

# SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

From rolling hills to bustling market towns, the South Downs National Park's landscapes cover 1,600km<sup>2</sup> of breathtaking views, hidden gems and quintessentially English scenery. A rich tapestry of wildlife, landscapes, tranquillity and visitor attractions, weave together a story of people and place in harmony.

For your guide to everything there is to see and do in the National Park visit [southdowns.gov.uk/discovery-map](https://southdowns.gov.uk/discovery-map)

Keep up to date with the latest news and events from the South Downs National Park. [southdowns.gov.uk/newsletter](https://southdowns.gov.uk/newsletter)



## YOUR COUNTRYSIDE CODE: RESPECT. PROTECT. ENJOY.

### Respect other people

- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Keep to the paths unless on Open Access Land



### Protect the natural environment

- Take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

## CHATTRI MEMORIAL

During World War I (1914–18), Indian soldiers were hospitalised in the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. The Hindus and Sikhs who died were cremated on the Downs and in 1921 the Chattri memorial was built on the cremation site. The word Chattri means 'umbrella' in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu, symbolising the protection offered to the memory of the dead.

## LYNCHETS

7,000 years ago this whole area around the Chattri was covered in trees before Neolithic people cleared the woodland to start working the land. You can still see signs of how the landscape in this area has been shaped by farming.

Above Ewe Bottom you will see the ancient field systems called lynchets. These 'terrace' platforms were created by Iron Age ploughs some 2,500 years ago.

## DEW PONDS

All across the South Downs you will find large circular ponds called dew ponds. They were built to provide water for the large flocks of sheep that grazed the downland from the 17th century onwards. These ponds are filled by rainwater, rather than dew. Many ponds fell into disrepair in the 1900s due to a decline in sheep grazing and the introduction of mains water, however, due to their wildlife and landscape value many ponds are now being restored.



The Chattri © Richard Reed

# SOUTH DOWNS WALKS STANMER PARK AND THE CHATTRI



SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK















© Andy Flowerday/SDNPA



## FIND YOUR WAY

Follow the arrows on waymarkers.

- Footpath  
- Bridleway  
- Restricted byway  
- Byway  
- Open access land  National Trail Acorn 

## TAKE THE LEAD

For a safe and fun visit with your dog please remember to keep them on a lead around livestock, horses and wildlife. Always bag and bin your dog poo – any public bin will do!

# STANMER PARK

The Stanmer estate covers approximately 5,000 acres with a pretty village, manor house, farm, church and café.

The park has a wealth of history to discover. It is thought that the word Stanmer comes from the Anglo-Saxon words 'stan' and 'mere' which mean 'stone' and 'pond'. To the east of the church, which was built in 1838 on the foundations of a 14th century building, you can still see a stony pond. Archaeology shows that Stanmer Park has had human activity since Neolithic times with the

Great Wood containing Bronze Age barrows, tumulus and a cross ridge dyke (a prehistoric land boundary).

In 765 AD, Stanmer was given to the Canons and Monks of St Michael, South Malling by King Aedwulf. It belonged to the Church until the dissolution of the monasteries when it became property of the Crown.

The estate changed hands frequently until Sir Henry Pelham purchased it in 1712 for £7500. It was the Pelham family that redeveloped Stanmer to the version we see today. The church, the village and the manor house stand on sites of much earlier versions of themselves, with some of the building materials being reused in the current buildings.

## ONE GARDEN BRIGHTON

One Garden Brighton is a rediscovered and reinvented walled garden within Stanmer Park. Expertly designed gardens, a place to eat and drink, complete with garden nursery open to the public.

[onegardenbrighton.com](http://onegardenbrighton.com)

## GETTING HERE

**By bus:** There are regular services to Falmer and Patcham, visit [traveline.info](http://traveline.info)

**By rail:** The Stanmer route is close to Falmer station. Visit [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

## CONTACT

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 @SDNPA  /SDNPA

 southdownsnp

## SOUTHDOWNS.GOV.UK

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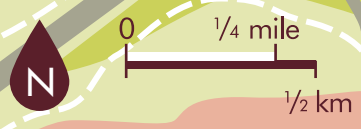


Please recycle me after use



- KEY:**
- Point of interest
  - Pub
  - Refreshments
  - Toilets
  - Bus stop
  - Parking
  - Trail point
  - Bridge
  - Road
  - Long Distance Path
  - Bridleway
  - Footpath
  - Track
  - Railway Station
  - Woodland
  - Buildings
  - Open access land (in shaded area)
  - Dew Pond

**MAP REF:**  
Find this area on  
OS Explorer OL11  
(was 122)



**START  
PATCHAM**

**BRIGHTON  
& HOVE**

**STANMER**

**START  
FALMER**

FALMER  
STATION



# THE CHATTRI

TRAIL: 

ALLOW:  
2 hours

PATH:  
A mix of roads and  
grassy tracks.

