



The steam trains and their tracks have long since gone, but... if you listen carefully, sometimes, just sometimes, you can still hear them puffing away.

WHAT IS THE DOWNS LINK?

It is a **long distance, off road route, for walkers, cyclists and horse riders**. It links the North Downs in Surrey and the South Downs in West Sussex. Easily accessible from local access points and public transport, the route can be explored in shorter sections.

In Surrey you can find the start of the Downs Link at St Martha's Hill. Or, for a flatter route, join the Shalford Park cycle route from Guildford town centre, in easy reach of the station. This will link up with the Downs Link at Broadford Road, Shalford.

WHAT ARE THE DOWNS?

They are a range of hills . . .

The Downs Link is 37 miles (59km) long. It follows an old railway line, so the route is mostly level. It was opened in 1984 by West Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council. It also links two other long distance routes together - the North Downs Way and the South Downs Way. As you travel along the Downs Link you will pass through the **beautiful ancient wooded countryside of Surrey and West Sussex**.

Then further south you start to smell the sea air and the wooded landscape gives way to the flat plains of the coast, where **you will be greeted by the sights and sounds of wading birds**.

THE HUNDRED YEARS RAILWAY

Arrival time

This railway line was built in the 1860s.

An ancestor of yours, heading for a day out at the seaside, may have taken the train that passed this way. People wanted day trips to the seaside, to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. The Horsham to Guildford Direct and London Brighton South Coast railway companies made this possible by building a railway on what is today known as the Downs Link.



bramble

Departure time

So, what happened to this railway?

In the 1960s over **4000 miles of railway line were closed!** And this line was one of them. The closures were recommended by Lord Beeching in his infamous Beeching Report.



blackthorn



bluebell

A WEALDEN WONDERLAND

Visit the Downs Link and you will be part of a landscape that is around **25 million years old!**



robin

As you travel along the Downs Link you may notice the scenery changing, different shapes, different trees and a different feel.



wild garlic

This change is because of something beneath you. Under your feet is mud, but under the mud are rocks of different kinds.

In some places you will see sandstone, which was once the sea bed. In other places you will see chalk, the **remains of prehistoric creatures**. And then there is the clay, which in some places is over 300m thick!

If you look out over the Wealden wonderland maybe you will see the landscape change before your very eyes.



HOW WE KEEP THE DOWNS LINK RUNNING . . .

It's a joint effort between West Sussex and Surrey Councils, Waverley Borough Council and dedicated volunteers.



blue tit

For People

We carry out repairs to the path and keep it free from obstructions. We put up waymarkers to help you find your way and build benches so you can sit and ponder.

For Wildlife

Since the railway line closed in the 1960s the embankments and cuttings have mostly grown into woodland.

If you had a bird's-eye view of the Downs Link you would see a woodland that was almost 37 miles long! An important habitat, a home for wildlife.



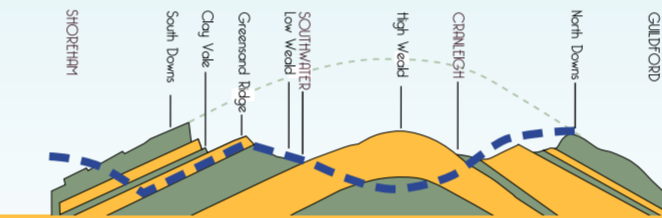
primrose

We use traditional and modern ways to help manage this amazing wildlife habitat.

If you'd like to get involved and become a volunteer then please give us a call.

To help in West Sussex: 01243 777620

To help in Waverley: 01483 523392



Route of the Downs Link



Wildlife

PRIMROSE (winter/spring)

BLUEBELL (spring)

WILD GARLIC (spring)

BRAMBLE (all year round)

BLACKTHORN (all year round)

NIGHTINGALE (spring/summer)

FOX (all year round)

ROBIN (all year round)

BLUE TIT (all year round)

BULLFINCH (all year round)



Fox

Peacock Butterfly

Shrew-washed Flecked butterfly

Points tick box

4	<input type="radio"/>
3	<input type="radio"/>
2	<input type="radio"/>
1	<input type="radio"/>
2	<input type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/>
3	<input type="radio"/>
3	<input type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/>

Score /30

Use your eyes, ears and nose to find them. Then tick the circles and see what your score is.



