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FURTHER EVIDENCE FROM WALKING GUIDES, BARCOMBE MILLS BRIDLEWAY
RWO 213 24/6/20

During the Coronavirus lockdown I have had occasion to examine my collection of walks guides covering routes near Lewes. I have also searched on the internet for walks in the same area. As part of this research I have found a number of routes in the material that cover the application routes.

As these are walking guides they offer **no evidence either way of use by cyclists, equestrians or powered vehicles.** However I have submitted my own evidence of use on a bicycle. They rarely mention the northern fork of the claimed routes. This may be because walkers would normally prefer to use the riverside path to the Anchor pub rather than the inland

Except where noted the guide authors do not claim that the routes they describe are rights of way. However as a walks guide writer myself I am aware that authors would not include in a guide a route where it was necessary to ask for individual permission, or where a walker might be turned back or find an obstruction. I would expect a comment if the route were, for example, closed on one day a year. Nor is there any mention anywhere of "permissive path" or similar signs, which a guide writer might mention.

On the basis that people would probably have used the guides, the provision of a guide is also some evidence of use, although of course it is not possible to say how many people used the routes and when.

People may enter or exit the claimed routes at the following points

- 1) From the west on Barcombe Mills Road.
- 2) At the junction of footpath 26/byway 25a to the north
- 3) At the junction with Barcombe footpath 24
- 4) At or near the junction with Ringmer footpath 4 (including Barcombe Mills Road to the East or the car park.)

I have described the route used by each entry.

Walks around the East Sussex Countryside, by ESCC published 2003-2006, no ISBN. Uses 1-3. For map and extract see below- internet.

Village Walks in East Sussex by Ben Perkins 1998 ISBN 1 85306 505 6 Uses 3-1 Extracts:

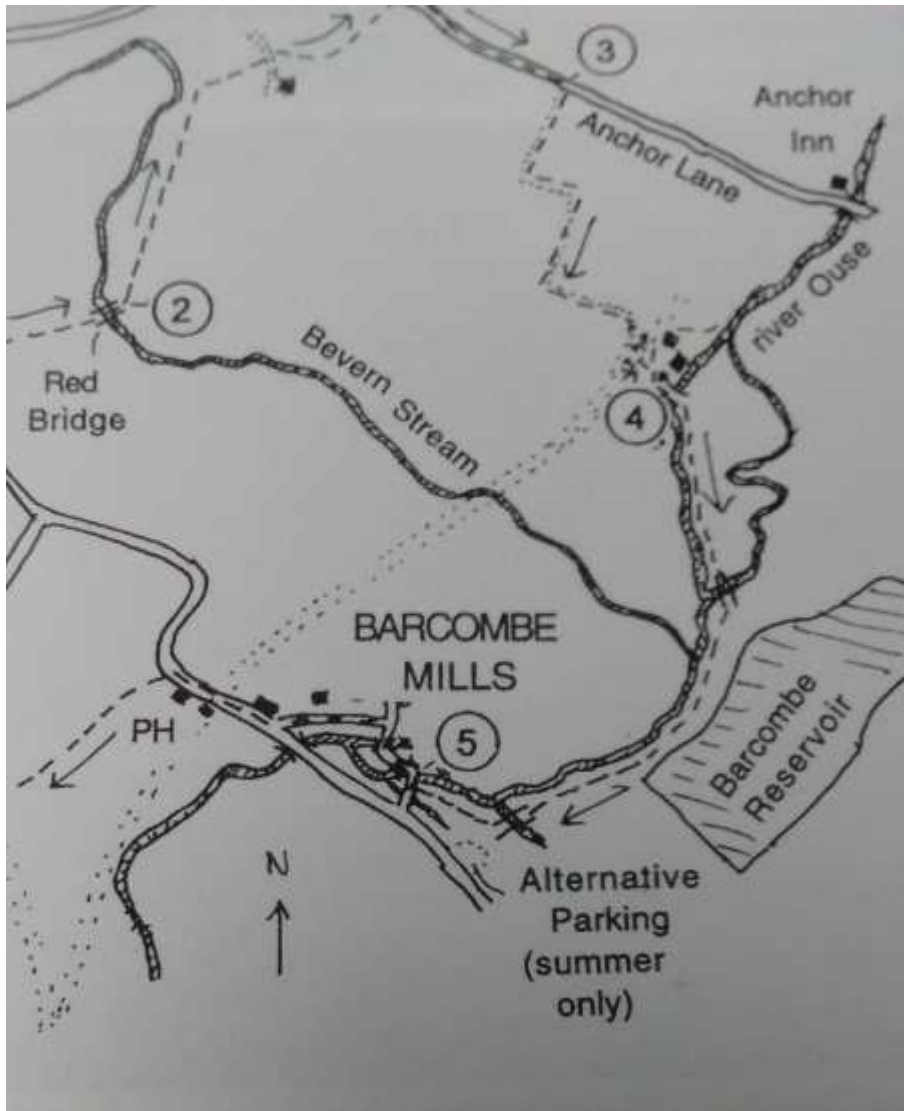
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⑤ At a lane, turn right over an ivy covered bridge. Follow this lane as it winds between mill ponds and sluices and past the old toll house where a list of the charges imposed until as recently as 1939 is displayed. At a junction, turn left and follow the lane out to join a road. Bear right along the road past the old Barcombe Mills station, now a restaurant, and the Angler's Rest. About 100 yards past the pub, go left over a stile where you have a choice of signed paths. Follow the lower, left-hand edge of two fields with stiles between them. A lavishly waymarked path then crosses three more small fields. Go over the old railway and ahead across a field where a path should be defined through any growing crop. In the next field veer half-right aiming just to the right of a house with red tile-hung walls. An enclosed path passes to the right of this house and out via the drive from the house

