

## Walk 11

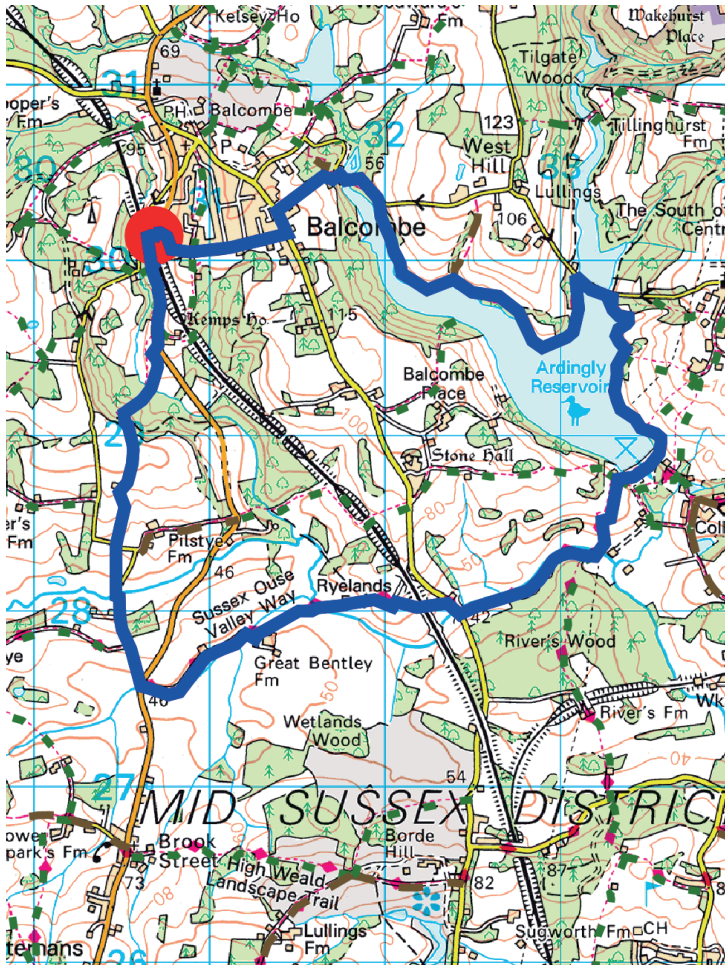
### Balcombe Circular

(7.5 miles / 12km)

Grading = Moderate/Difficult

OS Explorer map 135

(Ashdown Forest)



**Start/End point:**

Balcombe Railway Station (car park),  
London Road, Balcombe RH17 6JQ  
(daily charge)

1. WAYMARKER 4 is on London Road by the pedestrian entrance to the station. Walk to the vehicle entrance to the car park on London Road and you will see the footpath to your right in the trees. Before you reach stile, take the left-hand turn to walk along the path adjacent to the road on your left.
2. Ignore the big green public footpath sign and continue on along the side of the road and the footpath turns right through the trees.
3. Go over a stile and then turn right downhill and follow the edge of the field until you reach a public footpath sign and kissing gate on your right that leads to some steps down to a bridge and into the woods and then up the hill on the other side which gets quite steep.
4. When you come out of the woods take the top track heading left. Just before the bend in the road on the right-hand side there is a stile signposted public footpath that goes down some steps to a little wooden bridge over a drainage gully. Go across the field, through another gate and follow the path down through the field ahead, keep the telegraph poles to your left.
5. Go down some steps and turn left along the road, cross over and turn right to follow the footpath through the next field. The path comes out onto Cherry Lane, turn right over a wide stream and walk along this relatively quiet country lane with no pavement so beware of vehicles.
6. When you reach the junction with the busy London Road, turn left and cross over to pick up the public footpath opposite and follow the track toward Great Bentley Farm.
7. Go past some corrugated barns, the path turns to the right and on your left, before you reach the farmhouse, go through a metal gate, down some steps and walk straight on the higher ground with the hedge on your right.

8. At the end of the field there is a bridge that goes over a stream, go over a stile, and then the path heads off diagonally left across the field.
9. You have to go over another stile by a 5-bar gate, head diagonally right across the field toward and over a stile in the corner of the field. Go past a house on the right-hand side, the path turns left and then to the right through a kissing gate.
10. Go through the field toward the Ouse Valley Viaduct, through a kissing gate, through another gate and then under the viaduct (look to your right through the arches).
11. Cross the field towards the road, go through a kissing gate and turn right to walk beside the road (take care as this is quite a busy road), cross the road, go over a bridge and pick up the footpath on the left. Go through a kissing gate and the footpath path runs along the side of the river on your left.
12. At the footpath junction, turn left over the stream on a wooden bridge, cross another little bridge and follow the path up quite a steep hill with a hedge to your right.
13. The path goes right through a gap in the hedge, follow the hedge on your right, the path goes to the left and you can see Ardingly College on the hill on the right. Go through a kissing gate and follow the path ahead to the footpath junction where you need to turn right and walk down toward Ardingly Reservoir.
14. Go past the sailing clubhouse and slipway on your left and walk straight on to follow the path along the waters edge. Keep following this path until you reach Balcombe Lane where you turn left along the pavement until you reach a gate on your left.
15. Head back on yourself with the reservoir on your left and keep following the bridleway until you come to Mill Lane where you should turn left. There is no pavement, the road turns sharply to the left so beware of oncoming traffic, then over the reservoir and snakes to the right past Mill Cottage on the left and Mill House on the right where a public footpath is signposted on the left up some steep steps.

16. At the top of the steps head straight ahead up the hill, keeping the woodland to your right, toward the houses. Go past the houses on your left to reach Haywards Heath Road. Cross over and turn left to walk on the pavement for a short way and then turn right into Oldlands Avenue.

*Turn right on Stockcroft Road if you want to go into Balcombe village for refreshments in the pub or the tea rooms.*

17. Walk on until you reach Newlands, the road curves round to the right and when you see a red postbox ahead you need to turn left, cross the road and follow the path toward Balcombe Station. Cross over London Road at the island and go in the pedestrian entrance (WAYMARKER 4), over a bridge and down the steps to the platform to return to the car park.



**Waymarker 4  
Balcombe**