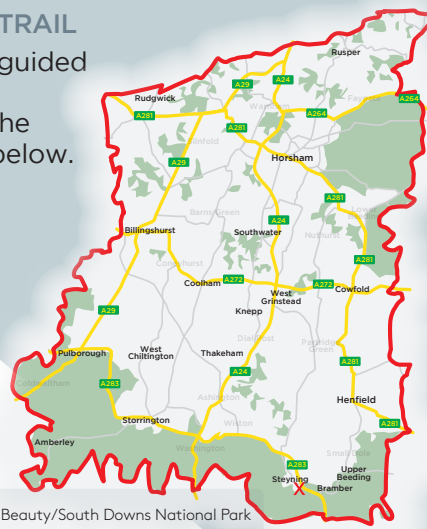




## ABOUT THE TRAIL

This is a self-guided walking trail. Please read the information below.



Areas of Natural Beauty/South Downs National Park



## HOW TO FIND US

**Start point:** Fletchers Croft Car Park at the Steyning Centre BN44 3XZ



## ACCESS & FACILITIES

**Walking grade:** Easy

**Distance:** A walk of around 1.5 hours – about 1 mile in length.



**Refreshments:** Plenty within the High Street.



**Toilets:** In the High Street, alongside the main bus shelter.



**Dogs:** Please keep dogs on leads and clean up mess.

Please respect the privacy of local residents.

## FIND OUT MORE:

To learn more about the heritage of the wider district and discover additional trails, please visit [www.horshammuseum.org](http://www.horshammuseum.org)

This walk has been produced by the Steyning & District Community Partnership, with the invaluable input, support and knowledge of Dr. Janet Pennington – independent historian. [www.sussexhistorytalks.co.uk](http://www.sussexhistorytalks.co.uk) supported by Horsham District Community Partnerships Forum and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



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# Horsham Heritage Trails

# Walking through Steyning's past



Exploring Horsham District's Heritage

# Walking through Steyning's past.

A walk of approximately 1.5 hours taking in the highways, byways and hidden twittens within the centre of Steyning.

The trail will lead you through our ancient market town. These historic footways and buildings have been adapted over the years to suit our lives today, but the footprint of the past remains in evidence.

See the beautiful Norman church and many of Steyning's listed buildings, including two of the town's 'Wealden Houses' - timber-framed medieval dwellings with a recessed hall originally open to the roof, with two-storey bays either side. Look out for some of the old stone pavements, different sections paid for by bequests from residents several hundred years ago.

*Start Point - Steyning Centre car park. Face payment machine, take School Lane on your left past the school buildings, into Church Street. At the end of the Lane.*

① Look across to the Norfolk Arms, part of a large mid-17th century house which became a pub around 1854.

*Turn left into Church Street. Keeping to the left hand side of road, walk past the former Brewer's Arms, a 19th century beer house. Then onto*

② The mid-15th century Brotherhood Hall which was continually used as a school from 1584 to 2020.

③ Nos 1-3 and 5 Church Street, typical of the 'Wealden Houses', they were probably built between 1380 and 1450.

*Cross the road to the High Street pavement.*

④ Read the plaque. The marriage destroyed the career of Irish nationalist politician Charles Parnell.



*Turn right into Bank Passage; in 1791 known as Brewery Lane. Steyning's former Court House is on your left. Return to High Street. Turn right and see*

⑤ The stone pillared entrance to what was 'Steyning Public Hall & Assembly Rooms', built in 1886. This was soon known as the Town Hall.

*Cross the Road to the White Horse.*

⑥ The building with the Horsham stone roof, is all that remains of the original inn which probably dated from the 1400s; the rest destroyed by fire in 1949. The old coaching inn's stables - the long, low part of the building - were restored following the fire. The name of the inn comes from the coat of arms of the Duke of Norfolk; a rampant white horse.