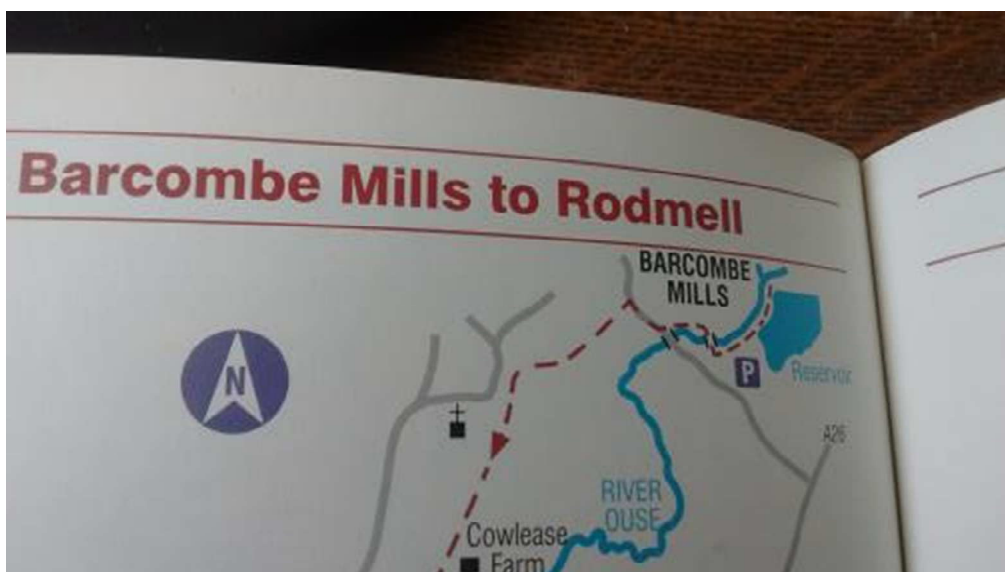
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The Sussex Ouse Valley Way by Owen and Anderson 2005 ISBN 0-954964-0-X. Uses 3-1

Extracts:



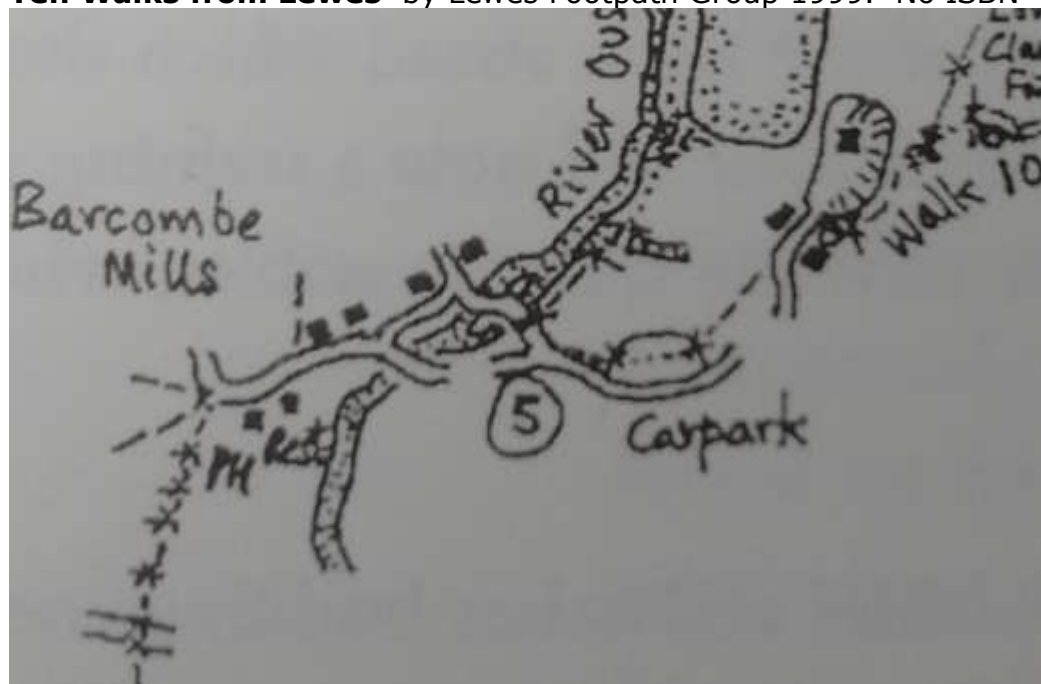
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Immediately turn right to continue walk along east bank of river. Upon reaching gate, continue ahead on path between two arms of the river. After 50m cross wooden footbridge over river with raised banks of Barcombe Reservoir ahead. Turn right and follow river bank passing the point where the two arms of the river join as one again. Upon reaching reservoir building on left go through gate and continue along river bank in meadow. At another footbridge cross side tributary with pill box on left. Turn right and continue to enter wooded area passing old lock now converted to fish ladders on right and with old Pikes Bridge ahead. **Cross stile to left of bridge and turn right on to lane to continue.**

Crossing Pikes Bridge follow lane as it bears left and right over other bridges passing several water courses and ponds. When lane reaches houses and entrance to Barcombe House on right, turn left at cross lanes to reach public road. Turn right and pass old Barcombe Mills railway station on left.

Ten Walks from Lewes by Lewes Footpath Group 1999. No ISBN Uses 1-4



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As the road bears right, follow a path on the left into the old road, and turn right at the end over a series of bridges over the river Ouse. This is the highest point on the river where it is tidal and the original toll-gate was built in 1066 – the first point at which tolls were levied in Sussex (although to judge by the price list on the wall pedestrians passed over free). It also seems to be the point where Roman roads from the north and west (see walk 9, paragraph 5, page 42) met and crossed the river on their way to Lewes. Flour mills were noted here in the Domesday Book.

You may now take a shorter alternative walk 10a which is now described.

