturionWayLeaflet2002.pdf>