

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

THURSDAY, 4TH JULY, 2019

At 6.30 pm

in the

DESBOROUGH 2 & 3 - TOWN HALL,

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
7.	<u>FEEDBACK FROM ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP</u>	1 - 28

This page is intentionally left blank

RBWM LAF Disability Working Group

Green Space Accessibility for People with Disabilities

LH,DL,SG 4 July 2019

Background & Status

Presentation at October 2018 LAF on the issue of Accessibility of Green Spaces for People with Disabilities

- ▶ Led to the formation of Disability Working Group (DWG)

- ▶ Dom Lethbridge (National Trust)

- ▶ Steve Gillions (East Berks Ramblers)

- ▶ Lisa Hughes (Access Advisory Forum)

Page 2

- ▶ Two DWG meetings held so far in 2019 to establish

- ▶ Aims of the working group

- ▶ Ways of working

- ▶ Initial focus



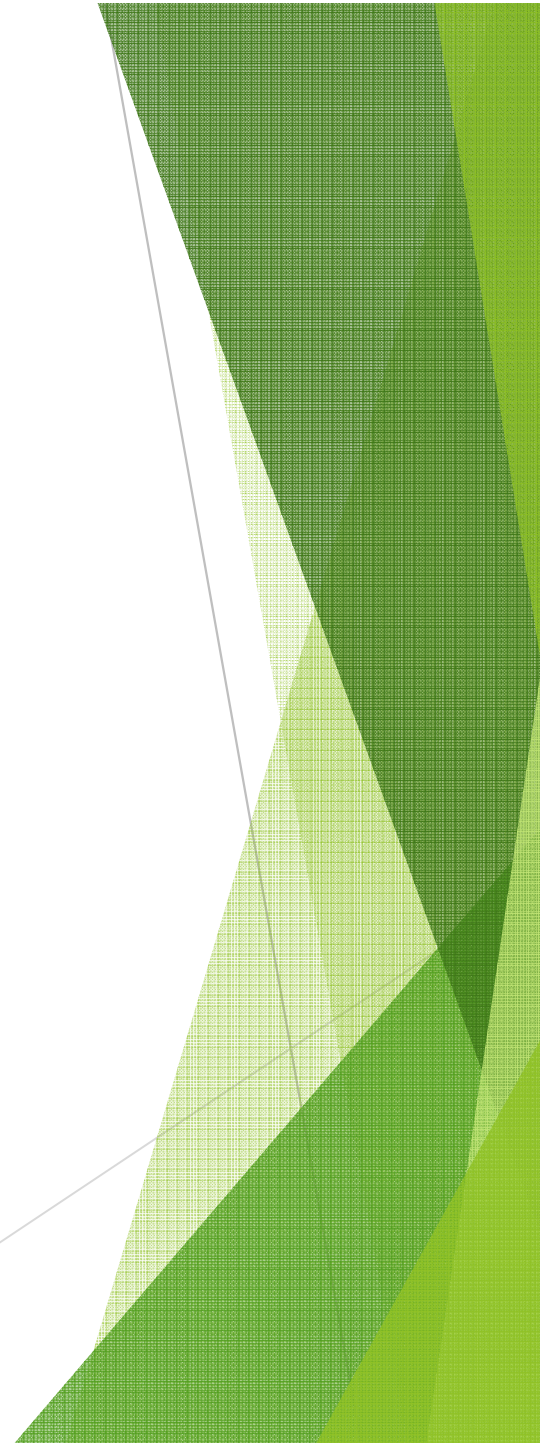
Aims of the Disability Working Group

To make recommendations that

- ▶ Result in actual access improvements for disabled people to the PROW network and green spaces in RBWM
- ▶ Are not unduly focused on the production of standards
- ▶ Advocate for PROW and green space accessibility for less able people to be included as an integral part of the planning process

