

STAGE 7

# Petworth to Fittleworth

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The historic town of **Petworth** is definitely worth exploring. Many of the houses here were owned by the **Leconfield Estate** – denoted by the battleship grey, now mid brown, doors.

The Trail leaves Petworth and heads for **Flexham Park**, where commercial coppicing can really be appreciated. Look out for the neat rows of coppice stools, the variety of ages of the enclosures and the different species of trees being cultivated for various products. Many species of plant and animal benefit from this type of woodland management, an important and very cute example being the **hazel dormouse** 1.

This tiny native mammal lives most of its life in the tree canopy, only setting foot on ground to hibernate in winter. The variety of tree ages and species in coppice woodland provides a plentiful food resource and much needed connectivity between the canopy. Although their lifestyle makes the hazel dormouse very difficult to spot, you may find signs of their feeding by looking for smooth circular nibble holes in hazelnuts. Another species that utilises coppice woodlands is the nightjar, which you may recognise from being an important heathland species – it follows the clearly cut enclosures each year to nest on the open ground.

**Bognor Common** is just to the south and is a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The sand quarry is an important site paleogeographically with a possible volcanic source area to the south.

The Trail continues to the attractive village of **Fittleworth**. The popular community shop **Fittleworth Stores** 2 located on School Lane, opened in 2018 if



 Ground-nesting birds: March to mid Sept.



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you are in need of refreshment. Fittleworth also has its fair share of heritage buildings. Gingerbread and Coombe cottage can be seen when entering the village and are both grade II listed buildings, from the 17th and 18th centuries. Also look out for the 13th century St Mary's Church, a Grade I listed building designated for its tower.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

-  Start: Stagecoach Bus 1 and Compass Bus 99 go to Petworth Town Centre.
-  From Fittleworth A283, Stagecoach Bus 1 provides connections to Worthing and Midhurst.



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-  Car Park
-  Bus stop
-  Pub
-  Library
-  Public toilets

