



# **HORSHAM ROUND ROUTE GUIDE**

<i>First edition, ed. Ted Coleman</i>	1994
<i>Second edition (minor revisions), ed. Ted Coleman</i>	1997
<i>Third edition (major revisions), ed. Andrew Mallpress</i>	1999
<i>Fourth edition (minor revisions), ed. Andrew Mallpress</i>	2004
<i>Fifth edition (minor revisions) ed. Peter Everett</i>	2009
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# **The Horsham Round**

## **An Introduction**

'The Round' can be an extreme test of endurance and fitness in midwinter when the heavy Sussex soil and undulating countryside may drain life from even the strongest legs. Alternatively, spread over a few days once fine summer weather has arrived, it can offer the prospect of leisurely rambles along attractive paths with stunning views across the Weald to both the distant South Downs and to the Surrey Hills.

The idea for the route grew out of my desire to link some of my favourite training runs, which generally followed paths on the higher ground which encircles the town of Horsham. With enthusiastic support from John Preston and Ted Coleman, different combinations of paths were systematically checked, run, and in most cases, discarded. Eventually, after many training miles, 'The Round' emerged.

At 28 miles\* it presents a formidable but satisfying challenge to any walker or runner considering completing it in a single day. The Sussex countryside, much admired, but generally neglected, deserves closer attention. By walking or running 'The Round' you make a commitment to use, enjoy and conserve the countryside in which we live.

Enjoy the Horsham Round and take a first step towards ensuring that the countryside of Sussex has a future.

**David Bridges**  
**1994**

\* Since this Introduction was first written, there have been a number of refinements made to the course. The best estimate of the distance now stands at an even more challenging 29 miles.

## How to use this guide

The guide is designed to give enough detail to enable a user who is unfamiliar with the route to navigate it successfully. The problem with any guide of this kind is that once you leave the route, either accidentally or by design, it is useless. Grid references and mileages are usually provided where the route crosses a road, to help you stay or get back on track. Most of these points are suitable for meeting a car if you have the benefit of back-up transport.

Therefore, the use of a map is recommended and there really is only one that fulfils that task to the full: Ordnance Survey Explorer (1:25000) Map 134 (Crawley and Horsham). This covers the entire route. Landranger (1:50000) Map 187 (Dorking, Reigate and Crawley) also covers the route, but does not give adequate detail on the more intricate parts of it.

A compass is also recommended, although not essential. There are a few bearings given in the guide, usually where the route of a footpath across a large field is unclear. These will always be magnetic bearings, so you do not need to worry about compensating for the difference between magnetic north and true north. As well as that a mobile phone is also a must should all else fail!

Remember also that gates mentioned in the instructions are often open, and you may pass through them without even noticing. Gates may not have been mentioned if they were open and looked permanently open – when you come to them they may be closed! Stiles frequently fall into disrepair and are suddenly replaced. Gates can become stiles and vice versa often at very short notice. The message is that whilst we've made every effort to provide accurate instructions there may be the odd discrepancy.

## Changes

This guide is essentially the same as the earlier editions but have been updated to ensure greater clarity and to reflect minor changes, including

- There is a small change to the route towards the end of Stage 6 reflecting an improvement that was suggested some years ago. This reduces the distance along the Downs Link Path – although flat, it was also quite boring.
- There is also a small change to Stage 7 when leaving Southwater. An unofficial path we used to follow after crossing the A24 is now completely overgrown and obviously unusable. A small detour is necessary.
- Following the successful re-launch of The Round for hj's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014 and the desire to make this an annual event, the start finish point has been moved from The Old Town Hall to the bandstand in Horsham Park. This allows for a more family friendly meet and greet place at the end of the day where members, family and guests can relax and take in some well earned refreshments. The Round has also become open to other selected local clubs on an invitation only basis.

Any other changes are minor to reflect odd variations on the ground, slightly re-routed paths, new bridges, stiles, fences etc. The guide is accurate at the time of writing, but these features do change from time to time.

Please let the Committee know of any difficulties in using the guide or any alterations which affect the route description.