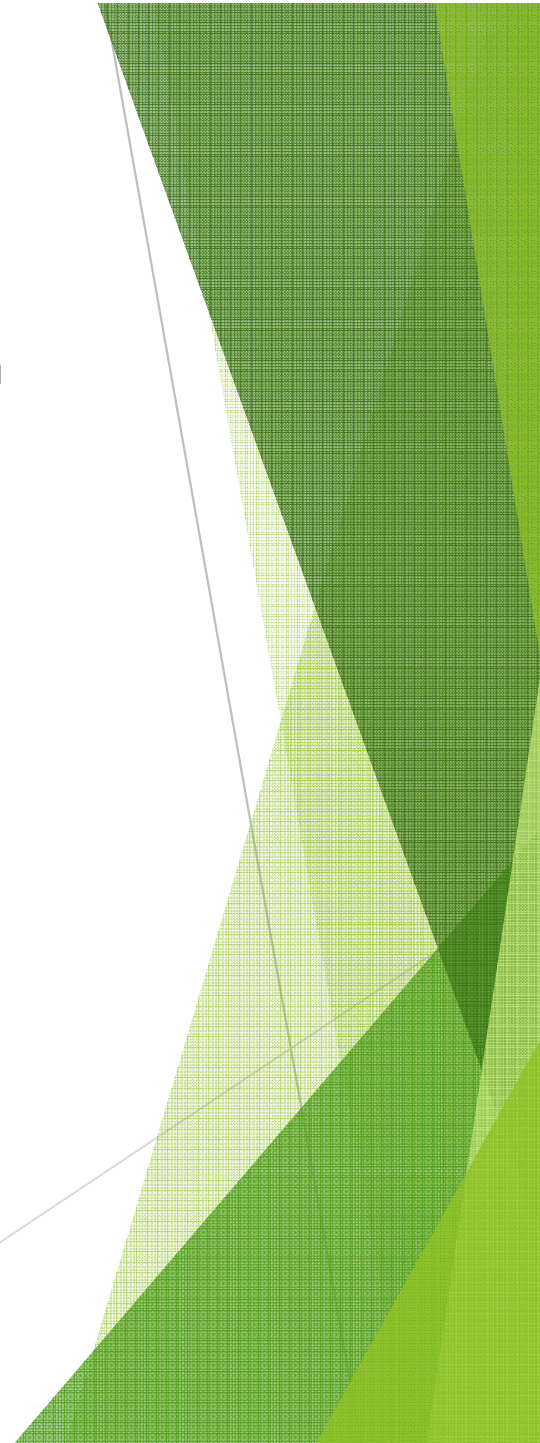
Identify key routes / sites in RBWM

- ▶ Places with high potential for developing routes for the less able.
 - ▶ Popular / heavily used places
 - ▶ Start / finish point has good access to parking and/or public transport.



Proposals

1. Recommend RBWM consider accessibility for people with disabilities in existing & new footpath & green space planning
2. Access levels & criteria
 - ▶ Propose using the approach taken by some National Parks
 - ▶ Accessible by all / Accessible by many / Accessible by some
 - ▶ Refine accessibility criteria and information to be provided
 - ▶ Terrain, Seating etc
 - ▶ Information provision is key to enable individuals, families and groups to decide whether the route is suitable for them
3. Initial focus on pilot hubs / routes in RBWM
 - ▶ Identify pilot sites
 - ▶ Conduct accessibility surveys



Proposed Access Levels :

Accessible by All / Many / Some

Examples of two South Downs NP Accessible Trails

Seven Sisters (printed leaflet and pdf file)

