

# 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.

# 5 COMPTON to TELEGRAPH HILL

This walk climbs through woodland to top of Telegraph Hill with panoramic views to south coast and fine views of Uppark, a National Trust house.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Uppark:** Associated with Emma Hart (later Lady Hamilton and love of Admiral Lord Nelson) and the writer H.G. Wells whose mother was housekeeper and father a gardener at the house in the 1850s.

### Compton Village Shop & Tea Room

**Coach & Horses Pub:** An inn since 1660s. A walker and dog friendly country pub.

### St Mary's 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church:

[www.sussexparishchurches.org](http://www.sussexparishchurches.org)

**Bevis's Thumb:** A Bronze Age long barrow commonly associated with legends of Sussex giants.

[www.sussexarch.org.uk/saaf/giants.html](http://www.sussexarch.org.uk/saaf/giants.html)

**Telegraph Hill:** Used in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by the Admiralty as the site for a semaphore station linking Portsmouth and London.



**Distance:** 3 miles

**Time:** 1 hour

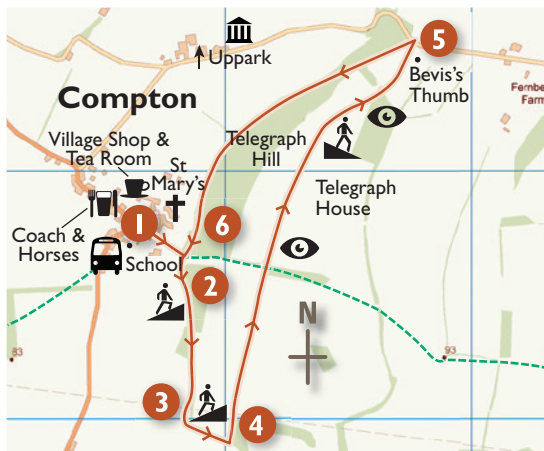
**Access:** A good open route with a long gentle climb up and down, a level walk along the top. The surface at the start is flinty but good with no stiles.

**Getting there:** Bike or bus – limited parking.

**Parking:** Park in recreation ground 200 yards south on B2146. It can hold up to 12 cars.

## ROUTE

- 1 From Compton Square, walk up School Lane to join bridleway.
- 2 After 200 yards, keep right at fingerpost and follow bridleway uphill.
- 3 Turn left ← at fingerpost.
- 4 Turn left ← at 4-way fingerpost. Continue on main track over top of Telegraph Hill. Midway on right is Telegraph House (private). Continue downhill with beautiful views of Uppark to northwest.
- 5 At road, Bevis's Thumb is on right. Do not cross road but turn sharp left ← along bridleway at side of field. Nearing Compton, ignore footpath fingerpost to right. Continue on bridleway past next fingerpost, with the shingled tower of St Mary's below on right.
- 6 At the 4-way fingerpost turn right → back to Compton Square.



# USEFUL CONTACTS

## South Downs National Park Authority

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

Tel: (01730) 814810

Email: [info@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:info@southdowns.gov.uk)

## Stansted House:

[www.stanstedpark.co.uk](http://www.stanstedpark.co.uk)

Tel: (02392) 412265

The Pavilion Tea Room

[www.paviliontearoom.co.uk](http://www.paviliontearoom.co.uk)

Tel: (02392) 413432

## Stansted Park Garden Centre:

[www.stanstedparkgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.stanstedparkgardencentre.co.uk)

Tel: (02392) 413090

## Uppark House and Gardens:

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uppark](http://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](http://www.emsworthanddistrict.co.uk)

Tel: (01243) 378337

## Compton Shop & Tea Room:

[www.southdowns-tearoom.co.uk](http://www.southdowns-tearoom.co.uk)

Tel: (02392) 631144

## PUBS

### Walderton: The Barley Mow

[www.thebarleymow.pub](http://www.thebarleymow.pub)

Tel: (02392) 631321

### Stoughton: The Hare & Hounds

[www.hareandhoundspub.co.uk](http://www.hareandhoundspub.co.uk)

Tel: (02392) 631433

### Compton: The Coach & Horses

[www.coachandhorsescompton.com](http://www.coachandhorsescompton.com)

Tel: (02392) 631228

### West Marden: The Victoria Inn

[www.victoriainnwestmarden.co.uk](http://www.victoriainnwestmarden.co.uk)

Tel: (02392) 631330

### Hookway: The Royal Oak

[www.royaloakhookway.co.uk](http://www.royaloakhookway.co.uk)

Tel: (01243) 535257

## B&Bs & SELF-CATERING COTTAGES

### Lordington House B&B: [hamiltonjanda@btinternet.com](mailto:hamiltonjanda@btinternet.com)

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

Tel: (01243) 375862

### Pitlands Farm:

[www.pitlandsbarns.co.uk](http://www.pitlandsbarns.co.uk)

Tel: (02392) 631263

### West Marden Farmhouse:

[www.keepers.holidaycottageswestsussex.com](http://www.keepers.holidaycottageswestsussex.com)

Tel: (02392) 631761

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

[www.mardendown.co.uk](http://www.mardendown.co.uk)

### Watergate: Grandwood House

[www.grandwoodhouse.co.uk](http://www.grandwoodhouse.co.uk)

Tel: (07971) 845153

### Adsdean Farm Self-Catering Cottages:

[www.adsdean.co.uk](http://www.adsdean.co.uk)

Tel: (01243) 575464

### Compton: Apiary Cottage

Tel: (02392) 631306

[www.apiarycottagebandb.co.uk](http://www.apiarycottagebandb.co.uk)

### Compton: Compton Farm Cottages

Tel: (02392) 631597

[www.cottages4you.co.uk](http://www.cottages4you.co.uk)

### Compton: Hundred Acre Barn

Tel: (02392) 631413

email: [hundredacresfarm@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hundredacresfarm@hotmail.co.uk)

### Compton: The Old Clubhouse

Tel: (02392) 631505

### Compton: Pepper Pot Cottage

Tel: (07717) 473168

[www.pepperpotcottage.co.uk](http://www.pepperpotcottage.co.uk)

### Up Marden: Orchard Barn

Tel: (01243) 535266

[www.orchardbarnwestsussex.co.uk](http://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](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/prow)

**Taxi Services:** Dunnaways (01243) 782403;

Michaela (02392) 472782

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the South Downs National Park Authority, the Ministry of Design agency, West Sussex County Council, The Octagon Community and the many local walkers who helped describe and test each walk.

## 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).