# Stages

The route is divided into 7 stages as follows, which provides reasonable break points should you not wish to tackle the whole Round in one go:

	<b>Distance in miles (approx)</b>
<b>1. Horsham Park to Mannings Heath</b>	4.49
<b>2. Mannings Heath to Colgate</b>	3.91
<b>3. Colgate to Old Holbrook</b>	2.97
<b>4. Old Holbrook to Mayes Lane, Warnham</b>	3.22
<b>5. Mayes Lane, Warnham to Rowhook</b>	4.74
<b>6. Rowhook to Itchingfield Church</b>	4.45
<b>7. Itchingfield Church to Horsham Park</b>	5.23
<b>Total</b>	29.01

The Good Run Guide is a valuable tool to familiarise yourself with the stages or the entire route. Use the links below to access the stages and use the page tools to view map image, satellite image and footpaths.

St 1. <http://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/395916>

St 2. <http://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/395917>

St 3. <http://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/395918>

St 4. <http://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/395919>

St 5. <http://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/395920>

St 6. <http://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/395921>

St 7. <http://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/395922>

Complete - <http://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/395915>

# Stage 1 - Horsham Park to Mannings Heath (4.49 miles)

Parking: Use Council Offices, Bowling Alley or Pavillions car parks  
Start: Horsham Park bandstand (GR TQ175308)

With the bandstand behind you and cafe on your left head towards North Street and turn right opposite the Capitol Theatre. Continue past the Black Jug pub and over the Royal Sun Alliance foot bridge towards the Carfax. Continue down the steps and straight on passing the bandstand on your right. Cross over and head straight towards the Old Town Hall (Bill's). Pass with it on your right and go down the Causeway on the pavement to reach the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. Enter the churchyard and turn left to keep the church on your right. Join road (Normandy) and follow to t-junction. Turn right and left in 75yds into Chesworth Lane. Where road bears left, continue straight along track (Chesworth Farm). In 400yds at first house turn left to leave cycle path and in 15yds turn right to follow gravel track. Where track bears left carry straight on through small gate into field. Cross field ( $150^\circ$ ) to metal gate in opposite right hand corner. Through gate and turn left along the gravel path. Go through the gate at the end of the gravel path and turn right which leads down to the road. (Kerves Lane) (GR 181292) **1.53 miles**

Cross road and follow track opposite. In 50yds turn right over footbridge into field. Cross to opposite corner ( $140^\circ$ ). Through gate and continue through next field keeping hedge on right. At end of narrowing field, go through the gap in the hedge where there is a partially hidden footpath sign on right and turn immediately left to continue in the same direction through 3 more fields with hedge on your left. At end of third field, merge into concrete road. In 100yds go through gates and follow footpath across field passing behind corrugated iron sheds,



through gate to concrete road. In 50yds turn left and in another 50yds turn right along enclosed path. Through kissing gate, cross field and through a second kissing gate and continue in same direction to meet hedge from left. Follow hedge to end and join road. (Sedgwick Lane) (GR 187277) **2.56 miles**

Turn right along road to white house and Sedgwick Park North Gate. Turn left along enclosed footpath. Cross stile and field then over stile and bridge to follow path through wood (beware of fallen/low trees and tree roots) and then enclosed path between fences.

Over two stiles and cross field to enter wood. Path soon widens to grassy track. Follow track to reach stony track. Turn left to pass house on left. Continue ahead to open grassy space and ignore left fork to follow bridleway sign. The track narrows and goes downhill. Follow track for 1400yds, ignoring all side turnings until stile on left where bridleway and footpath split.

At the signpost where the bridleway goes to the right and the footpath goes to the left, follow the footpath by crossing the stile and ahead to cross another stile into a field. Follow field boundary on left and cross stile in corner to enclosed path.

Follow this path crossing stile and through kissing gate, follow path to reach main road (A281) at Mannings Heath. Cross road carefully to Dun Horse. (GR 201286) **4.49 miles**

**End of Stage 1**

## Stage 2 - Mannings Heath to Colgate (3.91 miles)

Parking: Use spaces within triangle “island” opposite Dun Horse pub

Continue ahead along Pound Lane on left-hand pavement to t-junction (shop on right). Turn left into Golding Lane. Ahead past Village Hall and recreation ground and continue steeply downhill. At bottom, where road bends right, go through metal kissing gate on left and follow track. At top, ignore stile on right and follow track through kissing gate into woods. Ahead, past lake on right, over concrete bridge and uphill to cross stile and reach road. (Hammerpond Road) (GR 203299) **5.68 miles**

