



## Slaugham, Bolney, Warninglid

Distance: 14 km=8¾ miles

or 2 walks of 6 km=3¾ miles and 9 km=5¾ miles

easy walking

Region: West Sussex

Date written: 12-jan-2014

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Refreshments: Bolney, Warninglid, Slaugham

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

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

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*Villages, pubs, green meadows, woodland*

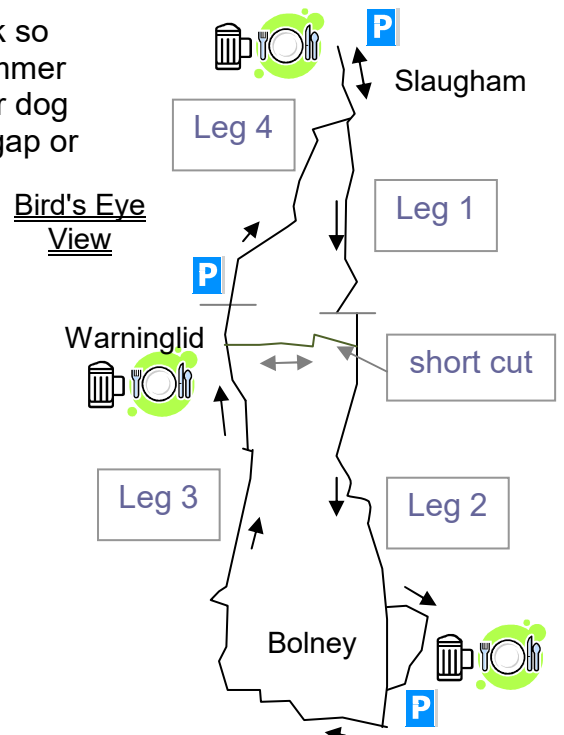
### In Brief

This is a gentle walk between three Sussex villages with two shorter options. This is a Wealden walk so it is best in dry sunny conditions. In winter you will need waterproof footwear. The big green meadows are stunning, so clean and peaceful, and there are no ploughed fields. Considering how close the villages are to the A23 road (and therefore easy to get to), the walk is surprisingly free of traffic noise, so you really can feel you are "away from it all". Three villages have good pubs, the *Bolney Stage* being one of the best in West Sussex and serving food all day (ring 01444-881200 to reserve), postcode RH17 5RL. For the *Half Moon* at Warninglid, ring 01444-461227. For the *Chequers* at Slaugham, ring 01444-400400.



There are a few nettles and brambles on this walk so shorts could be uncomfortable in summer. In summer you should find any sensible shoes are fine. Your dog can come on this walk since all the stiles have a gap or a dog gate.

The **Full Walk** and the **Northern Walk** begin in the village of **Slaugham**, West Sussex, **postcode RH17 6AQ**. There is parking by the green in the village. The **Southern Walk** begins in the village of **Warninglid**, postcode RH17 5TR. You can also begin the other options in Warninglid. You can also start in Bolney at the pub. All villages are clearly signed from the A23 London-Brighton road. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).



## The Walk



*Slaugham (pronounced "Slaffham") is a small village around an attractive green. Nearby is the ruin of Slaugham Place, the former home of Sir Walter Covert, designed by John Thorpe and built by 1579, but pulled down some 200 years later. The Coverts were a fabulously rich family who once boasted that they could walk from Southwark in London to the sea without stepping outside their lands. Horatio Nelson ("I see no ships") lived for a while in Slaugham and his sister Catherine is buried in the church.*

**Decision point.** If you are doing the **Southern Walk** (Warninglid and Bolney only), skip to near the end of this text and begin with the section called **Starting in Warninglid**.