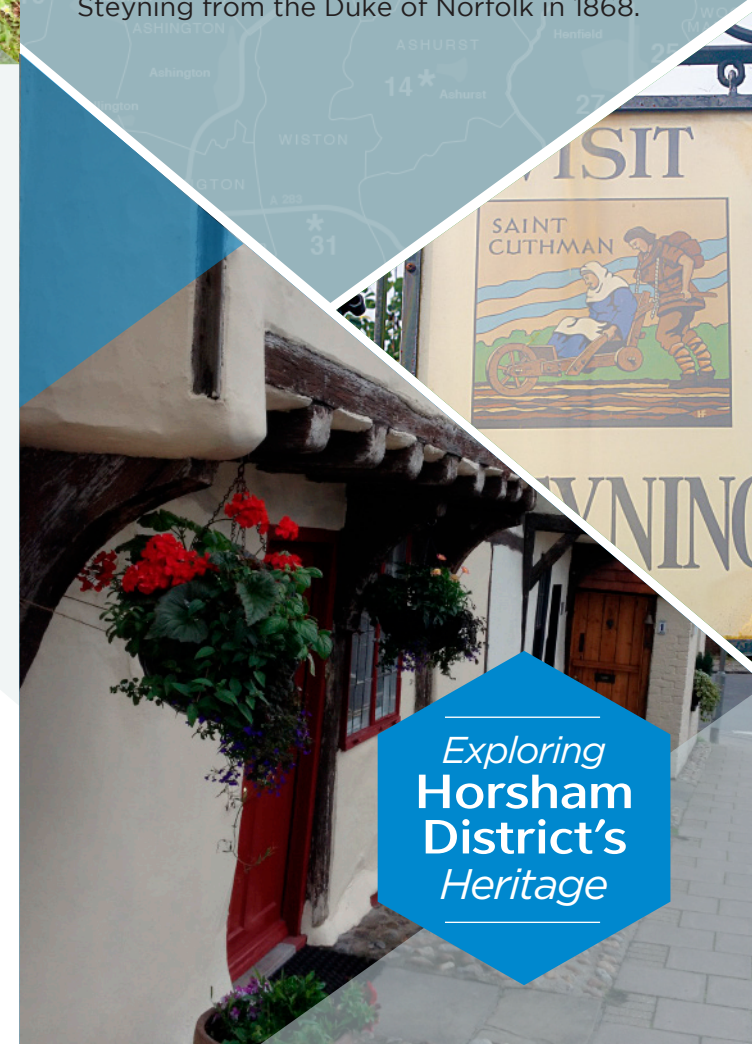
*From the White Horse at the south end, turn right into Sheep Pen Lane, keeping to the right hand pavement.*

⑦ Opposite you will notice Dog Lane, probably later taking its name from the Royal Mail post dogs that were kennelled there in the 19th century. Newham House, sited at the junction

of Dog Lane to Sheep Pen Lane is a well hidden timber-framed medieval manor house. Note the impressive brick gateway, based on classical motifs.

*Keep to the right of Sheep Pen Lane and look for the sign listing changes in the name Sheppenstrete which may originate from an Old English word 'cheaping', meaning a market or market town rather than Sheep Pen. Turn right at White Horse Square.*

⑧ The first terrace of cottages ahead of you still belong to the Wiston Estate. The Goring family of nearby Wiston purchased much of Steyning from the Duke of Norfolk in 1868.



Exploring Horsham District's Heritage



Turn right leading into Charlton Street.

9 The Police Station, built c.1860 leads on to views across the Memorial Playing Fields to the South Downs National Park with Chanctonbury Ring in the distance.

Return to Charlton Street, turn left and on your left look out for a thick telegraph pole. Immediately opposite this is a small opening on your right into Chequer Yard.

10 Before turning into Chequer Yard look ahead for a Fine Ales sign (noting the brewer's apostrophe!) painted on the gable end of a former Steyning beerhouse, the Jolly Ploughman. Owned by Steyning Breweries, it closed soon after 1900.

Through Chequer Yard past the former Ostler's House, nowadays the rear of the Chequer inn

11 Go through the former coaching entrance in to the High Street. Turn left, look up at the inn sign; the beautiful wrought iron bracket supporting it dates from 1799.

Keep left in the High Street -

12 Many of the building facades have been adapted over the years - like this Inn, where a new frontage was superimposed on the much older timber-framed mid 15th century interior, in 1799.

13 The building at 51 High Street dates back to Tudor times, if not earlier, and had been a butcher's shop for several hundred years.

14 Across the road is the striking (literally) Town Clock, above the Old Market House. The turret clock was made between 1740 and 1780. With some alterations, it probably comes from the earlier Market House which was in the middle of the High Street near the White Horse.

