

## Southeast, Rodmell and River Ouse



Distance: 3.5 miles/6km

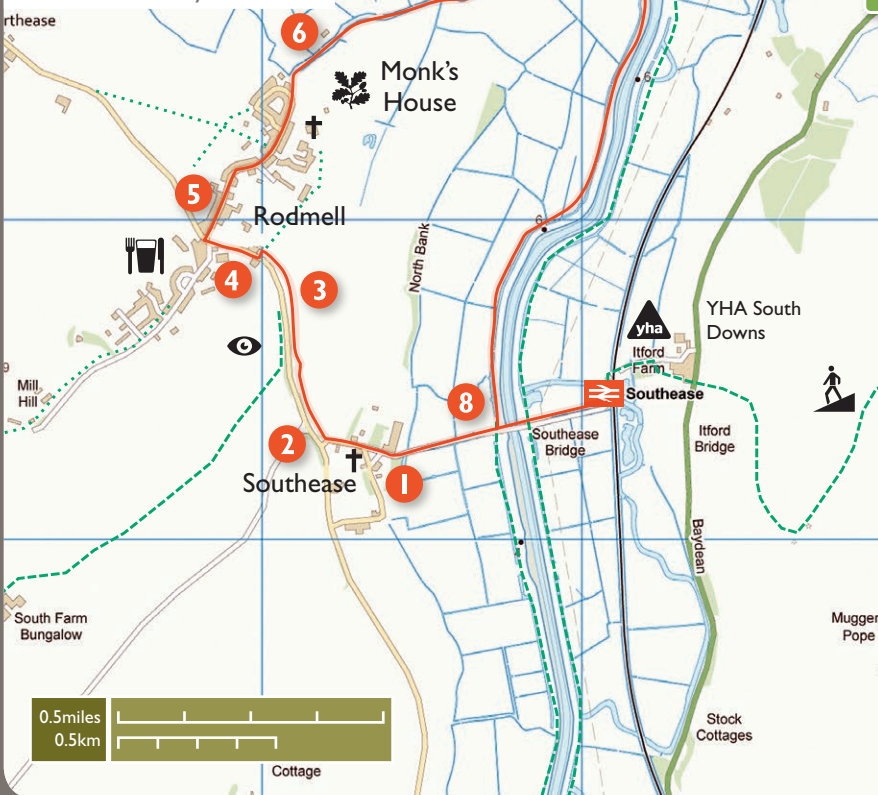
Time: 1.5–2 hours

Train: Regular services from London, Lewes and Brighton

Access: Several gates and stiles, Minor inclines

Key:

-  Incline
-  Church/chapel
-  View
-  Public House
-  National Trust Property
-  Walk
-  Footpath
-  Bridleway



## Route Instructions

- 1 From **Southeast station** head west along the road across the valley until you reach **Southeast village**. A small lake on your left marks the old course of the river. Walk up through the village, pausing to visit **St Peter's church** if you wish.
- 2 Just beyond the white weather-boarded 'Rectory Cottage', turn right through a gate and then left onto a permissive footpath.
- 3 Ascend between trees on your left and uncluttered downland to your right, with distant views of Lewes ahead.
- 4 Continue to the outskirts of **Rodmell**, then switch onto the pavement of the road running in the same direction.
- 5 After about 200 yds, at the **Abergavenny Arms**, turn right down 'The Street', passing the **village church** and **Monk's House** until you reach the bottom of the village.
- 6 Strike out on a wide gravel bridleway across the valley floor. These fields and ditches are home to migrating and overwintering birds, and small flocks of twitchers may also be seen.
- 7 After three quarters of a mile ascend the steep grassy river bank and turn right along the footpath.
- 8 A further mile brings you back to **Southeast bridge**. Turn left onto the bridge and return to **Southeast station**.

## Southeast, Rodmell and River Ouse walk

Take a moment to pause at Southeast Halt. Just visible to the west across the flat valley floor lie the villages of Southeast and Rodmell. To get there, the walk takes you across the River Ouse at Southeast bridge, the only crossing point between Lewes and the coastal port of Newhaven.

