

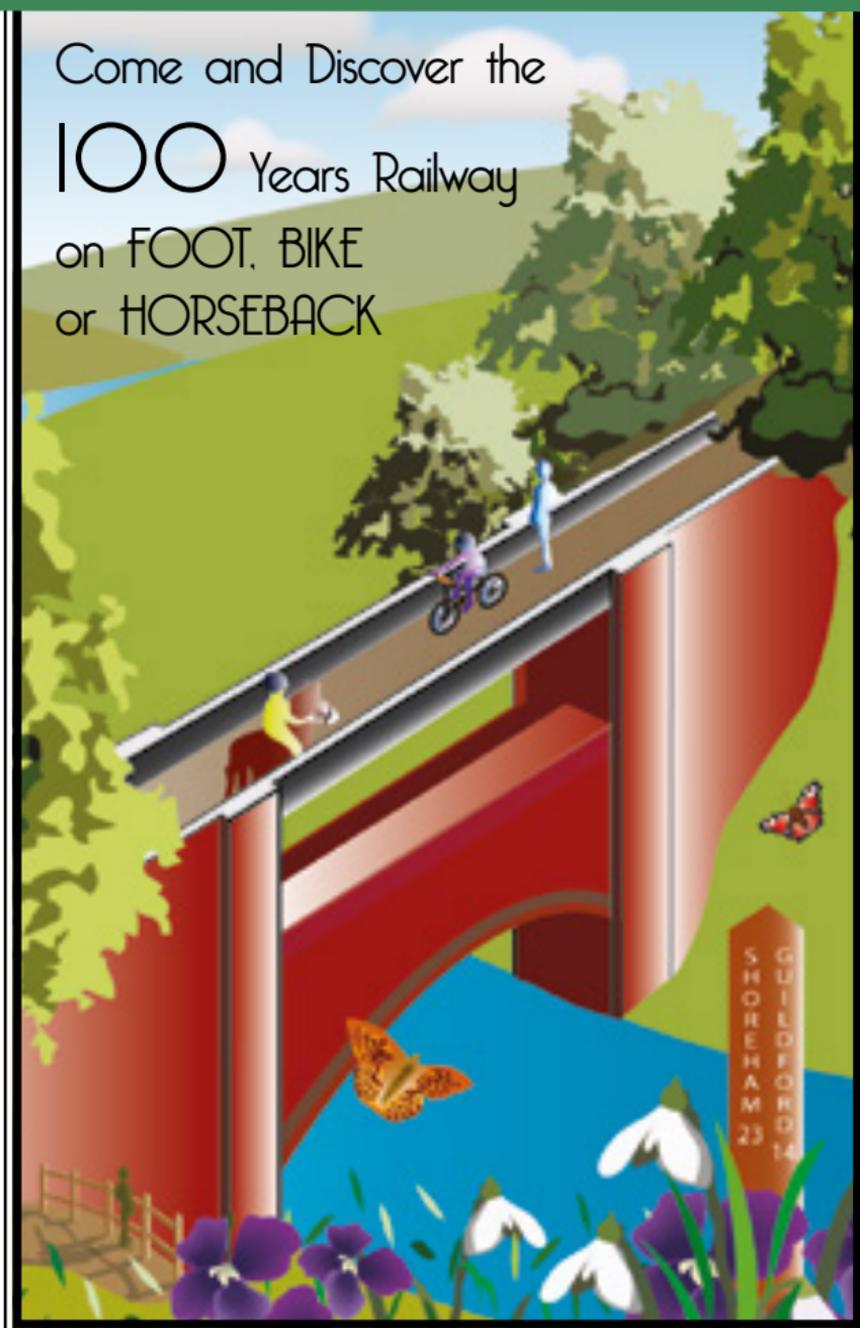
DOWN'S LINK



ROUTE GUIDE



Come and Discover the
100 Years Railway
on FOOT, BIKE
or HORSEBACK



west
sussex
county
council

www.westsussex.gov.uk



The steam trains and their tracks have long since gone, but if you listen carefully, sometimes, just sometimes, you can still hear them puffing away.

WHAT IS THE DOWNS LINK?

It is a **long distance, off road route, for walkers, cyclists and horse riders**. It links the North Downs in Surrey and the South Downs in West Sussex. Easily accessible from local access points and public transport, the route can be explored in shorter sections.



bullfinch

In Surrey you can find the start of the Downs Link at St Martha's Hill. Or, for a flatter route, join the Shalford Park cycle route from Guildford town centre, in easy reach of the station. This will link up with the Downs Link at Broadford Road, Shalford.

