

Slindon Folly - South Downs, West Sussex



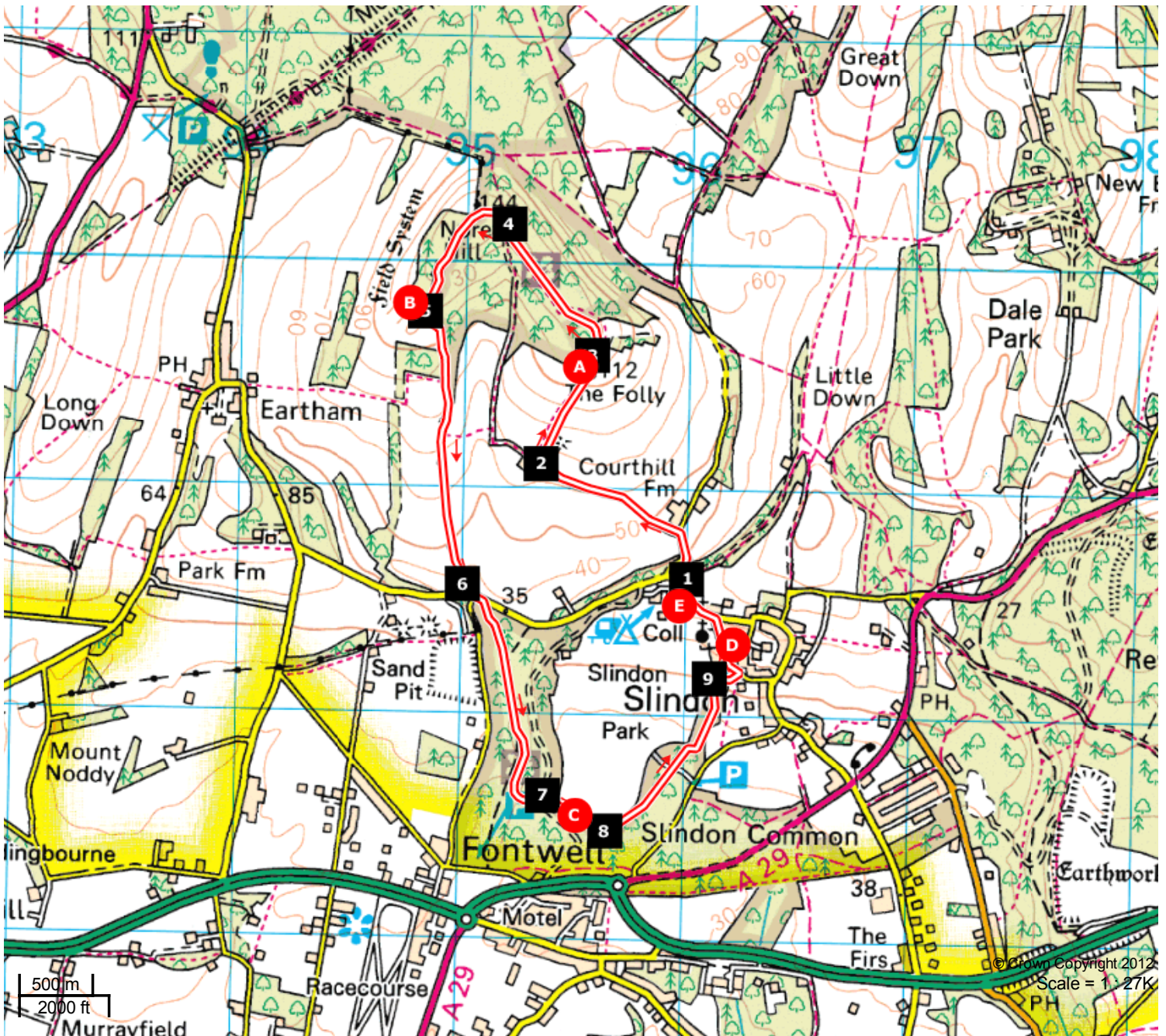
ramblers
at the heart of walking

Starts at Park road-side near entrance to Slindon College

2 hours 15 minutes | 4.5 miles 7.2km | Easy

ID: 0.1598 | Developed by: Chris Mumford | Checked by: Rockpit | www.ramblersroutes.org

A leisurely circular walk from Slindon village up to Nore Hill Folly and then down onto seabed as it was several million years ago then across to the village duck pond and up through the village to the start. No stiles and only gentle climbs.



