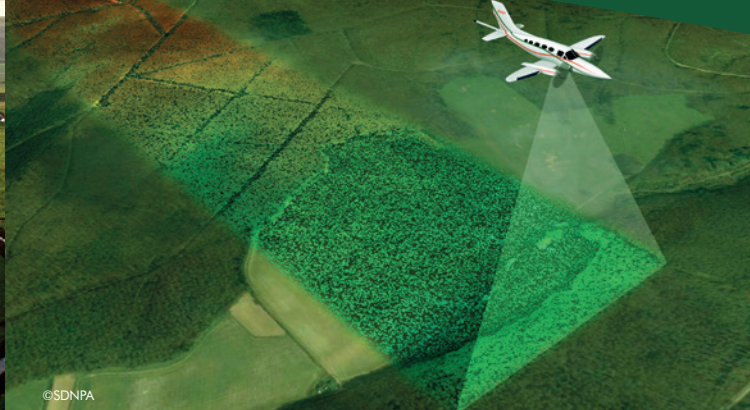




Cuckmere Haven, ©SDNPA/Sam Moore



©SDNPA



©SDNPA/Anne Purkiss

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

The South Downs National Park is rich in landscape, culture and wildlife. Discover ancient woodlands 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.

YOUR COUNTRYSIDE CODE: RESPECT. PROTECT. ENJOY.

Respect other people

- ◆ Leave gates and property as you find them
- ◆ Keep to the path 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

FIND YOUR WAY

Follow the arrows on waymarkers.

Footpath	➡	🚶	🚫🐾	🚫🐴	🚫🚲	🚫🚗	🚫🚚
Bridleway	➡	🚶	🚲	🐴	🚫🚗	🚫🚚	🚫🚚
Restricted byway	➡	🚶	🚲	🐴	🚫🚗	🚫🚚	🚫🚚
Byway	➡	🚶	🚲	🐴	🚫🚗	🚫🚚	🚫🚚
Open access land	➡	🚶	🚲	🐴	🚫🚗	🚫🚚	🚫🚚
National Trail Acorn	🌰						



STANSTED FOREST'S HIDDEN HISTORY

The parkland of Stansted that you see today is very different from how it looked in the past. With the help of LiDAR imaging an ancient system of field boundaries has been revealed. These fields would have covered the much wider areas of parkland but most have disappeared under the plough. Those in the wood remain protected but hidden from view.

Perhaps the most evident clues to the change of Stansted's landscape are the 200 pits that you'll find in the woods. Research by Mark Seaman, local historian and SHW volunteer, has suggested that the larger pits were used to extract chalk for lime production, while other suggestions for the larger pits include flint quarries, sink holes or bomb craters.

The smaller shallower pits functions are less clear. However using LiDAR and an overview of the ancient field system a credible theory has emerged that a proportion of these may be Marl Pits, as they appear to be located in the corners of the ancient fields.

Marl is a mix of sand, chalk and clay often used as a fertiliser. In order to maintain production on what would have been poor soil our, forebears would need to replenish the nutrients in the fields. This was achieved by digging the Marl out of the ground and spreading it on the fields. This would have been back breaking work and would have required some coordination or cooperation which provides us with clues into the social structure of the time.

SECRETS OF THE HIGH WOODS

Beneath the ancient woods of the South Downs National Park lies a secret landscape littered with traces of the people who have lived, visited and worked here. The woods have protected this hidden landscape with features unseen and unknown for many years, even by the frequent visitor.

Using a laser light surveying method called LiDAR, the Secrets of the High Woods (SHW) project has revealed the features and landscape beneath the trees. Capturing 305km² of laser scanned data, the result was a detailed terrain model showing the landscape hidden by the woods.

Through the hard work and dedication of volunteers and partners we have begun the process of researching the revealed features and can now begin to tell some of their stories.

This Hidden Landscape Trail will help you explore the secrets we discovered in Stansted Forest. The woods do not give up their secrets easily and some features take a keen eye, imagination and careful navigation to locate. Use the map and description to find the different features. This route is available on View Ranger and you may find a GPS device helpful as full grid references are provided.

