



A Canal crossing



History

From 1896 to 1935 the Hundred of Manhood and Selsey Tramway (or Selsey Tram) was, in theory at least, the fastest and most convenient way of travelling between Chichester and Selsey. Between these two termini, there were eleven stations or halts, the remains of two of which can still be seen at Hunston and Chalder.

The Tram was a conventional standard gauge railway in all but name, but from the start all expense was spared in its construction and operation, with little track engineering, signalling or station infrastructure.

The tramway hugged existing field edges, twisting and turning across the Manhood Peninsula, with bends so tight that speeds over 15 miles an hour were ruled out.

In keeping with the Tramway's ramshackle nature, the whole of the rolling stock was a ragged mismatch of ancient ex-works engines and, towards the end, petrol driven buses with flanged wheels.

Yet, in its heyday excursions ran, packed with day-trippers, from London to Selsey Beach Station (via a crossover link from the main line at Chichester).

It declined rapidly in the 1920s, and the death of its mentor, Colonel Holman Stephens, spelled the end for this rural curiosity.



B Drawbridge up



C Chalder station



D Paghham Harbour embankment



E Ferry crossing derailment



F Worst derailment



G Selsey cutting



“A Sense of Place”

Every place is unique, shaped by its past, and echoes of the past can be found all around.

The Selsey Tram Way

This walk mirrors the route taken by the tram, as much as possible, using existing rights-of-way.

The way-marked footpath was created in 1996, with the assistance of West Sussex County Council, to commemorate the centenary of the Selsey Tram.

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group draws volunteers together in positive action for wildlife and the benefit of the community.

To find out more about the group contact Tel: 01243 521131

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Distance 11 miles • Time 5 hours

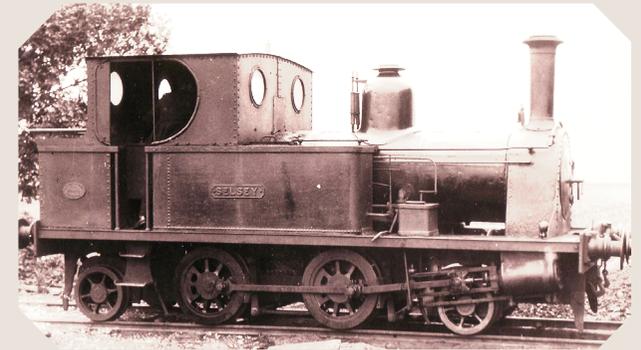
Start Chichester Canal Basin • Finish Selsey

Maps • OS Explorer 120 • Landranger 197 • GR 859041

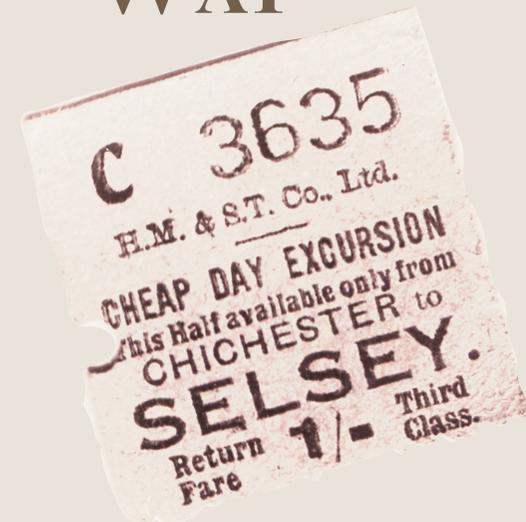
Parking (P) in Chichester, Hunston and Selsey

For details of bus times between Chichester and Selsey call

Traveline: 0871 200 22 33



WALK THE SELSEY TRAM WAY



Directions

Chichester to Hunston (2 miles)

Start at Chichester Canal Basin at the Waterside Inn. Go to the right of the canal basin (PF). Follow the towpath along the canal, ignoring all side paths, and cross the footbridge at Hunston to meet the road. Turn right along the road for a few yards to rejoin the towpath (PF). On reaching **the remains of the drawbridge abutments (A & B)** turn left away from the canal (PF) to follow the former Tram track straight ahead to reach the main road (B2145).

Hunston to Sidlesham (5 miles)

Turn left along the road, at the playing fields turn right across the road to follow footpath (PF) straight ahead along the edge of the field. At (PF) turn right, cross another field to Hunston church. Turn right past the church (PF) and at the farm turn left (PF) along a track. At (PF) turn right and at next (PF) turn right again along the edge of a field. At (PF) go left along track through golf course (PF). **Passengers once became stranded at a Halt here after trees blocked the line following a storm.** At a junction of paths at the 15th tee turn right (PF) along a tarmac road. At the clubhouse go straight on, turn left along a tarmac path (PF) behind a line of trees. Cross a footbridge, go straight ahead (PF), then cross another footbridge to immediately turn left (PF) in front of a house. Go along the edge of a field, turn right at (PF) across a third footbridge and carry straight on. Cross another footbridge and follow ditch on left, turn right at (PF) and go through a gap straight ahead. Turn right along a farm track (PF). Follow the track to Chalder Farm ignoring left fork (Sustrans Path). Turn left at the farm buildings and follow the lane which passes **Chalder Station, which is the most visible remaining artifact, (C)** to Sidlesham Church. At Church Gate Cottage turn left to go through the churchyard to a lane. Turn left along the lane for half a mile and at (PF) turn right across fields to Rookery Lane. Cross the lane and take (PF) across a field. At (PF) turn left to reach an enclosed path to Sidlesham Harbour.

Sidlesham to Selsey (4 miles)

Turn right along the road and take next path on the left (PF) for three quarters of a mile, ignoring all turnings on the right. This was **the Tramway embankment. (D)** At the abutments follow the path towards the road. Turn left at the fence then right to reach the road (PF). **Regular collisions occurred here between road vehicles and trains eventually resulting in the driver of the tram having to walk across the road waving a red flag before the locomotive crossed. (E)** Cross the road with care and turn left for a few yards to take path on the right (PF) across a field. Turn right to follow the track around the barn. Keep on this path which turns left, then right to follow the Tramway. **The only fatal accident, a derailment, happened near here. (F)** After three quarters of a mile turn left (PF) alongside chalets to join a track. Go straight ahead to reach the Chichester Road. Turn right along the road and at the bus stop turn left, cross the road to take path (PF) alongside **the old Tramway cutting. (G)** Follow path (PF) to Manor Road. Turn right along road and at crossroads turn left along Beach Road. Go past the shops and at the fork bear left, cross the road and take path (PF) alongside East Beach pond to reach the sea and the end of the walk.

PF = Footpath

Look for Selsey Tramway Path signs



Stations

- 1 Chichester
- 2 Hunston
- 3 Hoe Farm
- 4 Chalder
- 5 Mill Pond Halt
- 6 Sidlesham
- 7 Ferry
- 8 Golf Club Halt
- 9 Selsey Bridge
- 10 Selsey Town
- 11 Beach

Key

- Footpath
- Tram route
- Bus stops
- PH Pubs
- Church
- Golf