— Main Route — Alternative Route H Point of Interest 4 Waypoint

The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity. We work to safeguard the footpaths, countryside and other places where we all go walking. We encourage people to walk for their health and wellbeing. To become a member visit www.ramblers.org.uk



Starts at

The village of Slindon is north east of Chichester and north of the A29. Slindon College is in the north west of the village, BN18 0RH (SU 959 085)

Ends at

Park road-side near entrance to Slindon College

Getting there

Slindon is not well served with public transport so your own mode of transport best serves this walk.

Route instructions

[1] Walk to the 30mph sign and take the steepish path downhill behind it. **Caution: the path is quite slippery when wet and has exposed tree roots on the final descent to the road.** On reaching a metalled road turn right towards Courthill Farm but just before reaching the farm, turn up left onto the track to the left of a pond.

[2] Continue ahead, but just before an old farm building (Row's Barn), turn right on the way-marked path and follow it uphill between the hedge-line and the fence (the footpath runs parallel to the track) passing a covered reservoir on your right. Continue along the footpath until a wide gap in the left hand hedgerow is reached. Move onto the track at this point and continue ahead on rising ground towards the edifice known as 'The Folly'.

(A) Take a break and admire the view behind you. The Folly was built for Anne, Countess of Newburgh, to provide local employment after the Napoleonic Wars.

[3] Follow the track around to the right of the Folly and then through a gateway (way-marked) into the woods leading to Nore Hill. Follow a well-worn path between the trees to a wooden barrier gate onto another track where you turn right. **Caution: the woods are actively managed. Keep to the footpaths/bridleways and obey the notices relating to on-going forestry operations.**

Nore Hill is known for its springtime displays of bluebells and other spring flowers such as Wood Anemones and Early Purple Orchids. On warm summer days watch out for butterflies such as White Admiral and Speckled Wood.

[4] Follow this path around to the left and where it separates at a Y-junction take the higher route to the left. Follow this bridleway to the next way-post which directs you slightly right towards a fairly substantial beech tree. You continue on the obvious track, which can be muddy, before you descend.

(B) When the wood thins out, a fire beacon can be seen in the field to your right.

[5] Carry on downhill, ignoring a stile/path on your right towards Eartham and another on your left. The track eventually brings you out into a lay-by on the Eartham-Slindon road.

[6] **Caution: look out for traffic.** Turn left, passing the metalled road on the right and take the track on the right into the woods passing through a barrier gate. Walk along this track for about 8 minutes ignoring the first crossing path reached and continue until the track joins a second diagonal path. Continue ahead (crossing over the diagonal path) and take the narrow path to the right of a small oak tree. Follow this path around to the right for some distance. At a cross-path turn left uphill to join a broad track.

From the barrier you have been walking through Slindon Park Wood, particularly along an area known as Slindon Bottom. Slindon Bottom is a Palaeolithic Beach and Beach Line – a reminder of when the sea came up to Slindon. Prior to the discovery of exceptionally preserved archaeological artifacts at nearby

Boxgrove, Slindon Bottom represented the best documented and prolific Palaeolithic raised beach site in the country!

Slindon Park Wood, like Nore Hill, is known for its springtime displays of bluebells and other spring flowers. The wood was once famous for its beech trees, most of which came down in the Great Storm of 1987. Look out for a few of the remaining trees that still stand today.

[7] Cross over the track, up and over a bank to join a footpath at which point turn right to follow it. The path borders a wood through which can be glimpsed, on the left, the meadows of Slindon Park.