DISTANCE:  
3.75 miles (6km)

GRADIENT:  
Steep in places

Explore rolling open access land and breathtaking views to the sea.

**1** From the bus stop outside the Ladies Mile pub, walk up Vale Avenue which takes you to Horsedean Recreation Ground.

**2** Turn right and follow the track up to the right keeping between the trees and fence at the back of the houses. Take the first left across the footbridge, over the bypass, and turn left.

**3** Follow the concrete road up to the other side of the valley where you come to a junction.

**4** Turn right and pass through a small gate to the left of the track into the field. Keep to the left as you cross the field and head up the ridge until you come to a gate directly under the electricity pylons.

**5** Go through the gate and head up to the Chattri.

**6** Enter the Chattri through the gate. From the Chattri head back in the direction you came but skirting the woodland on your left.

**7** At the end of the trees, follow the small ridge on your left down to the gate keeping the rifle range on your left. Pass through the gate onto the tarmac road.

**8** Cross the tarmac road and go through the opposite gate. Pass under the power lines and head towards the next gate at the top of the hill.

**9** Go through the gate and head diagonally left across the field to the next gate.

**10** Go through the gate and head up the hill towards the A27 to the next gate.

**11** Keeping the caravan site below you to the right, head towards the foot bridge that you crossed over on the first part of your walk.

**12** Retrace your steps back to the bus stop opposite the Ladies Mile Pub.

## ALTERNATIVE LONGER ROUTE

To visit Ditchling Beacon, continue along the bridleway at route point 6 on the Chattri walk (Sussex Border Path) with the Chattri on your right. Follow the dotted route on the map up to Ditchling Beacon and then make your way round to join up with the Stanmer Walk at route point 6.

Alternatively, follow the bridleway at route point number 9 across the Open Access Land that will take you to Stanmer Park (see dotted route on map). Pick up the Stanmer Walk at route point 7 (Upper Lodges) to make your way to the entrance of the park for the A27, bus stop and Falmer train station.

# STANMER PARK

TRAIL: 

GRADIENT:  
Steep in places

DISTANCE:  
5.5 miles (8.5km)

PATH: A mix of quiet roads, uneven tracks and forested paths.

ALLOW: 3 hours

Discover the beautiful woodland walks and extensive open land of Stanmer Park.

**1** From the Stanmer Park bus stop at Stony Mere Way follow the tarmac road between the two white lower lodge houses into Stanmer Park. Continue through the park following the tarmac road for 700 metres.

**2** At the fork in the road bear right and follow the road until you reach Stanmer Church on your left.

**3** At the T-junction take the tarmac road on your right and follow the route through Stanmer Village, passing the Long Barn and Café on your right and the toilets on your left.

**4** At the end of the village, with the pond on your left go through the gate and follow the bridleway past the barn and wood on your left.

**5** At the junction take the path on your right and follow the bridleway up the hill until you come to the electricity wires at Millbank. Turn left and follow the bridleway towards High Park Farm and head towards Highpark Corner.

**6** Turn left just before the Ditchling Road, follow the path through the woods with the road on your right towards Piddinghoe

Plantation. Go through the gate, past the dew pond and through another gate under the power lines. Follow the open field towards Upper Lodges.

**7** Go through the gate following the path through the woods. At the tarmac road turn left and follow it back to Stanmer Village.

**8** From the pond follow your original route through the village and the park back to the Lower Lodges and bus stop.



As the map shows, much of the area south of the Chattri is **Open Access land**. Wherever you see this symbol you are free to leave the footpath to walk and picnic within the mapped area. Please be aware of livestock and wildlife.

## BREEZE UP TO THE DOWNS

The Brighton area has excellent bus services with double-decker Breeze buses serving the popular Devil's Dyke daily (mid Jun-Aug) then a

weekend & bank holiday service throughout the year for Devil's Dyke, Stanmer Park and Ditchling Beacon. See [buses.co.uk/breeze-downs](https://buses.co.uk/breeze-downs) for full details.