



Keynor Farm House and 290 acres of land were purchased for £13,333 in 1936 and divided into 46 smallholdings. Later Fletchers and Batchmere (Almodington) Farms provided another 100 LSA properties. This house became the home of 8 LSA Estate Managers (1936-1983).

Before leaving the property notice Keynor hut, located to the left of the main gate. The original 'settlers' lived here while they were being trained and their houses were being built. The building later hosted tenants' meetings, the Home Guard during World War Two and then community facilities: pre-school, brownies, guides, parties, dances and a Womens' Group (WI).

6 Turn right into Cow Lane (take care, no pavement).

7 At the end of the lane cross (with care) to a pavement on Keynor Lane.



Ahead are two semi-detached former LSA houses - note the name on the gate to the property on the left! After the closure of the LSA some smallholdings adopted names as well as numbers: another example is No 2, named Numero Deux.

Sidlesham School is situated further down the lane. On December 12th 1938 the school became the first in England to serve hot midday meals in response to concerns about the malnutrition of some of the LSA children. Meals cost 3d (1p in modern coinage). Four additional classrooms were built in 1939 as a direct response to the arrival of LSA families, some with 10 children. The school population had by then increased from 120 to 284. The School Admissions Register provided the names and origins of many of the earliest tenants.

Turn back and walk along Keynor Lane passing Cow and Chalk Lanes.



You will see more LSA houses (Nos 41 & 42, 43 & 44, 45 & 46) many still with their former piggeries and chicken sheds clearly visible.

No 45 (Acer Leigh): A single house similar to this property has been dismantled and is in storage at the Weald & Downland Living Museum awaiting funding to be re-erected as a permanent record of the LSA story. The house at the museum was the home of Godfrey Shirt - an LSA Manager in charge of Central Services including transport - it was LSA lorries that took several of the first properties to the museum in the 1960s. Later Godfrey became a founder volunteer steward at the museum and there is a bench outside Bayleaf House dedicated to him. www.wealddown.co.uk

The announcement to close the LSA was made on 22nd December 1982. LSAs were encouraged to form their own independent co-operatives. Sidlesham Growers was formed with 90 tenants and continued trading until about 2000.

8 When the pavement ends take care crossing the lane to the opposite side.

To the right is Ivy Grange once home to Eric Coates, the composer of Sleepy Lagoon, the theme tune of Desert Islands Discs, and The Dam Busters March.

9 Towards the end of the pavement turn right onto a footpath (by a bicycle sign) to reach the main road. (B2145) Cross the road with care and continue to the right/south.

Next to the bus stop on the opposite side of the road is Redgate Farm House. Note the 'coloured patch' on the gable end which bore the name 'The Flying Fish' - an ale house where Gertie Earwicker served beverages from her front room in the 1920s.

Cross Manhood Lane with care.

Manhood is the name given to the peninsula south of Chichester. It has had various spellings on maps over the years, Manwed in



1587, Manhode in 1663 and Manhope in 1695, probably derived from old English meaning 'woodland held in common'.

Note The Jolly Fisherman pub and The Old Bakehouse (Combes Bakery) on the opposite side of the road.

10 Turn left into Mill Lane.

Historically Mill Lane had a restaurant, haberdashery, bakery, school (house), post office, Methodist Chapel (with memorial to Sidlesham Mill owner), cobblers, Gnapps General Stores, a poor house and a manor house. Another of the houses accommodated Canadian army officers during World War Two.

As you approach Pagham Harbour the track of a light railway, affectionately known as the Selsey Tram crossed the lane. Built in 1897 the Selsey Tram linked Chichester with Selsey and had 11 stations. It ran until 1935. A postcard of the time explains its

erratic history - 'From Chichester to Selsey and back in a day (Perhaps)'. There was a station located at the junction with the footpath along the side of Pagham Harbour and its sign was spelled Siddlesham.

Continue ahead to explore Sidlesham Quay.

A five-storey mill stood here with a mechanism that allowed the mill wheel to operate when the tide was both coming in and going out. A mill pond stretched half a mile north. Boats brought corn to be milled here. Coal used in the mill has been found in the harbour. Surrounding properties named The Granary, The Old Mill House, The Quay House, Malt House and Crab & Lobster are evidence of former local commercial activity. An interpretative board gives more information.