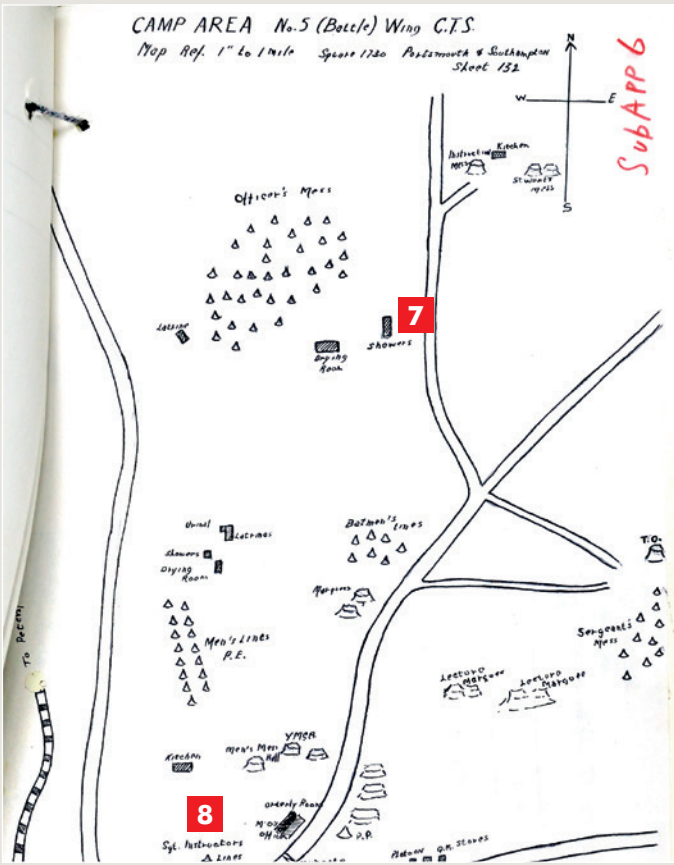
For more information on the project visit:
southdowns.gov.uk/secrets-of-the-high-woods

STANSTED PARK DURING WWII

In more recent history the woods of Stansted have played host to the preparation for the liberation of Europe during World War Two. Research by local historian and SHW volunteer Brian Tomkinson showed that in 1941/42 Stansted was used as a location for the Canadian Battle School. Later in 1944, on the run up to D-Day, the area also formed part of Marshalling Area 'A'.

Canadian Battle School

At the outbreak of World War Two the Canadian army expanded rapidly and arrived in England. The Canadian Battle School at Stansted carried out battle drill training aimed at preparing soldiers for the rigors of the battles to come. The School was temporary in nature and most accommodation was tented, there is however still evidence of the training site including trenches, part of the assault course and evidence of the camp area.



©The National Archives

STANSTED PARK

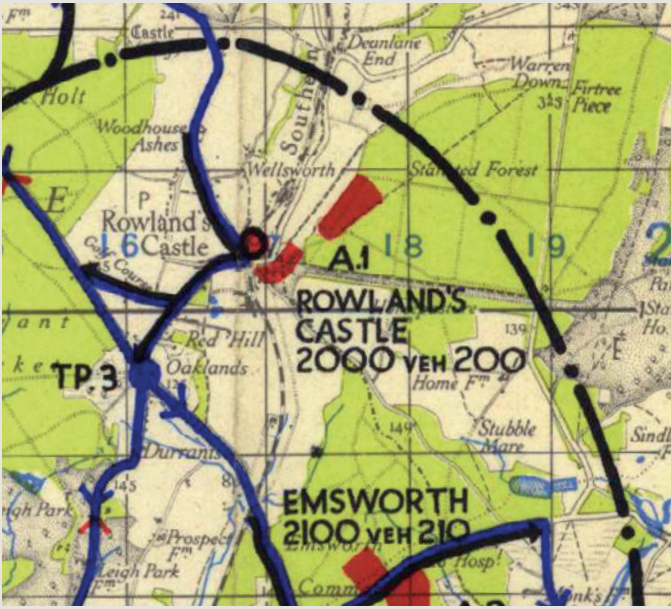
Stansted Park stands in 1,800 acres of parkland and ancient forest within the South Downs National Park.