### Leg 1: Slaugham to Southgate Farm 2½ km=1¾ miles

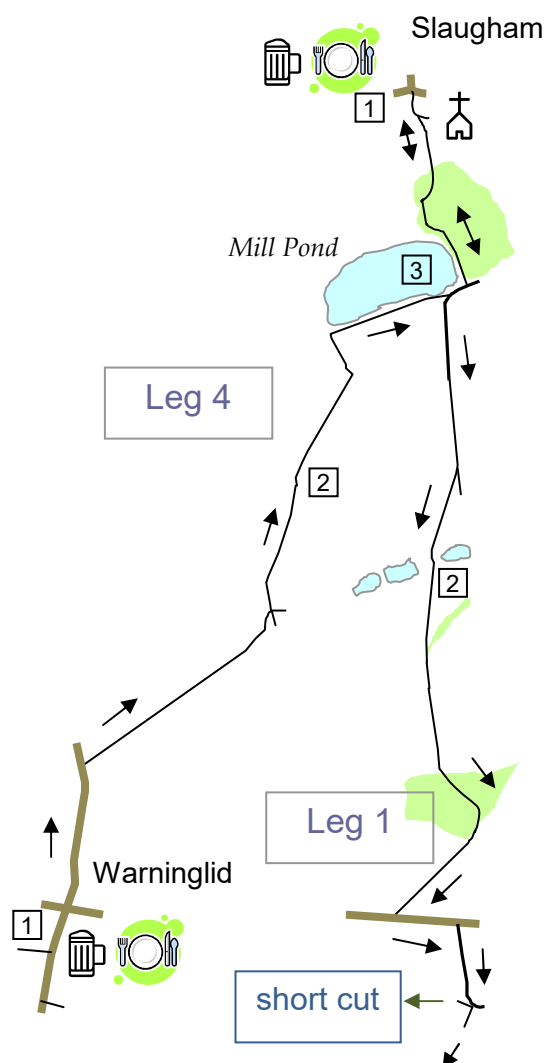
- 1 From the village of Slaugham, cross the main road and go through a lychgate passing St Mary's church on your left.

*The church at Slaugham is originally Norman and the north wall dates from that time. Much of the rest is from the 1200s, such as the tower. The clock set in the north side is Victorian. The right-hand side of the altar is dominated by the Covert Chapel with its large carved monument to Richard Covert and his family.*

**WC**

*This bright church is usually open and has a loo (for a donation?).*

Just before the side entrance there is a 3-way fingerpost. After possibly visiting the church, veer **right** here, away from the church. As a brief diversion, if instead you take the **left** fork at the fingerpost, you will pass some old yews and a small wooden gate leading into Church Covert, a pleasant grassy field with a picnic table and good views of Slaugham Place. You will need to retrace your steps afterwards. Your path runs beside a cemetery on your left, followed by some tree plantations. In the far right corner, keep **right** on a narrow path through trees. This path curves left and takes you over a culvert with a deep millpool on your left (although it dries out in summer). *The mill pond is one of the sources of the River Ouse.* At a T-junction turn **right** on a tarmac track. *(The newer buildings of Slaugham Place, left on the track, are used by the Sussex Police as a training centre.)* Shortly, you pass a 3-way fingerpost by a sign for Slaugham Place Farm. Stay on the tarmac here, avoiding the footpath on your right. As the tarmac ends, keep ahead on a path under an avenue of oaks, then along the left-hand side of a meadow. When you reach the next meadow and an unneeded stile, a fingerpost directs you a fraction right across the grass, ignoring the wide grassy track ahead.



