



ABOUT THE TRAIL

This is a self guided walking trail.



Areas of Natural Beauty/South Downs National Park

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Horsham Heritage Trails Ups and Downs of Storrington's & Sullington's military heritage

HOW TO FIND US



Start point: St Mary's Church, Sullington, off the A283 and the postcode is RH20 4AE, where there is some parking.

ACCESS & FACILITIES



Walking Grade: Medium. It is not suitable for anyone needing assistance, in poor health or with a mobility scooter. Stout and robust footwear is necessary on the stony and flinty ground; much of the walk is across the Downs, which may be slippery and unsuitable during or after wet weather. It is suitable for dogs but they must be kept on a lead as sheep and cattle graze on the Downs and there are horse riders about. The walk climbs 560 feet to an altitude of 664 feet above sea level. Two of the roads have no pedestrian footpaths.

Distance & time: The basic walk is 6.5 miles



Facilities: There are no public toilets on the route.



Sullington Barn opposite the Church is open at weekends and bank holidays and has a café and toilets. There are various places to eat in Storrington's High Street.



FIND OUT MORE:

To learn more about the heritage of the wider district and discover additional trails, please visit www.horshammuseum.org

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Exploring Horsham District's Heritage

Ups and Downs of Storrington's & Sullington's military heritage

Storrington and Sullington are both mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086); this Trail will show where to look for the military heritage of the area.

The villages lie in the lea of the beautiful South Downs with views for miles around. The landscape reflects its livestock, agricultural and industrial usage. No battles were fought on the land but many in the skies above. The area was regularly used for military accommodation and training in the last century, as well as taking in evacuees from London in 1939. Storrington was one of the first villages in Sussex to have a WWII Home Guard unit.

St Mary's Church, Storrington has military memorials on display, which will be explored in this trail, covering the last 200 years of conflicts including the Napoleonic Wars against France (1803-15) with the Peninsula War in Spain and Portugal starting in 1808. Napoleon was finally defeated at Waterloo (Belgium) in 1815. The Crimean War (1853-1856), also features, where the British fought with the French against the Russians around the Black Sea.

Storrington played its part in the First and Second World Wars with the Roll of Honour in Storrington's High Street and on the War Memorials at St Mary's, Storrington and St Mary's, Sullington recording those who died. In both World Wars (1914-18) and (1939-1945), the Canadians came to assist Britain and many were billeted and trained in the area, especially in World War II prior to the ill fated Dieppe raid in August 1942 and D-Day in June 1944.



DIRECTIONS FOR THE WALK (*Italics*) POINTS OF INTEREST (*Blue/Black*)

Inside Sullington Church.

① Here lies the **figure of a knight** carved in marble, believed to be one of the de Covert family from the 12th century. The knight is clad in chain mail; look for his shield and the scabbard (sheath) for his sword.

Go east through the churchyard and at the end, opposite the lychgate.

② The **Memorial to Submarine E24** in the Churchyard commemorates Lieutenant Commander George Wyatt Edgell Naper and his thirty four crew. The submarine was sunk on 27th March 1916 off Heligoland Bight, (off the German coast) while operating as a minelayer on its second patrol. The memorial is unique in the shape of a lamp-column formed by an old stone roller.

The Old Workshop Café, which is open at weekends and Bank Holidays, is in the barn on the left and has a museum portraying local family and country life since Saxon times.

With the barn behind you, walk south beside the farm and shortly go through the open gate on your left, taking the footpath onto the clearly marked bridleway. BEWARE of galloping horses when you cross the gallop through a wooden gate by the 'Wildlife Conservation Headland' sign into a beautiful avenue of trees. At the end, turn right onto the bridleway and bearing left around Barns Farm continue along the centuries old metalled track.

③ **Barns Farm Camp** was built during 1939-40 for the Canadian troops.