In the medieval period the Earls of Arundel had a hunting lodge on the site, surrounded by a vast forested area used for hunting and timber production. Changes in ownership over the years resulted in a new house being built in the 17th century when the formal gardens were laid out. In 1804 the estate was sold and it is said the new owner replanted the whole site, including the forest. 1900 saw the destruction, by fire, of the Elizabethan house and all its historical records. The new house was built in 1901 on the same footprint and since 1983 the House and Estate have been owned by Stansted Park Foundation, an independent charitable trust set up by the 10th Earl of Bessborough.

Visitors can tour the house or walk the walled gardens enjoying the various attractions the park has to offer including the maze, miniature railway, arboretum and pottery studio. Pick up local produce at the Farm Shop, visit the Garden Centre or stop for refreshments at the Pavilion Tearoom. Visit stanstedpark.co.uk

Stansted Forest

Bisected by large open vistas which are major features of the Grade 2 Historic Park and managed under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, the sweet chestnuts of Stansted Forest have been traditionally managed for hundreds of years. Even today Stansted Park Estate cuts 8–10 acres of coppice annually to sustain the ancient coppice system. Visit stanstedpark.co.uk for more details.



©D-Day Museum, Portsmouth

D-Day Preparations

Combined Operations Marshalling Camp A1 was one of the camps in an area known as Marshalling Area 'A'. The camp was just one of a group of temporary camps around Portsmouth and Gosport, where allied troops waited on the run up to D-Day. Hidden from the view of enemy aircraft, this particular camp lay in the south-west corner of Stansted Forest, and could hold 2,000 men and 200 vehicles. Troops were based at many of these camps for weeks or even several months before D-Day. All that remains of the camp today are the broken foundation and drainage pipes.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Look but don't touch. Many of the features on these routes are of historical importance and should not be disturbed. Research of these delicate sites is only allowed by a professional body as any unplanned and un-documented disturbance could compromise future research.

Access to walk these routes is given by the kind permission and discretion of the Stansted Estate.

Metal detecting is not permitted.



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

GETTING HERE

By Bus: Emsworth and District Bus services on route 27 run between Southbourne, Emsworth, Havant and Rowlands Castle. Visit traveline.info or call 08457 484960 for details.

By Rail: The nearest railway station is Rowlands Castle. South West Trains services to Havant, Petersfield, Liss, and Liphook with travel onto London Waterloo. Visit nationalrail.co.uk for details.

Walk/Cycle: Rowlands Castle is on the junction of a number of signed routes and National Cycle Route (NCN) 22.

CONTACT

South Downs National Park Authority, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH

Tel: 01730 814810 Email: info@southdowns.gov.uk

southdowns.gov.uk [@SDNPA](https://twitter.com/SDNPA) [/SDNPA](https://facebook.com/SDNPA)

Details correct at time of publication. Please be aware that routes are shared with other users (vehicles, pedestrians, dogs, horses etc.) and users follow this route at their own risk. SDNPA do not accept any responsibility for loss, damage or injury, however caused, arising directly or indirectly from use of this route.

SDNPA/fluidesignstudio.com/March '17. Front cover photos: ©SDNPA/Anne Purkiss. Soldiers on rope bridge, ©Lieut. Alex M Siron, Canadian National Archives. Contains Ordnance Survey data. © SDNPA Crown copyright and database rights 2017. Printed on FSC certified paper.

