



Plaistow: *The Sun Inn*

Distance: 5¾ km=3½ miles

easy walking

Region: West Sussex

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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*

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Woods, meadows, village, historic houses

In Brief

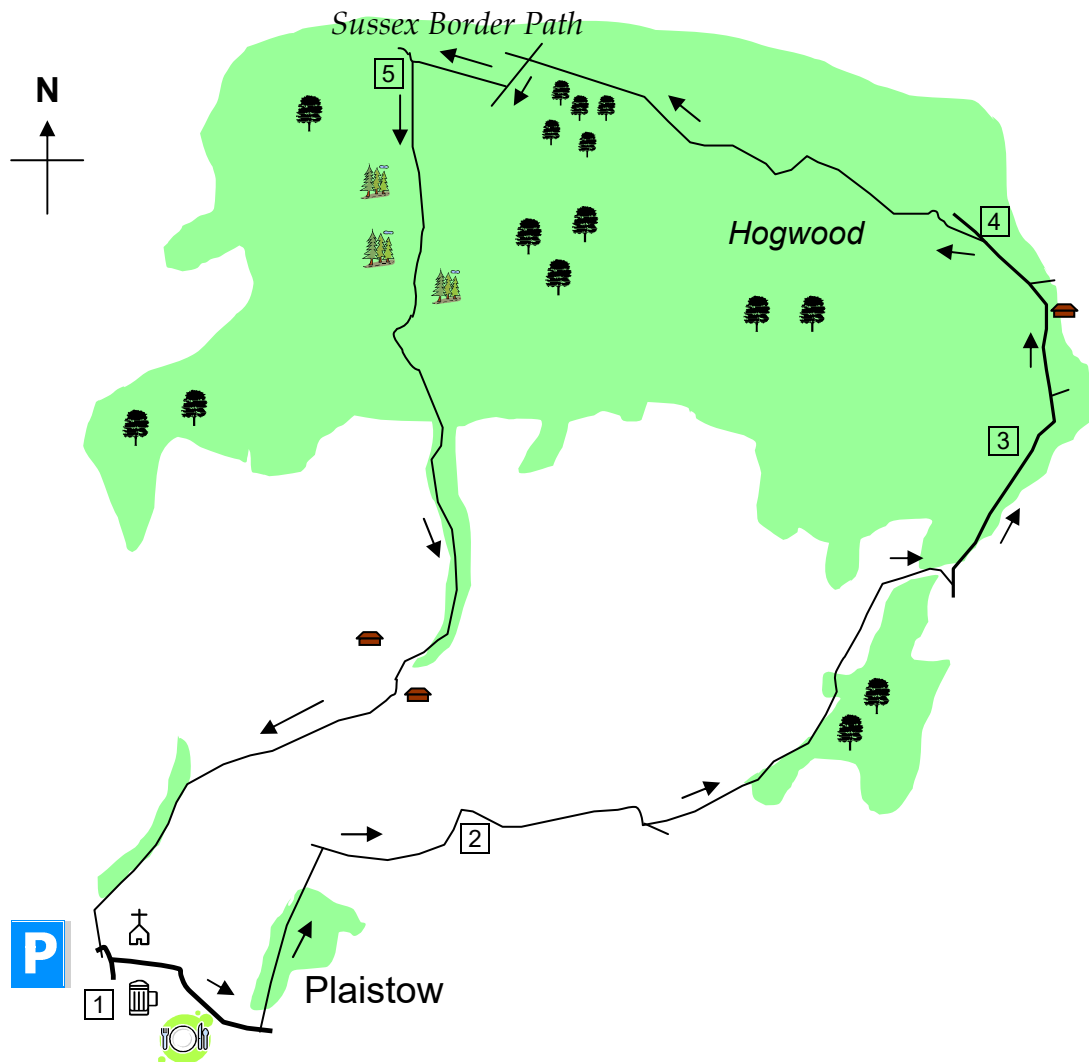
Come in and join the family! Entering the *Sun Inn* is rather like attending a family reunion with uncles and cousins, plus the neighbours from across the street. A warm fire for half the year and at least one real ale – why not become a local drinker for the day!

According to their notice, the *Sun Inn* serves lunchtime bar food on Tue & Fri and the restaurant is open Thur, Fri and Sat evenings: presumably they do not serve lunch on Thur and Sat. The pub 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, West Sussex, 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 where there is a long parking strip (www.w3w.co/rolled.revamped.novel). 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. Continue straight ahead, with a garden on your right, and down into woodland. The path goes over a stile, then a 2-plank bridge, then another stile and then up into a meadow. Go through the hedge ahead and immediately turn **right** by a 3-way fingerpost 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, a fingerpost directs you 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, stepping over a low metal barrier, and continue on a wide sandy path through the beautiful Hogwood.
- 4 Your path winds between conifers and later through birches. Always keep to the main path (making sure to avoid a turning on your right that is actually wider than your path). Soon after this turning you pass a plantation of young oaks on your left. Around 50m after the plantation you will see a new marker post on your right. Turn **left** at the marker post, thus joining the Sussex Border Path (SBP) for a while. *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.* In 50m, at a new marker post with a yellow arrow, turn **right** on a narrower path through woodland. In 200m you reach a T-Junction by a large marker post. Turn **left** here, thus leaving the SBP.
- 5 Follow this path as it crosses a forestry track, taking care to skip round any slippery winter mud. Your path runs uphill under pines, getting wider. At a new 2-way signpost, 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 - Jan 2025: still broken] stile and a 2-plank bridge [Jan 2025: care! one plank broken], then 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, Plaistow Place, even older, also timber-framed with gables and bays but much restored.* Go through a large wooden gate and turn left. 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*, where the walk began.

Getting there

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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