Cross road and follow track opposite (Sunoak Farm) for 600yds. Turn right (joining the High Weald Landscape Trail) along footpath with wire fence on your right. At end continue through scrubby ground to road. Cross road and cross stile to right of double metal gate opposite along track. In 50yds fork right off track to keep close to right-hand wire fence. Continue as path descends with moto-cross track on left and continue in same direction as path becomes wide track now climbing. In 400yds fork left up narrow path, following footpath post. Turn left at crossing track and then right up hill to join broad crossing track at top of hill. (Mick Miles Race) (GR 217312) **7.27 miles**

Turn left (leaving the High Weald Landscape Trail) and follow this track dead straight ahead for 800yds. Bear right and continue on main track. This is the highest point on the Round at a modest 430ft (131m). At gate, go through gap to right of gate and keep ahead to reach road. (Forest Road) (GR204327) **8.40 miles**

**End of Stage 2**

## **Stage 3 - Colgate to Old Holbrook (2.97 miles)**

Parking: Use limited spaces within exit to bridleway or dirt layby opposite

Turn left on road. Take care! This road can be very busy and there is no pavement. Keep on the right-hand side of the road, facing the traffic, in single file.

Pass the entrance to Roffey Park Management Institute on the left. In a further 400yds, opposite Beedingwood Drive, turn right on footpath. Keep ahead to reach drive and turn right on drive. Keep ahead to reach large gravel area in front of large house on left. Do not enter this gravel area but keep straight ahead towards hedge, passing end of low stone wall on left. Cross stile behind tree and turn left along edge of field. Ahead past trees to field corner, and turn right, still along edge of field. After 60yds, turn right on footpath across field. In a further 60yds, at footpath sign, bear left. Ahead passing telegraph pole on right, and pond and trees on left. In 100yds keep field boundary on left and keep ahead towards houses. Footpath becomes enclosed between gardens to reach road. Cross road to footpath sign on edge of dual carriageway. (A264 Horsham to Crawley Road)

With extreme care, cross the dual carriageway and turn left on the verge opposite. In 40yds turn right on to bridleway (Brook Lane). Pass house on right, and keep ahead on bridleway to reach gate to cross railway line.

STOP. Look both ways and, if clear, cross.

Go through bridlegate on far side and keep ahead to pass house on right and reach minor road. (Wimland Road) (GR 205335) **9.93 miles**

Turn left on road. In 300yds, before the level crossing, turn right on farm access road (sign to Owlscastle House and Barn). In 200yds, turn left. In 150yds keep straight on main track, ignoring footpath bearing left. Keep ahead on track for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile.

Go through metal gate and in further 15yds reach road. (Rusper Road) (GR 190336) **10.90 miles**

Revised section:

Turn left on Rusper Road and run 0.1 of mile on the new path that runs the perimeter of the Bohunt School. Cross new bridge over the A264 and continue Rusper Road for approx 0.1 miles. At roundabout take the Giblets Way exit and continue for 0.3 mile until you reach mini roundabout. Turn right here onto Pondtail Road and take the first turning on the right, which is Old Holbrook Road. Follow to the end of this section and cross the A264 to re-join the Old Holbrook Road (be careful cars can be fast on this stretch). Continue up old Holbrook until currently closed footpath on right.

**End of Stage 3**

## Stage 4 - Old Holbrook to Mayes Lane, Warnham (3.22 miles)

Parking: Use limited parking along road verge adjacent to footpath exit

Turn right on road. Keep ahead on steepening hill (1:6 gradient). Where hill flattens out at top, take signposted footpath on left. Cross stile into field. Cross field to far corner to stile in wire fence. Follow clear path through woods, forking left after 30yds, once over bridge. Cross stile into field and cross field aiming for stile on far side. Cross stile and in 20yds turn right on crossing track. In further 15yds turn left on path between woods. Keep ahead, at first bearing right with field and then with tall wooden fence on left. Pass to right of barrier to reach drive and keep ahead in same direction to reach road. (Langhurstwood Road) (GR 174348) **12.81 miles**

Turn right on road. In 500yds pass under conveyor and in further 50yds turn left on bridleway. Follow signposts as the path winds through woods, eventually bearing right to reach wire fence on right and railway on left. Bridleway does u-turn through metal gate to reach railway crossing. STOP. Look both ways and, if clear, cross. Go through bridlegate on far side and follow track to reach road. (A24)

This road can be extremely busy and fast. Take care and keep in single file. Turn left on the road, keeping to the left-hand side. Pass the Dog and Duck pub on the right, and in further 300yds cross road with care and turn right on drive to Durfold at footpath sign. In 300yds cross stile on left halfway up hill immediately after opening in hedge. Turn right into the field, head up the hill, keep fence on right

for 50yds, and then when fence bears away right, keep ahead in the same direction (260°) to field corner on the brow ahead. Follow the direction of the footpath arrow diagonally up and across field, heading for the telegraph pole at the top of the field.