Southeast and Rodmell are typical downland villages. Southeast, the smaller of the two, boasts a tiny 12th century church. Rodmell also has a Norman church, and nearby you can visit Monk's House, the country retreat of writer Virginia Woolf, now owned by the National Trust. In both villages you'll find delightful thatched cottages, plus Rodmell is also home to a thriving village pub – the Abergavenny Arms.

## Contact us

South Downs National Park Authority

Tel: 0300 303 1053

Web: [www.southdowns.gov.uk](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk)

Twitter: @SDNPA Facebook: SDNPA

Please follow the Countryside Code:

Leave gates as you find them and keep dogs under close control or on a lead.

## Where in the South Downs National Park:



Details correct at time of going to print. Please be aware that routes are shared with other users (vehicles, pedestrians, dogs, horses etc) and users of the SDNPA Walk and Ride Leaflet Series do so at their own risk. We do not accept any responsibility for loss, damage or injury, however caused, arising directly or indirectly from use of this leaflet. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013.

NATIONAL TRAIL



South Downs  
National Park

## Walks around the Ouse Valley



© Southeast Church, Jan Knowlson

Leave your car at home, take the train





**Bishopstone and the Downland Ridge**

Distance: 9.4 miles / 15 km

Time: 4–5 hours

Train: Regular services from London, Lewes and Brighton

Access: A number of gates and stiles. Moderate inclines

Key:

- Incline
- Church/chapel
- Nature reserve
- View
- Public House
- National Trust Property
- Walk
- Footpath
- Bridleway

### Route Instructions

- 1** From **Bishopstone station** head north along Station Road, cross the main **A 259** coast road, go over a stile, and bear right along the valley floor.
- 2** After one third of a mile, climb over a stile set in the wall and strike out diagonally left across a field to join the quiet country road through the villages of **Bishopstone** and **Norton**. Ignore any side roads.
- 3** Beyond Norton, continue in the same general direction past the ‘Private’ and ‘No through road’ signs. Avoid any turnoffs as the track along ‘**Poverty Bottom**’ gradually becomes rougher and narrower and begins to climb.
- 4** One mile beyond Norton is a four-way footpath crossroads. Turn down to the right.
- 5** The path now runs in a more or less straight line north east for two miles over undulating but generally rising downland. Keep the hedge on your right initially until, after the first of several gates, the path strikes out across arable fields.
- 6** After the fourth gate, at a waymark post, the path bears left for its final third of a mile ascent to the ridge.
- 7** Pass through a gate out onto the ridge and turn sharp left to join the **South Downs Way**.
- 8** With the fence to your left, stay on this ridge path until, after a couple of miles, you pass two tall **radio masts** on **Beddingham hill**. Continue in the same direction for another mile or so, until the path begins to drop down into the **Ouse Valley** ahead.
- 9** As the path down **Itford Hill** becomes steeper, it veers round to the left, following the fence line for a quarter of a mile, before turning sharply back to the right.
- 10** The final descent brings you down to a footbridge over the busy **A26** trunk road. A short distance further on, turn left at **YHA South Downs** for **Southeast station**.

## Bishopstone and the Downland Ridge walk

Built between 600 and 800 AD, St Andrew’s in Bishopstone village is possibly the oldest Saxon church in Sussex. Its ancient sundial above the porch bears the name ‘Eadric’.

The ridge affords spectacular views all around, with the woodland of the Sussex weald laid out below you. At Firl Beacon you can look south as far as the middle of the English Channel, or turn the other way to see the North Downs. From Itford Hill you can follow the course of the River Ouse all the way from Lewes to the sea.

## South Downs National Park

The South Downs National Park is Britain’s newest National Park, rich in landscape, culture and wildlife. Discover ancient woodland and enjoy spectacular views as you explore the open downs and heathlands. Within these landscapes lie bustling market towns and peaceful rural villages, historic houses and the remains of ancient settlements. Find out more at [www.southdowns.gov.uk](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk).

Discover another way to visit the South Downs National Park. Go to [www.traveline.co.uk](http://www.traveline.co.uk) or call **0871 200 22 33** to find public transport information. For train timetables, visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or call **08457 48 49 50**.



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