WHAT ARE THE DOWNS?

They are a range of hills . . .

The Downs Link is 37 miles (59km) long.

It follows an old railway line, so the route is mostly level. It was opened in 1984 by West Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council. It also links two other long distance routes together - the North Downs Way and the South Downs Way. As you travel along the Downs Link you will pass through the **beautiful ancient wooded countryside of Surrey and West Sussex**.

Then further south you start to smell the sea air and the wooded landscape gives way to the flat plains of the coast, where **you will be greeted by the sights and sounds of wading birds**.

THE HUNDRED YEARS RAILWAY

Arrival time

This railway line was built in the 1860s. An ancestor of yours, heading for a day out at the seaside, may have taken the train that passed this way. People wanted day trips



blackthorn



bramble

to the seaside, to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. The Horsham to Guildford Direct and London Brighton South Coast railway companies made this possible by building a railway on what is today

known as the Downs Link.

Departure time

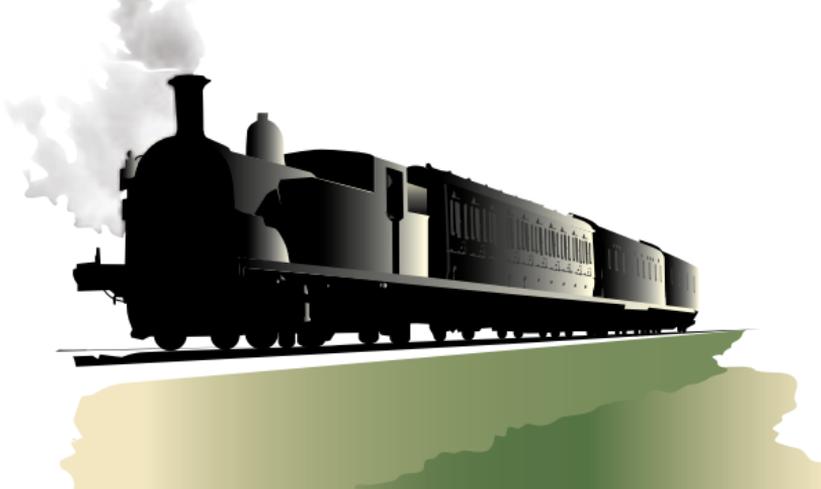
So, what happened to this railway?

In the 1960s over **4000 miles of railway line were closed!** And this line was one of them. The closures were recommended by Lord Beeching in his infamous Beeching Report.



bluebell

WHY is it called the hundred years railway?



Because it lasted for 100 years!

A WEALDEN WONDERLAND

Visit the Downs Link and you will be part of a landscape that is around **25 million years old!**

A large dome rose out of the sea and over millions of years has been washed away. All that remains is a large basin shape and you're in it! The North Downs on one side and the South Downs on the other are the rim of this basin! This is the Wealden landscape.



robin

As you travel along the Downs Link you may notice the scenery changing, different shapes, different trees and a different feel.



wild garlic

This change is because of something beneath you. Under your feet is mud, but under the mud are rocks of different kinds.

In some places you will see sandstone, which was once the sea bed. In other places you will see chalk, the **remains of prehistoric creatures.**

And then there is the clay, which in some places is over 300 metres thick!

If you look out over the Wealden wonderland maybe you will see the landscape change before your very eyes.



HOW WE KEEP THE DOWNS LINK RUNNING...

It's a joint effort between West Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and dedicated volunteers.



blue tit

For People

We carry out repairs to the path and keep it free from obstructions. We put up waymarkers to help you find your way and build benches so you can sit and ponder.



nightingale

For Wildlife

Since the railway line closed in the 1960s the embankments and cuttings have mostly grown into woodland.

