

Hook - Newnham – Rotherwick. A Circular Walk

A wonderful country walk (4.6 miles Approx 1h30 to 1h45)

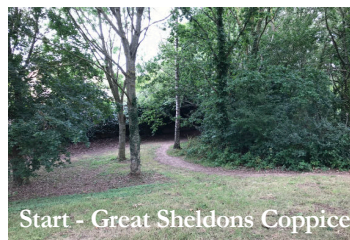
*A wonderful country walk at any time of day, mainly level and mostly away from houses. There are birds to see and hear all year round, wildflowers and often berries in the hedgerows. Good fresh air, little noise pollution and occasionally other walkers or runners, often with pets. Good walking shoes or boots advised and wellingtons in winter or after prolonged rain as the path can be soggy in parts. Main footpath entry points are marked by **bold blue** text (also on Map)*

1 Great Sheldon's Coppice: (approx. post code RG27 9SS) Join the footpath between Goose Green and Brown Croft, turning right on the narrow mud path between the trees which soon becomes a flint path (*Sheldon's Path*) running along the edge of the housing estate.

Soon you will emerge to pass a small car park (*Hook Bowling Club*) then Sheldon's play area on your left. Keep on for 200 metres until the path takes a sharp left turn. Ignore this and turn right to follow the footpath over two small wooden bridges and through a kissing gate into a field with paddocks. You are now on **2 Church Path**^{#1}, used for generations by Hook residents to attend church at St. Nicholas', Newnham.

Follow the path along the hedge, through a kissing gate and across the lane through a further kissing gate to enter Owens Farm field. Keep the ancient hedgerow on your right and, at the far end of this field, bear right for a few metres and then sharp left to follow the footpath sign, over "The Strings" at Newnham Brook via the boardwalk/plank bridge. ^{#1} Take care as the planks can be slippery.

*(You can also join via the mud footpath from **3 Newnham Road** opposite the junction with Old School Road. **Note:** There is no suitable parking here. Come out into an open field (Owens Farm). Turn left, keeping the field border on your left until you come to a cement lane with a metal gate immediately ahead and turn sharp left onto the boardwalk/plank bridge mentioned in previous paragraph.)*



Start - Great Sheldons Coppice



Hook Bowling Club & Car Park



Entrance to Church Path



The Strings at Newnham Brook

Go straight ahead through a few trees to enter a large field and follow the obvious path straight across the open field. Then continue to the left of the hedge and through the short tree-lined path to emerge under a large willow tree beside Tithe Barn (*Grade: II listed*).

Cross Ridge Lane to walk straight across Newnham Green. (*About 50 yards to your left, you will see a small post box next to a short lane leading to 4 the twelfth century St Nicholas' Church.⁴² - this marks the end of Church Path*). Exit the Green and join the tarmac lane to 5 the **Old House at Home** pub and dining - a great stop for lunch or dinner (*best to book first 01256 761896*). www.oldhousenewnham.uk

Continue past the pub along Tylney Lane to the end with a black metal gate in front of you. Follow the footpath sign to enter the mud track via the gap to the right of the gate. Keep to this path as it winds its way through the trees until you see a WW2 air raid shelter on your right and the lawns leading up to 6 **Tylney Hall Hotel**⁴³ www.tylneyhall.co.uk

Continue through a large wooden kissing gate, initially keeping close to the hedge on your right as the footpath passes through Tylney Park Golf Club (***nb:** The footpath right of way long predates the golf course*). Where the hedge ends you will see a footpath sign pointing straight ahead. Take care as the established right of way now crosses the golf fairways.

Once over the fairways, go through the gap in the hedge and turn right onto the concrete roadway. This leads up to the main drive, joining it just past the clubhouse (*serving beverages and food between 10am and 3pm*). Turn left and walk to the end of the drive passing the play area and thatched cricket pavilion and out between the four red-brick pillars, turning right to cross the road. Ignore the wooden stile and walk left for 50 metres towards Rotherwick.



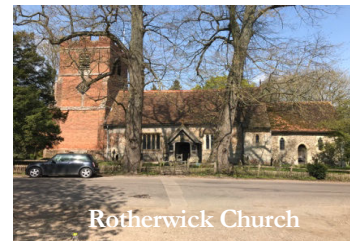
Take the short pebbled path on your right. Pass some cottages and the village pond to emerge onto “The Street”. Continue for 300 metres, passing **7 Rotherwick Church**^{#4} and Whitewater School to **8 The Coach and Horses** pub, a traditional village tavern and another great stop for lunch or dinner (01256 768976). www.coachandhorses-rotherwick.co.uk

Continue from the pub past a row of terraced cottages and then immediately right to follow the footpath sign^{#5}. Stay straight on this cart track/mud path to go under a lone oak tree and continue as the path curves left to exit the fields between the trees and go straight through the kissing gate. Take the footpath immediately right and soon cross a small wooden footbridge, with an initial field boundary on your right, then a gap, followed by another boundary on your left.

