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## Plaistow: *The Sun Inn*

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Distance: 5¾ km=3½ miles

easy walking

Region: West Sussex

Date written: 7-nov-2011

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Refreshments: *The Sun Inn*, Plaistow

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

Problems, changes? *We depend on your feedback: [feedback@fancyfreewalks.org](mailto:feedback@fancyfreewalks.org)*

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*Woods, meadows, village, historic houses*

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### In Brief

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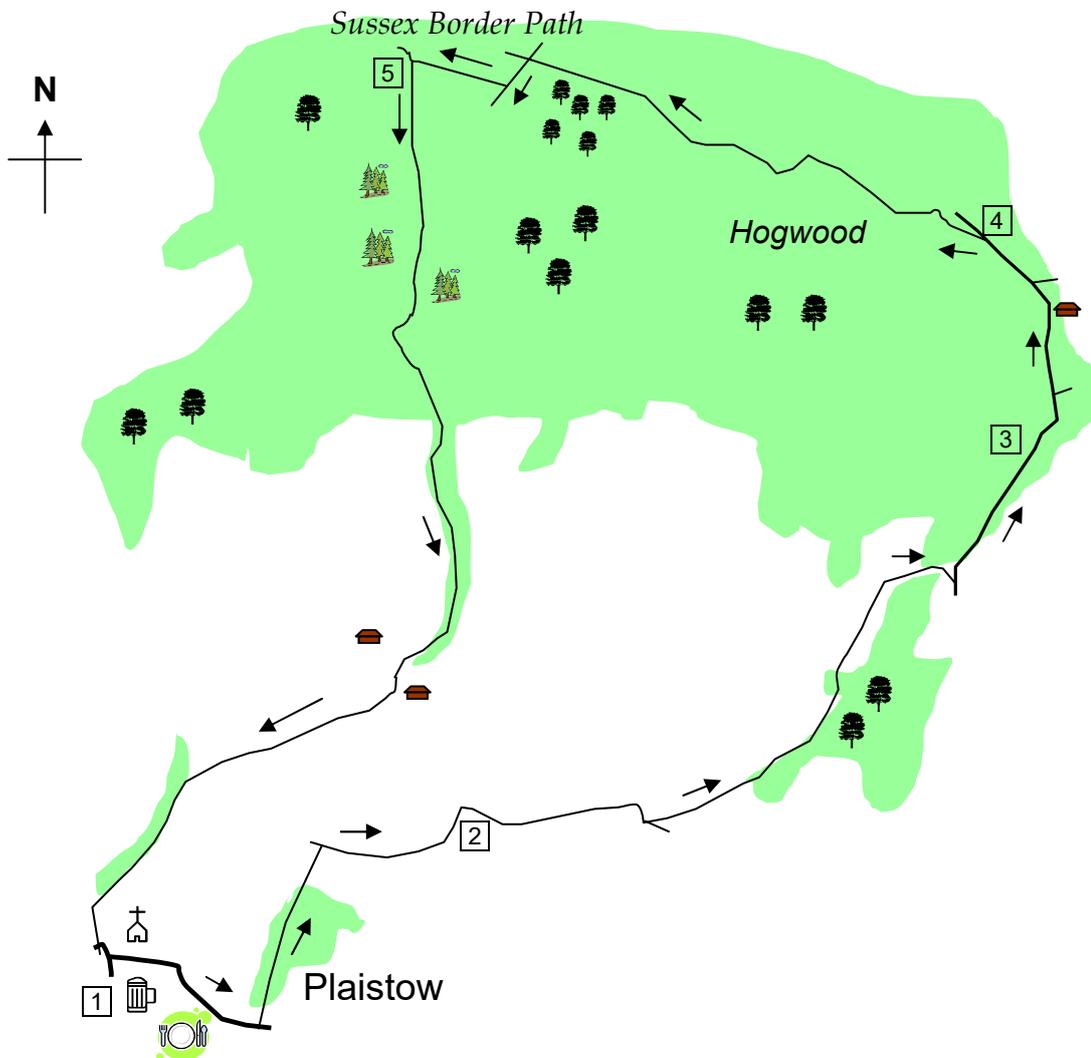
Come in and join the family! Entering the *Sun Inn* is rather like attending a family reunion with uncles and cousins, plus the neighbours from across the street. A warm fire for half the year and at least one real ale – why not become a local drinker for the day!

The *Sun Inn* **does not serve meals** except Friday evenings and is closed in the afternoons. It has a garden on the side for *al fresco* supping. For non-drinkers or untimely arrivals, the *Plaistow Stores*, just down the road, serves soft drinks, ices and light snacks.



