

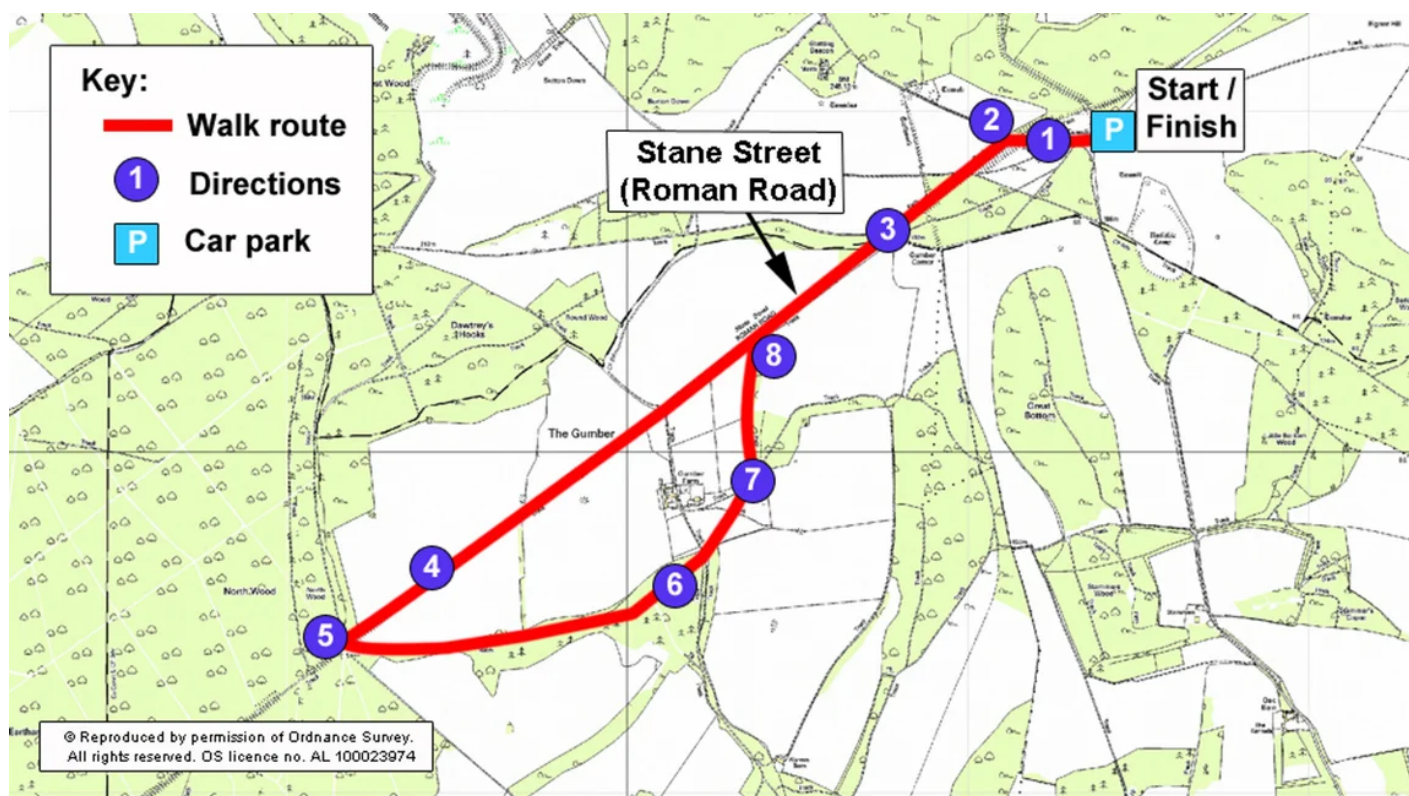
SUSSEX

A Roman ramble to Gumber Farm

This circular trail encompasses a Roman road that stretches across open downland, a chalky woodland ride known locally as Leper's Path, as well as Iron Age lynchets across a small pasture. Finally, you'll wander through a spur of mature woodland back to the Roman road.

! Ignore the pink arrows

From the start of this route, you'll see some pink arrows. These will take you on a different walking route, shown on the noticeboard at the car park. For the Roman ramble, please follow the instructions on this page.



Information

Address: Slindon Estate, West Sussex BN18 0QY

OS map: Explorer 121, Landranger 197

Activity: Walking

Moderate: The terrain along this route is fairly easy, but there are some obstacles. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs are welcome but please keep them under close control as animals graze in the surrounding fields. There are no dog bins along the route, so please take litter home with you.

Full trail: Miles: 3.75 (km: 6)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 2 hours

Terrain

This trail is made up of footpaths and bridleways through the Slindon Estate. It is largely downhill for the first half and uphill for the second half. Please note that there are several stiles to negotiate, plus roots across some of the paths.

Total steps: 8

Start point: Bignor Hill car park. Grid ref: SU973129.

1. From Bignor Hill car park, head towards the two radio masts, passing the signpost to 'Noviomagus'.
2. In around 275yd (250m), you'll see a gravel path cut through a raised grassy bank. Bear round to the left onto the brideway that runs along this bank – the 'agger' of this marvellously surviving Roman road.
3. In around 550yd (500m), a lane crosses the way, over which Stane Street continues through a stile (and dog-stile). In summer, mature ash and beech trees cast welcome shade over the bench and grassy banks here, making for a great picnic spot.
4. As you walk along Stane Street towards Eartham Woods, you'll notice that branches from the ancient trees hang over it, throwing the path into shade.
5. After walking along Stane Street for about a mile (1.6km), you'll reach a clearing at the 'Six-Ways' signpost (eight ways actually meet here now). Locally, this spot is known as Shippams Poste, after the famous local family that donated it. Take the left fork of the track nearest to Stane Street.
6. Leper's Path runs pale and chalky between tall beeches and other trees. Where the way forks, go left.
7. After a short stretch through some conifers, the way meets a flint-surfaced lane. Turn left here, through the gate, then walk diagonally to your right, crossing the field at

Gumber with its Iron Age lynchets (terrace-like remnants of ancient agriculture). Near the far corner of the field, at the foot of two mature trees, is a stile.

8. Over the stile, the narrow path winds through mature trees and wild flowers – beautiful in the spring and early summer. When you arrive at another stile, turn right to rejoin Stane Street. Take it easy and enjoy the views on the way back up to Bignor Hill.

End point: Bignor Hill car park. Grid ref: SU973129.