At the end, bear left and then turn right. Continue to the end, then turn right and follow the road straight

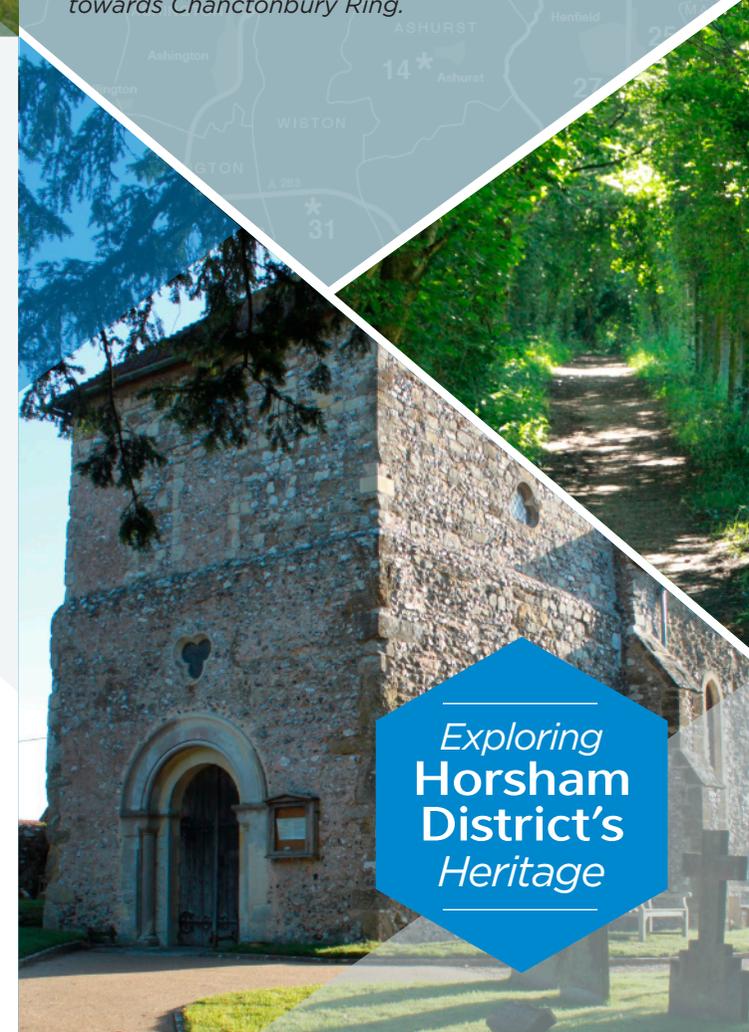
ahead up to the South Downs Way with Home Farm on your right.

Climb up to the South Downs Way and onto a flinted track. Look back at the glorious views from Butser Hill in the far west to Chanctonbury Ring in the east, while straight ahead are the North Downs. Note the different colours of the four sandpits between Storrington and Washington. Continue until shortly before the top and go through a pair of double gates is on your left by a wooded copse.

④ Memorial stone seat to **Lord Denman, MC** and his wife. Charles Denman won his MC in the Western Desert in 1942 and lived at Highden House, which is visible to the south from the South Downs Way. The northerly panorama from here is magnificent.

Continue uphill to reach the South Downs Way, a clearly marked track.

Turn left to go east for half a mile (about 10 minutes) to see a cast iron clad bunker on your left and views towards Chanctonbury Ring.



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5 During World War II, the Canadians used the **cast iron clad bunker** for exercises and practising flame throwing. The Canadians reinforced three roads from Storrington to the Downs including Chantry Lane. Until September 2019, there was a **Churchill MkII tank** nearby which was used by the Canadian Army for target practice.

Retrace your steps westward along the Way with views over to the Isle of Wight (look ahead and then to the left).

At the signpost, where you can see Arundel Castle in the distance, turn right onto the tarmacked road. Walk down to the former millpond with 'Chantry Mere' on your right and 'the Chantry' on the left, turn left to Chantry Farm - go through the livery area keeping to the footpath; do **not** take the private road on the right. Through the metal gate and up the hill. At the top, go through a tied metal gate by the footpath sign (and tie it closed behind you), bear left and through a small wooden gate; continue up the rise into a lovely wooded area until Greyfriars Farm. Turn right, continue down Greyfriars Lane, which was the main route from the coast to Storrington, there is a house named 'Faraday' on the right.

