




STAGE
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Duncton Common to Cocking Causeway

This section of the Serpent Trail explores several heathland sites which are home to some of the UK's rarest species, beginning with Lavington Common and Plantation – owned and managed by the National Trust.

This site is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and home to the rare sand lizard 1. Look out for the exotic green male sand lizard during the summer breeding season. Site managers are helping conservation of this species by providing the bare ground favoured for egg laying. To learn more about these rare reptiles look out for the Lavington Lizard heathland sculpture 2 as you continue through the common. There are also a variety of Bronze Age features at Lavington, most obviously the round barrows found towards the south of the plantation.

-  Cattle grazing, check site signage.
-  Ground-nesting birds: March to mid Sept.
-  Heathlands sculpture.

Continuing west, Graffham Common is owned and managed by the Sussex Wildlife Trust. This former pine plantation is a more recent example of heathland restoration and is home to some rare wet heath plants such as the beautiful sundew. There are also





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fantastic viewpoints, at one of which you can also find the next heathland sculpture 3. The Sheep Pig is inspired by a map drawn in 1629.

Further along the Trail are Ambersham and Heyshott Commons, owned by Cowdray Estate. Also designated SSSIs due to the rare species found on them – one of which is Britain's rarest reptile, the smooth snake 4. Although you are unlikely to see this elusive and harmless species, there is plenty of other heathland wildlife to look out for (see pages 4-7 for details). Once past the main common you may spot a WWII pillbox through the trees as well as two well preserved barrows at Walkers Copse and Upper Polecats Copse.

Walking along Dunford Hollow you may notice the Cobden monument erected for Richard Cobden, a politician in the 1800s known for fighting for free trade.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

-  Start: Heath End, A285 Compass Bus 99 from Petworth or Chichester (tell the driver you need to get off here).
-  Cocking Causeway, A286 Stagecoach Bus 60 to Chichester or Midhurst.



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