



# CENTURION WAY

## History

The Chichester to Midhurst Railway was opened in 1881 to improve access to London. The line included 3 tunnels and 8 stations the most notable being Singleton due to its proximity to Goodwood Racecourse. The railway's decline started with the withdrawal of passenger services in 1935 and the line north of Lavant was closed completely in 1957. The section between Lavant and Chichester was used for the transportation of sugar beet and gravel. However this ceased in 1991 and the tracks were removed in 1993.

## Development of the cycle/pedestrian path

In 1994 the County Council purchased the disused line south of Hunters Race Lane (access point 5) and commissioned a feasibility study by Sustrans. Funding for the project also came from English Partnerships Chichester District Council (who donated their section of track bed north of Hunters Race Lane) and Tarmac Quarry Products Limited (who provided additional land to enhance the scheme and gravel from their Lavant Pit as a base for the path).

The name Centurion Way was suggested by a local schoolboy and is based on the fact that the path crosses the course of a Roman road. Sculptures relating to aspects of local history were provided as points of interest in association with the South East Arts Board.

This initial section of Centurion Way south of Lavant was opened in September 1995.

In October 2000 Sustrans completed a second study into the path investigating a possible extension northwards to connect with West Dean Singleton and the South Downs Way. This time this study was carried out in conjunction with Sussex Downs Conservation Board as well as the County and District Councils.

The section between Binderton (access point 9) and West Dean (access point 10) was completed in 2001 and provided a route alongside the A286 Chichester to Midhurst road. Work started on the remaining section between Lavant and Binderton in April 2002 and was finished in October of that year.

At its northern end the completed path leads into a network of quiet roads and bridleways leading on towards the South Downs Way. At its southern end the path joins the South Coast Cycle Route in Chichester (Route 2 of the National Cycle Network).

### The aims of the path are:

- To promote cycling and walking as healthy and environmentally friendly forms of transport
- To provide an alternative 'traffic-free' route between Chichester and the Downland villages for commuting and leisure purposes
- To provide an excellent training ground for young or inexperienced cyclists.

For more information about this route and other cycle paths in West Sussex please contact:

West Sussex County Council  
**Environment and Development**  
Chichester West Sussex  
PO19 1RH  
Telephone: 01243 777610  
[www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)

For information regarding the National Cycle Network and other similar paths nationwide please contact:

**Sustrans**  
35 King Street Bristol BS1 4DZ  
Telephone: 0117 926 8893  
[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

*Sustrans - the sustainable transport charity - works on practical projects to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport in order to reduce motor traffic and its adverse effects. Sustrans' flagship project is the National Cycle Network, creating 10,000 miles of routes throughout the UK.*

This scheme complies with the County Council's initiative to increase awareness of the problems arising from motor traffic and to promote other modes of transport such as walking cycling public transport or car sharing.

## TRAVELWISE®

If you would like a copy of this publication in another format (audio Braille large print another language) please contact the Communications Officer Environment and Development West Sussex County Council The Grange Tower Street Chichester West Sussex PO19 1RH. Telephone 01243 777544 or email [Env.dev@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Env.dev@westsussex.gov.uk)

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Mark Hammond Director for Environment and Development  
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# Centurion Way Railway Path

## A route for cyclists and pedestrians between Chichester and West Dean





# CENTURION WAY Chichester - West Dean



### Key

- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Public Footpath
- Bridleway
- Railway
- Centurion Way
- South Coast Cycle Route
- Other Cycleways
- Course of Roman Road
- Access Point
- Sculptures