11 Return to the footpath along the harbour edge (signed to the RSPB Visitor Centre)

Five more interpretative boards along the harbour edge explain more about local history, flora and fauna.

Observe the field hedges within the harbour - evidence of earlier attempts to reclaim the harbour as additional farmland. The harbour entrance, visible in the distance, has changed position on several occasions over time. The latest being caused by Storm Imogen in 2016.

Note the bench commemorating The Friends of Pagham Harbour. Founded in 1976, the Friends assisted a part-time warden to run the reserve, undertake maintenance, conduct surveys and steward the visitor centre. The management of the reserve was transferred from West Sussex County Council to the RSPB in 2012. Over 100 volunteers now assist the RSPB on the reserves at Pagham Harbour and nearby Medmerry, which are jointly managed from the Visitor Centre.

Continue along the harbour edge ignoring signs and the cycle path on the right to the visitor centre.

During World War Two Pagham Harbour was used as a bombing range and there was also a proposal to use it as a base for seaplanes. The Salthouse situated at the eastern end of the North Wall of the harbour was used as a base for the Home Guard. A plane (Typhoon) crashed here during the war and its remains were raised by a USAF helicopter in 1984.

As the footpath turns right the track of the Selsey Tram continued ahead crossing the rife (a Sussex term for a stream) and the main road beyond. Prior to the road being built Selsey had been on an island (Seal Island) accessed by a rowing boat ferry at this point before a causeway was constructed in 1809.

12 Follow the footpath to the right, passing Ferry Hide on your way back to the RSPB Visitor Centre.

The hide was opened in 2018, replacing one which had been built by Youth Opportunity trainees in 1982. Continue into the Discovery Zone, originally funded in 2006 with a lottery grant made on behalf of The Friends of Pagham Harbour. The Zone, which was given a major refurbishment in 2018 and now

Sidlesham Heritage Trail:

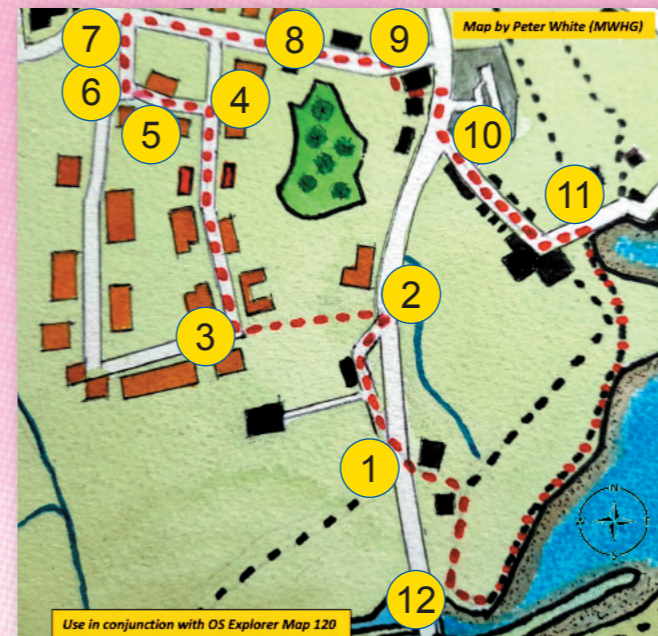
(Numbers in text below relate to positions on the map)

START: RSPB Car Park (PO20 7NE)

1 Leave the RSPB Visitor Centre through the overflow car park and cross (with care) the B2145, heading right towards Sidlesham.

A pavement leads north to the old road.

