



---

## Pub Walk: The Lamb Inn, near Rusper

---

Distance 4¼ km=2¾ miles    easy walking

Region: West Sussex

Author: Moussehaine

*comments please to [feedback@fancyfreewalks.org](mailto:feedback@fancyfreewalks.org)*

Refreshments: The Lamb Inn, Lamb Green

Map: Explorer 134 (Crawley, Horsham)

**Public rights are restricted to printing, copying or distributing this document exactly as seen here, complete and without any cutting or editing. See *Principles* on main webpage.**

*Village, woodland, meadows*

---

### In Brief

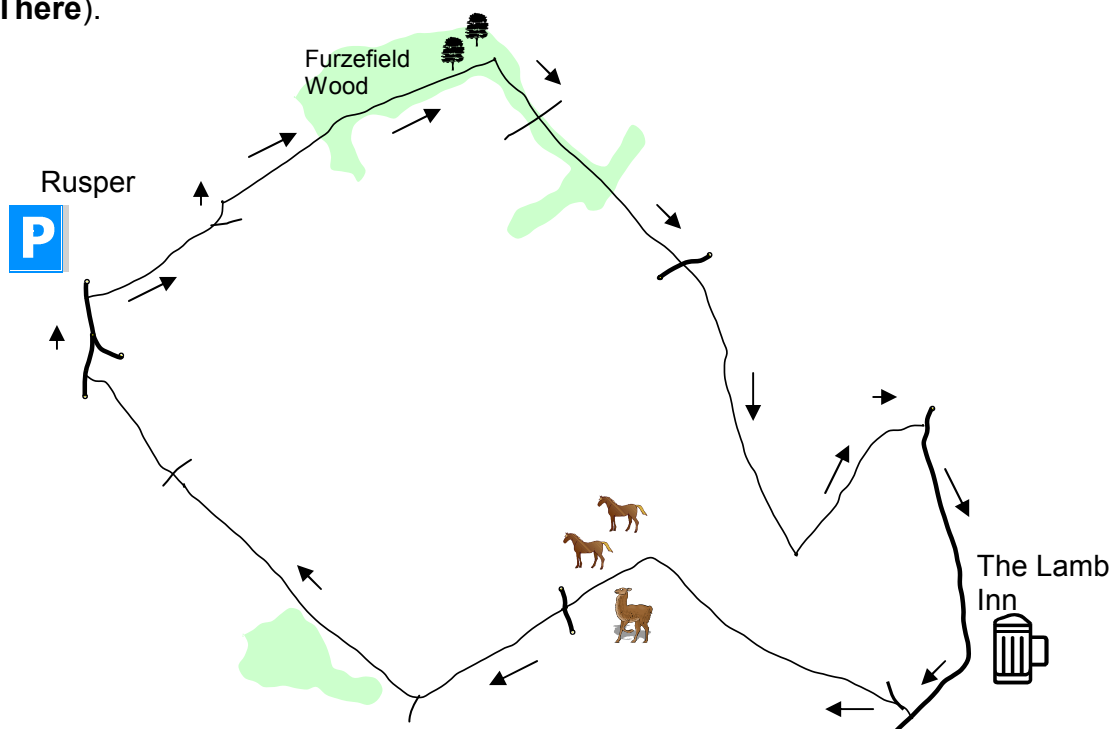
---

This unusual circular walk is a real charmer and the pub could not be cosier, as a freehouse with Hophead plus two guests, all local brews. You can sit and read the paper in peace with a pint and there is even a library! The menu of freshly-cooked meals is written on the board, always a good sign. They have occasional “themed” nights. Oh, and yes, they’re in The Good Beer Guide 2009.




This is a nettle-free walk, easy underfoot and he can come too.

The walk begins in **Rusper village**: park on the roadside or in the car park near the church. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).