Branch off, discover the sites . . .

VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

BRAMBER CASTLE Bramber	www.english-heritage.org.uk
CRANLEIGH ARTS CENTRE Cranleigh	tel: 01483 278000 www.cranleighartscentre.org
FARMERS' MARKETS - Henfield: 01273 492595 Shoreham: 01273 263152, Southwater: 01403 215386	
GUILDFORD BOAT HOUSE Guildford	tel: 01483 504494 www.guilfordboats.co.uk
GUILDFORD MUSEUM AND CASTLE GROUNDS Guildford	tel: 01483 444750 www.guilford.gov.uk
HENFIELD MUSEUM Henfield	tel: 01273 492507 www.henfield.gov.uk/museum
MARLIPINS MUSEUM Shoreham	tel: 01273 462994/01323 441279 www.sussexpast.co.uk/marlipins
NEWLANDS CORNER AND VISITOR CENTRE near Guildford	tel: 01483 211843
SHALFORD MILL Shalford	tel: 01483 561389 www.nationaltrust.org.uk
SHOREHAM AIRPORT Shoreham-by-Sea	tel: 01273 467373 www.shorehamairport.co.uk
STEYNING MUSEUM Steyning	tel: 01903 813333 www.steyningmuseum.org.uk
ST MARY'S HOUSE AND GARDENS Bramber	tel: 01903 816205 www.stmarysbramber.co.uk
SOUTHWATER COUNTRY PARK, Southwater	tel: 01403 731218 www.horshamdistrictcountryside.org
VISIT SOUTH EAST ENGLAND	www.visitsoutheastengland.com

Running out of steam?

PUBS

THE SEAHORSE, Shalford	tel: 01483 514351 www.seahorseguildford.co.uk
THE PARROT, Shalford	tel: 01483 561400 www.parriffin.co.uk/information
THE VILLAGERS, Blackheath	tel: 01483 561400 www.thevillagersinn.co.uk
THE JOLLY FARMER, Bramley	tel: 01483 893355 www.jollyfarmer.co.uk
THE CRANLEY HOTEL, Cranleigh	tel: 01483 272827
THE THURLOW ARMS, Baynards	tel: 01403 822459
THE RED LYON, Slinfold	tel: 01403 790339 www.theredlyon.co.uk
THE BAX CASTLE, Two Mile Ash, Horsham	tel: 01403 730369 www.thebaxcastle.co.uk
THE LINTOT, Southwater	tel: 01403 738425 www.northsussexcamra.org.uk
THE ORCHARD, West Grinstead	tel: 01403 865693
THE PARTRIDGE, Partridge Green	tel: 01403 710391 www.thepartridge.co.uk
CAT AND CANARY, Henfield	tel: 01483 893152 www.parriffin.co.uk
THE CASTLE INN HOTEL, Bramber	tel: 01903 812102 www.castleinnhotel.co.uk
THE RED LION, Shoreham	tel: 01273 453171

Exploring further. . .

Plan your day - discover what the villages have to offer by looking online.