Carry on over the last bridge and take the path immediately to the left into a car park. Pass round the car park and take a waymarked path at a stile in the eastern corner. Follow across a field to a Dutch barn to join the access road to the water works for 100 yards. Follow

Walks to Interesting Places Heathfield Group of the Ramblers 1996. ISBN 0-900613-99-8. Uses 1-3
Extracts:



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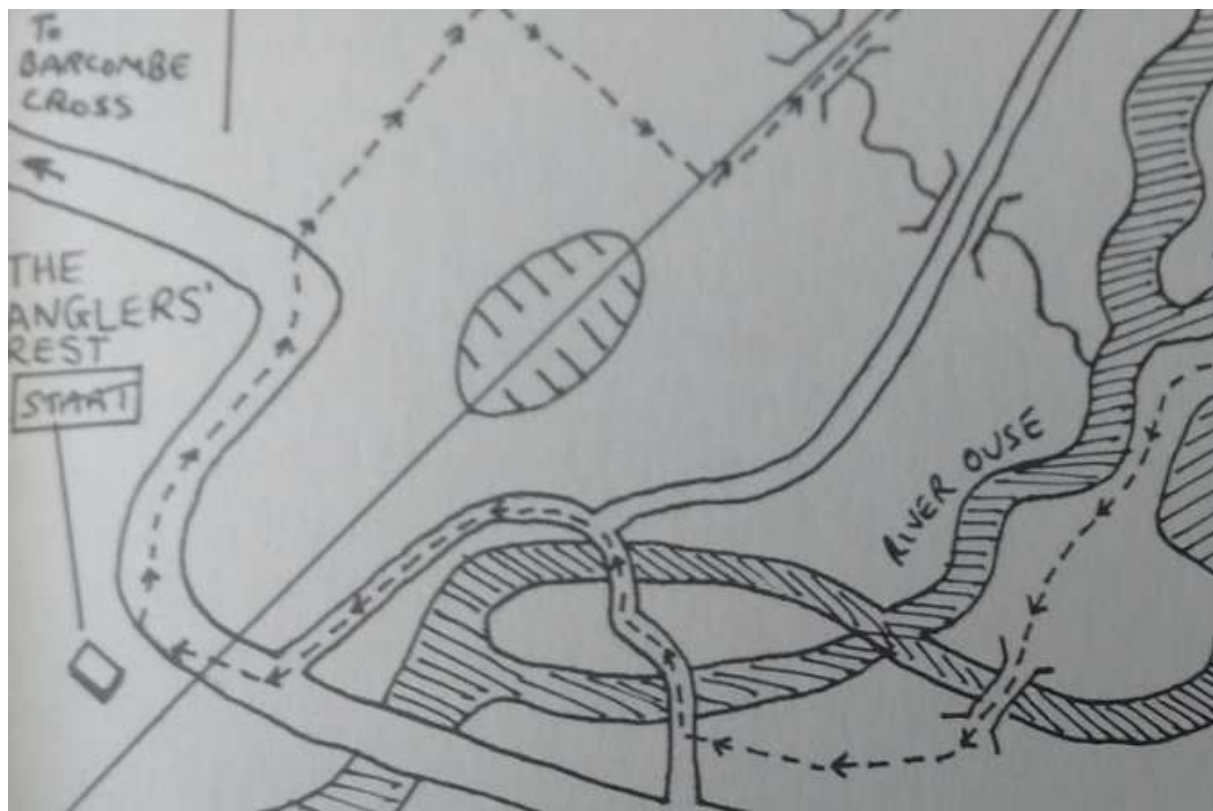
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A. With your back to the road go to the far left-hand corner of the car park and walk along the path there to a drive. Turn right, passing Barcombe Mills Pool and a series of weirs. The bridge you pass is on a site of historic interest as you will see from the plaque affixed to it. At the junction turn left and keep straight on until you reach a road. Bear right past the old Barcombe Mills Station (now a restaurant) to a stile a little further on on the left. Cross the field to the stile ahead (not the one in the bottom left-hand corner). Follow the fence along, with good views of the Downs to your left, and cross the stile at the end through to the road.

