



# Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust

## Riverside Walks

### Walk 3 - Isfield, Vuggles Farm & River Uck (OS Map – Explorer 122)

This 9 mile walk starts out along the same path as the Isfield Old Carriage Road walk. It passes through the plantation of rare Black Poplar trees planted close to Sutton Hall and also allows the walker to clearly see the original river course prior to canalisation. On the way you pass a number of pill boxes which are a feature of this area. They were built during WWII as both look out and machine gun posts, and so named because their shape resembled the boxes that pills were dispensed in at that time.



### Directions

**Start - TQ44911746**, From Isfield Post Office turn right onto the road. Turn immediately right onto brideway following the track down to the river & over the wooden bridge (White Bridge).

**Waypoint 1 - TQ44431739**, Turn right over a stile & follow footpath going North North West across the field. You are now on the Sussex Ouse Valley Way. As you walk you pass a large hole to the right of the path – the crater left from a German bomb during WWII.

As the path meets with the second meander of the River Ouse you pass the confluence of the river with

the River Uck at an area known as Bell Hole. This is marked by a large oak tree on the far bank.



Looking across Bell Hole to Isfield Church

Continue along the footpath which passes close to the riverbank. At the stile you can see Isfield church off to the right. The Isfield Mill Stream also joins the River Ouse at this point. Follow the footpath to edge of wood, over the stile and onto the Old Carriage Road.

**Waypoint 2 – TQ44091805**, Turn right onto the Old Carriage Road, going into the woods. The Old Carriage Road continues up to Sutton Hall, whilst the footpath veers to the right over a stile and down a steep bank. The footpath

takes you down a steep bank into the Black Poplar plantation. These trees are rare native British timber trees which grow on the flood plains of rivers and streams. As you continue through the plantation the old brick structure to your right is the remains of the old Isfield Paper Mill lock. You can hear the river passing over



Sutton Hall Weir



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Sutton Hall Weir, and can take a short diversion over the stile on your right to take a closer look. The water courses on your left are remnants of the original river course prior to it being artificially straightened to make the river navigable in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As you enter the next field if you stay close to the river you are walking on the old tow path following in the footsteps of the horses that towed the barges. The tow path is still visible for some distance as a raised bank.



Oast House at Vuggles Farm

**Waypoint 3 - [TQ44071931](#)**, Passing a metal bridge on the right, and another ox bow of the old river course on the left, the footpath now turns immediately left through the gap in the hedge. Walk up the track and follow the footpath around the rear (east) of the farm buildings at Vuggles Farm. Note the old oast house with the strange roof. From the farm the footpath continues across the field and up to the road.

**Waypoint 4 - [TQ43101962](#)**, Turn right along the road for approximately 1 mile past Sharps Farm to Sharpsbridge Farm.

**Waypoint 5 – [TQ43992059](#)**, Take the footpath on the right, immediately before Sharpsbridge Farm. The footpath follows the hedgerow, the sheds to your left on the far side of the hedge are chicken sheds. Continue over the river, then head North North East diagonally across the field to meet the Shortbridge Stream – an important Sea Trout nursery stream. Cross the stream and continue with the stream on your left.

**Waypoint 6 – [TQ44502080](#)**, At Darvel Wood by the weir, take the footpath on the right. Follow this to the road, passing through the gap in the hedge to the right of the green gate by the farm. Follow the track in front of you. On reaching the tarmac driveway follow the footpath across the drive, cross the stile in front of the converted barn, and continue through the corner of the garden to the gate, and on down to the road.

**Waypoint 7 – [TQ45132048](#)**, Cross straight over the road and pick up the footpath again. When you come to a crossing of two footpaths continue straight ahead to the River Uck. This river is another tributary of the main River Ouse. Cross the River Uck using the bridge.

**Waypoint 8 – [TQ45752011](#)**, Once over the river bridge take the fork to the right. Pass by the second bridge over the river without crossing. Go across the dismantled railway (the old Uckfield to Lewes line). Continue straight over to the stile in the hedge. Head across the field to pass through the small woodland area. Go diagonally across the next field passing more chicken sheds on your right, and exiting through a gate in the right corner. Turn right onto the track to College Farm.

**Waypoint 9 – [TQ46221967](#)**, Continue along the track for approximately ½ mile to footpath on the right at a gap in the hedge. Follow the footpath passing between the hedge and the electricity pylon onto the East Sussex National Golf Course. Follow the pathway a small way and then branch off to the right (by a lake on the left). The building on the horizon to the left is Horsted Place. This was built in 1850 as a country house but is now a hotel. It is said to be one of the finest examples of Gothic revival architecture still in existence in Britain. Walk across the small wooden plank bridge through a gap in the hedge, then turn left back down to the stream. Over the stile turn right onto the track and cross the Little Horsted Stream.



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**Waypoint 10 – TQ46141852**, Turn right onto footpath, pass close to and then over the River Uck. Cross the wooden footbridge over the River Uck then pass under the dismantled railway to the junction of paths. This is the northern extent of the Lavender Line steam railway. It was named after a local coal merchant that used the original line until it closed. Nowadays it is run by the Lavender Line Preservation Society.

**Waypoint 11 – TQ45571834**, Take the left path continuing to walk close to the River Uck and cross via the footbridge. Continue to Tile Barn Farm, and the junction of footpaths.

**Waypoint 12 – TQ45151785**, Take the path on the right. Follow this a short distance through the solid wooden gate to reach the road. At the road turn left and walk through Isfield village back to the starting point. Isfield is recorded in the Domesday book of 1086 under the name Sifelle. Its original owner was Earl Harold Godwin who later became King Harold. Crowned on 6th January 1066, he famously lost his life on 14th October 1066 in the Battle of Hastings when a Norman arrow pierced his eye.



**Footbridge over the River Uck at Little Horsted**