- ▶ Route for All
- ▶ Route for Some

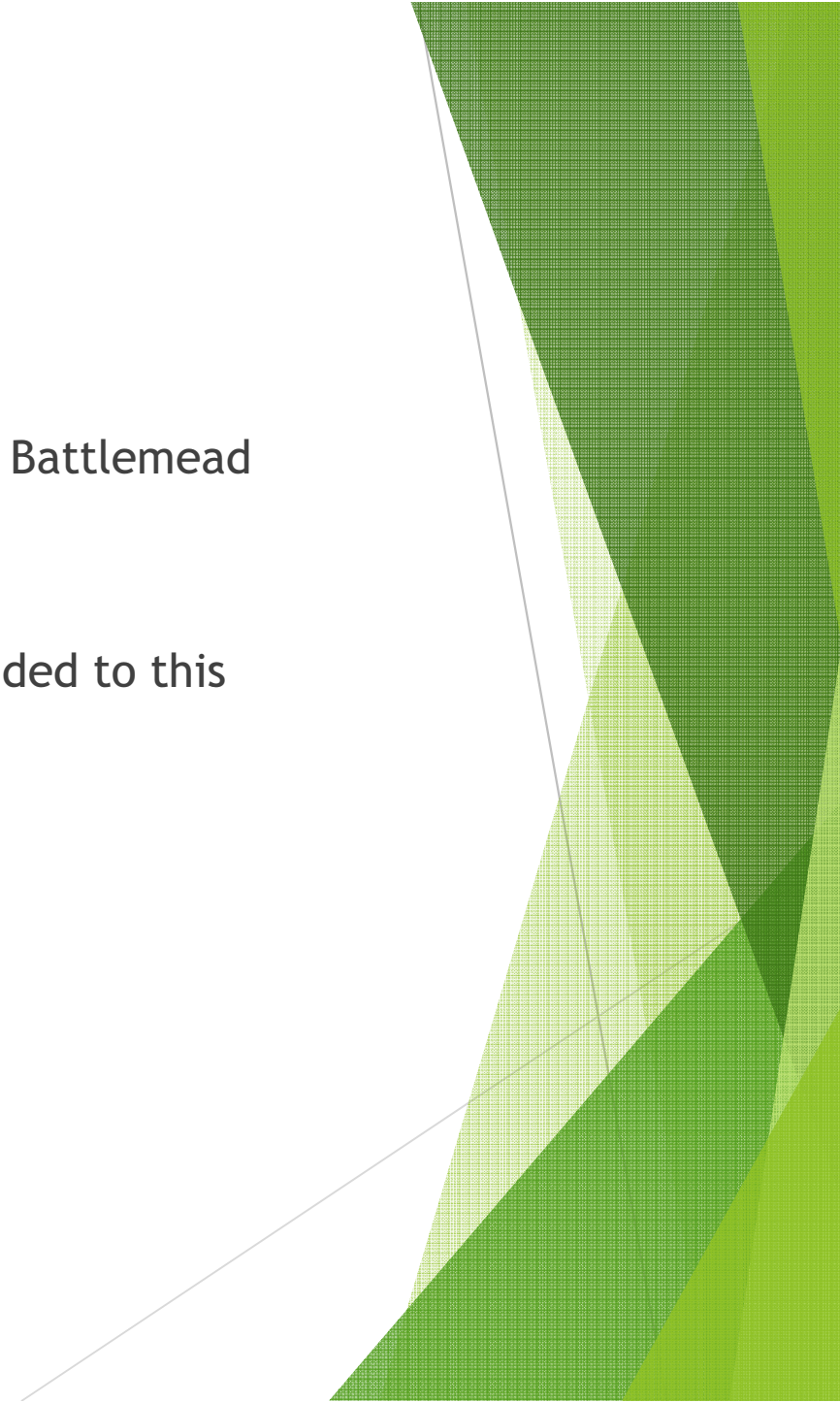
Bramber (printed leaflet and pdf file)

- ▶ Route for All
- ▶ Route for Many



Proposed Pilot Hubs / Routes

- ▶ Battlemead Common
 - ▶ Dom & Lisa have become LAF members of the Friends of Battlemead Common
 - ▶ Steve is an East Berks Ramblers member
- Presented at inaugural meeting on June 19 (slides appended to this presentation)
- ▶ Old Windsor at Runnymede
 - ▶ Cock Marsh
 - ▶ Ockwells Park
 - ▶ Green Way
 - ▶ Thames at Boulter's lock



Next Steps

- ▶ Seek agreement on proposals from LAF
- ▶ Contact South Downs National Park Authority ✓
 - ▶ Request information on the development of and criteria for Access for All, Access for Many, Access for Some
- ▶ Produce materials for site surveys
 - ▶ Information about what to look out for during the survey
 - ▶ Easy to complete form to help acquire consistent information from the surveys
- ▶ Recruit additional pilot site surveyors
- ▶ Undertake pilot site surveys





Friends of Battlemead Common - Access for People with Disabilities

Page 9

19 June 2019



Here on behalf of two RBWM forums

Local Access Forum

- ▶ Established under s94 & s95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and governed by The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007
- ▶ Advise decision-making organisations about making improvements to public access to land for outdoor recreation and sustainable travel
- ▶ Set their own priorities based on local issues. LAF members consider land use as well as the conservation of flora, fauna, geological & physical features
- ▶ RBWM Disability Working Group focus on 6 sites, including Battlemead Common

Access Advisory Forum

- ▶ Consider matters affecting disabled people in RBWM and make recommendations to the council and other organisations as necessary
- ▶ Encourage the development of an environment which is independently accessible to disabled people



