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.
A steep climb rewarded with spectacular views of South Coast and spire of Chichester Cathedral. Path crosses Kingley Vale Nature Reserve.

POINTS OF INTEREST

**Memorial to Polish Fighter Pilot:** Shot down in field beyond by an ME 109 in 1940.

**Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten’s polo field**

**Kingley Vale Nature Reserve:** Ancient yew forest with some trees over 1000 years old.

**The Devil’s Humps:** Four Bronze Age barrows.

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil’s_Humps_Stoughton

**The Tansley Stone:** Commemorates ecologist Sir Arthur Tansley who was the first Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council and helped create Kingley Vale Nature Reserve.

**Distance:** 4 miles  
**Time:** 1 ½ hours  
**Access:** A steep ascent to top of Downs. No stiles or gates.  
**Getting there:** See Walk 3  
**Parking:** See Walk 3

ROUTE

1. From Stoughton notice board opposite wall post box, follow lane south. After 180 yards turn left at bridleway fingerpost. After 400 yards is memorial to Polish pilot (on left). Continue steeply uphill to end of wood with Lord Mountbatten’s polo field (on right).

2. Turn left after 50 yards onto bridleway through mixed woodland on edge of Kingley Vale forest, to open grassland and the Devil’s Humps. Away from path to east is Tansley Stone.

3. Continue along bridleway. After long (1 ¼ miles) gradual descent, woods give way to open fields (on left).

4. At 5-bridleways fingerpost turn left on ‘Monarch’s Way’. Follow valley path downhill to distant cattle sheds (on left). Continue to more sheds (in front). Bear right to lane.

5. Turn left at lane to Hare & Hounds pub and back to start.
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

Hooksway: The Royal Oak
www.roya-loakhooksway.co.uk
Tel: (01243) 535257

B&Bs & SELF-CATERING COTTAGES

Lordington House B&B: 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.marden-down.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: (01771) 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

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).