

CUT OUT  
& KEEP

Hammer Wood Pond

# The land time forgot

Discover relics of iron age and Roman civilisation at the sandy, western end of the Weald between Fyning and Trotton and delight in the area's unique charm and hidden history

WORDS AND PHOTOS: Malinka van der Gaauw, walks leader, Friends of The South Downs

**F**lanked in spring by banks of daffodils looking onto fields of polo ponies, vacationing from their summer job at nearby Cowdray, Cumber's Lane provides a scenic introduction to this countryside walk.



The sand underfoot is just as loved by asparagus and vines as walkers, with the fields across to Chithurst a hive of activity from mid-April as the spears are harvested for local farm shops and beyond. Later in the walk, the vines of the Trotton Estate can be spied through the hedge as you circle around to the top of Cumber's Lane. Come back in summer as their award-winning wines exemplify the phrase 'small is beautiful'.

There is good reason the Buddhist masters chose the heavily wooded area around Chithurst for their monastery.



Keep Karma and Carry On in Cumber's Lane

## 'Small is beautiful'

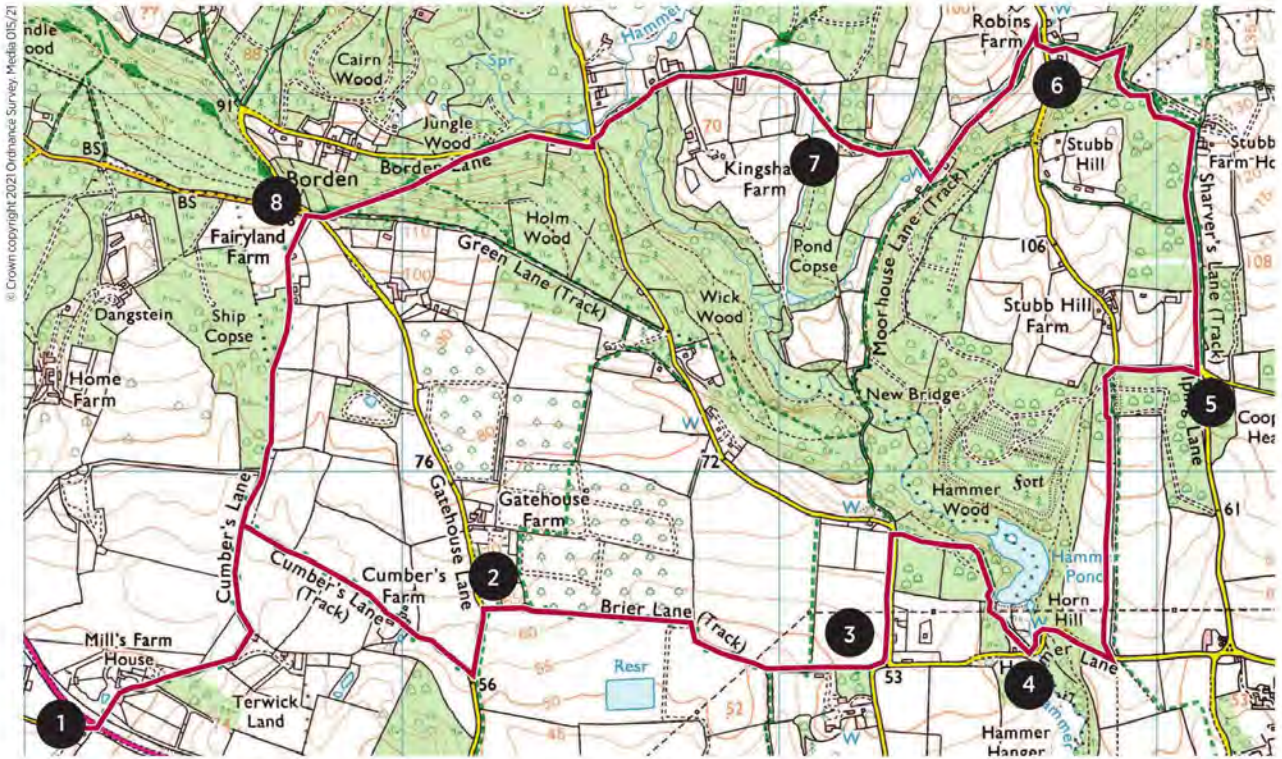
The tranquil oasis is like the land time forgot. Yet look below the spring canopy and you will find relics of Iron Age and Roman civilisation as well as an industrial age incongruous with this unspoilt area. As their name suggests, Hammer Wood pond and stream were at the centre of the Wealden iron industry back in Tudor and Stuart times.

### Brought to you by Friends of The South Downs

Membership starts from £2.50 per month and grants access to a comprehensive programme of guided walks and strolls. Non-members can take part in taster sessions. 01798 875073 (Monday to Wednesday 9am to 1pm). [friendsofthesouthdowns.org.uk](http://friendsofthesouthdowns.org.uk)







## COMPASS POINTS

**Location:** Between Rogate and Milland, West Sussex.

**Distance:** 6.6 miles (11km).

**Terrain:** Mostly flat and gently undulating. One climb up to Borden Wood and one stile.

**Ascent:** 853ft.

**Grid reference:** SU 821233.

**What3Words:** ///nurtures. badminton.hurray

**Sat nav:** GU31 5EQ.

**Where to park:** The left-hand verge of quiet road to

St Peter's Church, Terwick, just off A272.

**Map:** OS Explorer OL33, Haslemere & Petersfield.

**Dog-friendly:** Yes.

## THE WALK

**1** From the road-side parking, cross the A272 and walk along Cumber's Lane for ¼ mile before turning right on a track past Cumber's Farm. At the road turn left for a short distance before taking a path on the right labelled 'Brier Lane' on the map.

**2** Follow the path along the edge of several fields, noting that it zig-zags right and then left just before an open field with a pylon in it. The Buddhist monastery can be glimpsed through the trees on the right just before you emerge onto a road.

**3** Follow the road as it bends left. Around 300m later when it bends left again, take a right into woodland by a five-bar gate. Follow the marked footpath as it winds its way down past Hammer Pond, ignoring an unmarked path to the left which drops down to the pond.

**4** Turn left at the road to cross the stream and climb up Horn Hill along a sunken lane. At the top, take the wide track on your left which crosses an open field and goes under power lines. Continue through woodland before reaching a lane, where you turn right to reach a junction at the bottom of the hill.

**5** At the junction take the marked path on the left. Continue all the way to Stubbs Farm House, before turning left onto a path, first across an open field and then through a gate into woodland. This path leads down to Robin's Farm.

**6** Turn right at the road for 20m before turning sharp left onto Moorhouse Lane. Continue until you reach a finger post shortly after a cottage on the left. Turn right past a pond and as you climb the hill follow the path

to the left through woodland and over a stile into a field.

**7** Cross the field diagonally to the right, picking up a path that connects to a section of the Serpent Trail. Cross a road and continue along Borden Lane opposite for 350m, where the trail leaves the lane to the left and rises diagonally up through woods to reach a road junction at Borden Wood.

**8** Take the path to the left of the signpost. This is the other end of Cumber's Lane which leads all the way back down to the A272 and your car. ♦

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