The importance of green space to health & well-being

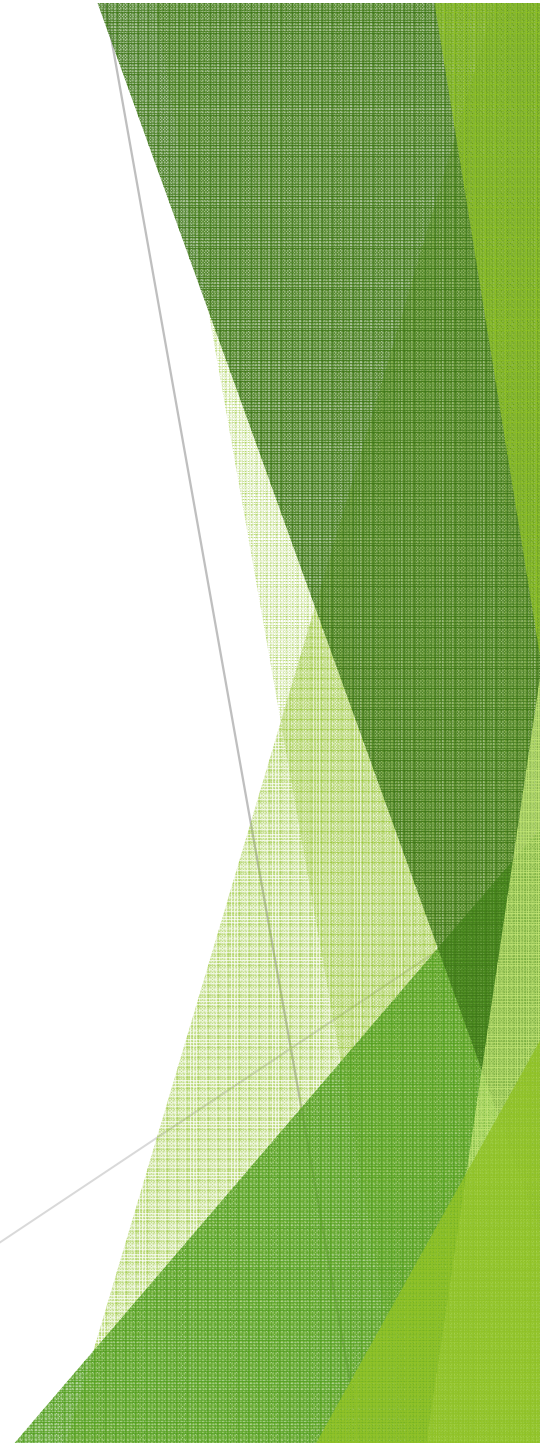
- ▶ **World Health Organisation** : “Having access to green spaces can reduce health inequalities, improve well-being, and aid in treatment of mental illness.”
- ▶ **Public Health England** : “Open space provides a platform for community activities, social interaction, physical activity and recreation, as well as reducing social isolation, improving community cohesion and positively affecting the wider determinants of health.”
- ▶ **The Sensory Trust** : “Making a place accessible is not always about major changes in infrastructure. Some of the most effective improvements come from inexpensive changes and thoughtful planning. Retrofitting can be costly and ugly and can be avoided by considering accessibility at the earliest stages of planning and design.”



RBWM residents with moderate or severe disabilities

- ▶ 1 in 45 children
- ▶ 1 in 6 adults of working age
- ▶ 1 in 2 pension age adults

	Now	2030
	1,000	same
	14,000	same
	11,000	17,000
	26,000	32,000



Types of impairment - ranked by prevalence

Mobility	Stroke, Arthritis, Spinal Cord injury, Cerebral Palsy, MS
Stamina	COPD, MS, Cystic Fibrosis
Dexterity	Arthritis, Tremor
Mental Health	Depression, Anxiety
Memory	Dementia, Stroke
Hearing	Most common form is age-related hearing loss
Vision	Light and movement perception, field of vision, distortion of vision, eye movement, light sensitivity, distance perception
Learning	Dementia, Downs
Behavioural	Autism, Attention deficit disorder, Asperger's syndrome
Other	Speech & language, chronic pain

Barriers to greenspaces for people with disabilities



Diverse range of barriers

- ▶ Psychological
- ▶ Information
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Physical : Getting to the green space
- ▶ Physical : At the green space