After Ferry Farm Community Solar are two semi-detached houses. Now named Pondsides and The Birches, these were two of more than 100 houses built in Sidlesham in 1936 for the Land Settlement Association (LSA). Geordie Forth from the Rhondda Valley was a tenant at The Birches (then No 19) in 1937. He was one of more than 1000 unemployed miners and shipbuilders from the north-east of England and South Wales who moved to 20 different LSAs across England during the industrial depression of the 1930s to begin new lives as market gardeners. Each tenant had a house, piggery, chicken shed, glasshouse and 4 acres of land. www.sidleshamheritagetrail.co.uk



2 Almost at the end of the old road turn left by a pond onto a footpath/bridleway.

On the former LSA smallholding to the right (No 20) is the site of a Roman villa with a bath house which was excavated in 1951; it dates from the 1st century AD. A ditch containing Iron Age pottery was found under the villa indicating earlier occupation of the site. (*Historic England: Monument No. 462211*)

3 At the end of the footpath turn right onto Chalk Lane.

Prior to 1936 this land was open fields, the lane and its houses were built for the LSA. The trees and hedges provide a haven for birds and wildlife.

As you walk along the lane you will see several outhouses – former chicken sheds and piggeries, as well as the remains of glasshouses, initially wooden, then iron and later aluminium. Shire horses and carts, then tractors and lorries were frequently seen here collecting produce from the smallholdings or delivering seedlings to be planted out by the tenants and their families. Most of the original houses have been extended and some outhouses have been converted to second homes and/or business premises.

No 32 (opposite No 33) was the home of Bill Littler, a boiler maker from South Shields who came to Sidlesham in 1936. His wife Amelia described their 'journey' "One taxi and with a driver we were fourteen, five grown-ups and nine children. The driver stowed us all in and then producing a towing rope tied it round the vehicle, securing the doors in case the taxi burst open. It was a hilarious drive, though for me very moving as I was enchanted by the beauty of the countryside we were travelling through and the strange feeling I was not leaving home, but coming home, that the countryside was where I should have been born and lived".

4 Turn left into Keynor Farm (Industrial Estate). Take care, keep to the right as this is still a working environment.

This was the location of the LSA Packing Shed where produce was brought to be graded and packed before being despatched to Covent Garden and other markets. There were also offices here where staff marketed the produce and managed the tenants' accounts. The stores which stocked over '800 items', including tools, fertilizer and feed for the animals, is now occupied by Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital.

5 Pass through the small gap in the fence (to the right of a sign 'Bridge Greenhouses') to see Keynor (Farm) House. Although a designated 'right of way' please respect the privacy of the owners and keep to the gravel driveway.



contains an activity shelter, large pond, wild flower meadow and bee wall, is a valuable resource for school children to learn about nature. A carved tree trunk tells the story of Pagham Harbour, a nature reserve rising majestically from a former landfill site.

At the RSPB Visitor Centre you can purchase light refreshments and a bird watching guide as well as other local heritage trail leaflets. You can also obtain an application form to join the RSPB.

Additional information:

Find out more about the Sidlesham Land Settlement Association on our website: www.sidleshamheritagetrail.co.uk

Refreshments and toilet facilities are available at the Visitors Centre, RSPB Pagham Harbour.

The Crab and Lobster Restaurant and Bar is situated on Sidlesham Quay.

Other publications available at the RSPB Visitors Centre:

The Birdwatchers Guide to Pagham Harbour, Medmerry and Selsey Bill.

Sidlesham LSA Heritage Trail

All Aboard Selsey's love affair with railway carriage homes)

Walks Around Sidlesham

Find out more:

Sidlesham Heritage Centre:

Little Orchard Nursery, No 74 Lockgate Road, Sidlesham PO20 7QG

mwhg.org.uk

rspb.org.uk/pagham-harbour

wealdow.co.uk

ferryfarmsolar.co.uk

The trail passes through the front of Keynor House with the kind permission of its owners, please respect their privacy. At the time of publication all other routes are along public rights of way or other paths over which the public have undisputed access. Take extra care on some lanes which do not have pavements. Car parking at the RSPB Visitor Centre or elsewhere is entirely at the owner's risk

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Text by Dr Bill Martin (MWHG)

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Sidlesham Heritage Trail (2)

Lorries, Trains, Boats & Planes

Why did unemployed miners and shipbuilders come to Sidlesham in 1936?

What was the Sidlesham Snail?

Where was Sidlesham Mill?

What part did Pagham Harbour play during World War Two?

Find out the answers to these questions and much more during a three mile circular stroll through parts of Sidlesham and the Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve.

