

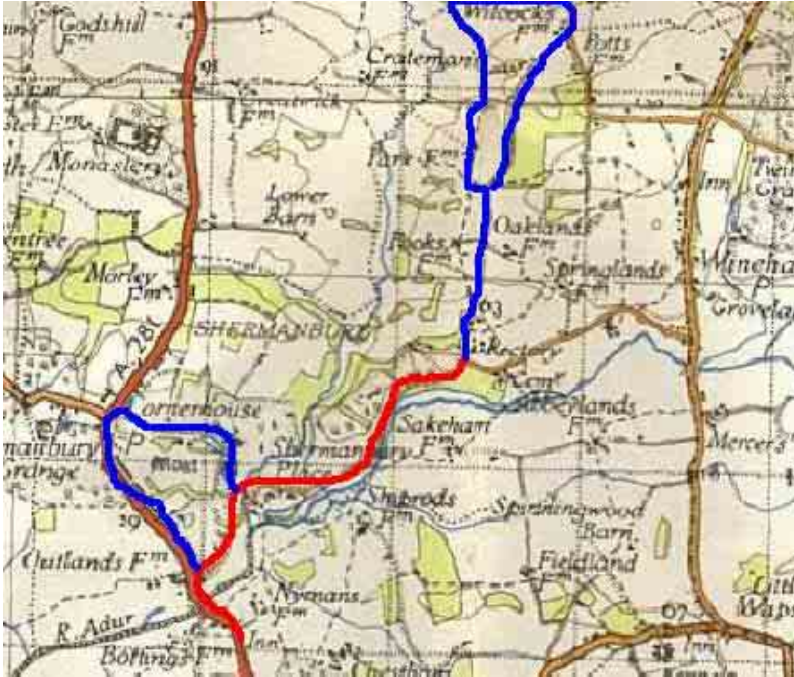
# ACCESSIBLE RAMBLES IN SUSSEX Mid Sussex area

last revised 21/05/2010

Please read the introduction before reading this section

## MID SUSSEX

### THE ADUR, SHERMANBURY AND THE BULL grades 1,2,3 and 4



**Researched:** 13/2/10

**Summary:** A ramble with no significant ascents along a tree lined lane with riverside picnic opportunities, interesting buildings and a pub. This is linear ramble but there are possibilities for extensions which can give a dumbbell shaped walk.

**Map** Landranger 198, Explorer 122 (and 134 for the extension)

**Grid reference:** TQ223195

**Public Transport:** Stagecoach service 17 stops outside the western end of the lane. So you could do the ramble in reverse.

**Car parking:** Possible on the road at the start of the ramble. The approach to the ramble is down a little used dead end road from Wineham. Parking for one car with a trailer possible- possibly more. If you wanted to extend the ramble on tarmac you could park at any point on this road west of Wineham. It is also possible to park at the Bull Inn, even if not using the pub, as there is an old dog leg in the road near the pub.

**Accessible toilet:** none on route.

**Refreshments:** The Bull inn at TQ211181 has step free access from the car park at the rear. The toilets have level access but are not wheelchair accessible.

**Grade:** The basic ramble is grade 1 in good weather, 2 after periods of rain. The extension to the Bull pub is grade 1. The extension to Ewhurst manor is grade 4. The northern extension is category 3 in good weather and 4 after periods of rain.



Shermanbury Church

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**Length:** The basic ramble is 2km each way (4km there and back), with no significant ascent. The return trip to the Bull adds 0.5 km. The extension to Ewhurst manor adds 1.5km. The northern extension adds 5.5 km and 22metres of ascent, mainly on tarmac at the start of the extension. The longest ramble you can do is 12km.

**Details:** The ramble starts at a turn in the road, where a lane turns off to the left. This is shortly after the tiny Shermanbury parish cemetery. Either cross a cattle grid which is largely filled in with earth, or open the large gate next to it. You then follow the lane for two km through woods and meadows to its end. The surface is sometimes tarmac and sometimes compacted earth and stone, but there is frequently an overlying cover of earth which can generate some surface mud. At around the 1km point there are two places where you can turn left for a picnic by the river Adur. One of these has a descent of about 5 metres at around 1 in 10. Shortly before Shermanbury Place a dip in the lane had about 5 cm depth of water in February after a period of rain but there were no other issues on the route.

Shermanbury place is a grand house. According to Wikipedia it is a mansion built by John Challen in 1779 on the site of a 16th century Tudor house with projecting crosswings. Even more interesting is the Anglican church of St. Giles is well away from the modern roads, approached along a tree-lined bridleway leading to Shermanbury Place, east of the Brighton road. A small church is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but the present structure is of 14th century origin. The



roof is of Horsham stone slates with a weatherboarded belltower at the west end, containing two bells. The path to the church door is step free but it is usually locked. You will also see a rather gracious looking building in an advanced state of decay, whose former use I can only speculate on.

The lane ends at the main road where there are impressive gates, although you can use a side gate. You can turn round here, or extend the ramble by turning left on the pavement, which ends opposite the Bull Inn.

*The gates at the end of the bridleway* © Copyright [Dave Spicer](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#).

## THE EWHURST EXTENSION

Because of a narrow bridge followed by a narrow footpath, this route is for walkers only, although it may be possible to get a light pushchair through.

Shortly after Shermanbury Place the lane turns sharp right. Shortly after this a track comes in from the left and a signpost to your right points four ways. Turn right here over the bridge and follow a path to Ewhurst Place. According to Wikipedia, the moated manor house was built by Thomas Peverel during the reign of Edward I. Only the early 14th century gatehouse, with a porters lodge attached survives. A room over the gateway has a cross shaped loop window.

Pass the gatehouse and follow the signposts to pick up the main drive going west. Ignore a path to the right and follow the drive to the main road. Here go left along the pavement for 1 km to arrive at the spot where the main track meets the main road. Here either turn left to return, or continue onwards to the Bull.

## THE NORTHERN EXTENSION

Mud churned up by horses is the issue on this extension- so it should only be attempted after a period with no rain.

From the start point head north on tarmac for just under 1 km, to a turnoff for Oaklands farm. Here continue straight ahead. The path turns to earth and can be churned up by horses. There is 400 metres of this and if you do not like what you see turn back now. You will have to come back this way! For walkers it is possible to travel on the right hand side of the path, the other side of the fence.

After 350metres you will come to a junction. Turn left here for another 50 metres and then right on to a lane that is largely hard surfaced and forms the access route for a number of farms. Follow this for nearly 2 km. The path joins a quiet tarmac road at TQ229216. Here you have a choice. You could return the way you came or, if you were happy with the amount or lack of mud after Oaklands farm turn right along the road for 300 metres. Then, on your right, you will see a bridleway sign. Follow the bridleway through fields and woods to the junction mentioned at the beginning of this paragraph. Be warned that if the earlier part of this extension was muddy then this part will be muddy too!

Finally, return to the start point the way you came.

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

Balcombe: Pilstye lane south from Balcombe to Brook Street  
Sheffield Forest