

Midhurst Heritage 3km Walk

- Time: Approx. 1 hour, approx. 3km
- · Terrain: Easy, mostly flat, mix of town and countryside

• Electric Car Chargers: Capron House, South Downs Centre, North Street, Car Park, BP Fuel Station, Easebourne

- · Dog, pushchair and wheelchair friendly
- Accessible <u>Changing Places</u>
- **Parking:** North Street, Car Park (*Free for 1 hour*)
- The Grange Leisure Centre (Free for 1 hour)
- Discover more Midhurst & Midhurst Society

Route & Highlights:

OS Route Map

1. **Start: North Street, Car Park:** Town Centre (accessible WCS and electric charging).

Head towards the main road and cross the road at the traffic lights. Turn right, then left towards:

2. <u>Capron House</u>: Formerly **Midhurst Grammar School**, now home to the <u>South Downs National Park</u> and where **H.G. Wells** studied and later taught. Enter the visitors centre, where you can discover more about the National Park.

Exit right and head south along North Street:

3. <u>Midhurst Pharmacy</u>: Look up! Discover 18th-century architecture. **H.G. Wells** was an apprentice at the pharmacy after leaving Midhurst Grammar School.

Cross back over to the other side of North Street, heading south towards Knockhundred Row.

4. <u>The Midhurst Museum</u>: A well-preserved **16th-century** building, in **Knockhundred Row**, possibly the **smallest museum in the world**, measuring only 8'6" x 8'6"! The team of volunteers will take you back in time and discover the amazing history of Midhurst.

Upon exit, turn left and follow the road as you head into:

5. Church Hill: Passing the Grade 1 listed historic Midhurst Old Library and beautiful examples of Tudor, Georgian, and Victorian architecture.

Turn left into Sheep Lane and follow to:



6. **St. Mary Magdalene & St. Denys Church**: Dating back t**o 1120**, with tombs of the **Browne family** of Cowdray. Can you find the secret graveyard?

7. Market Square: Includes The Old Jail House (now <u>Gartons Café</u>), a great spot for a light refreshment and people watching.

8. **Ghost Stories at <u>The Swan Inn</u>:** Said to be haunted by a former landlord's wife. Stop off and watch the world go by, a particular favourite for spotting rare and vintage cars and bikes heading towards Goodwood.

9. The Spread Eagle (1430): Hosted Queen Elizabeth I. A Beautiful historic building which is now a hotel and spa. Why not pop in for an afternoon tea and discover its past?

Head along **West Street**, where you will discover a variety of independent shops. Can you find the **hidden Knights Hospitaller Door?**

Turn left onto Grange Road:

10. At the bottom of **Grange Road**, you find <u>Allnut Clocks</u>, and inside a Horology Exhibition showcasing Midhurst's **clock and watchmaking legacy.**

Follow the public footpath sign which leads to:

11. The Old Railway Line & South Pond: Spot migratory birds and wildlife.

At South Pond, turn right and follow the footpath around the pond, where you will also discover:

12. Dante Bronze Statue, by Philip Jackson: Did you know Midhurst is the adopted home of Philip & his wife Jean?

Continue around the pond until you reach **Chichester Road**, turn left, cross over to the other and head back towards **The Spread Eagle** and **Gartons Cafe**. As you approach the **Market Square**, turn right into **Edinburgh Square** and head towards:

13. **St. Ann's Hill and Midhurst Castle:** An **Iron Age fort** and castle with ghostly folklore overlooking Cowdray Polo fields. More information from the <u>Midhurst Society</u>.

Choose your route down to the River Rother. **1)** North (left), and head down the step incline to the River Rother or **2)** South (right) for a more leisurely path down to the river. When you have descended to the footpath, head North along the river footpath towards the Cowdray Ruins:

14. <u>Cowdray Ruins</u> & The Causeway: A Tudor mansion built 1520–1542, visited by Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, allegedly cursed by a monk, and destroyed by fire in 1793. Guy Fawkes served as a footman at Cowdray.

Head west along the old castle footpath back to **North Street car park**, or why not extend your walk and continue towards Easebourne along the Cowdray Polo fields and up to Cowdray Farm shop and cafe. Here you will also discover the Old Priory and Easebourne toll bridge.

Additional places to discover:

- 1. Masonic Hall, Bepton Road: A former religious building and now home to Midhurst Masonic Lodge.
- 2. Cowdray Polo Fields
- 3. Cowdray Farm Shop & Cafe
- 4. The Old Priory, Easebourne
- 5. Walk across the old Toll Bridge (Cowdray Estate Office), Easebourne.
- 6. **<u>The White Horse</u>**, Easebourne: A historic coaching inn with a cosy atmosphere.