

STAGE  
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# Henley to Petworth, via Bexleyhill, River Common and Upperton

Nearly all of the land in this section of the Serpent Trail is owned and managed by either the Cowdray or Leconfield Estates.

The character of the landscape, villages and landmarks has been shaped by the domination and connection of these historic estates.

Henley is home to many listed buildings including the attractive Duke Of Cumberland Arms. Continuing east, Verdley Woods is owned and managed by Cowdray Estate and home to a small population of re-introduced **pearl-bordered fritillary** 1, which feeds on violets as a caterpillar and relies on clearings with grass and bracken litter; the woods here are ideal for their lifecycle. Look out for adult butterflies from April to July – they have pearl-like white spots with a red border on the underside of their wing and fly close to the ground.



Ground-nesting birds: March to mid Sept.

The woodlands around **Bexleyhill** make up the Northpark Copse to Snapelands Copse SSSI, designated for its **moss, liverwort and lichen communities**; the damp, shady conditions create the perfect microclimate for these primitive plants and lichens to thrive. While the northern section of the woods was once wood pasture, it has now overgrown and is dominated by oak, beech, yew and holly – now a rare and important type of woodland in the south east. The southern section has quite a different character, being maintained as a coppice.

Carrying on through farmed landscape you pass Lord's Wood – a pocket of ancient woodland – and **Lodge Farm** with its 18th century cart bridge 2 and beautiful grade II listed barns and granary building.

The Trail continues through **River and Upperton Commons**, owned and managed by Leconfield Estate. An impressive Folly on the Eastern edge of the commons may have been a lookout for verderers and is now a grade II listed building.

An alternative route towards Petworth is through the National Trust managed **Petworth Park** 3, accessed by the Upperton Gate. This route avoids the busy A272 and takes in stunning scenery of the Park designed by Capability Brown, leading you straight into the heart of Petworth town to rejoin the Trail. Be aware that the gates are closed overnight, so make sure to check opening times before choosing this route.

1 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

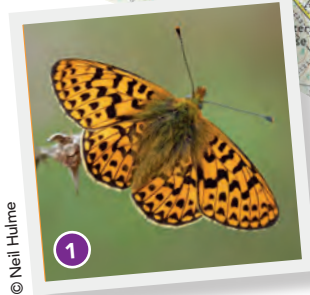
Start: Pick up the Trail in Henley village opposite the Duke of Cumberland Public House. To get to Henley, take the Stagecoach Bus 70 from either Haslemere or Midhurst. The bus stops on the A286 (note: there is no pavement here and care must be taken when walking along the verge or crossing this busy road to join the Trail).

In Petworth town centre for Stagecoach Bus 1 to Midhurst or Worthing, and Compass bus 99 to Chichester.



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