## The Walk

---

- 1 Almost opposite the church, go east on a tarmac track next to a garage, marked as the Sussex Border Path (SBP). Keep to the **left** on a wide grassy path. In just over 100m, the brambles on the left end and you come to a tall oak. Turn **left** here through a swing-gate into a meadow, thus leaving the SBP. Go diagonally across the centre of the grassy meadow aiming for the far corner, following a faint path made by many feet. You reach the edge of Furzefield Wood and here there is an old fence with a low rusty metal gate. Simply step over the gate into the wood. (Both the path and the wood are much used by the local people and, although they are not statutory footpaths and are not marked on the map, as long as walkers behave sensibly there is no reason not to use them.) Follow the path into the wood. It is joined by a small path coming from the left and goes over a ditch. Immediately take the **right** fork, the wider path, staying close to the field on the right. The path soon expands into a wide straight path through magnificent woodland of tall beeches.
  - 2 At the end of the field on the right, with a deep gully down on your left, the path turns **right** and here you are joined by another section of the Sussex Border Path. The path now runs in a fine woodland strip between fields. It comes out of the woodland at a crossing of paths by a 4-way fingerpost. Go straight over. The path goes beside a wood, over a stream, then with a hedgerow on the right. At the end, go over a wonky stile, cross a road and take a footpath opposite, going over a stile and along the right-hand side of a meadow. The path goes over another stile and runs between fences in a magnificent line of tall trees. The pasture on your left is lined with oak trees. At the end of the fence, where you can see several ponds, and perhaps water fowl, on the right, turn **left** at a fingerpost.
  - 3 The footpath zigzags left-right by a metal gate and then does the same again. It passes an open area, wheels right and, by a metal gate, filters right into a narrow path which ends over a stone bridge out to a road. Turn **right** on the road and, in nearly 400m, reach the hamlet of Lambs Green and the Lamb Inn. (See top for details.)
- 
- 4 The return leg is a bit shorter but just as charming. Carry on along the road. Just after the driveway to Canonbury Villas, turn **right** at a signpost and shortly go over a stile and diagonally across a meadow. In the far corner, go over a long bridge across the infant River Mole and continue straight ahead along the right-hand side of another meadow. At the corner, go **left** round the corner of the meadow to the next corner and go through a swing-gate. You are now on an enclosed path. The pasture on the right belongs to a stud and there are often foals running free whilst on the left the owners of *Applegarth* breed alpacas. The path leads out to a road.
  - 5 Cross over the road to a footpath opposite, go over a stile and cross the left-hand side of a meadow next to the driveway by *Rusper Court Cottages*. Go over a stile in the corner and along the left-hand side of the next meadow. In the far corner, by a 3-way fingerpost, turn **right** into a long grassy meadow. This becomes a long wide grassy path between pastures going very gently uphill. At the end, cross an untidy builder's yard and go straight ahead over a stile onto an enclosed path that runs past garden fences on your left. Keep ahead into the car park of the Crown Inn and turn **left** between posts to the main road opposite the delectable *Sweet Briar*.

Turn **right** on the road past the equally tasty half-timbered Averys and hence back to the centre of the village.

*A short historical note on Rusper. The area was settled by farmers around 700AD migrating from the coast to summer pastures. The name is originally "ruh spaer" or "rough enclosures". In the 1100s a small Benedictine convent, known as Rusper Priory was founded for no more than 10 nuns. It was closed down by – guess who – Henry VIII. The gates to the nunnery, all that is left, can be seen from the Horsham road. The convent's cemetery was found there by chance by workmen in 1840 and amongst the 40 or so female skeletons were various treasures, including a unique 12<sup>th</sup>-century Limoges enamelled chalice which can be seen today in the British Museum.*

## Getting there

---

By car: *Be sure your driver takes only non-alcoholic beverage.* If coming from the **London area**, take the A24 through Dorking, following signs to *Worthing*; stay on the A24 at the Beare Green roundabout; at the next big roundabout, ignore a sharp left to Capel and take the next left signposted *Rusper*. Follow the winding road to the village. If coming from **Horsham**, take the Rusper Road from the centre, go straight on over two big roundabouts and keep following signs to Rusper. If coming from **Crawley**, find the Rusper Road in Ifield Green and follow road signs to the village.

By other transport: Rusper is not well served. Consider a minicab.

*fancy more free walks?* [www.fancyfreewalks.org](http://www.fancyfreewalks.org)