Go through gate on left of the pole, entering the woods. Follow footpath through woods, soon joining larger path from right and continue to reach road. (Mayes Lane) (GR 156353) **14.59 miles**

**End of Stage 4**

## Stage 5 - Mayes Lane, Warnham to Rowhook (4.74 miles)

Parking – Use limited parking along road verge adjacent to bridleway exit

Turn left into Mayes Lane. In 400yds, opposite old Warnham Animal Sanctuary, turn right onto footpath. Cross stile and follow left hand edge of field to cross stile at end. In 80yds cross stile into field. Straight ahead to join up with right hand field boundary. Continue ahead and on to enclosed track. In 200yds pass through kissing gate to Northlands Road. (GR 147349) **15.35 miles**

Cross road bearing right and follow made up track towards Pear Tree Farm. Ignore turnings to left after 200yds and continue along deteriorating track. In 200 yds reach A29. Cross with great care and follow enclosed path opposite through a series of right/left bends and footbridges. In 400yds ignore path going straight on and turn right towards the farm complex then left at the farm buildings, along the concrete road going uphill which becomes a rougher track. After 100yds go through the metal gate and along the grass track between fields. Track bears right then left before going through the metal gate into Monks Farm. Ignore footpath sign on left and turn right at the brick built farm buildings. Ignore bridleway going straight on (Ruckmans Lane) and turn left behind farm buildings onto the tarmac driveway (Monk Lane). Continue uphill through the electric gate until the driveway meets the main road. (Honeywood Lane) (GR 127365) **16.87 miles**

10yds before road turn sharp left 180 degrees back on yourself into gateway of North Lodge. Follow path through

rhododendron woods for ½ mile ignoring all side turnings. At small clearing with buildings opposite take path immediately to right of buildings and continue for 200yds to road. (Horsham Road) (GR 121356) **17.84 miles**

Turn left and in 30yds turn right along the Sussex Border Path, through the electric/kissing gates towards the farm complex. Turn left at the white buildings, downhill on the concrete road then as the road turns right continue straight on into the rough track between two fields. At the bottom of the hill where the track continues straight, the footpath takes a right and left turn into woodland, follows a meandering path through the woodland, crosses two footbridges before emerging near a pond Go past the pond, following the left-hand-side of the field.

Continue on the left side of the field. Head for the top left corner. There is a gap in the hedge which leads to a track. Turn right along the track.

After 100yds this track widens onto a driveway. Continue straight towards Millfield House. As the driveway turns right, continue straight on through metal gate. Follow to the right of the treeline, downhill then turn left over the bridge and right towards the stile on the other side of the field. Cross the stile, up through the woods, over the 2<sup>nd</sup> stile and emerge into a large field (watch out for cattle with calves!).

Continue straight over towards the small mound directly opposite the stile. Cross stile and after 20yds turn left along the footpath. After 400yds emerge onto driveway of Burnt House and turn left. Follow road downhill to rear car park of Chequers Inn. (GR 123343) **19.33 miles**

**End of Stage 5**



## Stage 6 - Rowhook to Itchingfield (4.45 miles)

Parking: Use rear car park of Chequers pub

Retrace your steps for 50yds and take footpath on left up steps. Follow path round garden to large field. Across field (170°) aiming some 30yds to left of houses ahead. On leaving field bear right to go through high kissing gate and follow footpath through wood, keeping fence on your right. Continue downhill, always keeping close to fence to reach road (A281 Guildford Road).