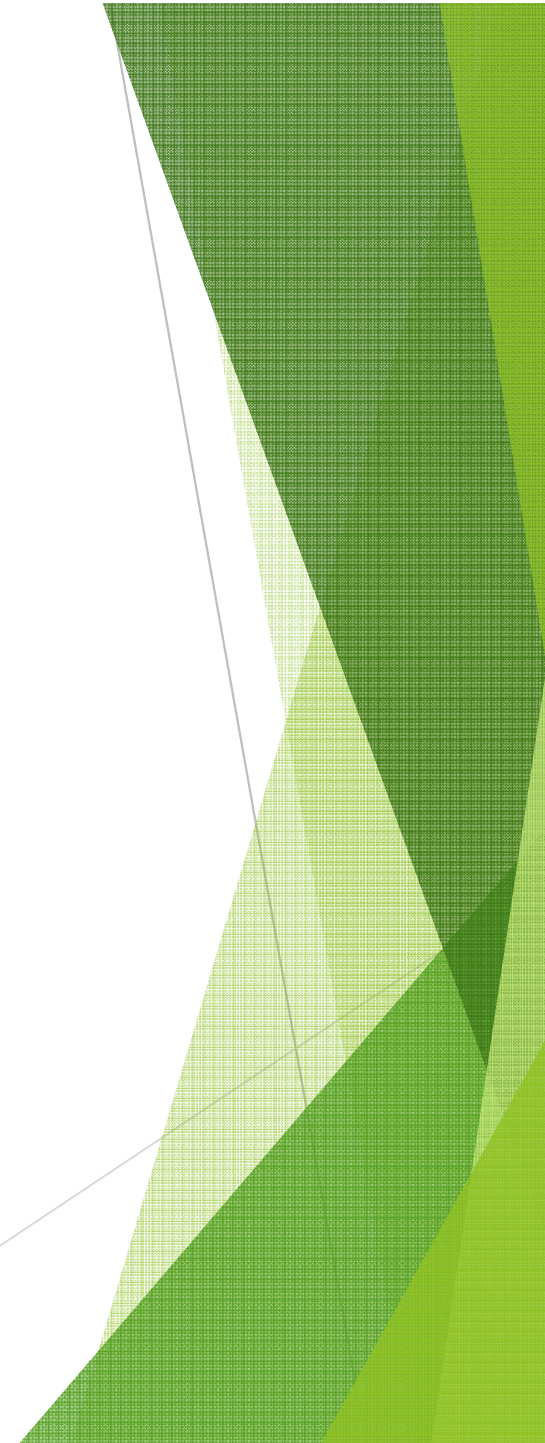
Physical barriers at the green space

Man Made

- ▶ Access Controls : gates, fences, barriers
- ▶ Path materials & condition
- ▶ Seating
- ▶ Signage / Information
- ▶ Car Parking
- ▶ Toilets

Natural

- ▶ Terrain
- ▶ Vegetation
- ▶ Gradients
- ▶ Erosion
- ▶ Weather
- ▶ Water



Path / PRow characteristics that can hamper accessibility for people with disabilities

- ▶ Path surfaces
- ▶ Surface changes
- ▶ Path widths
- ▶ Vertical clearance
- ▶ Permissive width restrictions
- ▶ Barriers
- ▶ Surface breaks
- ▶ Ramp gradient
- ▶ Height rise of ramp between landings
- ▶ Cross slope
- ▶ Passing places
- ▶ Resting places
- ▶ Signage

Hazards for visually-impaired people

- ▶ An obstruction between ground level & 1 metre is outside many people's field of vision and may be a trip hazard.
- ▶ Obstacles with a gap of more than 40cm from ground level may be a hazard to visually-impaired people who use a cane
 - ▶ The hazard can be addressed by adding a tapping rail within the sweep of the cane.
- ▶ Access controls not clearly colour contrasted from their surroundings.



