

# 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.

# 1 STANSTED PARK

The walk crosses part of beautiful Stansted Park, with distant views to Chichester Harbour and different types of woodland managed by the estate.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Stansted House:** A hunting lodge stood on this site for 800 years. Replaced by a 17<sup>th</sup> Century house, destroyed by fire in 1901. The current house was built in 1903. The estate has a garden centre, farm shop, Pavilion tea room, maze, pottery, light railway and magnificent grounds. [www.stanstedpark.co.uk](http://www.stanstedpark.co.uk)

**St Paul's Chapel:** The south entrance is built in beautiful Tudor brickwork. The poet Keats visited the chapel in 1819. Visits can be arranged with Stansted House.

**Lumley Seat:** A former Georgian landscape folly converted to a house in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



**Distance:** 2¼ miles

**Time:** 1 hour

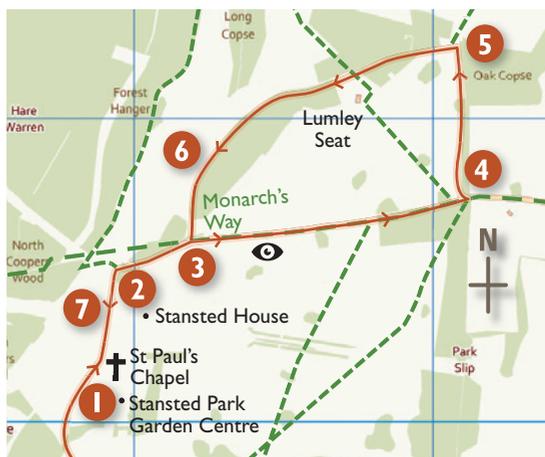
**Access:** Mainly level walk, half on tarmac roads (suitable for wheelchair use), no stiles.

**Getting there:** Bike or walk from Rowlands Castle rail station – about 1½ miles.

**Parking:** Use the Garden Centre car park, open 0900 – 1800hrs after which you can drive out but not return.

## ROUTE

- 1 From Stansted Park Garden Centre car park walk north to end of bridleway in front of Stansted House.
- 2 Turn right →. Follow road 300 yards north east to Y-junction. Wheelchair users are advised to follow tarmac road to left, continue past map points 6 and 5 then retrace route to start.
- 3 Walkers follow straight gravel bridleway for 2/3 mile with distant views of Chichester Harbour (on right) and Lumley Seat (on left).
- 4 Turn sharp left ←. Continue to cottages with view of Lumley Seat on left.
- 5 Turn left ←. Follow tarmac road through mixed woodland at the back of Lumley Seat.
- 6 After ½ a mile with open fields (on right) the road continues back to the Y-junction. Bear right →.
- 7 Follow public bridleway back to Stansted car park.



# 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).