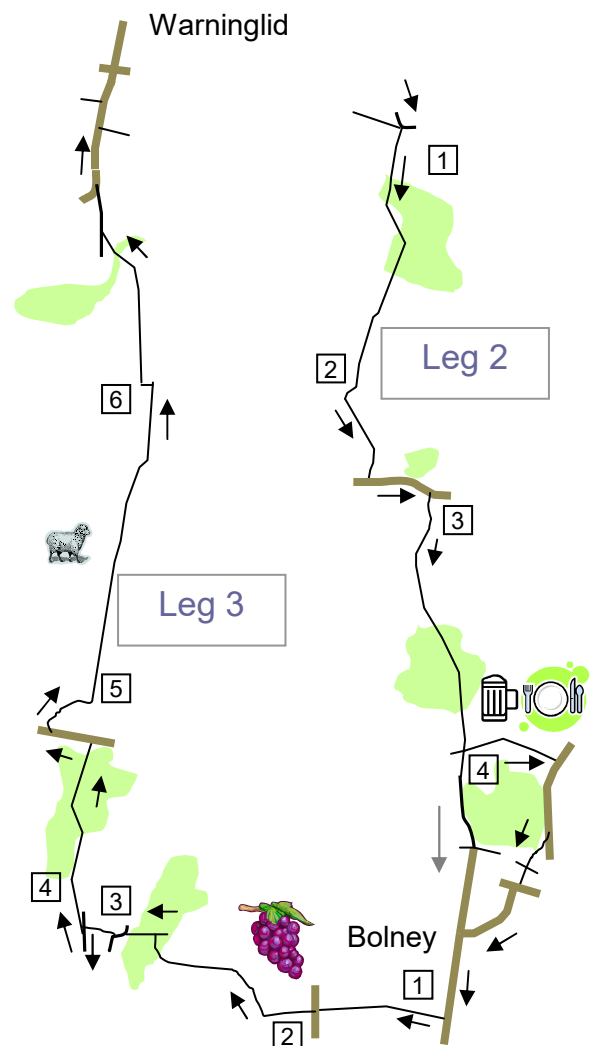
- 2 At the far side, your path takes you between two ponds and straight on, through a metal gate and across the next meadow. [2015: you may need to step over a 2-wire fence placed there by the farmer.] You gradually meet a line of trees on your left. Now follow a faint path directly uphill to woodland. The path goes over a broken stile and a plank bridge up through beechwoods, crossing a ditch. At the far edge of the wood, the path curves right and comes out [2015: by a huge fallen tree blocking the path – bypass it to the right] by a fingerpost and through a metal gate into another large meadow. Keep ahead, veering a fraction right away from the wire fence, heading for a small house with a prominent chimney. At the other side, go over a [2015: broken] stile to a road and turn **left**. In 150m, turn **right** onto a signed footpath, marked as the entrance to Southgate Farm. Go through a small wooden gate beside a cattle grid and keep right on a concrete track past stables. *The old timbered farmhouse and barn are visible on your left.* Shortly you pass a fingerpost on your left with another on the right. Go **right** through a large metal gate.

**Decision point.** If you are doing the **Northern Walk**, missing Bolney, skip to the end of this text and do the section called **Shortcut to Warninglid**.

Continue straight ahead on a wide path between horse pastures, ignoring a small wooden gate on your right.

### Leg 2: Southgate Farm to Bolney 3½ km=2¼ miles

- 1 The path leads you over a stile into woodland. Keep on the main path through rhododendrons until the path comes out into a small meadow and veers left into woodland, where the path veers right again. Your path goes over a flat bridge and begins to follow overhead wires, going gently uphill. It takes you over a 2-plank bridge, through a small wooden gate and a small metal gate, then along the left-hand side of a meadow, still under the wires. A modern kissing-gate near a house with a pond leads you on a narrow path down a bank to a driveway.
- 2 Cross straight over the driveway to go through a small wooden gate. Veer **left** across the grass to a stile in the hedge and maintain the same slanting direction to a stile in the fence, then diagonally to a small wooden gate. A path beside a garden fence takes you down to a drive. Keep ahead beside a pond on your right to meet a tarmac lane, Jeremy's Lane. Turn **left** on the lane passing *Apuldram* and *Pavidia*. In 200m or so, opposite *Daizes Cottage*, turn **right** over a stile, avoiding the private tarmac drive.



- 3 Keep left as you go down into the meadow, passing a copse and pond on your right. *Note that you are on part of the High Weald Landscape Trail, a 140km=90 mile walking route between Horsham and Rye passing through the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.* The path twists down to a stile under trees, crosses a track and continues straight over on a narrow path in the valley. On your right soon is a sloping meadow as your path veers left down over an avoidable stile. It bends right over a (in winter) gurgling stream and follows a course up through woodland. Keep to the main path through the woods, going over a 2-plank bridge. This short section can be rather marshy. *The monstrous Victorian Gothic Revival mansion behind on your right is Wykehurst Park.* As the path reaches its highest point, you meet a 3-way fingerpost, just before another. Turn **left** here.