B. Turn left and about 100m after crossing the bridge over the dismantled railway line, turn right over a stile. Cross the field bearing slightly right to a stile by a large oak. Bear hard left across the next. In the field after that turn right along the edge to the corner and continue along the next side

Short Walks from East Sussex pubs Rupert Taylor 1995 ISBN 1-85306-364-9 Uses 3-1

Extracts:



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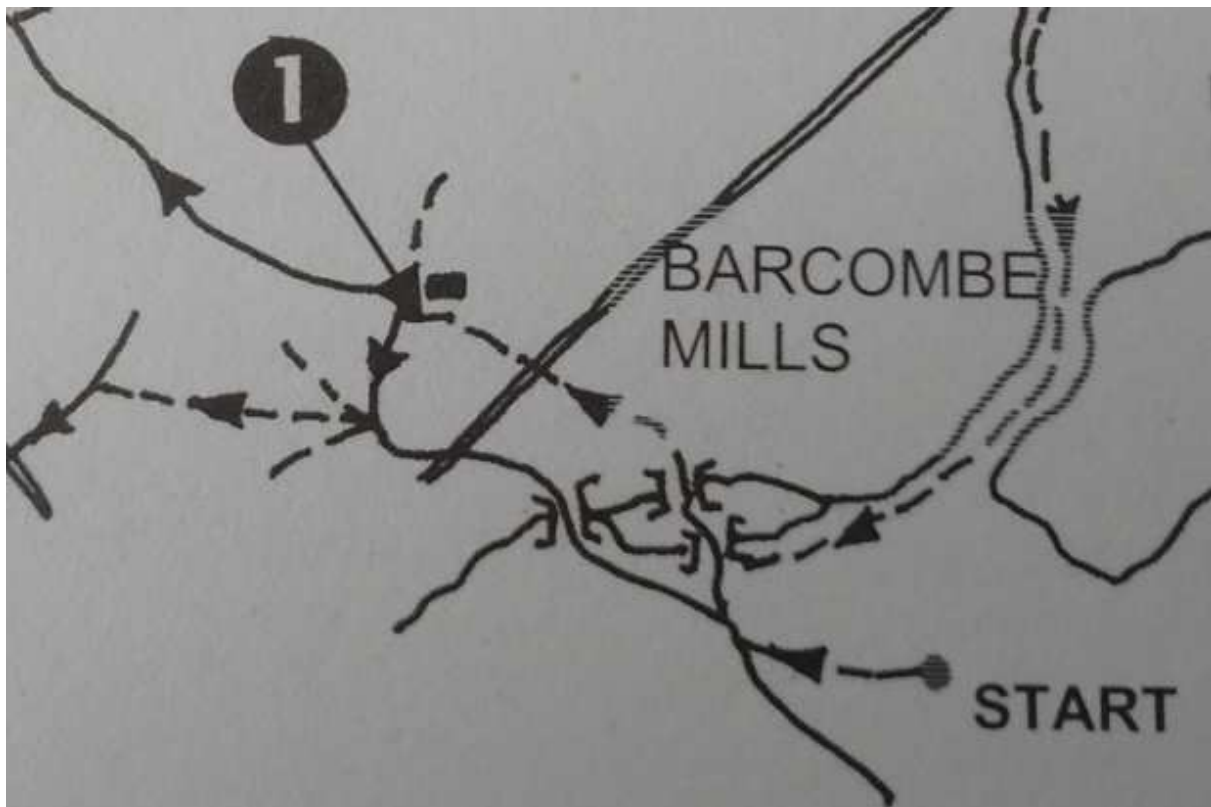
Shortly the surround of Barcombe reservoir will come into view – the expanse of water shielded behind a tall grassy bank. The path runs between reservoir and river before you branch to the right and cross another long bridge toward a solid track and the entrance to the site of the old mills. This is a place of excitement: bridges, weirs and rushing water among great old trees. In late Victorian times this was a popular Sunday destination for Lewes folk, who travelled the short distance on the railway and enjoyed picnics here. **Turn right when you join**

the track and follow it to a squat little building which was once the toll house. It was the first place in Sussex where road tolls were levied and was around at the time of the Norman Conquest. But it seems to be in the middle of nowhere – and that's where the Roman road comes in.

