



# Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group

Involving local people in caring for their environment



"A Sense of Place"

Every place is unique, shaped by its past, and echoes of the past can be found all around.

This walk connects stories of the people, landscape, plants & animals that were and are uniquely Selsey

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group draws volunteers together in positive action for wildlife and the benefit of the community.

Contact  
publications@mwhg.org.uk

Contributors to this leaflet  
MWHG Publications Team  
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Distance: 3 miles (approx) Time: 1.5 hours  
Start: The Selsey Centre car park GR SZ 859 939  
Maps OS Explorer 12 Landranger 197



## Tracks, Trees and Tees





# A Sense of Place

## Walk 5 : Tracks, Trees and Tees

A tarmac footpath leads from the southern end of the car park (1) towards the rear of the Selsey Centre, and into Manor Green Park (2). Follow either this path, or a grassy route through the wildflower meadow area of the park (PF), to the more formal flowerbeds of the Sensory Garden (3) and an information panel. From here either take a short tarmac path to the B2045 (Chichester Road) or a slightly longer, more interesting route. This follows the boundary of the field onto a narrow track (PF) between the house on the right and former tramway cutting on the left.

For either route turn left when you reach the road, passing a bus stop, and blue plaque (4), before carefully crossing the road.

Turn left and walk to the entrance of St. Peter's Church and the town War Memorial (5). Enter the church grounds and follow the path round to the right towards the rear of the church, past the porch (6) to reach the church hall car park.

Turn left to the car park entrance (7), then left again to return to the High Street. Turn right, crossing St Peter's Crescent, and walk along the High Street past several old and thatched houses (8) (9).

Cross School Lane, turn right past Medmerry School (10) and the Scouts' Hall (11) and onto the recreation field. Walk parallel to the road, but keep the field boundary hedge on your right, to the corner field exit (12). Cross the road ahead with care (visibility a little restricted) into Paddock Lane between school playing fields and caravan parks. The tarmac road (no footpath) changes to concrete and finally a stony track with a fine double avenue of trees (13) beside it (PF). Continue along the track or walk between the trees if you wish (14).

At the end of the track (PF), opposite the Golf Club entrance (15) (16), turn right onto a tarmac lane. From here, over to the left, it may be possible to see a distant view of Chichester Cathedral nestling in front of the South Downs. The lane leads past a caravan park (17) on the right and back to the B2045 (PF Selsey Tram Way).

Turn right but cross the road almost immediately opposite a bus stop. Take the pathway behind the bus stop through into a housing estate. Follow the road round to the right for a short distance, take the first road on the left, turn right after house No.47 to return to Manor Green Park.

Return to the Selsey Centre car park on the far left of the field (18).

*PF = public footpath*

**1. Selsey Town Station** was near here and was used by The Selsey Tram light railway which ran from Chichester to Selsey between 1897 and 1935. It carried up to 80,000 passengers a year in its heyday.



**2. Manor Green Park** The meadow is only cut three times a year to allow wildflowers to flourish. In the summer it is buzzing with insects and beautiful butterflies.



**3. The Sensory Garden** was created using ideas by local children on the shape, smell, colour and feel of plants. It is looked after and maintained by local people on a voluntary basis.



**4. Selsey Tram Cutting** The Selsey Tram light railway went under the road at this point as it ran from Chichester to Selsey. See blue plaque for more information.



**5. The War Memorial** has three carved stone panels which possibly date back to about 680AD, when St Wilfrid landed in Selsey and founded a monastery at Church Norton.



**6. St Peters Church** was originally sited at Church Norton and moved, without the chancel, in 1864-1866. See the stained glass porch window designed by pre-raphaelite artist Walter Crane.



**7. Yew Trees** are often found in churchyards. Their traditional use was to make longbows. In modern medicine the leaves are used to make an anti cancer drug.



**8. Sessions House** Originally called Old Farmhouse, was built in the early 17th century and extended in 1728. Lords of the Manor held court sessions here. It burnt down in 2006 and is awaiting restoration.



**9. The Old Malt House** Built c1571 as a working malthouse and granary. In 1920 it was a private house. It later belonged to Major Wills of Wills Tobacco Co. Legend tells of a smugglers' tunnel.



**10. Medmerry School** A school first opened here in 1905 but the building has been extended. It has an interesting seaside garden and is working hard to become an Eco school.



**11. Scout Hut** A water tower providing water to Selsey was sited here in the early 1900s until 1984. The gates, made from old tools, are a memorial to Thomas Male, 1910-1972, blacksmith and farrier.



**12. Hedges and ditches** are great places for wildlife to find food and shelter and they also make good routes for moving unseen between habitats. A hedgerow can be aged by the number of indigenous species found within it.



**13. Tree Corridors** Look for alder, poplar, cypress and maple trees growing here to form a shelterbelt. They provide a rich habitat corridor for wildlife.



**14. North Common Farm** The fields of North Common Farm used to be one large shared field before the Enclosure Act of 1820 which partitioned land into smaller lots. Hedges of hawthorn bloom in May.



**15. Selsey Golf Club** was founded here in 1908. The present club house was rebuilt in 1934 after the original was burnt down. There was a halt here for golfers coming by the Selsey Tram.



**16. Selsey Tram Way** The line of the Selsey Tram ran along the embankment beside the Golf Club, which had its own halt providing the driver was paid to stop. The line closed in 1935.



**17. Brickworks** There were several brickfields in Selsey in the 19th century. The one here, Trojan Brickworks, had a private siding from Bridge Station. The brickworks closed in the late 1930s.



**18. Keep Fit in Manor Green Park** Energy to spare? Have a go on the equipment or jog around the curving, crushed stone track. Three circuits of the track will cover 1km.