With thanks to: Brian Tomkinson, Mark Seaman, the Stansted Estate and The Heritage Lottery Fund

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK



Supported by The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Please recycle me after use

HIDDEN LANDSCAPE TRAIL

STANSTED FOREST

SECRETS
OF THE
HIGH WOODS

KEY

- ★

Point of interest
- ✕

Refreshments
- 🚌

Bus stop
- P

Parking
- 🚉

Train station
- ◆

Trail point
- Public Right of Way
- MW

The Monarch's Way
- SW

The Staunton Way
- SW

The Shipwright's Way

VIEW RANGER

All of our walk and ride leaflets are now available for free on View Ranger, the outdoor discovery app. Simply download this easy-to-use app using the QR code or visit: southdowns.gov.uk/viewranger for more details.



WALK 1: WORLD WAR TWO

1: Park Entrance – Start/Finish
Grid Ref: SU 73554 10706 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
Enter Stansted Forest, and the area known as the Sling, from Finchdean Road, Rowlands Castle.

Directions to next point: Turn right through the kissing gate and follow the path to the driveway.

2: Lodge View
Grid Ref: SU 73562 10625 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
This lodge was used during WWII by the Canadians as Orderly Room and Medical Officer's Office.

Directions to next point: Bear left across the field to the wood line.

3: Assault Course – Rope Bridge
Grid Ref: SU 73626 10614 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
This is the location of the Canadian Battle School's rope bridge a particularly challenging element of the assault course (considered the toughest in the country).

Directions to next point: Go over the stile and follow the path into the wood.

4: Training Trenches
Grid Ref: SU 73698 10611 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
Along the slope up from the stile are the remains of a number of trenches which have partially backfilled naturally. These were used for training exercises including 'tank trapping' which involved staying in the trench while tanks run over the top. The trenches are most obvious on the hedge line on the left and at the very top of the path as it levels with the wood.

Directions to next point: Head through the gap in the hedge, left by the fallen tree. Follow the path, turn left after 30 paces before the small ridge and follow the slight depression.

5: Assault Course – Tunnel
Grid Ref: SU 73715 10645 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
Consisting of a semi rectangular trench, originally covered and enclosed with doors or curtains, the tunnel would have been filled with smoke and the trainees had to crawl through in full battle gear.

Directions to next point: Continue along the depression, turn left onto the main footpath and right at the next path junction. After 110 paces there is an open area on the left.

6: Showers/Latrines
Grid Ref: SU 73695 10785 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
This was the area of the tented camp as shown on the school's sketch map. All that remains is a flat terraced area cut in to a bank with a number of pits in front – probably the remains of showers and latrines.

Directions to next point: Re-join the main path, taking the left fork at the junction. After 100 paces look for concrete foundations on your left.

2 Lodge



5 Assault Course Tunnel



WALK
1
WORLD WAR TWO
2 MILES ● 3.2KM ● 1.5 HOURS
GRADIENT: Some minor gradients
PATH: Some unkempt and uneven ground



7: Showers – Officers
Grid Ref: SU 73966 10926 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
These remains are probably those of a Nissen type hut which on the School's map correspond with the Officers' showers.

Directions to next point: Re-join the main path and continue on for 180 paces.

8: D-Day Huts Area
Grid Ref: SU 74051 10984 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
This is the location of Combined Operations Marshalling Camp A1. All that remains are the broken foundations of the huts hidden in the undergrowth by the path.

Directions to next point: Re-join the path for 500m then bear sharp right and continue to the open ride. Follow the footpath sign sharp right and take 75 paces into the wood.

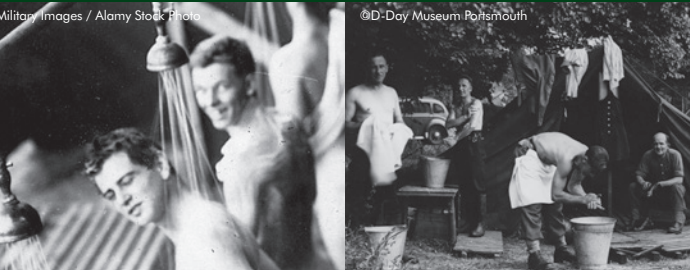
9: Sigurd Jenssen RCAF – Spitfire Crash
Grid Ref: SU 74444 11210 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
Flt Sgt Jenssen was killed aged 24, when his plane crashed close to this point on return from covering the Canadian led raid on the German occupied port of Dieppe on 19 August 1942.