The walk takes you over meadows, deep down into an uncharted path in the lovely Hogwood and back passing some historic houses of real character. The route is well marked, although some fingerposts have fallen over. There is some tall undergrowth in summer but very few nettles and the going is easy. However, in winter or after rain you will find some mud in the fields and the woodland, making boots preferable. A stick is useful. Your dog (with a lead) is welcome too but there is one stile (at section 5) that a large dog will have difficulty crossing; three more (intact) stiles are not so challenging.

The walk begins in Plaistow village, **postcode RH14 0PU**. The *Sun Inn* has a small car park but, because this is a 2-hour walk, you should park on the road, e.g. just round the corner in Dunsfold Road. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).



## The Walk

- 1 Go along Loxwood Road between the pub and the church. Immediately after the school, there is a pleasant little diversion round the left-hand side of the pond which rejoins the road. You pass the Plaistow Stores. *The Plaistow Stores sells soft drinks, ices and light snacks, with tables outside on which to enjoy them, making it an alternative to the pub.* Shortly after the next house, *Ducdame*, turn **left** at a fingerpost through a wooden gate onto a footpath. Keep left by a fence and some pedigree pigsties, with a garden on your right, and continue down into woodland. The path goes over a 2-plank bridge with a stile at each end and up into a meadow. Go through the hedge ahead and immediately turn **right** by a 3-way fingerpost (one "finger" broken) along the right-hand side of the next meadow.
- 2 The edge curves left under oaks. Turn **right** in the corner, through a (normally open) large metal gate, and resume your route along the left-hand side of the next pasture. After 200m a yellow markerpost confirms your route. The next stile is just to the **right** of the next corner. Go **left** over the stile and keep **left** by the hedge. As the edge veers away left, keep straight ahead downhill, heading for a tall oak tree. Continue along the right-hand side of the next meadow with a line of trees on your right. In

the far corner, go over a stile and continue along the right-hand side of the next meadow. You have been gradually entering the forest as you see from the dense fringe of trees all around. In the far corner, with a large new mansion on view on your right, go over a stile on a footpath which takes you alongside a new tall fence built around a lovely ornate pond belonging to the mansion. When you reach a track, turn **left**.

- 3 This cinder track curves left. Ignore a footpath right, passing an arm of a long pond. You pass a red pillar box at the entrance to a large chalet-type house. After this, the track bends left again and a footpath joins you on the right (part of the *Chiddingfold-Alfold* walk in this series). In less than 100m, you meet a wooden barrier on your left by a Forestry Commission sign. Fork **left** here and continue on a wide sandy path through the beautiful Hogwood.
- 4 Your path winds between conifers and later through birches and at one point zigzags quite sharply left-right. Always keep to the main path until you pass a plantation of young oaks on your left. As you near the end of the plantation, you will see a marker post on your right indicating the Sussex Border Path (SBP). *The SBP is one of the best long-distance trails in the country, passing through the tranquil land from sea to sea where both Sussexes have a border with each other and with Kent, Surrey and Hampshire.* Turn **left** at the marker post, thus joining the SBP for a while. In 50m, at a post with a yellow arrow, turn **right** on a narrower path through woodland. In 200m, **leave** the path straight ahead by turning off diagonally **left** at another finger-post [[Dec 2021: grounded](#)] onto a rather indistinct path, thus bidding farewell to the SBP.
- 5 Follow this path, taking care to skip round any slippery winter mud, as it runs uphill under pines, getting wider. At a 2-way signpost [[Dec 2021: grounded](#)], veer **right** as directed and, at the next post, follow the finger **left**. Go over a stile beside a metal gate into a meadow and keep ahead along its left-hand side. In the far corner, go over a [[Dec 2021: broken](#)] stile and a 2-plank bridge and up the left-hand side of the next green pasture. *On your right you see the timber-framed Oakhurst, dating at least from the early 1600s, and visibly leaning off the vertical. Soon, on your left is another house of immense character, even older, Plaistow Place, also timber-framed with gables and bays but much restored.* Keep to the cinder track, passing *Plaistow Place* and heading back to the village with the steeple of the Holy Trinity church soon visible. The track goes over a crossing path and finally emerges next to *Old Barkfold* by the church and opposite the *Sun Inn*.

## Getting there

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By car:

from the *east*: Plaistow is signposted off the B2131 just south of Loxwood.

from the *north*: take the A281 from Guildford, fork right at Alfold Crossways onto the B2131 and take the turning as “east” above.

from the *north, west or south*: Plaistow is signposted at the Fisherstreet Crossroads on the A283, south of Chiddingfold.

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