**However**, if you do **not** wish to visit the *Bolney Stage* pub, you may prefer to continue straight on, ignoring both fingerposts. The path goes under a stone arch and joins a farm track from the right by the first houses of Bolney, past a metal gate and onto a cinder track. It passes some attractive houses such as the timbered *Yew Tree Cottage*. At a tarmac lane keep straight on through the village, later passing a junction with Cherry Lane. Now resume the main walk at **Leg 3**, skipping the next section.

- 4 The path leads between fields and pastures and reaches a quiet slip road of the A23 with the *Bolney Stage* pub on the other side. Your route is immediately **right** on the tarmac footway but first you will wish to take some refreshment.



*If the Bolney Stage looks like an Elizabethan mansion, it's because it is just that. In fact it dates from about 1500 but it wasn't an inn till the 1960s. This road was originally the turnpike and the famous stage coach "The Brighton Comet" would have passed the building, hence the name. Despite the smart façade, the Bolney Stage is not fussy about boots and, according to the old colonials who haunt it, the chef's a good one, as borne out by the impressive menu and good reviews from our walkers. Beers include Arundel, Double Gold, Turners and Horsham.*

Having turned right on the tarmac footway (or, crossing the road back from the pub, this is a left turn), continue for 200m or so till you are opposite a Bolney village name sign. Go **right** here over a narrow stile onto a footpath into woods. The path winds through maples and hollies and goes through an old metal kissing-gate. It now runs between fences, over a residential road and down to a road in the village. Turn **right** and immediately **left** on Cherry Lane. When you reach a T-junction turn **left** on The Street, the main artery of the village.

### Leg 3: Bolney to Warninglid 4¾ km=3 miles

*Bolney is not in the Domesday Book but it is recorded in 1284 as being held by Earl Warenne and the Bishop of Chichester. The name means "Bolla's landing place", possibly referring to the Saxon family's dry spot in a marshy area. The old part of the village and its church are further down the road and worth seeing on another walk. It may interest you to know that you are standing in the most central spot in the old county of Sussex.*

- 1 **For map, see Leg 2.** Pass a side road on your left, some interesting Tudor-style houses (some genuine) and the *Old Bakery*. Almost at the end of some playing fields on your left, turn **right** on a narrow signposted

footpath. The path goes over a 2-plank bridge and runs beside a meadow on your left. Eventually you come to a lane opposite the entrance to Bolney's Wine Estate.

*Rodney Pratt was a city worker with a passion for wine. In 1972 he and his wife Janet bought a farm here to realise his dream of starting a vineyard. Back then English vineyards were almost unknown. Long years of effort with 3 acres of vines paid off and the Bolney Wine Estate has flourished since then, winning awards and expanding to 22 acres. Four of their vintages can be bought in Waitrose. Several tasting tours are available. The shop is open Mon-Sat and there is a comfortable café open Tue-Sat.*



- 2 Cross the lane and take a track just to the left of the entrance to the Wine Estate, soon running between vineyards. As you pass the back of the winery's café on your right, at a 3-way fingerpost, fork **right** across the grass with the café on your right. Go through a large metal gate and turn **left** in front of a big modern barn. Keep ahead on a wide grassy strip beside the vines on your right. At the far corner of the vines, keep straight ahead over a flimsy stile into woodland. The path bends immediately right and runs through the woods to a fingerpost at a T-junction. Turn **left**, going over a footbridge.
- 3 Your path joins a track coming from a horse exercise area on your right. Immediately, where the track bends left, keep straight ahead over a stile on a path between fences. On your left is Old Mill House Farm with its duck pond. Another stile takes you to a T-junction with a wide track. You now need to turn right on a footpath that runs parallel to the track. To do this, turn **left** on the track for 10m and turn **right** and right again, doubling back, on a sunken footpath running between banks.
- 4 Soon you have steep woodland on your left and an orchard on your right, as you go beneath hollies on a nice wide level path, lined with tree branches. The path goes over a culvert pipe, through a modern kissing gate and up the right-hand side of a meadow with tall trees to another kissing gate and a lane. Turn **left** on the lane in front of the greystone *Colwood Park*. In 150m turn **right** on a signed bridleway, a tarmac drive. Follow the drive as it curves right and keep on uphill past more houses. Ignore a concrete drive that forks left into a farmyard, staying on the signposted footpath. 20m further on, fork **left** in front of a wooden gate and take a narrow path uphill between hedges. *Note the warning sign 'dog will bark' (an empty threat). More noisy is the cockerel in luxurious chicken accommodation in a garden to the left.*
- 5 Your path runs between meadows, now with good open views, taking you through a small metal gate before it continues uphill beside a wire fence on your left. You are now walking along a path through a landscape of large sheep pastures. *It is worth pausing when you reach the top to look back at the distant view of the South Downs.* At the top, before a modern farm building, go through a (probably open) wooden gate and turn **left** on the grass. Keep ahead through another wooden gate beside sheep dips. At the corner, turn **right** and keep right along a tarmac drive beside the farm building, gently uphill.
- 6 In 100m or so, avoid a junction on the right and keep ahead, still on the tarmac drive, going through a wooden gate, small or large, now downhill. At the bottom, the drive becomes rough gravel as it goes over a stream in a belt of trees and joins a drive coming from the house *Routwood* on your left. Continue uphill to meet a road at a bend by *Rifleman's Cottage*. Keep