Cross road with care, and follow access road opposite to Town House Farm. On reaching buildings, bear right and in 20yds turn left around edge of field, at first with garden on left. Follow signposted bridleway across field, through trees, across footbridge and again across fields. At footpath junction bear right then left over concrete bridge and at next footpath junction turn left uphill. Pass Rowfold Farm on your right and descend track with hedge on right. Before white buildings building (**new building work**) on right, turn right on footpath. Keep to right edge of field and into Slinfold churchyard. Fork left to keep church on your right. At church door, turn left to reach road. (GR 117315) **21.35 miles**

Turn left on road, pass Red Lyon pub on right, and turn right into Hayes Lane. After 400yds turn left into Six Acres. In 100yds take signed path on left. Follow path as it turns right behind houses and at path t-junction turn left over bridge. Follow path across field keeping hedge on your left. Turn left on to disused railway line (Downs Link Path). In 500yds at cross path turn right through metal kissing gate. Follow field boundary on right and at third footpath sign (two yellow footpath and a do

not disturb snakes sign) bear diagonally left (160°) across field to top left hand corner. Pass through two metal kissing gates and go across oblong field diagonally to far right corner. Cross stile and continue across a tiny field, cross another stile by the side of a house and proceed ahead on path to reach road (A264 Five Oaks Road) by side of Bramble Hill Farm entrance. Cross road with care, and cross stile opposite. Cross field to wooded area and another stile to reach road. (Bashurst Hill) (GR 128298) **23 miles**

Turn right to reach Beggar's Roost Boarding Cattery on right and take enclosed footpath on left. At crossing driveway keep ahead along side of gravel drive. Bear left on enclosed path and keep ahead over foot bridge to footpath junction. Turn left and descend to bridge and up the hill to gate on right into Itchingfield churchyard. Follow flagged path to skirt church on your left. Turn left past Church entrance to reach drive. Keep ahead to road. (GR133289) **23.78 miles**

**End of Stage 6**

## **Stage 7 - Itchingfield to Horsham Park (5.23 miles)**

Parking: Use road verge adjacent to Itchingfield church driveway

Turn right and follow the road up to Itchingfield School. Turn left and follow road to t-junction. Turn right and in 50 yards turn left through kissing gate to footpath. Keep ahead to top of Sharpenhurst Hill and ignoring paths to right, descend with hedge on left and enter wood. Then cross narrow field to reach stile and steps down to railway line. STOP. Look both ways and, if clear, cross. Ascend steps opposite, cross stile and narrow field and go down steps to disused railway line (Downs Link). Turn left. In 150yds turn right to cross drive and keep ahead along right edge of playing field. Turn right on drive. Bear left with bridleway sign at first fork and then right with sign at second fork. Soon turn right, also with sign, along enclosed tarmac path to reach road. (Two Mile Ash Road) (GR 152279)  
**25.62 miles**

Turn left on road and cross with care turning immediately right on bridleway opposite. Keep ahead to reach road. (Worthing Road, Southwater) (GR 160278)  
**26.12 miles**

Cross road with care and turn left on pavement. In 200yds turn right on footpath, enclosed at first then a block paved path between 2 warehouses to reach road near roundabout. Cross road and follow signposted path, soon bearing right to keep hedge and A24 on left and go up steps to road. (Southwater Street) (GR 164276) **26.57 miles**

Turn left on road to cross A24 road bridge and in 150yds turn left on to Kings Lane. Near end, at “Roze! on right, turn right up drive and take signposted footpath on left. Keep ahead on footpath. Go over one plank bridge and follow path through hedgeline, turning right and following this path at the edge of the golf course. Go across the golfers path and head through the 5 bar gate. At the signpost cross the plank bridge, go left and take the first path on the right. Follow this to the end (it goes down the side of and then crosses a fairway), then at the signpost and red post go through the hedgeline and turn left. Follow the public footpath signs. Carry straight on tarmac drive and follow footpath sign on right opposite Golf & Fitness entrance. (GR 166287) **27.41 miles** As you turn to go around the buildings you will follow the green public footpath signs on your right across golf course and along the line of trees, eventually going down the side of the 18<sup>th</sup> tee and through a metal kissing gate. Cross drive, bearing slightly left to pick up path opposite. Through kissing gate. Turn half right (50°) towards first lone tree and bushes, keeping tree to left. Ahead towards another clump of trees with broken tree and 4-direction finger post. Standing directly in front of sign, follow direction ahead (clockwise 3<sup>rd</sup> sign). Turn left at yellow footpath arrow on post to follow path descending through trees to reach metal kissing gate. Keep ahead, bearing right along edge of field, and then diagonally downhill across field in direction of church steeple in the distance. Turn left round trees to cross railway bridge. Follow path with cricket field on left and keep ahead. Cross bridge and pass through churchyard with church on your right. Rejoin outward route along the Causeway to the Old Town Hall, Carfax, North Street and Horsham Park bandstand. **29.01 miles**

**End of Stage 7**

**The End - Well Done!**



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