15 In the bus shelter you will find the Millennium Plaque. The building next to the bus shelter was formerly a row of shops built c.1500.

16 Just before you reach the Fire Station, you will catch a glimpse of the thatched roof of Chanctonbury Cottage on your left, set well back from the road. Oxen were once shod here with shoes made in a smithy which stood opposite.

17 Before you cross the road to the Star inn, look towards the entrance to Mouse Lane you will see a 15th century Wealden house used as the town's workhouse from 1729 to 1835. The Star Inn's name first appears in 1716 but before that, in 1639, it was called The Rose and Crown.

To the right of the Star Inn, and walking up the High Street,

18 Look over the flint wall to see one of Steyning's two streams (the other is by the Steyning Centre at the start of this walk). Sometimes trout can be spotted here. The circular hole at the bottom of the wall is where passing steam engines could stop and draw water for their boilers.

At the High Street junction with Tanyard Lane (on your left), high up on the wall of the last building there is another blue plaque.

19 Sarah Cox became a leading model for the Pre-Raphaelite artists. Sadly she died a pauper in 1909 and is buried in a common grave at Chichester Cemetery.

After crossing the road at this junction, carry on walking back up the High Street and turn left into Elm Grove Lane. In 1791 it was called the Back Lane, in 1911 Newman's Lane. Follow the old flint wall on your right and where it finishes, turn right into a twitten. Keep bearing right. Just before the Church Street junction, you will see an elegant Georgian-fronted building on your right, Chantry House, and on your left a small green - known as Chantry Green.

20 At Church Street junction look at the 16th century Saxon Cottage, now owned by the National Trust.

Now turn left and cross the road.

21 Note the former National School of 1840 and also the memorial to John Launder within a grass bank nearby.

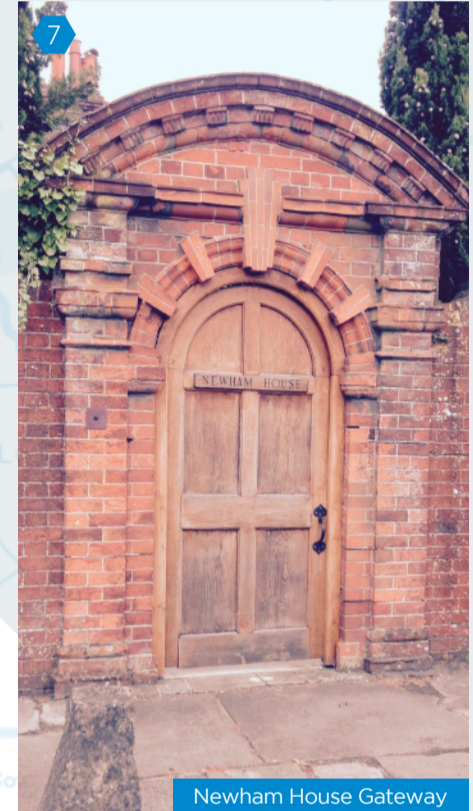
22 Cross the road to visit the Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman, one of the finest Norman churches in the county. The church is usually open and the interior is beautiful. A visit is highly recommended



Saxon Cottage



Memorial to John Launder



Newham House Gateway



Brotherhood Hall & site of former Brewer's Arms



Former Coaching Entrance



Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman



Typical Wealden Houses

as is the outstanding Church Guide. In the church porch, look up above the door to see an ancient stone head, centuries older than the porch itself which was built in the 15th century. The date stone of 1766 below the head refers to the porch restoration.

23 After visiting the church, turn left and look up towards the roof. Below the eaves there are more stone heads, depicting animals and people. The carving near the drainpipe has been called "the only silent woman in Steyning" - see if you can work out why!

You can do a circular walk of the churchyard where there are some interesting gravestones to be found. Leaflets about these are available in the church and also at Steyning Museum.

Leaving the churchyard either by the steps near the porch or the lych-gate, you are approaching your start point, the Steyning Centre.

24 You will pass by the splendid statue of St Cuthman, carved by local sculptor Penny Reeve as a Millennium project. St Cuthman is the main figure in Steyning's foundation legend, arriving here c.700 AD, pushing his aged mother in a wheelbarrow. Alternatively, before leaving, why not visit Steyning Museum.



Town Clock