



THE CENTURION WAY

PROJECT UPDATE FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Contact Centurion.Way@southdowns.gov.uk

April 2026

The Centurion Way Project Team at the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) shares this update to keep residents, landowners, user groups, and others informed about the upcoming extension of Centurion Way from West Dean to Cocking.

Background

The Centurion Way is a 5.5-mile (9km) path between Chichester, Lavant, and West Dean along the former Chichester–Midhurst railway, which closed in 1991. The initial section opened in the mid-90s, with a 1.5-mile (2.5km) extension added in 2015 to reach West Dean. In 2019, approval was granted for another 3-mile (5km) extension to Cocking Hill, connecting with the South Downs Way. This new section requires complex ecological planning, significant resources, funding, and coordination with landowners, and will take several years to complete. Refer to the route map below for construction details.

Progress Overview

The initial sections (1 to 4) of the extension were completed and opened in August 2025, including substantial restoration work at Singleton Station. Additionally, the footpath through West Dean was widened to enhance connectivity between the southern segment of the route and the new extension; a ramp was also constructed near West Dean School to improve access for all users. West Dean Estate has now opened a permissive path connecting the southern section with the extension, enabling users to bypass the road segment. SDNPA is actively working to upgrade this linking section to further enhance accessibility.



Figure 1. Singleton Station (Photo Credit Sam Moore)

Construction Update 2026.

Work on sections 5 and 6 of the route will begin in April, with completion expected by September this year. This extension will connect the route to Littlewood via a new woodland path. During the early stages of construction, some restrictions will apply to Centurion Way north of Singleton Station. These limitations are planned for weekdays only, so finished parts of the route will remain open during evenings, weekends, and public holidays. For public safety, two Public Rights of Way will also be closed throughout the construction period. Details of these closures and restriction are included below.

Please visit our Centurion Way Website for more updates and FAQ's www.southdowns.gov.uk/centurion-way/

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Centurion Way Project Team
South Downs National Park Authority

Contact Centurion.Way@southdowns.gov.uk



Public Notice

South Downs National Park Authority

1st April 2026

Construction of the next section of Centurion Way and closure restrictions.

We are pleased to announce that construction on the next section of Centurion Way is scheduled to begin on 13th April and will be completed by September 2026. This phase will extend the route from Milk Halt to Littlewood, with further expansion to Cocking Hill and the South Downs Way planned for 2026/27.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE HAT HILL SECTION OF CENTURION WAY

To protect public safety while civil engineering works are carried out in the vicinity, Centurion Way will be closed between the Station Site and the Milk Halt during the working week (8.00am–5.00pm, Monday–Friday).

The route will be open from 5.00pm each day, and at weekends and on public holidays.

These restrictions will come into effect on 13th April 2026 and will remain in place for up to three months, or until it is safe to reopen the path.

Any queries about this restriction can be directed to Centurion.Way@southdowns.gov.uk

TEMPORARY CLOSURE PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 444 & FOOTPATH NO. 3013

To protect public safety while civil engineering works are carried out in the vicinity, two local footpaths No444 and No3013 will be closed.

These restrictions will come into effect on 1st April 2026 and will remain in place for up to six months, or until it is safe to reopen the footpath.

Any queries about the footpaths should be directed to PROW Team, WSCC telephone number 01243 777620

We apologise for any inconvenience



**WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
(SINGLETON: PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 444)
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2026**

**&
WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
(SINGLETON: PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 3013)
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2026**

NOTICE is hereby given that not less than 7 days from the date of this Notice West Sussex County Council intends to make Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to prohibit any person from proceeding along lengths of:-

- Public Footpath No. 444 from its southern end at its junction with Public Footpath No. 449-2 (487083, 113422), northwards to its junction with the A286 (487419,114352), approximately 1.22KM; and
- Public Footpath No 3013 from its junction with Public Footpath No. 449-2 (486078, 114196), eastwards to its junction with the A286 (487363,114989), approximately 1.77KM.

The Orders are necessary to protect public safety whilst civil engineering works are undertaken in the vicinity. A section of Footpath No. 444 is impacted by construction of a new combined cycleway/footway between Cucumber Farm and Littlewood Farm. A new bridge is being constructed at Littlewood Farm over a section of Public Footpath No. 3013.

Unfortunately, there are no alternative routes available using the PROW network.

The Orders will come into effect on 31 March 2026 and will last for 6 months or until it is safe to reopen the footpaths.

Any queries about the works to take place or the effect of the Orders on persons using the footpaths should be directed to PROW Team, WSCC telephone number 01243 777620

Dated 12 March 2026

Executive Director of Law Assurance & Insight
County Hall,
Chichester.

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Public Footpath Route Temporarily Closed
Public Bridleway

Public Rights of Way, 1st Floor Northleigh, Tower Street,
Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RH;
www.westsussex.gov.uk/prow

