

Rudgwick/Slinfold

ROUTE

2



MIXED ON/OFF ROAD

Beginners

10 miles (17 km)

1¾ hours

Map - Explorer 134 Crawley & Horsham

This route uses the excellent Downs Link, quiet country lanes and a short length of bridleway. It passes through wooded areas and open farmland. Some of the views across the hilly wooded area are quite spectacular.

1. Starting at the shops in Church Street, Rudgwick (GR087334), turn right into Station Road and then into The Sidings. Just past the medical centre join the Downs Link and turn left.
2. Continue along this excellent flat route until you reach the main road (A281). Take care crossing this road as it can be busy at peak times. Almost immediately opposite you the Downs Link continues towards Slinfold. There are some very good views of the countryside along this part of the route.
3. Continue along the Downs Link until you reach Hayes Lane in Slinfold (red post box at junction) and turn right. Then up Hayes Hill, which is rather long and steep.
4. At the end of Hayes Lane, turn right onto the main road (A29) and almost opposite turn left into a short private drive. Take the partially obscured bridlepath on the left. Parts of this path are rutted and you may like to walk. Stay on a fairly straight line until you reach the road.
5. At the road, turn right towards The Haven. After a mile or so you will reach a junction, turn left towards Okehurst and Garlands. Continue until you reach The Blue Ship pub where you turn left.
6. Stay on this quiet country lane until you reach the next right hand turn. Take it and turn right at the following turning. Continue along this road until you reach Gibbons Mill Farm on your left.



The Downs Link, Slinfold

7. Turn up this farm road and continue until you reach Gibbons Mill. The mill and adjacent medieval cottage are worthy of a pause. (Although both mill and cottage are private residences, there has been a mill on this site since 1341, with the current mill dating from the 18th century and the cottage from the early 15th century.) Cross the river in front of you and follow the path until you reach the Loxwood Road.

8. Turn right towards Rudgwick on a short muddy section and you are now on the home run! Pass The Mucky Duck pub on your left and when you reach The Fox Inn and the main road (A281), turn left. This main road can be very busy at peak times.
9. Almost opposite The Fox Inn, turn right into Lynwick Street. Continue along this road until you go over a raised bridge which used to span the railway line, now the Downs Link. Dismount here and take the steep and narrow path on the left down to the Downs Link. Remount, turn left and return to the starting point.

