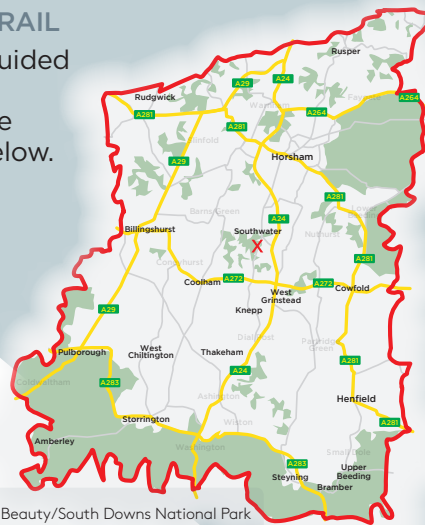




ABOUT THE TRAIL

This is a self-guided walking trail. Please read the information below.



HOW TO FIND US

Start point: Lintot Square, RH13 9LA



ACCESS & FACILITIES

Walking grade: Easy

Access: by road A24: Train; to Horsham. From the station, bus routes 23 and 98 serve Southwater.

Trail: The 8mile (14km) Trail, taking you through our heritage and history, begins at Lintot Square, RH13 9LA. The main carpark offers two hours free parking with longer times being available in the carpark behind Beeson House.

A shorter route 4miles (7km) excludes a walk around Denne Park House which dates back to 1600s.



Toilets: Public Toilets at the Country Park Café.



The Trail passes four pubs, a tea house, Country Park Café and Co-op store for pit stops and refreshments.



Dogs: Please keep dogs on leads and clean up mess. Please respect the privacy of local residents.

FIND OUT MORE:

www.southwater-pc.gov.uk/-History-Group.aspx
To learn more about the heritage of the wider district and discover additional trails, please visit www.horshammuseum.org

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Information is correct at time of going to press.

Horsham Heritage Trails Southwater Heritage Trail

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Exploring Horsham District's Heritage

Southwater Heritage Trail

Southwater, known as “South of the water” was part of Horsham parish that lay south of the water, the water being the River Arun. It has evolved from a wooded and farmed area outside Horsham to a thriving village.

But how and why?

The answer lies in the soil! In the early 18th century buildings changed, instead of showing timber, wooden houses were covered up, first with plaster, later brick. Then by the end of the century, brick built houses became the material of choice and has largely remained so until today. Bricks are made from a particular type of clay and Southwater is built on it. Southwater bricks included hard engineering bricks. The 19th century saw a rapidly rising population and the growth of both London and the coastal towns of Sussex, saw a boom in brick making. Southwater caught the tail end of the Victorian building boom. The arrival of the railway in 1861 opened up the possibility of exporting locally made bricks to those growing urban centres

The clay was laid down in the age of dinosaurs, (100my) so brick making has revealed a number of fossils, including remains of the iguanodon dinosaur. That was in the 1920s and 30s. Recently when houses were being built, archaeologists discovered pottery, flint, bone and postholes that revealed for the first time that Southwater had been settled since the late Iron age, around 400BC, through the Roman period up to the Medieval times. Some farmers became wealthy enough to build substantial farmhouses, a few of which still remain today, 500 years later. However the area was rural, it wasn't until the 1800s that Southwater started to grow and develop as a community as the timeline adjacent shows.



Historical Time Line from 1800

1807 Southwater had its own windmill.

1844 The Fletcher family built the school and in 1850 provided money to build a church.

1853 the Parish of Southwater was formed.

1861 the railway came to Southwater, which provided a significant trading link for bricks and milk to be sold in London. Census recorded 703 people.

1874 saw Southwater's first brickmakers, Southwater Brick Tile and Pottery Works, in Little Bridges Farm, Station Road.

The increasing population working on farms and in brickworks, brought demand for houses, shops and businesses. These were built mainly on the Worthing Road which linked Horsham with Worthing.

1900 the London School, Christ's Hospital moved to Southwater on the site of Aylesbury Dairy. It acquired the nickname of a Citadel of Brick. It is more than likely a lot of bricks from Southwater were used.

1951 census recorded 1200 people.

The building of council houses in the 1950s, boosted the need for more bricks.

1960s began private housing development and continues to date.

1964 Southwater railway station closed.

The old brick works closed in 1981.

1982 saw the construction of the bypass which gave villagers a welcome relief from traffic.

1985 Country Park built on the site of the old brickworks.

Business areas built in the centre and to the north have been home to RSA, RSPCA and Sony.

Lintot Square was built in 2005 to replace an aging small precinct.

