

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been produced to help guide visitors through a beautiful and unspoilt part of West Sussex within the South Downs National Park.

The Octagon Parish is made up of eight villages with churches: Stansted, Racton, Stoughton, East Marden, North Marden, Up Marden, Compton and Forestside and two villages without churches: West Marden and Walderton. Blessed with wonderful walks and fine views down to the south coast, its small ancient downland churches are noted for their spiritual peace and tranquility, some dating back to Saxon times. There are two stately homes in the area: Stansted House and Uppark.

To mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2012, The Octagon decided to establish a long circular walking route using existing footpaths and bridleways to link all the villages together. This is called *The Octagon Way* and is about 18 miles long. There are also eight circular *Octagon Short Walks* of 2–4 miles each.

GET THE No 54 BUS

Why not reduce parking pressure and help to conserve this beautiful National Park by using the local bus service. The no.54 bus passes through the area – 5 times daily except Sunday – making it possible to bus and walk. Find out more about local buses in the contacts section at the back.

Parking: Apart from Stansted Park Garden Centre there are very few official car parks in The Octagon. This booklet gives guidance where you can park for each walk.

Environment: Please help us to care for this beautiful place by following a few simple guidelines:

- Close **gates** behind you.
- Keep your **dogs** under close control at all times to protect livestock, wildlife and your dog!



- Please take your **litter** home with you.
- **Wildlife:** Please do not disturb or harm any wild animals.
- Photograph **wildflowers** but leave them unpicked and untrampled for others to enjoy.
- **Take care on public roads.** Some routes do involve walking along or crossing roads.
- Remember that **wild animals, farm animals and horses** can behave unpredictably – so give them plenty of space.
- Remember that **footpaths are only open for walkers**, whilst bridleways are open to walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

3 STOUGHTON to PITLANDS FARM

A short walk through fields and beech woods. In July and August you may see Dark Green Fritillary and White Admiral butterflies. There are distant views of the Isle of Wight.

POINTS OF INTEREST

St Mary's Church: late Saxon c1050

www.sussexparishchurches.org

Pitlands Farm: A family farm actively supporting agro-environmental schemes and built over the remains of an important Roman villa.

Inholmes Wood: Part of a whole farm conservation scheme to protect and enhance biodiversity, archaeology and farmland birds. Please use footpath and don't disturb wildlife.

Hare & Hounds Pub: Walker and dog friendly country pub in 18th Century listed building, with large outside seating area and with free Wi-Fi access. Open everyday and all day Friday-Sunday.



Distance: 2½ miles

Time: 1 hour

Access: An undulating walk. 1 stile at end.

Getting there: Bike or walk – no bus to Stoughton.

Parking: Is limited. 5 cars can park on the triangle of land in front of village notice board. The Hare & Hounds has a small car park which can be used with the landlord's permission. Some field parking can be arranged via the pub.

ROUTE

- 1 Start at Stoughton notice board; head north past Hare & Hounds pub, out of village. Pass Bartons and Old Bartons private houses.
- 2 After 500 yards turn left ← at footpath fingerpost and climb uphill between two hedges.
- 3 Follow path uphill through mixed hazel coppice into Inholmes Wood.
- 4 Cross first forest track and bear right →. Where forest tracks converge follow the footpath fingerpost back into woods and downhill between tall beech trees.
- 5 Leaving the woods, cross large arable field split by a long grass landing strip. At mid-field marker post turn left ←. Pass an old chalk pit (on right). Continue through fields down to Pitlands Farm.
- 6 Cross farmyard then turn left ← uphill through arable fields; back across the grass landing strip into Inholmes Wood. Follow path back over hill.
- 7 At edge of wood, path turns sharp left ← then right → before dropping through fields to Stoughton. Path ends at stile beside the Hare & Hounds pub.



USEFUL CONTACTS

South Downs National Park Authority

www.southdowns.gov.uk

Tel: (01730) 814810

Email: info@southdowns.gov.uk

Stansted House:

www.stanstedpark.co.uk

Tel: (02392) 412265

The Pavilion Tea Room

www.paviliontearoom.co.uk

Tel: (02392) 413432

Stansted Park Garden Centre:

www.stanstedparkgardencentre.co.uk

Tel: (02392) 413090

Uppark House and Gardens:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uppark

Tel: (01730) 825415

Emsworth & District Bus and Coach Company (No 54 Bus Service Chichester to Petersfield):

www.emsworthanddistrict.co.uk

Tel: (01243) 378337

Compton Shop & Tea Room:

www.southdowns-tearoom.co.uk

Tel: (02392) 631144

PUBS

Walderton: The Barley Mow

www.thebarleymow.pub

Tel: (02392) 631321

Stoughton: The Hare & Hounds

www.hareandhoundspub.co.uk

Tel: (02392) 631433

Compton: The Coach & Horses

www.coachandhorsescompton.com

Tel: (02392) 631228

West Marden: The Victoria Inn

www.victoriainnwestmarden.co.uk

Tel: (02392) 631330

Hookway: The Royal Oak

www.royaloakhookway.co.uk

Tel: (01243) 535257

B&Bs & SELF-CATERING COTTAGES

Lordington House B&B: hamiltonjanda@btinternet.com

[btinternet.com](mailto:hamiltonjanda@btinternet.com)

Tel: (01243) 375862

Pitlands Farm:

www.pitlandsbarns.co.uk

Tel: (02392) 631263

West Marden Farmhouse:

www.keepers.holidaycottageswestsussex.com

Tel: (02392) 631761

West Marden: Marden Down self-catering cottages. Tel: (02392) 631729

www.mardendown.co.uk

Watergate: Grandwood House

www.grandwoodhouse.co.uk

Tel: (07971) 845153

Adsdean Farm Self-Catering Cottages:

www.adsdean.co.uk

Tel: (01243) 575464

Compton: Apiary Cottage

Tel: (02392) 631306

www.apiarycottagebandb.co.uk

Compton: Compton Farm Cottages

Tel: (02392) 631597

www.cottages4you.co.uk

Compton: Hundred Acre Barn

Tel: (02392) 631413

email: hundredacresfarm@hotmail.co.uk

Compton: The Old Clubhouse

Tel: (02392) 631505

Compton: Pepper Pot Cottage

Tel: (07717) 473168

www.pepperpotcottage.co.uk

Up Marden: Orchard Barn

Tel: (01243) 535266

www.orchardbarnwestsussex.co.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

NB: Mobile telephone coverage is restricted in some areas of The Octagon **Police 999**

Damage: In case of damage to gates, signs or misuse of footpaths contact:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/prow

Taxi Services: Dunnaways (01243) 782403;

Michaela (02392) 472782

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MEASUREMENTS & TIMES

All measurements including time to complete individual walks are approximate and for guidance only. Short distances are in yards (1 yard = 0.91 metre) and long distances in miles (1 mile = 1.6km).