Legislation & Standards



Equality Act 2010

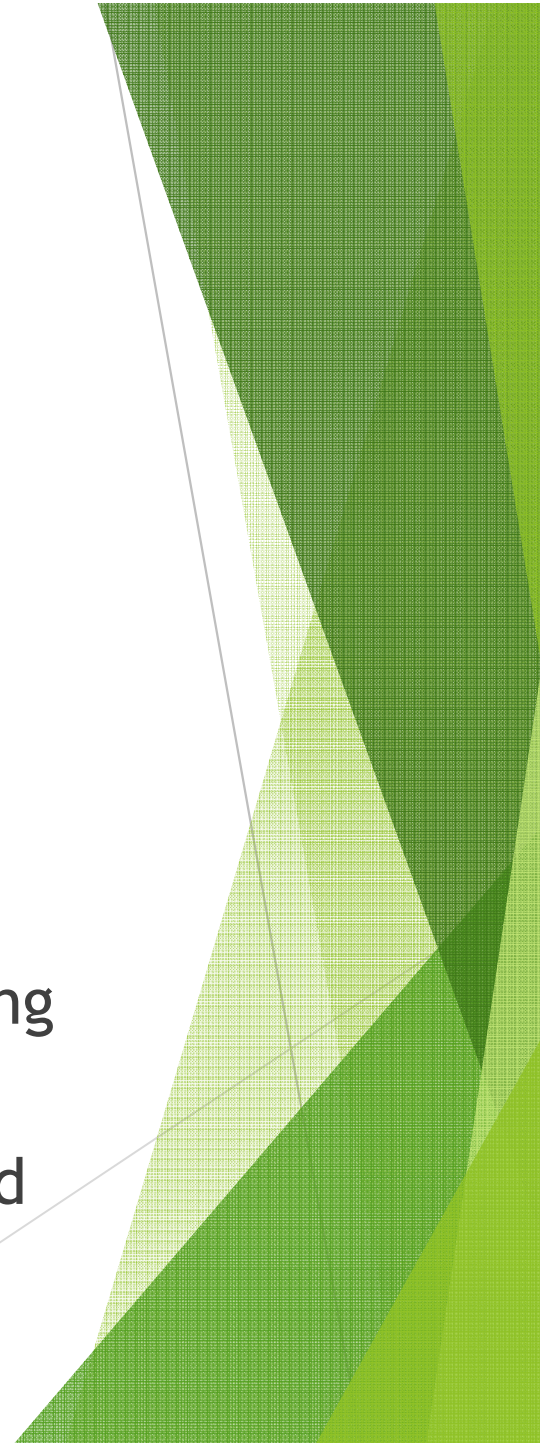
- ▶ Replaced the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA)
 - ▶ plus 7 other pieces of legislation
- ▶ Definition of disability in the Equality Act
 - ▶ A physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities
- ▶ Additional types of discrimination
- ▶ Duty to make reasonable adjustments
- ▶ Public bodies have more duties
 - ▶ This includes organisations performing public duties on behalf of public bodies



Accessibility standards

No statutory or mandatory standards ... but there are good sources of information and guidance

- ▶ BS 8300-1:2018 Design of an accessible & inclusive built environment.
- ▶ Inclusive Mobility 2005 (Department for Transport)
 - ▶ Guidance on dimensions (width, length, turning space) needed by various types of mobility support
- ▶ National Parks have taken various approaches in developing & providing information about accessible routes
- ▶ In the 1990s some disabled groups and charities developed “gold standard” parameters for green spaces



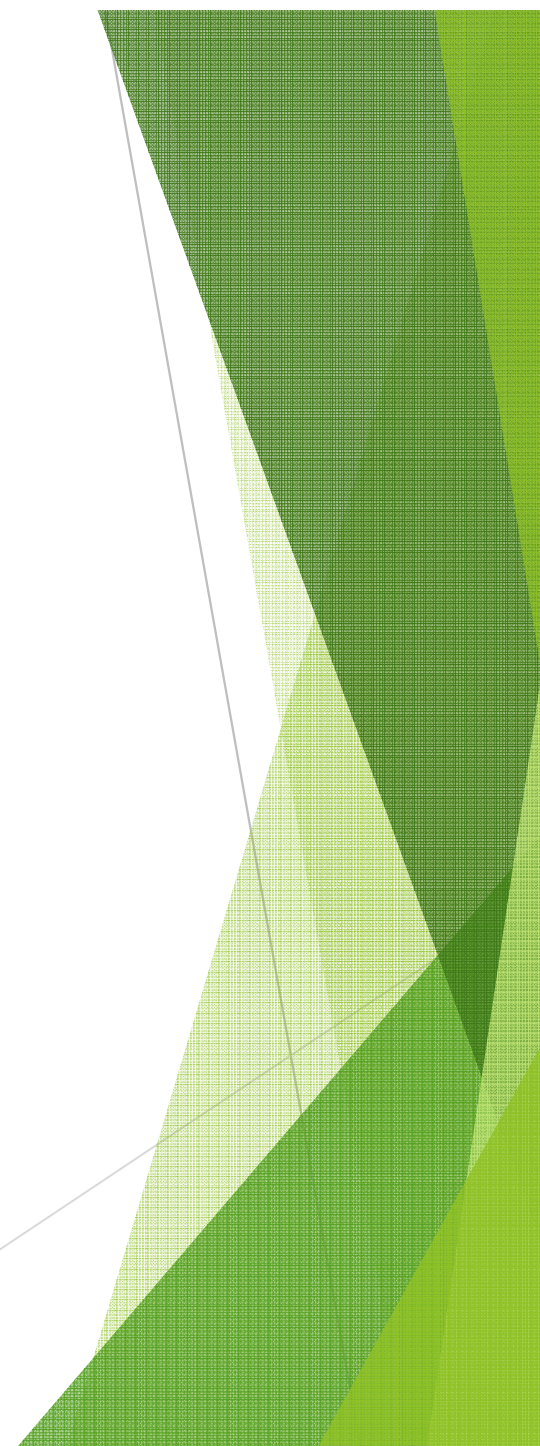
Battlemead Common Accessibility



Battlemead Common accessibility for PwD

- ▶ Path surfaces
- ▶ Vertical clearance
- ▶ Access controls
- ▶ Obstacles
- ▶ Seating
- ▶ Information