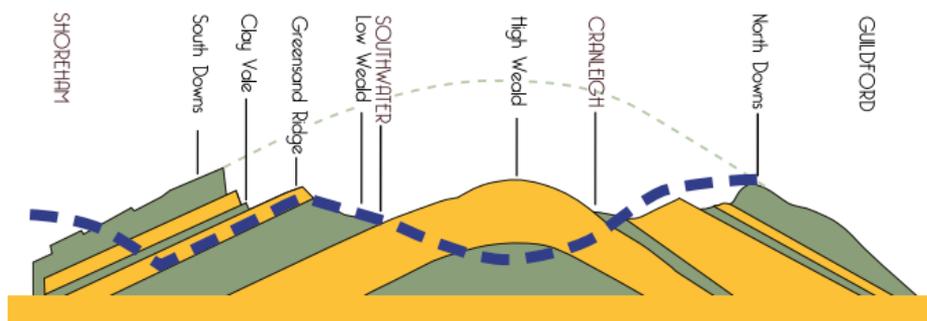
If you had a bird's-eye view of the Downs Link you would see a woodland that was almost 37 miles long! An important habitat, a home for wildlife.



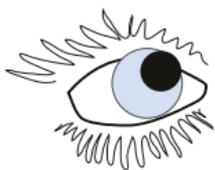
primrose

We use traditional and modern ways to help manage this amazing wildlife habitat.

If you'd like to get involved and become a volunteer then please give us a call:
To help in West Sussex: 01243 777620
To help in Surrey: 03456 009009



--- Route of the Downs Link



EYE SPY

Wildlife

PRIMROSE (winter/spring) **4** points 

BLUEBELL (spring) **3** points 

WILD GARLIC (spring) **2** points 

BRAMBLE (all year round) **1** point 

BLACKTHORN (all year round) **2** points 

NIGHTINGALE (spring/summer) **4** points 

FOX (all year round) **4** points 

ROBIN (all year round) **3** points 

BLUE TIT (all year round) **3** points 

BULLFINCH (all year round) **4** points 

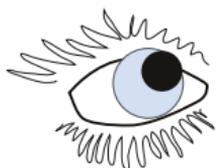


Peacock
Butterfly



Fox





EYE SPY

Railway

TUNNEL

Between Baynards and West Grinstead

3 points 

SIGNAL

West Grinstead

4 points 

PLATFORMS

Various places along the route

3 points 

RUNNING-IN-BOARD

Between Guildford and West Grinstead

4 points 

BRIDGE

Various places along the route

3 points 

RAILWAY TRACK

Various places along the route

5 points 

GRADIENT SIGN

West Grinstead

5 points 

LEVEL MARK

West Grinstead

4 points 

RAILWAY CARRIAGE

West Grinstead

4 points 

RAILWAY CARRIAGE

West Grinstead

5 points 



Branch off, discover the sites

VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

BRAMBER CASTLE Bramber
www.english-heritage.org.uk

CRANLEIGH ARTS CENTRE Cranleigh
tel: 01483 278000 www.cranleighartscentre.org

FARMERS' MARKETS
www.localfoodbritain.com

GUILDFORD BOAT HOUSE Guildford
www.guildfordboats.co.uk

GUILDFORD MUSEUM & CASTLE GROUNDS Guildford
tel: 01483 505050 www.guildford.gov.uk

HENFIELD MUSEUM Henfield
tel: 01273 492507 www.henfield.gov.uk

MARLIPINS MUSEUM Shoreham
tel: 01273 462994 www.sussexpast.co.uk/marlipins

NEWLANDS CORNER AND VISITOR
CENTRE near Guildford
tel: 01483 795440 www.surreywildlifetrust.org

SHALFORD MILL Shalford
tel: 01483 561389 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

SHOREHAM AIRPORT Shoreham-by-Sea
tel: 01273 467373 www.flybrighton.com

STEYNING MUSEUM Steyning
tel: 01903 813333 www.steyningmuseum.org.uk

ST MARY'S HOUSE AND GARDENS Bramber
tel: 01903 816205 www.stmarysbramber.co.uk

SOUTHWATER COUNTRY PARK, Southwater
tel: 01403 215256 www.horsham.gov.uk

VISIT SOUTH EAST ENGLAND
www.visitsoutheastengland.com

Running out of steam?