Follow the track off to the left until it joins Barcombe Mills Road and turn right, past Barcombe Mills station (now a café and restaurant) to the Anglers' Rest beside it.

Walks in the Uckfield Area Dawn and Mick Harker first printed 1995, revised and reprinted 2004. ISBN 0-9518505-7-1 Uses 4-2

Extracts:



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There is a grass car park at Pikes Bridge for use in summer but limited parking on the road. Leave the car park by the footpath in the far left hand corner (under the large oak tree), **turn right onto the track and continue over the bridge and past the site of the old Toll Booth.** At the junction carry straight on **turning left on reaching the barn ahead.** On the left-hand bend (opposite a lamp post), turn right and continue across a field, the old railway track and a second field to reach the road. **POINT 1**

INTERNET

I have also searched the internet and found the following walks.

Walks around the East Sussex Countryside An online version of the printed ESCC guide above at

<https://eastsussexgovuk.blob.core.windows.net/media/1251/barcombe.pdf>

Uses 3-1 Excerpts as follows:



- 4) Turn immediately right after the bridge and follow the riverside footpath to Barcombe Mills. **Turn right onto the road, crossing the bridge and follow the road passing the old toll house and site of the old toll bridge.**
- 5) **Continue to follow the road to join the main road.** Turn right to follow past the old Barcombe Mills station on your left, to find the next footpath sign on the left. Of the three footpaths at this point, follow the left hand one along the field edge to the stile in the field corner. Continue, crossing two footbridges and the route of the old railway,

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Sussex Living <https://east.sussexliving.com/barcombe-mills-walk/>

Uses 4-2 no map, but description as follows:

This walk is a good stomp, feeling at times like a long yomp, but it's pan flat and well worth the effort. From the Barcombe Mills car park, walk west under the giant oak towards the narrow road. Follow the road over Pikes Bridge and the Andrews Stream, past the fish ladder, around the weir pool and then across the old toll bridge. Wander down the drive opposite the old toll bridge, turning left at the T-junction. Follow the concrete roadway until the path bears right by the silo.

Across the far side of the field, take the steps down to, and across the track-bed of the old railway line. Look left and the old station is in the distance. It closed in 1969 as part of Uckfield to Lewes line. Up the other side and through a narrow gap, keep the hedge on the right and follow the path all the way to the road.

Viewranger <https://my.viewranger.com/route/details/MjNfNDMzNQ==>

very badly plotted, but appears to use 3-2

My favourite pub walks

[myfavouritepubwalks.co.uk/shopping/pubwalk/LS_Anchor-](https://myfavouritepubwalks.co.uk/shopping/pubwalk/LS_Anchor-Inn_Barcombe_345.doc)

[Inn_Barcombe_345.doc](https://myfavouritepubwalks.co.uk/shopping/pubwalk/LS_Anchor-Inn_Barcombe_345.doc) Uses 2-3. No map. Excerpt below.

1. From the **Anchor Inn** car park, go through the kissing gate in the right hand corner and follow the river edge on the *Sussex Ouse Valley Way*. Note the sign saying keep dogs on leads here due to ground nesting birds.
2. Continue along the path until you come to a clearing with farm buildings. Keep straight ahead onto the tarmac farm track which follows the right hand bank of the River Ouse.
3. Just keep to this track as it weaves its way between tree and hedge-lined fields in the Ouse flood plain. As you reach the buildings of Barcombe Mills, go past the green gate and follow the track as it turns left between the houses (one of the houses has free range chicken and duck eggs for sale outside with an honesty box).
4. At the cross roads go straight ahead and follow the tarmac road as it crosses a series of bridges over branches of the Ouse where a series of weirs can be seen. Look out for the footpath sign on the left indicating the next stretch of the *Sussex Ouse Valley Way*.
5. Cross the footbridge and continue with the main river on your left. Through a kissing gate and past the pumping station and over another bridge. After a short stretch walking between two branches of the river, you pass through another kissing gate and out into open pasture again.
6. Now head back towards the farm buildings, following the edge of the river.
7. Cross over the bridge and turn right to rejoin the path and clearing from earlier on the walk. From the footpath sign in the clearing, take the blue route on the *Sussex Ouse Valley Way* which is also marked by a black and yellow arrow which becomes visible on your left as you enter the trees
8. Now just follow this path back to the welcome of **Anchor Inn** and enjoy some freshly prepared home-made food.
9. If the weather is fine you may wish to top off the day by hiring one of the pubs rowing boats and exploring further up the river.

