

Downs Link - Stage 6

Grid Ref: TQ 185 105 to TQ 208 060

Bramber – Botolphs – Shoreham-by-Sea 6.6km (4.1 miles)

Follow the trail south along the **River Adur valley** as it cuts through the South Downs. You will be greeted by the smell of the sea. Take care crossing the busy A283.

In Saxon times the estuary was navigable as far as Steyning, where there was a busy port and ship building industry. During the 14th Century the river began to silt up, the port moved south to Botolphs and then Shoreham. The church at Botolphs shows Saxon work and is worth a visit.

The trains crossed the Adur at **Coombes**. The railway company had to display a light at night on the bridge for ships. The penalty for not doing so was £10 per night! This section of the railway was used by the cement works to carry freight to Shoreham and was not closed until 1981.

Lancing College Chapel dominates the landscape to the west. The college was founded in 1848 by the Revd Nathaniel Woodard. In 1978 the Rose Window was installed in the chapel. It spans 9.75m with 30,000 pieces of stained glass. The land to the south, once salt marsh, is now the site of **Shoreham Airport**.

Botolphs is the meeting point of the South Downs Way and the Downs Link. Cross the bridge to complete the journey to Shoreham.

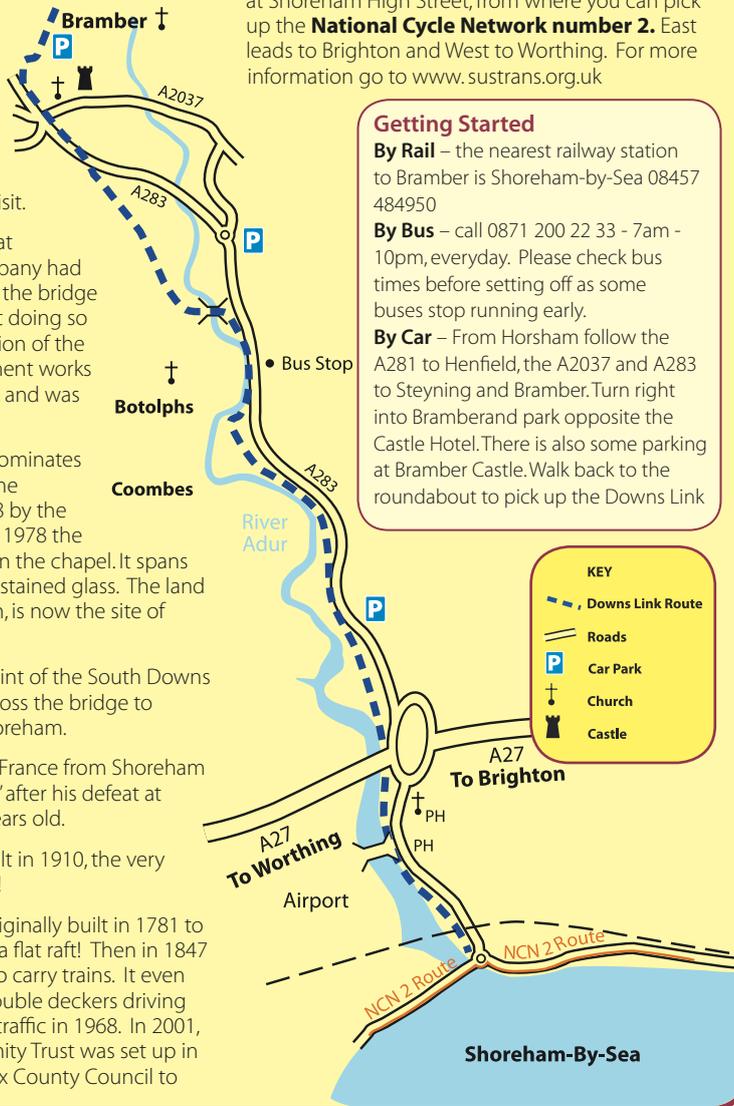
King Charles II escaped to France from Shoreham in 1642 aboard the "Surprise" after his defeat at Worcester. He was just 21 years old.

Shoreham Airport was built in 1910, the very first civil airport in the world!

The Old Toll Bridge was originally built in 1781 to replace the ferry, which was a flat raft! Then in 1847 a new toll bridge was built to carry trains. It even became the A27 and had double deckers driving across until it was closed to traffic in 1968. In 2001, The Old Shoreham Community Trust was set up in partnership with West Sussex County Council to

help raise money to renovate the bridge. It was officially re-opened on 23rd October 2008 by the Duke of York.

Carry on past the toll bridge until you reach the end of the Downs Link, which also brings you out at Shoreham High Street, from where you can pick up the **National Cycle Network number 2**. East leads to Brighton and West to Worthing. For more information go to www.sustrans.org.uk



Getting Started

By Rail – the nearest railway station to Bramber is Shoreham-by-Sea 08457 484950

By Bus – call 0871 200 22 33 - 7am - 10pm, everyday. Please check bus times before setting off as some buses stop running early.

By Car – From Horsham follow the A281 to Henfield, the A2037 and A283 to Steyning and Bramber. Turn right into Bramber and park opposite the Castle Hotel. There is also some parking at Bramber Castle. Walk back to the roundabout to pick up the Downs Link