2008 saw a new War Memorial to incorporate people missing from the memorial in the church.

2019 the village population nearing 12,000.



Exploring
**Horsham
District's**
Heritage

Start in:

1 Lintot Square. Named after the early 18th century publisher Bernard Lintott, who dropped the last T when he moved to London where he transformed the publishing industry. Built 2005 with tea house, shops, restaurants, Village Surgery. Beeson House incorporates the library and houses some dinosaur relics. The main dinosaur bones now being exhibited in Worthing Museum. Then find:

2 Iggy Dinosaur Sculpture. The find of Iguanodon bones has given Southwater this emblem and Iggy is built on Southwater bricks!! He also starred in Olympia in 1930s. Look left to find:

3 War Memorial, built 2008 with nearby seating, is unusual as very few memorials have been built in recent years. The centre of the area has the gates from the Sussex & Dorking Brick Company. At Lintot Sq. cross at the lights opposite the old railway bridge where a section of the railway platform still remains. Turn right (north) onto Worthing Road and walk along LH pavement past:

4 Wheelwright House/Jasmine Cottage c 1500. One of the oldest buildings in the village. The Piper family have lived there since 1823. Continue along Worthing Road past the Old Post office. Opposite Godfrey's garage, turn left into Chessall Avenue continuing for about 300 metres, turning left into the entrance gate of;

5 Great House Farm, owned by the Fletcher family (a distant member of whom was Christian Fletcher, of HMS Bounty fame) and farmed by members of the Charman family. Records date from 1462 with the farmhouse enlarged in the 1500s. Follow footpath through farm entrance past the farmhouse, (The path going through the farm can be very muddy. To avoid this, go back onto Chessall Ave and keep left going north along Worthing Road) and on your right, you will see footpath signs where you walk north alongside the hedge. 100 metres on right, go through gate following footpath on other side of hedge. Look right; Roundstone Caravan Park established in 1930.

Continue along footpath until you reach cottages on the Worthing Road, turn left (north).

Longer trail begins here. To remain on the shorter trail skip to **7**

Longer trail (about 2 hours approx. 4 miles). Turn right/east onto Southwater Street for 500 metres across bridge reaching the highest point in the village (Look south for the South Downs). Continue across bridge and take the footpath on right opposite Kings Lane. At end of path turn left onto road and continue until the T junction. Turn right and then take the bridal way on the left (Pedlar's Way). Continue for about 1km until a wooded area. Walk through woods and bear left at first foot path sign through kissing gate and then diagonally left through field. Denne Park is on your left. Remain on footpath across driveway heading for a small clump of trees in the field, where you take the left path which crosses the main entrance to:

6 Denne Park House. A Jacobian house built 1605. Continue on footpath across golf course keeping Horsham Golf Club to your right. Walk past Home Farm, Hop Oast Farm, remaining on the footpath through golf course. Go across foot bridges on to Kings Lane. Turn right, back to A24 bridge, walk back down Southwater Street taking the footpath on the right, to the Hen & Chicken Pub. *** Continue north until you reach:

