



Redford, New Lipchis Way, Serpent Trail

Distance: 12½ km=8 miles

easy walking

Region: West Sussex

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Refreshments: picnic, or local facilities after the walk

Map: Explorer 133 (Petersfield) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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Woodland, villages, meadows, heath

In Brief

This is a delightful and peaceful walk through the woods and meadows and over hills of a relatively unknown corner of West Sussex. It is a perfect winter walk, also ideal in spring or late autumn when the paths are not too overgrown. It runs for part of its way on two important national trails, the *New Lipchis Way*, which runs from the Hampshire border down to the sea in Chichester, and the *Serpent Trail*, a snaking route taking in woodland and heath from Haslemere to Petersfield.



As always, boots are advisable, although good walking shoes are enough in dry conditions. There are some nettles along the paths in summer making shorts uncomfortable. This walk is fine for a small or medium sized dog but a large one will have trouble with some of the stiles.

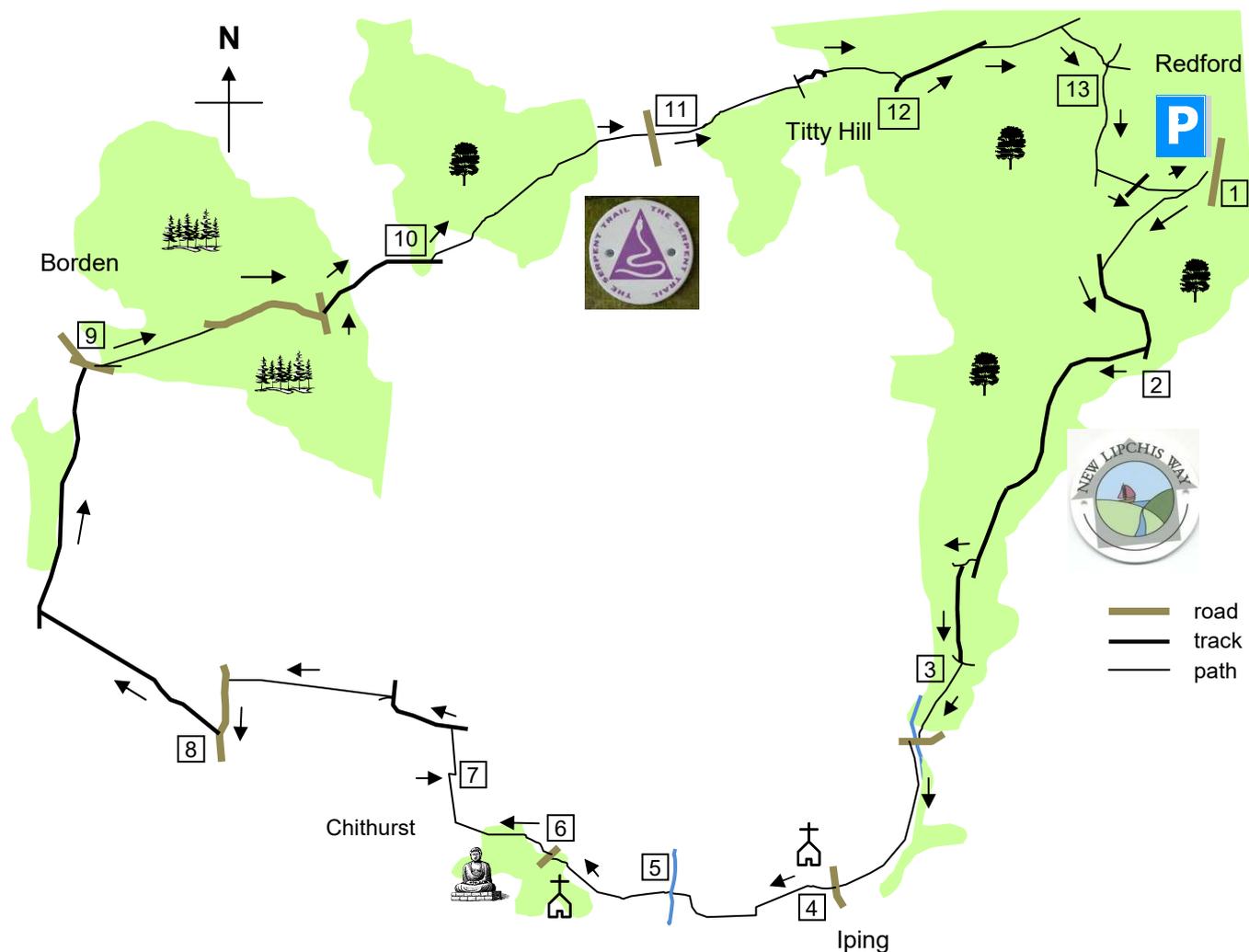
The walk begins at the **Linch Road Woolbeding Common** car park just south of Redford, West Sussex, nearest postcode **GU29 0QH**, grid ref SU 863 254. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk

Leg 1: Woolbeding Common to Iping 3½ km=2 miles

- 1 See map overleaf.** Take the obvious track leading out of the car park to the left of the National Trust sign. Follow this track which is the New Lipchis Way (NLW), ignoring all turn offs. *The signs for the New Lipchis Way use very indistinct grey arrows and if they have become faded it is best to remember that they point through the "C" of "Lipchis".* Continue to a crossing with a fingerpost. Keep ahead, still on NLW. The track comes out onto a drive with a fingerpost on the right. Continue ahead on the drive, passing another fingerpost. There are two beautiful houses on the right and the drive becomes tarmac at a third house on the left. Just past this house, turn **right** at a signpost, still following NLW.

Map



- 2** Follow this beautiful high wooded path. You pass a private lake and a small car park on the right. Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ km after the car park, you will see a house down on your right in the river valley as you reach a marker post. Turn **right** here downhill, still on the NLW [2015: [past a fallen tree, easily avoidable](#)]. *Don't miss this turn!* At the bottom, turn immediately **left** on a wide track coming from the house. In 150m, next to the entrance to *Ash House*, go straight over the tarmac to a fingerpost opposite and continue on a footpath, still on the NLW. In 10m, your path goes **left** up a bank.
- 3** The path is a bit overgrown but well trodden and soon widens, going downhill under beeches, and reaches a road by a field with horse jumps. Turn **right** for 20m on the road, then **left** into a field which also contains horse jumps. Follow the left-hand side of the field, over a horse jump which acts as a stile and can be bypassed. You reach another stile which can be avoided (but is often hidden in undergrowth) by going through a gap in the hedge. Continue along the left-hand side of the next field swinging right towards a church, visible ahead, to reach a road in the village of Iping. As a pleasant diversion, most of this picturesque village is on your left. *For more details, see the other walk in this series: [Woolbeding Common and the Temple of the Winds](#).*

Leg 2: Iping to Borden 4½ km=3 miles

- 4 Continue straight ahead through a small metal gate on a footpath through the churchyard, thus leaving the NLW. *This is St Mary's Iping, a pretty Church, but sometimes closed.* Follow the path around to the back of the Church and cross a stile into a field. Cross straight over the field heading slightly to the left of a tree visible ahead. There is a way marker there directing you **left** along the far edge. In about 20m there is a fingerpost, half hidden in the hedge. After another 20m, at the corner by a fingerpost, turn **right** through a metal swing gate. Follow the field along the left-hand side to the far end and turn **right**, still along the hedge, to meet a way marker half way along the field edge. Turn **left** here through a metal swing-gate and through a gap in the hedge.
- 5 There is a wooden bridge over a stream with two metal rails and a chain at each end. (This is to keep livestock, not you, off the bridge.) Step under the chain and cross the bridge into a field. Go straight ahead through an electric fence, easily crossed by lifting a link on a nail. Now head for a stile in the hedge opposite. It is a little to the left, under an electricity pole about 30m from the corner. Cross the stile and continue ahead in a rough field. The field narrows at the far end where there is a metal gate, or a stile in case the gate is locked. Go out of the field, over a stile, past farm buildings and keep **left** on a farm track which leads to a road. *Opposite you is the small late Saxon/Early Norman Church of St Mary's Chithurst. This interesting little church is well worth a visit and is usually open.*
- 6 Turn **right** on the road and, in 20m, **left** on a footpath which runs beside the church and looks like a front drive. This leads to a car park and runs along the wisteria covered wall of Chithurst Manor which is a Buddhist Retreat Centre. Go through some woodland for about 20m and cross a stile into a field. Continue ahead over a bank heading for a hedge of wild roses. Go through a gap in the hedge and cross a stile into a field. Turn **right** up the side of the field following a vague path through long grass.
- 7 After about 150m, a marker post directs you **right** down over a stile and **left** on a path through woods. You reach a wide track via two redundant broken stiles. There is a three-way fingerpost here, marked *Restricted Byway*. Turn **left** on the byway. When, in over 200m, your track comes out into the open and curves right, cross straight over a sandy farm track and bear **left** on a narrow path beside a wire fence, thus regaining your original direction. Follow this straight path for over ½ km to reach a tarmac lane. Turn **left** on the lane.
- 8 About 200m along the lane, you meet a fingerpost (almost hidden by bracken) pointing right saying *Restricted Byway*. Turn sharp **right** here on a rough sheltered lane, to reach Cumbers Farm in 250m where the tarmac ends. Continue onwards on the track for ½ km to reach a T junction with another finger post also saying *Restricted Byway*. Turn **right** and continue for nearly 1 km, going over a crossing track and through a wood. Eventually you reach a road junction in the hamlet of Borden.