VILLAGE	WEBSITE
BRAMBER	www.aboutbritain.com/towns/bramber.asp
BRAMLEY	www.bramleyparish.co.uk
CHILWORTH	www.aboutbritain.com/towns/chilworth-2.asp
COPSALE	www.copsalehall.co.uk
CRANLEIGH	www.cranleighvillage.net
GUILDFORD	www.guilford.org.uk
HENFIELD	www.henfieldvillage.co.uk/index.aspx
ITCHINGFIELD	www.itchingfieldparishcouncil.org.uk
PARTRIDGE GREEN	www.aboutbritain.com/towns/partridgegreen.asp
RUDGWICK	www.rudgwick.churchinsight.com
SHOREHAM-BY-SEA	www.shorehambysea.com
SLINFOLD	www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/Slinfold
SOUTHWATER	www.horsham.gov.uk
STEYNING	www.steyningsouthdowns.com
WEST GRINSTEAD	www.aboutbritain.com/towns/west-grinstead.asp

Tourist Information Centres

GUILDFORD	tel: 01483 444333 www.guilford.gov.uk
HORSHAM	tel: 01403 211661 www.horsham.gov.uk
SHOREHAM-BY-SEA	tel: 01903 221066 www.adur.gov.uk

Delving deeper. . .

Who looks after the Downs Link?

West Sussex County Council: Downs Link Record Office	01243 777620 www.westsussex.gov.uk/downslink www.westsussex.gov.uk/recordoffice
Surrey County Council: Downs Link	03456 009009 www.surreycc.gov.uk www.surreycc.gov.uk/countryside
Waverley Borough Council:	01483 523333 www.waverley.gov.uk

Explore local foods

GREAT PLACES TO EAT: www.sussexfoodfinder.co.uk
www.visitsussex.org
www.westsussex.gov.uk/taste

SEASONALITY FOODS: www.eattheseasons.co.uk
www.farma.org.uk

Top Sites for More Information

Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:	01372 220653 www.surreyhills.org
South Downs National Park Authority	0300 303 1053 www.southdowns.gov.uk
North Downs Way and South Downs Way:	www.nationaltrail.co.uk
A Guide to Surrey and West Sussex Villages:	www.thelocalchannel.co.uk
Surrey Wildlife Trust:	01483 795440 www.surreywildlifetrust.co.uk
Sussex Wildlife Trust:	01273 492630 www.sussexwt.org.uk
Sustrans - for information about National Cycle Networks:	0845 1130065 www.sustrans.org.uk
Cyclists' Touring Club:	01483 238337 www.ctc.org.uk
British Horse Society:	www.bhs.org.uk 0844 8481666
Ramblers Association:	www.ramblers.org.uk 020 7339 8500



Clues

TUNNEL (between Baynards and West Grinstead)	3	<input type="radio"/>
SIGNAL (at West Grinstead)	4	<input type="radio"/>
PLATFORMS (various places along the route)	3	<input type="radio"/>
RUNNING-IN-BOARD (between Guildford and West Grinstead)	4	<input type="radio"/>
BRIDGE (various places along the route)	3	<input type="radio"/>
RAILWAY TRACK (various places along the route)	5	<input type="radio"/>
GRADIENT SIGN (West Grinstead)	5	<input type="radio"/>
LEVEL MARK (West Grinstead)	4	<input type="radio"/>
RAILWAY CARRIAGE (West Grinstead)	4	<input type="radio"/>
RAILWAY BUFFER (the Shoreham area)	5	<input type="radio"/>

Points tick box

Score /40



Getting there . . .

West Sussex Travel Information
www.westsussex.gov.uk

Traveline: (for all travel information)
www.traveline.org.uk
tel: 0871 2002233

National Rail
www.nationalrail.co.uk
tel: 08457 484950

Sussex Information
www.visitsussex.org

Surrey Information
www.visitsurrey.com

BE PREPARED!

- Wear appropriate clothing
- There are a few short sections where the Downs Link follows main roads. Please take extra care especially at junctions
- Cyclists: be self sufficient and carry a repair kit

The information in this leaflet is accurate at the time of writing. Please be aware that it may change.

The Downs Link has a solid surface and there are some slopes. It can be bumpy and after rain it will be muddy in places.

For more information, including a free downloadable 6 stage route guide with maps, visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/downslink



If a copy of this leaflet is needed in another format, please contact us on 01243 777620 and we will try to meet your needs. Designed and published by WSCC, Communities and Infrastructure. www.westsussex.gov.uk/downslink