CAFÉ  PUBS 

THE SEAHORSE, Shalford
tel: 01483 514351 www.theseahorseguildford.co.uk

THE PARROT, Shalford
tel: 01483 561400 www.parrotinn.co.uk

THE JOLLY FARMER, Bramley
tel: 01483 893355 www.jollyfarmer.co.uk

THE CRANLEY HOTEL, Cranleigh
tel: 01483 272827 www.thecranleyhotel.co.uk

THE MILK CHURN, Rudgwick
tel: 01403 823980 www.bookhams.com

THE FOX INN, Rudgwick
tel: 01403 822386 www.foxinn.co.uk

THE KINGS HEAD, Rudgwick
tel: 01403 822200 www.kingsheadrudgwick.co.uk

THE RED LYON, Slinfold
tel: 01403 790339 www.theredlyon.co.uk

BAX CASTLE, Two Mile Ash
tel: 01403 730369 www.baxcastle.co.uk

THE LINTOT, Southwater
tel: 01403 738425 www.northsussexcamra.org.uk

THE ORCHARD, West Grinstead
tel: 01403 865693
www.theorchardrestaurant.moonfruit.com

THE PARTRIDGE, Partridge Green
tel: 01403 710391 www.darkstarbrewing.co.uk

STAN'S BIKE SHACK, Partridge Green
tel: 01403 710514 www.stansbikeshack.com

CAT AND CANARY, Henfield
tel: 01273 492509 www.whatpub.com

THE CASTLE INN HOTEL, Bramber
tel: 01903 812102 www.castleinnhotel.co.uk

THE AMSTERDAM, Shoreham-By-Sea
tel: 01273 455055 www.whatpub.com

EXPLORING FURTHER

Plan your day - discover
what villages have to offer

BRAMBER

www.westsussex.info/bramber.shtml

BRAMLEY

www.bramleyparish.co.uk

CHILWORTH

www.chilworth2gether.org.uk

COPSALE

www.copsalehall.com

CRANLEIGH

www.cranleighvillage.net

GUILDFORD

www.guildford.org.uk

HENFIELD

www.henfieldhub.com

ITCHINGFIELD

www.itchingfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

PARTRIDGE GREEN

www.westsussex.info/partridge-green.shtml

RUDGWICK

www.rudgwick-pc.org.uk

SHOREHAM-BY-SEA

www.shorehambysea.com

SLINFOLD

www.slinfold-pc.gov.uk

SOUTHWATER

www.southwater-pc.gov.uk

STEYNING

www.steyningsouthdowns.co.uk

WEST GRINSTEAD

www.westsussex.info/west-grinstead.shtml

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

GUILDFORD

tel: 01483 505050 www.guildford.gov.uk

HORSHAM

tel: 01403 215100 www.horsham.gov.uk

WORTHING

tel: 01903 221066 www.adur.gov.uk

DELVING DEEPER

Who looks after the Downs Link

West Sussex County Council Downs Link:

www.westsussex.gov.uk Twitter [@CountrysideWSCC](https://twitter.com/CountrysideWSCC)

Email: countryside@westsussex.gov.uk

Surrey County Council Downs Link:

03456 009009 www.surreycc.gov.uk

www.surreycc.gov.uk/countryside

Explore local foods

Great places to eat

www.westsussex.gov.uk/taste

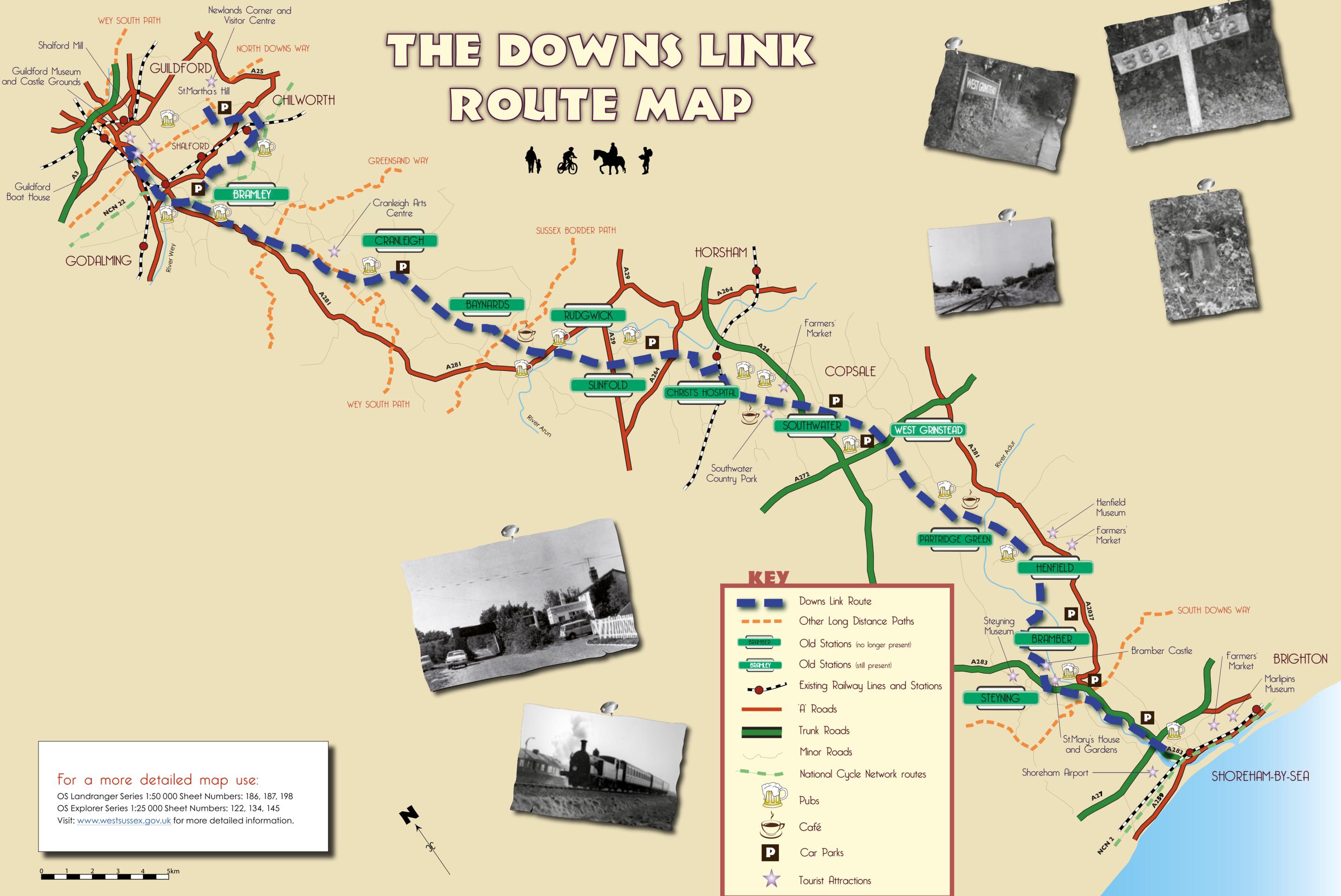
www.localfoodbritain.com

Seasonality foods

www.eattheseasons.co.uk

www.farma.org.uk

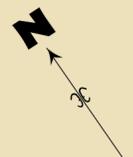
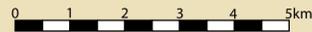
THE DOWNS LINK ROUTE MAP



KEY

- Downs Link Route
- Other Long Distance Paths
- Old Stations (no longer present)
- Old Stations (still present)
- Existing Railway Lines and Stations
- 'A' Roads
- Trunk Roads
- Minor Roads
- National Cycle Network routes
- Pubs
- Café
- Car Parks
- Tourist Attractions

For a more detailed map use:
 OS Landranger Series 1:50 000 Sheet Numbers: 186, 187, 198
 OS Explorer Series 1:25 000 Sheet Numbers: 122, 134, 145
 Visit: www.westsussex.gov.uk for more detailed information.



LONG DISTANCE ROUTES

- You can also use the Downs Link to connect to other long distance routes, such as the Wey South Path, The Greensand Way and National Cycle Network 2 and 22.

SHARING THE DOWNS LINK WITH OTHERS

- Please be courteous to others
- Cyclists: Give way to pedestrians, horse riders and wheel chair users, leaving them plenty of room.
- Remember that many people are hard of hearing or visually impaired. Don't assume they can see or hear you.
- Cyclists: Carry a bell and use it. Please don't surprise people.
- Respect other land management activities such as farming and take your litter home.
- Please clear up after your dog and take all your litter home.
- Please keep your dog under control and keep it in sight.

BE PREPARED!

- Wear appropriate clothing
- There are a few short sections where the Downs Link follows main roads, Please take extra care especially at junctions
- Cyclists: be self sufficient and carry a repair kit

The information in this leaflet is accurate at the time of writing. Please be aware that it may change.

The Downs Link has a solid surface and there are some slopes. It can be bumpy and after rain it will be muddy in places.

For more information, including a free downloadable 6 stage route guide with maps, visit:

www.westsussex.gov.uk



If a copy of this leaflet is needed in another format, please contact us on 01243 777100 and we will try to meet your needs.

www.westsussex.gov.uk