Leg 3: Borden to Titty Hill 3½ km=2 miles

- 9 Turn **right** on the road and immediately fork **left** on a sandy track. You are now on the Serpent Trail (ST). In about 20m fork **left** at a fingerpost still following the ST. The pleasant track [Nov 2013: with some fallen trees, easily negotiated] continues downhill through a pinewood, goes over a crossing track at a 4-way fingerpost and leads to a road. Turn **right** on the road and follow it for 300m to a T junction. Cross straight over, slightly left, on a tarmac drive. The drive takes you over a bridge, passing *Kingsham Cottages* and *Old Farm* on your left, and through a small wooden gate (or through a large wooden gate, if open). Continue for another 100m through a wood passing a metal gate on your right marked *Private*. Immediately fork **left** over a stile by a fingerpost into a field, still following the ST.
- 10 Cross the field diagonally to a stile and a gravel track leading into another wood. In 90m, ignore an unmarked path on the right. Shortly after, where the main track veers left, keep straight ahead on a path passing a fingerpost and going slightly uphill through Kingsham Wood. Eventually you will see just ahead a stile and a small wooden bridge, both of which can be avoided now (2018). The landowner has kindly improved your route here: keep to the **right** of the wire fence, bypassing the stile, go through a wooden gate and turn **right** along the right-hand side of the field, W aiming for a gap in a line of trees ahead. Go through them to a stile leading to a road, Iping Road. *On the right, as a brief diversion, is an isolated cemetery.*
- 11 Cross the road to another stile, over two planks to keep you dry-shod, and into a field. Head for a finger post on the right in the field and keep straight on up the field, ignoring the indicated left fork. Follow the right side of the field with a wood on your right with great views left to Milland and the Hangers (see the walk *Durford Heath and Milland Mill* in this series). Eventually you come to a stile in the far right-hand corner. Cross the stile, passing a 3-way fingerpost, and turn **left** on a narrow path to a finger post in the fence. Turn **right** here through a wooden gate and then an iron gate onto a drive in the hamlet of Queens Corner. Turn **left** then **right** with the drive and leave it by the entrance to a house, *Hillside Cottage*, passing the remains of a stile, onto a path into woods. Follow the path through the wood to a house ahead where the path veers left and finally emerges onto a driveway at Titty Hill.

Leg 4. Titty Hill to Woolbeding Common 1½ km=1 mile

- 12 Bear **right** passing the hamlet's large grassy space and turn **left** at a junction on a wide driveway. In 30m, turn **right** at a marker post into woods again. In just over 250m, at a fingerpost, turn **right** on another woodland path. In 200m, you reach two fingerposts by a multiple junction of paths at the start of a more open area. Turn **right** at the first fingerpost, thus leaving the ST, and keep straight ahead past the second fingerpost. In 20m, at a third fingerpost, ignore the path forking left across the centre of the clearing and keep straight on with the woods on your right. Follow the path through woodland and bracken, going over a (weed-choked and almost redundant) two-plank bridge to reach a fingerpost 10m later. Keep straight ahead.

13 The terrain is bracken and suddenly dark woods. As you gradually approach a bank on your right, turn **right** over the bank and **left** on a path on the other side. You pass a post with a yellow arrow confirming that you are on the correct route. [Apr 2015: there is a fallen tree by the marker post which makes finding the path ahead confusing. The tree itself is not a problem. The path was exceedingly muddy and waterlogged and, if you walk alongside to avoid this, you need to keep a smart eye on the path to see where it goes!] At a four-way fingerpost, keep straight ahead, avoiding the left fork. 50m after the four-way fingerpost, you meet a wide grassy unmarked path. Turn **left** on this path. The path goes up through bracken, then more steeply and meets a rough driveway. Turn **right** on it and immediately **left**, through a new metal gate, on a path uphill. This clear path through more bracken reaches a T-junction and a 3-way fingerpost, via another new metal gate. Turn **left** here on a track, the same as the track you took at the start. It leads you quickly back to the car park where the walk began.



For final refreshments, the "Rising Sun" in Milland is a quite excellent nearby inn, open all day at weekends, occasionally serving wild boar, with a selection of brews including Red Fox.

Getting there

By car: To get to Redford from the London area, take the A3 and turn off through **Liphook**. (From London, this is through the Hindhead tunnel.) At a tortuous series of mini-roundabouts and larger ones, keep following signs for **Liphook Station** and/or the **Hollycombe Steam Collection** (with a brown tourist sign showing a merry-go-round). This will take you onto the **Midhurst Road** out of the town. The road goes over a railway bridge, past Iron Hill and the Steam Collection, and under an arch. About 3 miles from Liphook, ignore a left turn for Fernhurst. After 0.4 miles, turn **left** on a lane signposted *Redford* and/or *Linch Church*. The road goes past this interesting little church and after a mile it goes through Redford, as indicated by the welcome sign. The car park is on the **right**, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile after Redford village.

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