straight ahead up the road, passing a house which in bygone days was the Rifleman Inn. As the gradient eases you reach the prim village of Warninglid. On your left is the arched sandstone bridge leading to the private Lyndhurst Estate. The *Half Moon* pub is at the crossroads. If you began the walk here, this makes a fitting end to the adventure.

*The name "Warninglid" is Anglosaxon, possibly arising from the word "lád" meaning "a course or way" preceded by the tribal derivative of the name "Werna" or "Warna", in other words, "the way to the settlement of Werna's people". Since it has no church, perhaps the village should be considered as just a large hamlet. But the presence of a good pub raises its status. The "Half Moon" is a well-restored 18<sup>th</sup>-century freehouse with a vaulted timbered bar that keeps its rustic flavour with broad wooden tables and an open fire in winter. Head chef Mike Finlay has devised a lunch menu to please everyone, including a series of gourmet burgers including the whopping Full Moon Burger. At least three local brews are pulled. The pub is open Sat all day, Sun till 5, closed weekday afternoons.*



#### Leg 4: Warninglid to Slaugham 2¾ km=1¾ miles

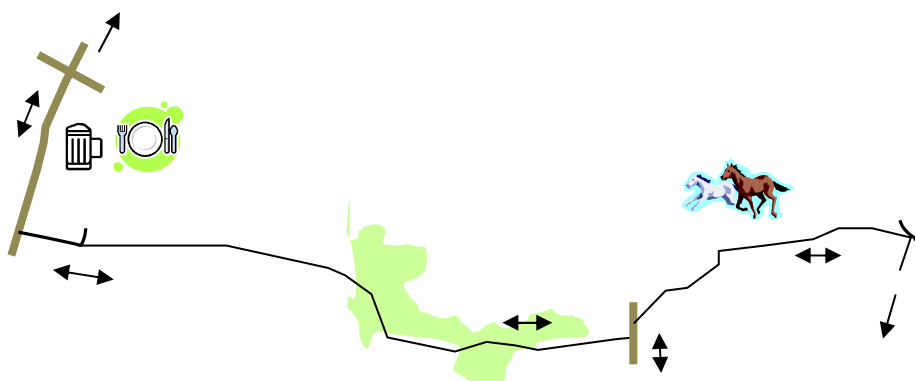
- 1 **For map, see Leg 1.** From the crossroads in Warninglid, take the road downhill, Slaugham Lane, signposted *Slaugham, Handcross*. In 200m you have a pavement on the right. In another 100m or so, look for a swing-gate and a new fingerpost on your **right**. Go through this gate (rather a squeeze if you have a backpack) and straight across this large meadow, slightly left, on a faint path, passing to the right of an electricity pole. You gradually meet a stream ditch from your left and your path leads between gate posts. It then goes over a bridge and rises to the corner of a fence. Veer **left** here, as indicated by a fingerpost, by a redundant stile. Your path follows a fence on your right and shortly runs between two fences. You soon reach the barns of Old Park Farm and your path runs between them.
- 2 An unneeded stile takes you into another large meadow. Keep straight ahead, aiming for the far right-hand corner. In the corner you meet a stile-bridge-stile combination, all fenced off and easily skirted through a gap. Now veer **left** along the edge of the pasture, cutting the corner. An avoidable stile takes you to the banks of the Mill Pond of Slaugham Manor. Turn **right** along the edge of the pond, ignoring a stile on your right as you pass a boathouse. You reach a 3-way fingerpost near the buildings of Slaugham Place, which will be familiar if you began the walk in Slaugham. Veer **left** on the wide driveway.
- 3 In 50m, at a fingerpost, turn **left** on a footpath beneath the edge of the pond. Your path goes over a culvert with a cavernous discharge pond on your right. It curves right through trees and leads out into an area of tree plantations. Keep **left** along the edge of the plantations, soon walking beside a cemetery and past Slaugham church, out into the centre of the village where the walk began.