Keep to this path and eventually exit through a kissing gate, down the tree-lined avenue (*past the woods at College Copse Farm*). Stay on this long path, ignoring all exits and along a willow weaved hedgerow fence on your right. Reach a small clearing with three short wooden footbridges. Exit up the tarmac slope between the houses, cross the road and continue up the slope back to **1 Great Sheldon's Coppice**. (*Turn right here to get back on the footpath - see start of instructions.*)



Rotherwick Village Pond



Rotherwick Church



Coach and Horses Pub



Lone Oak Tree



College Copse Farm (woods)



3 Wooden Footbridges

^{#1} This is Church Path, an ancient route from Hook to the St Nicholas' Church in Newnham.

^{#2} St Nicholas Church (12th century). Until the siting of the railway station in Hook in 1883, Newnham had the larger population and the church but was thereafter slowly outgrown by Hook.

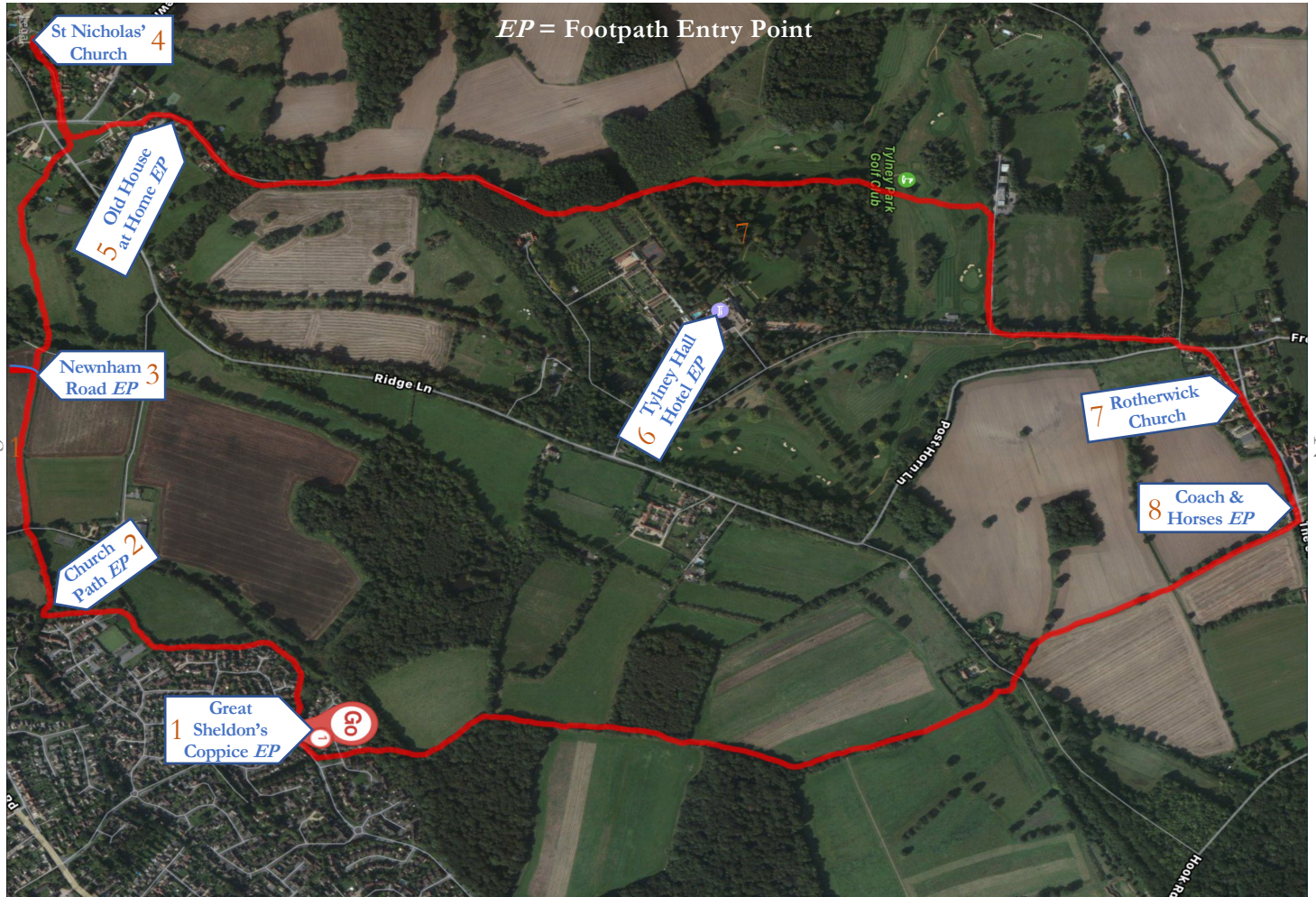
^{#3} Tylney Hall Historic Country House Hotel and Gardens (01256 764881)

^{#4} Rotherwick Church dates from the late 13th century and is unusual as it has no dedication i.e. no saint. The name Rotherwick is derived from the Saxon for cattle enclosure.

^{#5} This is a short segment of the famous Brenda Parker Way (<http://brendaparkerway.northhampshiredownsrblers.org.uk/>)

W

EP = Footpath Entry Point



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E