Directions to next point: Return to junction and turn right down the open ride crossing a path and continue onto the Avenue.

10: Justin Clermont RCAF – Typhoon Crash
Grid Ref: SU 74397 10519 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
Pilot Officer Justin Clermont was killed when his Typhoon crashed in Stansted Park on 7 May 1944.

Directions to next point: Continue along the Avenue away from Stansted House and return to the start of the route.

7 Field shower unit WWII



8 Soldiers washing at the camp



WALK
2
PITS AND FIELDS
3 MILES ● 4.8KM ● 2 HOURS
GRADIENT: Some minor gradients
PATH: Some unkempt and uneven ground



WALK 2: PITS AND FIELDS

1: Park Entrance – Start/Finish
Grid Ref: SU 73554 10706 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
Enter Stansted Forest, and the area known as the Sling, from Finchdean Road, Rowlands Castle.

Directions to next point: From the entrance follow the path ahead, turning left at the junction. Turn left at the Y junction, after 250m there is a prominent yew tree on the right, the Saw Pit is just to its left.

2: Saw Pit
Grid Ref: SU 74147 11173 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
In the days before mechanisation trees were usually cut up in situ. An oblong trench was dug and a long saw was used to cut the tree in to manageable planks.

Directions to next point: Re-join the main track and continue to the sharp right hand bend. Take the small wooded track on the left to the sunken track.

3: Holloway
Grid Ref: SU 74210 11381 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
This ancient trackway could date as far back as prehistoric times. It is perhaps no coincidence that the chalk pit is found here as transporting chalk to a kiln would have required the use of carts.

Directions to next point: Continue on Holloway path up the hill to the open ride. Turn left and follow the track into the wood.

4: Hangers woods
Grid Ref: SU 74759 11790 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
Hangers woods are on the slope to your left forming the north west boundary of Stansted Park. Note the ancient yews which dominate the trail here.

Directions to next point: Follow the ridgeline path through the woods to the junction with the footpath on the left, a small straight bank and a yew tree on the right.

5: Field boundaries
Grid Ref: SU 75061 11862 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
You can clearly see how the alignment of the landscape has changed over time here. The more recent tracks run on a north/south grid while the obvious boundary bank and ditch run dead straight in another direction. This boundary dates to the medieval period and originally had a 'pale' (fence) on top to act as a boundary for the Stansted deer park. There is a much older field boundary running beneath the yew tree which may date back to the bronze age and form part of the ancient field system.



NORTH

Directions to next point: Turn right and follow the footpath. Continue until you reach a small open area with a prominent yew tree and large open pit.

6: Burial Mound
Grid Ref: SU 75122 11768 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
This mound has the profile of a Prehistoric round barrow, used from the Bronze Age through to Anglo Saxon times as burial monuments. They were used for high status individuals and were usually placed in positions where they could be seen over some distance in the more open landscape of the time.

Directions to next point: Continue round the pit and turn right on to the footpath at the six path junction. Turn right at the next junction, then stop at the next.

7: Field boundary
Grid Ref: SU 74825 11630 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
Standing at this intersection of the paths you should be able to see the slight hump crossing the paths at an angle, these humps form a continuous field boundary and part of the ancient field system.

Directions to next point: Turn left and rejoin the footpath to where it crosses the open ride. Slightly to the right is a small marked footpath, follow this for 75 paces until you reach a small pit on your left.

8: Extraction pits – Marl
Grid Ref: SU 74422 11199 Search difficulty: ★★★★★
This pit sits on an old field boundary which can still be seen crossing the path. It is probably one of the small marl extraction pits dug out to fertilise the field. Crop yields were improved by about 50% for as long as 30 years following "marling" – well worth the effort.

Directions to next point: Return to the open ride, follow it to the Avenue and turn right to return to the start of the route.

5 Ancient field system (Ireland)



7 Typical Iron Age Roundhouse