*For final refreshments, the Chequers Inn at Slaugham (re-opened April 2017 with a new landlord) is also a B&B with nordic-style rooms if you fancy a stopover. At the original ime of writing, the menu was distinctive and featured a "sharing board" of smoked game and gourmet burgers. This pub is (was?) one of the few to serve Laines Brighton ales. It will be open for food from June 2017. See their Facebook page (thechequersinnslaugham).*

### Starting in Warninglid 1¼ km=0.8 miles

From the crossroads with the *Half Moon* pub on your left, walk along the main village street for 250m till, just after a double cottage, turn **left** on a signposted gravel drive and keep ahead, as for *Herrings Barn*. Where the drive bends left after 50m, keep straight on along a narrow path, over a stile, first beside allotments, then beside a meadow on your left. In the far corner go over a stile on a path between fences in a wood. Go through a very old kissing-gate into a large field, with sudden views right, and go down the left-hand edge and up to another old kissing-gate. A section of holly and rhododendrons leads to a broken kissing-gate into another large field. Keep to the left-hand edge to emerge onto a lane opposite a modern architect-designed house. Turn **left** on the lane for just 10m and then **right** over a 2-plank bridge on a (possibly unsigned) footpath into a rather rough field. Your path crosses the field diagonally to the opposite corner and turns right over a 2-plank bridge and through two small wooden gates. The path runs along the right-hand side of horse pastures, going through two more wooden gates. One further wooden gate leads to a T-junction with a large metal gate on your left. Turn **right** here on a wide grassy path running between horse pastures. You have joined the main walk: continue now from **Leg 2**.



### Shortcut to Warninglid 1¼ km=0.8 miles

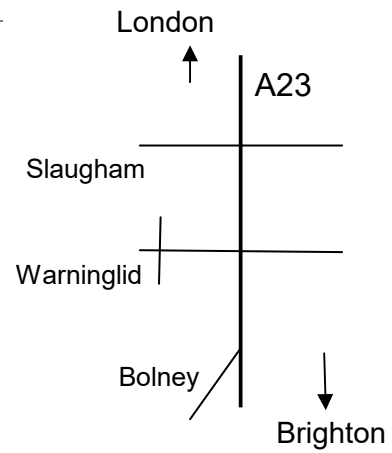
Turn **right** through a small wooden gate on a path that runs alongside horse pastures on your right. The path takes you through two more small wooden gates, then two close together, going over a 2-plank bridge. Turn **left** into a rather rough field and cross it diagonally, finally going over a 2-plank bridge to a lane next to a modern architect-designed house. Turn **left** on the lane and, in 10m, **right** on a signposted footpath. Follow the path up the right-hand side of the field, over a broken kissing-gate into a woodland strip of holly and rhododendrons, then out via an old kissing-gate into another field with good views left. Keep to the right-hand side to go through another very old kissing-gate, through more woodland and over a stile, out into a field - this time on your right. Continue ahead with the field, then some allotments on your right. A stile takes you onto a driveway which comes out into the road in Warninglid. Turn **right** on the road, passing cottages and soon reaching the crossroads and the *Half Moon* pub. You have joined the main walk: resume it now at **Leg 4**.

## Getting there

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By car: Slaugham, Warninglid and Bolney are all signposted from the A23 London-Brighton Road.

By bus/train: Compass bus 89 runs from Horsham station to Warninglid and Bolney. Check the timetables.



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