Alltrails [https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/england/east-](https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/england/east-sussex/barcombe-cross-and-barcombe-mills)

[sussex/barcombe-cross-and-barcombe-mills](https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/england/east-sussex/barcombe-cross-and-barcombe-mills) This is a copy of the ESCC walk.

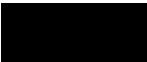
Here is an excerpt from the introduction" Uses 1-3.

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A circular walk from the village of Barcombe Cross in East Sussex. The route is across fields and along quiet country lanes, following the River Ouse to Barcombe Mills and visiting the three villages of Barcombe. This walk is one of a collection published through a collaboration with East Sussex County Council.


However the material is of interest because people who have walked the route have added their comments. They are reproduced below. (accessed 25/6/20) The comments are out of the relevant period but suggest that there is no issue with the route on the ground to the present day.

 ★★★★★
hiking 3 days ago

Really nice walk, well signposted with easy to follow directions... we did it on a sunny June evening with our dog, and the countryside is beautiful and varied throughout, especially the walk along the river. Easy terrain so would be suitable for most abilities & a few stiles which are easy to navigate. Parked in the high street car park next to the village stores as suggested on here.

 recorded [Barcombe Cross an...](#) ★★★★★
hiking 1 month ago

Really lovely walk! Definitely dog friendly. I would say there were only around 4/5 stiles that our lab couldn't navigate himself so just be mindful of that if you've got a big dog. Managed the walk in around 2 and a half hours at 8 months pregnant without too much issue, but definitely worked up an appetite for lunch by the end. Some interesting things to see along the way, beautiful flowers, world war 2 pill box, a 5* bug hotel and lovely river side spots for a picnic (we'll definitely do that next time). Instructions were super clear to us. Would definitely recommend. Disclaimer - my phone ran out of battery and therefore the recording of our walk cut out 8km in. We didn't cheat and cut the walk short

 recorded [Recording - Apr 07, 09...](#) ★★★★★
running 2 months ago

Good run although not straightforward the first time you do it.

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[redacted] ★★★★★
hiking 11 months ago

We have now navigated this walk twice. First time made a couple of wrong turnings but second time surprised ourselves with how smooth the walk was. If you like wild water swimming, bring your swimming costume. Pip the dog loved it both times.

[redacted] recorded [Recording - May 29...](#) ★★★★★
hiking May 2019

Lovely walk in the Sussex countryside. Beautiful views of the South Downs as well as following the River Ouse through fields and villages. I would recommend this dog friendly walk. There is free parking next to the Village shop in Barcombe Cross. The directions are clear and accurate. Really enjoyed this walk.

[redacted] recorded [Barcombe Cross and ...](#) ★★★★★
hiking 6 days ago

[redacted] recorded [Barcombe Cross an...](#) ★★★★★
hiking 1 month ago

[redacted] recorded [Recording - May 14, ...](#) ★★★★★
hiking 1 month ago

[redacted] recorded [Barcombe Cross an...](#) ★★★★★
hiking 2 months ago

[redacted] ★★★★★
hiking 2 months ago

██████████ recorded [Mottistone Walking Tour](#) ★★★★★
hiking 9 months ago

██████████ recorded [Barcombe Cros...](#) ★★★★★
hiking 9 months ago

██████████ recorded [Barcombe Cross and B...](#) ★★★★★
hiking 10 months ago

██████████ ★★★★★
hiking 10 months ago

██████████ recorded [Barcombe Cross...](#) ★★★★★
hiking 10 months ago

Chris Smith June 2010

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