Good accessibility for people with disabilities also helps parents with young children and older people



Thank You



MILES WITHOUT STILES

TRAILS SUITABLE FOR PEOPLE WITH IMPAIRED MOBILITY, WHEELCHAIRS, MOBILITY SCOOTERS AND PUSH CHAIRS



Bramber village and castle © Ian Canham/Alamy

BRAMBER

The historic village of Bramber with its medieval castle is the starting point for this riverside route. Running alongside the river Adur this *Route for All* is set against the backdrop of the South Downs. The footpath starts on the opposite side of The Street from the car park, simply follow the pavement east and take the footpath driveway behind St Mary's House turning left before the caravan park towards the river.

Wheelchair users, motorised buggies and


families with pushchairs will find this wide, newly laid surface easy to negotiate. Where the path joins the South Downs Way you can either turn around or for those who want to continue on take a circular route turning right on to the Downs Link (bridleway) and follow the path back to the riverside under the bridge at the A283. The route from this point is classed as a *Route for Many* so some gradients are steeper than 1 in 10. These are marked on the map. Keep a lookout for herons and kingfishers on the river.

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

From rolling hills to bustling market towns, the South Downs National Park's landscapes cover 1,600km² of breathtaking views, hidden gems and quintessentially English scenery.

CONTACT US

South Downs National Park Authority
southdowns.gov.uk

 01730 814810

 @SDNPA / @Ranger_sdnpa

 /SDNPA

SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK



KEY

Parking	Long Distance Path
Pub	Bridleway
Bus stop	Footpath
Ramp	Road
Point of interest	Route for All
Fields	Route for Many
Buildings	
Water	

DISTANCE:

The *Route for All* is a linear route of 2.2 miles (3.6km) there and back. For a short 1.4 mile (2.3km) circular route join the *Route for Many* (blue route on map) halfway along the *Route for All* beneath the road bridge. Or for a longer, 2.8 mile (4.6km) circular route continue to the end of the *Route for All* and join the *Route for Many* (blue on the map) at the southern end.

START POINT:

Car park on The Street, Bramber, West Sussex, BN4 3WE

TURNING POINT:

Junction with the South Downs Way/ Downs Link close to the footbridge.

FACILITIES:

Disabled toilets in the car park. In Bramber you'll find refreshments at the Castle Hotel, Restaurant and Bar opposite the car park and Old Tollgate Restaurant and Hotel opposite the church and castle which serves cream teas and sandwiches.

GETTING THERE:

By bus: Catch the no. 2 bus from Brighton and Shoreham to the Castle Inn at Bramber, the no.100 from Horsham/Pulborough/Burgess Hill or the no. 108 (Wednesday only) from Horsham.

By rail: The nearest railway station is at Shoreham-by-Sea.



MILES WITHOUT STILES

TRAILS SUITABLE FOR PEOPLE WITH IMPAIRED MOBILITY, WHEELCHAIRS, MOBILITY SCOOTERS AND PUSH CHAIRS



SEVEN SISTERS

Seven Sisters Country Park is named after the famous Seven Sisters chalk cliffs that form part of the Sussex Heritage Coast.

You can discover wild flowers, brimstone butterflies, a shingle beach, a WWII pill box and spectacular views of the River Cuckmere and Seaford Head.

The route to the beach and back is just over 1.3 miles (2km) while the

branch into Foxhole will add an extra 0.5 miles (0.8km). To get on to the top of the shingle beach there is a short incline of more than 1:8 at the end of both forks of the route. The eastern fork to the beach is over undulating grass.

To avoid crossing the busy A259 at the start of this route, please park near the Canoe Club and use the pavement to join the trail.

FACILITIES

There is a shop which stocks leaflets, maps and local craft items at the Seven Sisters Country Park Visitor Centre. Opening hours: April–September, every day 10am–4.30pm subject to volunteer availability.

Public toilets, including a wheelchair accessible toilet, are on site and refreshments can be found at the Saltmarsh

Kitchen next door (01323 870218).

