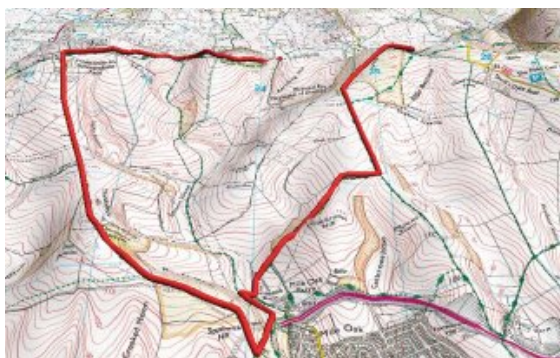


# Fulking - Southwick

## Fulking



The Gorse Fox had another walk planned, and calling yong James, agreed to share the South Downs for the afternoon.

The planned walk started at the village of Fulking (strangely, by the pub). It isn't shown on the map, here. It is deep in the lee of the Downs at the top right of the route... 500ft below the where the red line appears.

The route starts with the steep climb then circled clockwise past Adder Bottom, Cockroost Hill, Mile Oak Barn, and up over the Southwick Tunnel. Then turning back it heads back along Thunderbarrow Hill to Truliegh Hill, Edburton Hill and back down the north edge of the Downs to the car. 🇬🇧

posted by The Gorse Fox at [12:07 PM](#)

## Fulking Hill



Having picked James up at home, he and the Gorse Fox headed to Fulking where we found a parking spot and toggged up for the walk. It was warm, but overcast. A stiff breeze blew from the Channel. Rain showers were forecast, but rain gear was packed away in the rucksacks for now.

We stared up at the hill. Starting with such a steep climb seemed like a good idea when GF planned the route. But looking up at it now it didn't seem so smart.

The climb started by the pub, and we had had to stop several times on the way up. The village nestled at the bottom, and the Sussex Weald stretched out beyond. (Taking the photo could be construed as an excuse to pause for breath!).

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 🇬🇧

posted by The Gorse Fox at [1:34 PM](#)


## North Face



The north face of the South Downs broods over the the Weald.

GF was puffing a bit, so another photo opportunity seemed like a good idea. Young James was fairing slightly better, but conversation was stilted.

This view looked east towards the Devil's Dyke viewpoint.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 

posted by *The Gorse Fox* at [1:40 PM](#)


### **Shoreham-on-Sea**



From the top, with the aid of a zoom lense, Shoreham power station was silhouetted against the shimmering Channel.

Our route would be taking us in that direction, though not quite that far. Hearts were beating more slowly again. Breath was no longer coming in huge gulps, we were recovering from the climb... and setting south across the Downs.

Conversation ranged through the week's news. Tony Blair, David Cameron (two cheeks of the same bottom, according to George Galloway), the current inability of the Tories to mount much opposition, and the trouble that was whipped up by the media over the Pope's speech.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 


posted by *The Gorse Fox* at [2:00 PM](#)

### **Adder Bottom**



The Gorse Fox returns to the subject of Sussex Bottoms. This walk involved a lot of bottoms... but more on that later.

Scabes Castle is just south of Adders Bottom, but though clearly marked on the map, just appears to be the name of the hill as opposed to any real building or earthwork.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 

posted by The Gorse Fox at [2:18 PM](#)


### Protection



Not the classic landscape picture of the South Downs, but it still caught the eye.

James and the Gorse Fox were approaching Mile Oak, looking up toward Tennant Hill. Huge pylons marched across the Downs, and nestling in its base was this bush.

Interesting juxtaposition of man and nature.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 

posted by The Gorse Fox at [2:24 PM](#)


### Across Hazelholt Bottom



Passing Cockroost Hill and looking down over Summers Deane and Hazelholt Bottom.

The breeze was steady from the coast, but it was still dry and didn't look likely to turn to the forecast rain.

Conversation had moved on to James and Anita's discussed return to the USA.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 


posted by The Gorse Fox at [2:28 PM](#)

## **Tenant Hill**



Tenant Hill stretched out below us, with neat rows left in the field by the farmer as he created the stacks of straw that still littered the field.

Truliegh Hill is in the background, with the radio mast peeping up against the horizon.


[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 

posted by The Gorse Fox at [2:33 PM](#)

## **Agritecture**



James and the Gorse Fox arrived at Mile Oak Barn and Mile Oak Farm. The path seemed to differ from the planned route slightly, but after a few brief detours we found the right path and headed onwards towards Southwick.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 


posted by The Gorse Fox at [2:52 PM](#)

### Southwick Tunnel



We finally arrived at the point where the A27 enters the Southwick Tunnel.

GF has often wanted to walk over the tunnel, and finally he got the chance.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 

posted by The Gorse Fox at [2:56 PM](#)


### Southwick Hill



Turning north we climbed Southwick Hill and looked across to the east back over Whitelot Bottom, Cockroost Hill, and Cockroost Bottom.



After the next gate we would start out across Thunderbarrow Hill. It was a steady incline back up towards Truliegh Hill.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 

posted by The Gorse Fox at [3:09 PM](#)

## Thunderbarrow Hill




We crossed Thunderbarrow Hill, past the site of the Thunder Barrow and a Settlement marked on the map, but not visible from the path.

Gorse Fox commented "*I wonder if we'll complete the walk without getting caught by the rain*"

As he said it, James said "*What was that?*"

He had felt the first few drops of rain. We stopped and put on jackets, but nothing really came of the rain.

They marched on, and GF started identifying the steps that the opposition party should take if they actually wish to become a government. It's far too boring to relate now... but one day he'll write an entry about the steps he will take when the Gorse Fox runs the country.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 


posted by The Gorse Fox at [3:28 PM](#)

## Bushy Bottom



Arriving near Freshcombe and Summersdeane Farm Gorse Fox looked back along Bushy Bottom towards Summers Deane.

The grey sky flattened to landscape, but it still draws the eye through the valley.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 


*posted by The Gorse Fox at [4:00 PM](#)*

## Perching



Heading back along the South Downs Way Perching Hill Barn could be seen at the bottom corner.

To the left of the picture the earthworks that mark the site of a the lost medieaval village of Perching can just be seen on the slope.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 


*posted by The Gorse Fox at [4:22 PM](#)*

## Perching Nexus



A number of paths, routes, and bridleways converge at the foot of Perching Hill.

The north face of the Downs stretches out ahead, but James and the Gorse Fox were about to turn left and plunge down the side of the hill towards the car.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 


*posted by The Gorse Fox at [4:27 PM](#)*

## Chalking down



The route back to ground level was a steep, deep cutting. It must be a torrent during heavy rain, judging by the erosion.

It was hard work. Very slippery, and very uneven.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 


posted by The Gorse Fox at [4:36 PM](#)

## Ground level



Back at ground level we looked back at the Downs.

We were tiring and a the faint whisper of a fine ale could be heard in the distance.

[File under: [Sussex Walk](#) , [Fulking](#) , [Southwick](#) ] 

posted by The Gorse Fox at [4:46 PM](#)

## Summary



The route had been interesting as you can see from this profile.

Distance 8.6 miles  
Total Ascent 1201 feet  
Highest point 664 feet  
Lowest Point 172 feet



