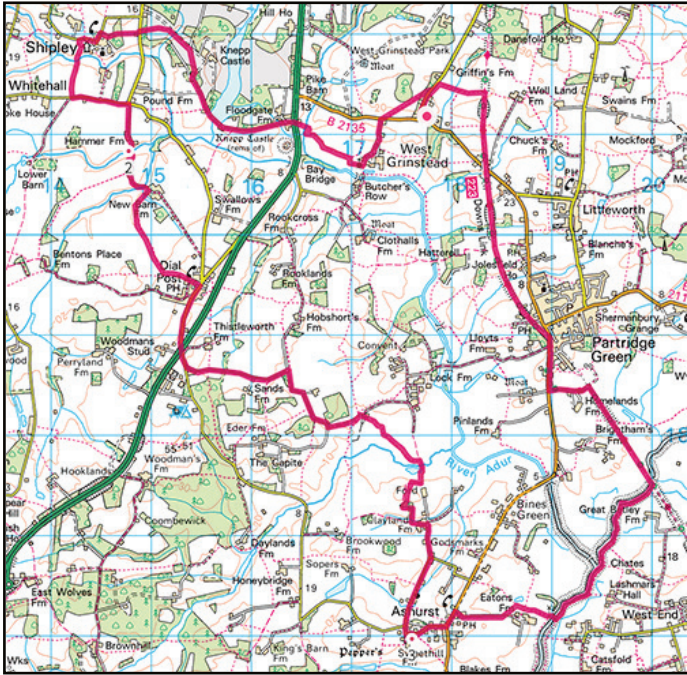


SELF-GUIDED WALK

Hilaire Belloc Loop

A 15 mile circular walk over gentle terrain, visiting locations associated with writer Hilaire Belloc



It starts at the graveside of Belloc in the churchyard behind the RC Shrine Church of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead (not to be confused with the nearby CofE St George's).



After 1.3 miles the busy A24 dual carriageway has to be crossed with great care.

However, this challenge is rewarded by walking through Knepp Park, the scene of an internationally famous 'rewilding' experiment. Don't worry about the longhorn cattle, which are quite passive and used to walkers.

The striking Shipley Windmill (owned by Belloc for almost 50 years) is reached after a total of 3 miles. Less than a mile on is a good place for a mid-morning coffee stop, at the eastern end of Hammer Pond (indicated on map), where birdlife is often visible on and around the water. 5 miles into the walk the A24 has to be re-crossed, again with care. After a long morning (10 miles) the walker will be ready to stop for lunch in Ashurst (indicated on map).

The Fountain Inn features in *The Four Men*, Belloc's pilgrimage across Sussex: 'The Fountain of Ashurst runs, with God's grace, with better stuff than water.' And the ideal Bellocian choice is bread, cheese and pickles, washed down by Sussex beer. The afternoon is much shorter (5 miles), and involves walking along the River Adur, and then taking the Downs Link almost all the way back to West Grinstead.

Parking is either on the roadside of Park Lane, or in the car park of the church of Our Lady of Consolation. In both cases same post code (RH13 8LT) and OS map ref (OL34 / TQ177212). Permission needs to be obtained before the church CP is used – contact details via website: www.consolation.org.uk/

You can read more about Hilaire Belloc and the Fountain Inn at the following:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilaire_Belloc

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fountain_Inn,_Ashurst