6 On 1st November 1940, a **Junkers JU-88**, badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire, heading for Northern France, was unable to clear the Downs and crashed next to the house called 'Faraday'. Three of the four crew died.

Carrying on you reach Storrington. On your left is the Parish Church, St Mary's.

7 Inside the Church there are memorials to many soldiers of previous wars. Pick up a leaflet for full details. Some commemorate the Bradford family, who fought in the Napoleonic Wars from Corunna to Waterloo. **Rev. William Bradford**, Chaplain of Brigade to the British Expedition led by Sir John Moore, was in the retreat to Corunna (Spain). He became Rector of Storrington from 1811 to 1857. His memorial is in the east window in the Chancel.

His younger brother, **Sir Henry Hollis Bradford** joined the Grenadier Guards and served in the Peninsular War. A Lieutenant Colonel, latterly on the staff of the Duke of Wellington, he was mortally wounded at Waterloo. His memorial is over the south door. **Wilmot Henry Bradford** was William's son; he commanded a Rifle Brigade in the Crimean War.

On the wall of the Lady Chapel, **Robert Alexander Dalzell**, Earl of Carnwath, also in the Grenadier Guards, fought in the Peninsular War.

On the north wall is a brass plate recording the death on active service of **Harold Austin**. He was a 2nd Lieutenant, Worcestershire Regiment, killed in action at Cape Helles, Gallipoli in 1916. His father, Major Austin was one of the Principals of the Officers' College in Storrington.

Nearby is the memorial to **Captain Francis Mond** of the Royal Flying Corps shot down in May 1918 over the Somme.

Turn left outside the door, following the path & bearing right into the Churchyard.

8 In the Churchyard near the Bradford family vault is the grave of **Carl Raymond Davis**, DFC, a South African-born American-British flying ace of the Battle of Britain. He claimed nine enemy aircraft destroyed, four probably destroyed and four damaged, before he was killed in his Hurricane by a Messerschmitt Me 109 in September 1940.

Straight ahead, down the churchyard, in the row of trees after the side gate is a grave with a cross to **Frank Moxon Stout, MC**, who was captain of the British and Irish Lions rugby team in 1899 and also of England; he was awarded the Military Cross in September 1914.

Opposite the churchyard in the Old School is Storrington & District Museum, which is open on certain days - check www.storringtonmuseum.com for information.

Return to Church Street (the continuation of Greyfriars Lane). Just after the 'Old Forge' on the left, was the Military College, which used buildings on both sides of the street, but those on the east side have now been demolished.

9 The **College, Church Street** was founded in 1871 by Rev. George Faithfull. It was an army 'crammer' which took over various houses at the north end of Church Street. In 1888 Major Austin took over the college until 1899 and the outbreak of the Boer War. The college flourished until WW1 and closed in 1931.

At the end of the road, turn right into the High Street (A283) and look out for the wall plaques on the outside of the White Horse Hotel with the Roll of Honour.

10 The **Roll of Honour** commemorates the fallen men and one woman of World War 1 and is a reproduction of the watercolour panels painted by Paul Hardy; the originals are in the Storrington Museum.

Continuing along the High Street, turn right opposite the Storrington stork sign which is on the north side of the road, (Storrington's name is derived from the Saxon for a place where storks are found) and follow the footpath left into Hanover Walk, then left into Meadowside. Follow the road round and turn right at the 'Friends of Meadowside' board with the playground on your right. Shortly, at Chantry Lane, turn right for 100 yards, cross over, follow footpath on the left which is to the right of the large gated entrance to Chantry Sandpit. Walk through the wood between the River Stor and the sandpit and over a small wooden bridge to a metal kissing gate. Follow the track diagonally across the field to a big oak tree and then continue round the field, with views of the Chantry sandpit on your left, to a gate and stile. Over the stile, bear right up the slope to Sullington Farm. At the top, keep left and then right onto the tarmacked road following the sign to St Mary's Church. You are back where you started.



Frank Stout, captain of England Team 1899



Roll of Honour, Storrington



WWII Bunker



Francis Mond - Pilot



Carl Davis - Battle of Britain ace



Memorial to Submarine E24