The nearest pub is the Cuckmere Inn, just over half a kilometer down the A259 towards Seaford (BN25 4AB), book a table on 01323 892 247. Open Monday–Saturday, 10.30am to 11pm, Sundays 10.30am to 10.30pm.

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

From rolling hills to bustling market towns, the South Downs National Park's landscapes cover 1,600km² of breathtaking views, hidden gems and quintessentially English scenery.

CONTACT US

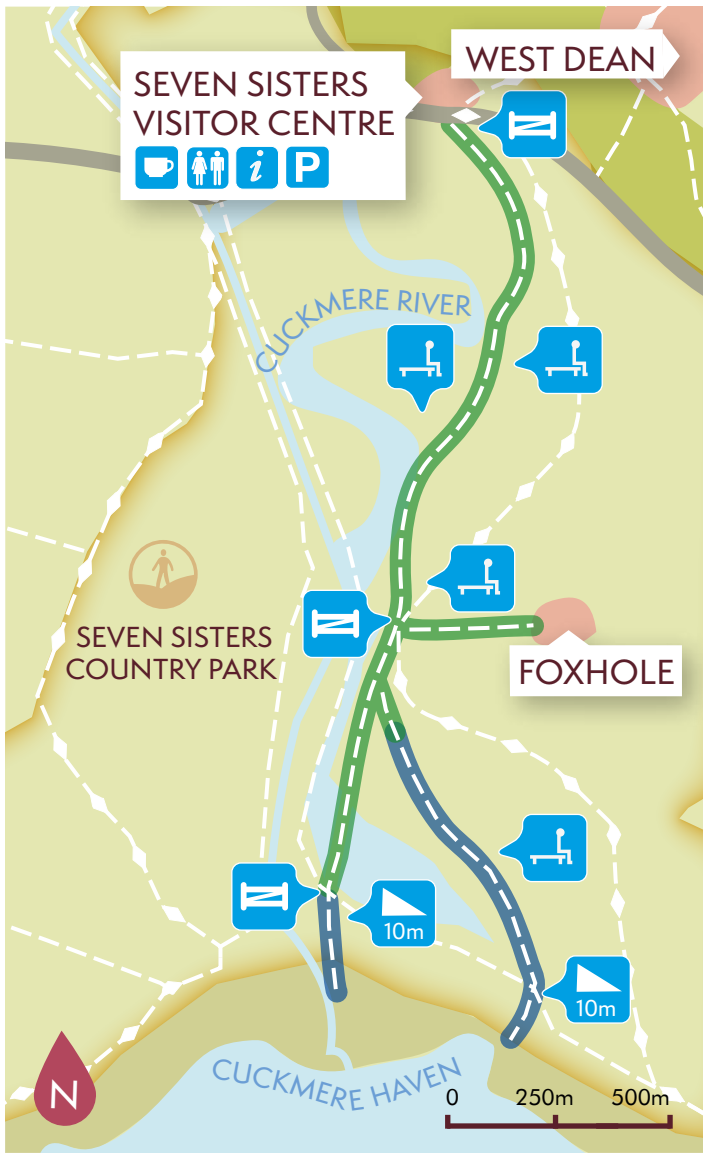
South Downs National Park Authority
southdowns.gov.uk

☎ 01730 814810

🐦 @SDNPA /@Ranger_sdnpa

📘 /SDNPA

SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK



KEY

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Parking | Beach |
| Seating | Water |
| Information panel | Buildings |
| Fully accessible gate | Open Access Land |
| Ramp | Footpath |
| Refreshments | Long Distance Route |
| Toilets | Road |
| Woodland | Access for All trail |
| Fields | Access for Some trail |

START POINT: The southern side of the A259 opposite the Seven Sisters Country Park Visitor Centre at Exceat, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4AD.

GRID REF: TV 519995

DISTANCE: 1.3 miles (2km)

TURNING POINT: The shingle beach where the mouth of the River Cuckmere meets the English Channel.

GETTING THERE

By bus: Numbers 12, 12A and 12X run at regular intervals between Brighton and Eastbourne. The 40 runs from Berwick, Litlington, Seaford via Exceat. The 47 service runs from Berwick station via Alfriston, Seaford, the Seven Sisters Country Park and Wilmington. Plan your journey at traveline.info/se or call 08712 002233.

By train: The nearest railway stations are Eastbourne, Seaford and Berwick. Visit nationalrail.co.uk or call 08457 484950 to plan your journey.