Essential Information

Distance:
5.3 miles/8.6 kms

Walk grade:
Generally easy walk along country lanes and across fields, with some gentle hills and stiles.

Maps:
OS Explorer 122
OS Landranger 198

Start/Finish:
Barcombe Cross High Street
TQ 421158

Public Transport:
Buses: A bus service operates between Lewes/Cooksbridge Station and Newick with a stop at Barcombe Cross.
Trains: Cooksbridge Railway Station approx. 2.5 miles. Alternative stations at Uckfield & Lewes.

Parking:
Public car park at Barcombe Cross.
 Paths to Prosperity

East Sussex is a welcome haven for walkers in the busy south-east of England, with over two thirds of the County covered by the High Weald and Sussex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There is also a wealth of picturesque villages, country houses and parkland hidden within its rolling landscape, waiting to be discovered.

Please come and enjoy the unique splendours of our countryside, but please also support the local businesses that help make the countryside the vibrant place that it is today.

The Country Code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.  
Guard against all risk of fire.  
Leave gates as you find them.  
Keep your dog under close control in the presence of animals.  
Keep to public rights of way.

Refreshments and Local Services (see map for location)

1. The Royal Oak  
Free House and Restaurant - 01273 400418

2. Barcombe Stores & Post Office  
Local Village General Stores and Post Office - 01273 400208

3. Sussex Countryside Accommodation  
Bed & Breakfast and Self Catering Accommodation - 01273 400625

Please note that inclusion of business details in this leaflet does not constitute an endorsement of the business by East Sussex County Council or its agents.

The Three Villages of Barcombe

On this walk you will pass through the three villages that make up ‘Barcombe’.  

The original village of Barcombe near the church was largely deserted at the time of the Black Death, when Barcombe Cross replaced it as the main centre. Barcombe Cross grew in size with arrival of the railway, which had stops, both here and at Barcombe Mills.

The settlement of Barcombe Mills grew up around the River Ouse, with flour mills at this point being mentioned in Domesday. The last of the mills on this site was destroyed in a fire in 1939. This also purports to be the site of the first road toll in Sussex with charges still displayed on the old Ouse bridge.

We hope that you enjoy the walk in this leaflet, which is one of a series produced by East Sussex County Council.

Copies of the leaflets for other walks in the series are available from Tourist Information Centres and libraries or direct from East Sussex County Council, by contacting the Rights of Way Team:-

By phone on:- 01273 482250 / 482354 / 482324

By post at:-  
Transport and Environment Department  
County Hall  
St. Anne’s Crescent  
Lewes BN7 1UE

By e-mail at:- rightsofway@eastsussexcc.gov.uk

By downloading from the website at: www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk

If any problems are encountered on the walk please report them to the above contact points.

This route is based on one published by Countryside Books in the book Village Walks in East Sussex. If you enjoyed the walk and would like to explore further similar ones, the guide book can be purchased through local booksellers:- ISBN 1-85306-505-6

Printed on elemental chlorine-free paper using wood pulp obtained from sustainable forests.
Barcombe Walk

The River Ouse

Map Legend
- Refreshments & Local Services (see over for details)
- Route
- Other Public Footpaths
- Other Public Bridleways
- Road Used as a Public Path
- Licensed Bridleway

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Starting from the Post Office in Barcombe Cross High Street, turn right and head towards the roundabout, turn right again and follow the road for approximately 385 metres (420 yds.). Turn left at the footpath sign and follow the field edge path to reach the footbridge. Turn immediately left after the bridge and continue to follow the footpath into the next field heading initially towards a pair of red tile hung cottages. Before reaching the cottages the footpath divides, bear right at this point and follow the route across the field to the farm drive, with the fortified barns of Banks Farm visible on your right.

Cross the drive to follow the waymarked path, bearing left after the first field and continue along the edge of the next field, keeping the hedgerow on your left. Turn right and follow Anchor Lane for approximately 475 metres (520 yds.) to the next footpath signed on the right.

Follow the field edge path turning right at the next signpost and keep the hedge on your right. Follow the path around the corner of the field and cross into the adjacent field at the next gap. Continue, now keeping the hedge on your left to reach the next stile. After the stile keep to the well waymarked path around the buildings. After passing the barn on the surfaced driveway turn left to cross the bridge.

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.

The old toll sign can still be seen together with a plaque on the bridge providing some history of this site.

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, bearing right at the next sign across the field to reach a handgate. Continue to reach a signpost, at which, turn left to follow the path between the houses.

Cross the road and follow the path along the field edge. At the far side of the field turn sharp right to double back over a footbridge. Follow this path towards Barcombe Church and at the surfaced path turn right past the thatched round house and barn on your right.

Cross the road to the kissing gate and follow the waymarked path to the next road. Turn right and then left at the road junction. After approximately 210 metres (230 yds.) turn left over the stile and follow the waymarked footpath turning right at the next signpost to cross the old railway route again.

After the kissing gate follow the line of the waymarked path to reach another sign and stile. Follow the path around the field edge and then along the surfaced section behind the houses. Turn left at the end of this path and follow the road, crossing another, back to the High Street, next to the Royal Oak.