



Loxwood: *The Onslow Arms* (pub walk)

Distance: 5¾ km=3½ miles

easy walking

Region: West Sussex

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Refreshments: *The Onslow Arms*

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Map: Explorer 134 (Horsham) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org

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Canal, woodland, mill, village

In Brief

Perfectly situated for the Wey-Arun Canal, the *Onslow Arms* offers many pub favourites (including pizzas), Badger ales (plus one or two guests) and pleasant outdoor seating by the canal. They even serve cream teas. Ring 01403-752022 for enquiries.

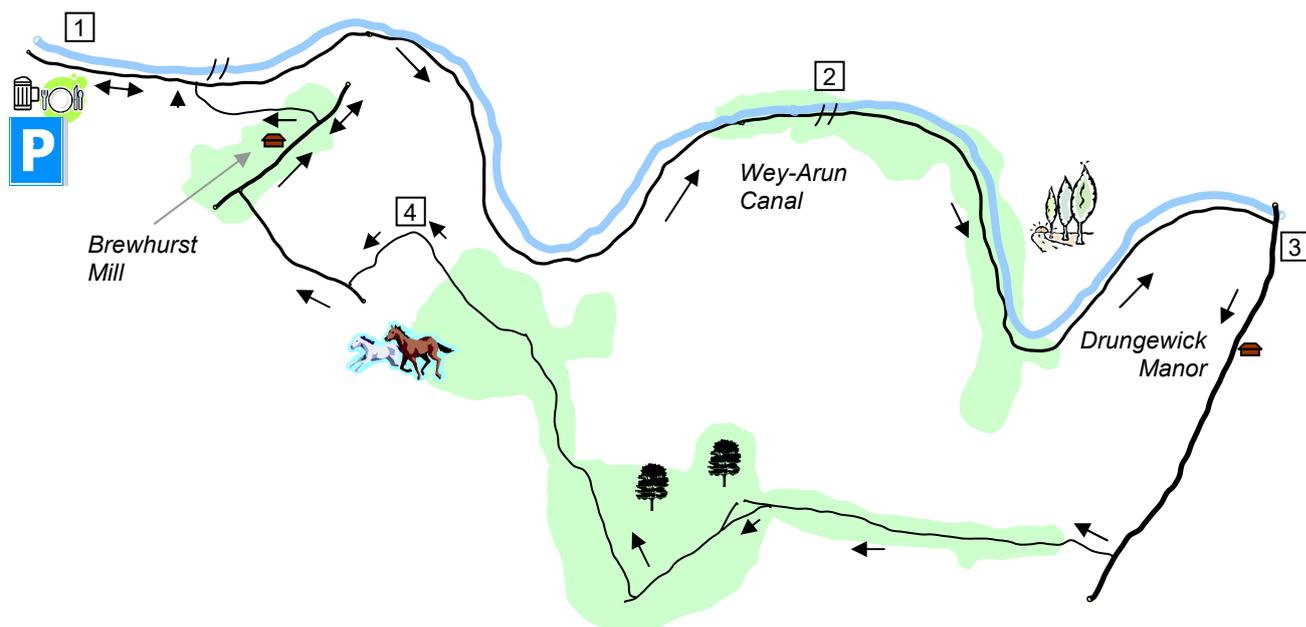
This walk follows the canalside path and returns through forest and quiet meadows with one or two surprises.



There are no nettles so any type of clothing should be fine, provided that you keep clear of the *giant hogweed* that proliferates along parts of the route. (Giant hogweed can be quite nasty if it comes into contact with the skin.) If it has been raining, you may find the woodland sections a bit claggy and marshy so that boots are preferable. This is also a perfect walk for your dog.

The walk begins at the **Onslow Arms, Loxwood**, West Sussex (postcode **RH14 0RD**, www.w3w.co/secure.could.skyrocket, grid ref TQ041312). Park in the **rear** car park. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk



In the 1800s the Wey-Arun Canal made it possible to travel by boat from London to Littlehampton on the south coast. Much of it has now been restored by The Wey & Arun Canal Trust and you may notice boat trippers on this large navigable section.

- 1 From beside the pub, go past the car park along the wide canal path. (You can also use the steps at the end of the car park.) In a short while you pass Brewhurst Lock.

In 1997 Brewhurst Lock was restored to its original size, a huge undertaking. It is a most unusual lock in that the large "lower" gates are much higher than the small "upper" gates. This is because the section of the canal you were just walking on had to be lowered to run under the main road.

Continue along the canal and cross a drive near a smart brick humpback bridge, continuing on the other side through a wooden gate. The original river (a tributary of the Arun) winds its serpentine way on your right as the path runs under tall ash trees and you pass a milestone, one of several giving you the distances between the two rivers.

- 2 Next is Baldwin's Knob Lock, the first to be restored. After tall poplars on your right you pass Barnshill brick bridge, opposite a bland flat concrete-and-metal bridge: keep straight on through more tall poplars. The canal bends sharp left while the river curves away to the right. You pass Drungewick Winding Hole (a widened section for turning boats) and Slipway, followed by a removable heavy vehicle crossing, after which the canal passes over the Drungewick Aqueduct. Here, leave the canalside, up through a wooden gate to a lane. Turn **right** on Drungewick Lane.
- 3 You pass the gates to *Drungewick Manor* on your left. *This was originally a 13th-century fortified moated manor house, much changed by the Onslows (after whom the pub is named) from the 1600s to Victorian times.* The lane is lined with large oaks as you pass some stables, a small house and open meadows. Just before the next house, with a sign for *Drungewick Kennels*, turn **right** on a signed bridleway. You are about 600m from where you

joined the lane. Keep straight on along the drive, with the kennels visible (and audible!) on your right, continuing on a wide path leading you through a long strip of woodland. After nearly 500m, as you pass openings into fields, fork **left** at a fingerpost. This bridleway joins a track coming from the right. In roughly another 150m, opposite a 4-way fingerpost, turn **right** on a narrow path through an old coppice, with a wire fence on your left. The footpath curves left downhill, then right, and runs beside a stream on your left in a woodland area which in late spring is carpeted with bluebells. The footpath goes over a 2-plank bridge with a handrail and shortly meets a path coming from the right. Go through the smaller of two wooden gates and follow the path beside a fence with a pasture on your left. **Beware of the himalayan balsam in this area: don't pick up any seeds!**

- 4 The path bends left at a corner on a grassy path liberally speckled with flowers. At the end, go through a large metal gate and turn **right** on a concrete drive. After about 100m, go through a new metal kissing gate next to a new metal farm gate. Where the drive comes to a T-junction, turn **right** on a lane taking you to Brewhurst Mill and Farm. Your route is **left** before the mill. But first it is a delightful treat to walk through the hamlet (which also leads back to the canal) and back again to see the old cottages and farmhouse. Returning to the mill, take the marked footpath alongside it.

Re-opening Brewhurst Mill was also part of the Canal restoration project. It had existed since 1500. The large steel wheel you see outside was in fact the second wheel, added later. The main wheel was an internal overshot wheel (i.e. where the water runs over the top of the wheel).

You cross a bridge over the Mill Pond. Stay on the right-hand side of the small meadow with the river visible over on your left, fringed with poplars and willows. At the end, go up a bank to the canal path and turn **left** back to the car park where the walk began.

Getting there

By car: the *Onslow Arms* is just south of Loxwood on the B2133. If coming from the London area, one route is the A281 from Guildford and fork left at Alfold Crossways. Another route is via Dorking and the A29 / A281, forking left at Bucks Green onto the Loxwood Road.

By bus/train: one option is route 64 from Horsham. Check the timetables.

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