(C) The ditch and bank that you see on your right is the remains of a deer park pale. This was a medieval ditch and bank, once topped with a wooden fence, that surrounded Slindon Park. It was constructed to confine livestock seasonally, or more permanently – either deer for hunting or domestic animals. It was designed so that deer could enter the Park but could not get out again. It has been documented that there was a deer park at Slindon as early as the 13th Century.

[8] Follow the path to a T-junction and take the path to the left, keeping the ditch and bank on your right. Slindon College can be seen across the fields on your left. Follow the broad path ahead, ignoring the narrow path over the bank on your right, to meet a broad cross path at a metal gate. Continue straight ahead to the corner of a field then bear right for a short distance along the path until a T-junction is reached. Turn left and follow the path to a Y-junction. Take the left fork following the fence line. Slindon College lies ahead.

[9] The path turns right, away from the fence. Follow it, ignoring all paths off until you meet a T-junction. Turn left at this point over a wooden bridge to the duck pond. Continue on the footpath to the metalled road beyond. Turn left along the road (Church Hill) until Dyers Lane is reached on the right. Take a brief detour down the lane to have a look at the village 'Lock-up' outside no. 18 on the left.

(D) Slindon's early 19th Century Village Lock-up, where miscreants were detained prior to being marched off to Arundel by the Constabulary for justice.

[10] Retrace your steps to Church Hill and turn right. *On the way up (opposite the garage of the Bailiff's House) look right to see a thatched railway carriage – third class, smoking, complete with guard's compartment – built around 1874 and removed to its present resting ground in 1906. Continue past the Parish Church of St. Mary, on the left, which houses the only wooden effigy in a Sussex Church, thought to be Sir Anthony St. Leger (d. 1539) in full armour. At the T-junction turn left to pass St Richard's Catholic Church (on your right). A little way beyond is the entrance to Slindon College and where you began the walk.*

(E) Slindon House, once the Elizabethan Manor House of the estate, is now owned by the National Trust and leased to Slindon College (an independent boys' school). Two-thirds of the properties in the village are estate houses, most of which can be identified by their burgundy coloured paintwork. NOTE: These are private dwellings and can only be viewed from the outside.

Additional 'Point of Interest' information

Nestling in the foothills of the South Downs, Slindon and much of the surrounding countryside is in the hands of the National Trust. It boasts an Elizabethan Mansion, two churches and a duck pond. It claims both saints and smugglers but its biggest claim is that it is the birthplace of cricket which has been played here since the early 1700's.

Famous features include the Folly, on Nore Hill built for Anne, Countess of Newburgh, to provide local employment after the Napoleonic Wars.

Notes

OS Explorer Map 121

For further information see National Trust Leaflet: Welcome to Slindon Estate or visit Slindon History Group website: <http://www.slindon.com/history/history.htm>

Acknowledgements

Developed by: Chris Mumford

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The Folly and view to the South- East
Photo taken by: Mike Owen



Forestry operations on Nore Hill
Photo taken by: Mike Owen



Beacon Fire Basket on Nore Hill
Photo taken by: Mike Owen



Footpath between Waypoints 7 and 8 showing the
medieval ditch and bank of the Deer Pale
Photo taken by: Mike Owen



Slindon Park with Slindon House (now Slindon College) in the background
Photo taken by: Mike Owen



Slindon College, formerly Slindon House, but now an independent day/boarding school for boys
Photo taken by: Mike Owen



Slindon's 19th Century Lock-up
Photo taken by: Mike Owen



A Slindon Oddity: the thatched 3rd Class Railway Carriage built circa 1874!
Photo taken by: Mike Owen



Detail of the effigy of Sir Anthony St. Leger (d. 1539) in St. Mary's Parish Church, Slindon. It is the only wooden effigy found in a Sussex Church

Photo taken by: Mike Owen



Slindon, West Sussex: the birthplace of cricket

Photo taken by: Mike Owen