### Codes of Conduct for Users

**General**

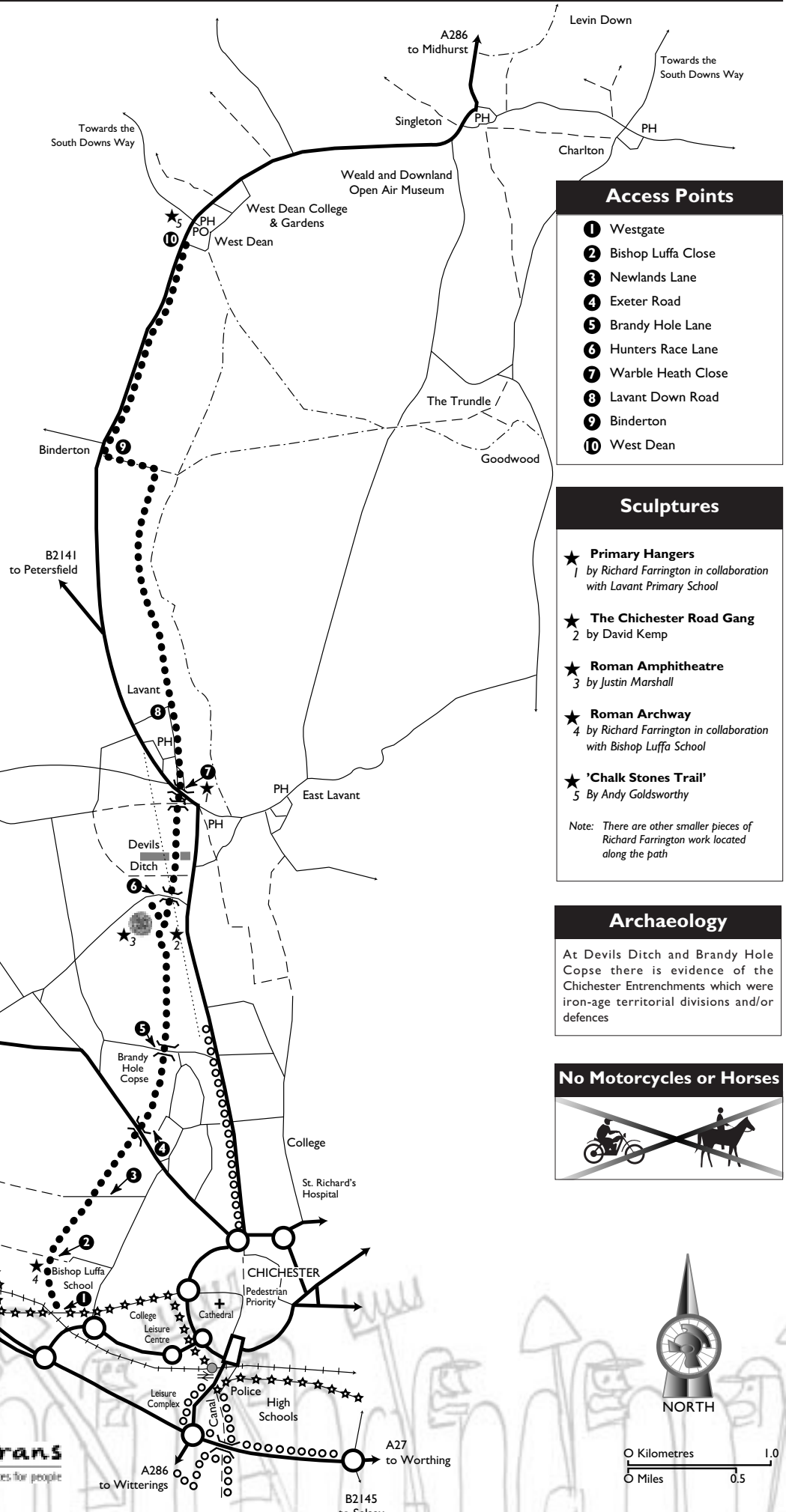
- Please do not drop litter

**Cyclists**

- Give way to walkers and equestrians
- Always sound your bell or call out when approaching walkers
- Always leave ample room when passing other users
- Slow down at bends
- Cycle carefully and responsibly
- Don't cycle on public footpaths

**Walkers**

- Please do not obstruct cyclists
- Please keep dogs under control
- Please clear up all dog mess



### Access Points

- 1 Westgate
- 2 Bishop Luffa Close
- 3 Newlands Lane
- 4 Exeter Road
- 5 Brandy Hole Lane
- 6 Hunters Race Lane
- 7 Warble Heath Close
- 8 Lavant Down Road
- 9 Binderton
- 10 West Dean

### Sculptures

- ★ **Primary Hangers**  
1 by Richard Farrington in collaboration with Lavant Primary School
- ★ **The Chichester Road Gang**  
2 by David Kemp
- ★ **Roman Amphitheatre**  
3 by Justin Marshall
- ★ **Roman Archway**  
4 by Richard Farrington in collaboration with Bishop Luffa School
- ★ **'Chalk Stones Trail'**  
5 By Andy Goldsworthy

Note: There are other smaller pieces of Richard Farrington work located along the path

### Archaeology

At Devils Ditch and Brandy Hole Copse there is evidence of the Chichester Entrenchments which were iron-age territorial divisions and/or defences

### No Motorcycles or Horses