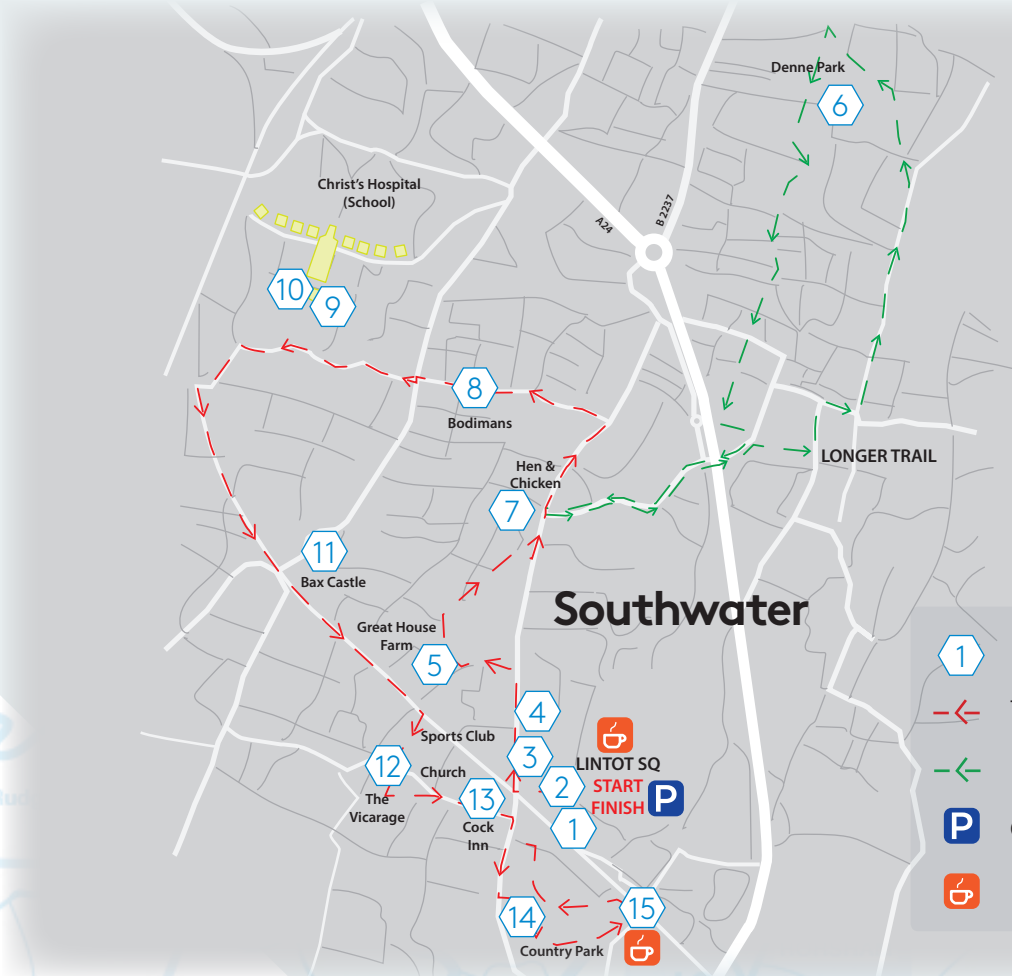
7 Hen & Chicken pub. Circa 1860. From pub, head north on Worthing Road cross road and take bridal way on left. Look diagonally left to see. (a better view is where the meadow ends):

8 Bodimans a medieval house, thought to be the home of William de Baddingmere, with tax records recorded in 1327. Reaching the road, turn left and take footpath on right to playing fields of:

9 Christ's Hospital. Founded in London in 1552, the school moved to Southwater for 'health of pupil' reasons, and is one of a few Bluecoat schools. It has its own Chapel. Keep to footpaths and be aware not all parts are open to the public.

10 Christ's Hospital Museum. Visits to the museum can be arranged via www.chmuseum.org.uk With the school to your right, take left path at the end of playing fields as path turns right. Through kissing gate, across field to join the Downs Link. Turn left along route of the old railway line, once linking Southwater to Shoreham and London. Walk under the bridge to:

11 Bax Castle Pub. Circa 1840. Also known as the Donkey as it is by the Donkey Bridge. Remain on Downs Link until the new Sports club and football fields. At the club house take the footpath on the right until Church Lane. Across the road is Vicarage Cottage, thought to have been a 17th century farm cottage, and to the left, the Old Vicarage. Walk through gate of church yard to see:



Iggy Dinosaur



War memorial and gates



Wheelwright House



Great House Farm



Denne Park House



Bodimans



Christ's Hospital



Holy Innocents Church



Cock Inn



Country Park

12 Holy Innocents Church. Built in 1850 is the Parish Church. The church is open from dawn to dusk. A recently recognised war grave is in the Church graveyard. Walk through between the scout hut and Church hall onto Church lane, passing the cemetery on right, down to the Worthing Road to:

13 Cock Inn. (now Topsy Fox) a 16th century inn. This building has changed uses, names and owners many times since being built. In its heyday, the pub played an important role on the London - Worthing route. Turn right walking south along Worthing Road by side of Country Park for 400 metres and left into 1st footpath into the:

14 Country Park. This lovely park is built on the sites of two brickworks which ceased in 1981. From 1874 there were about five brickworks

with ownership changing frequently, the last of which were Sussex and Dorking United Brickworks, and Redland Bricks. The Country park opened in 1985. Keep south, straight on footpath through park, with lake to your left and reach:

15 Country Park Café. Refreshments available. Take path to right, around lake, noting beach and Dinosaur Island children's play park. At beach take right path by fishing ponds, up slope then left onto Business Park road. Turn right onto Worthing Road, past Budgens, shops and Doctors Surgery back into Lintot Square to end the trail.

A more detailed record of Southwater's brick history, is held in our library called 'Winning the Clay'. The A-Z of Southwater is also available from the library compiled by Catherine Andrews and Patsy Laker.