

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.

8 UP MARDEN

A short walk takes in the countryside around the church of St Michael's and All Angels, Up Marden. This 13th Century church has an enchanting simple charm with spiritual tranquillity and a sense of early medieval life in this part of the Downs.

POINTS OF INTEREST

St Michael's and All Angels:

www.sussexparishchurches.org

Up Marden Cart Shed: Near the church and dated 1775 – now restored and used as a visitor shelter.

Up Marden Village Well: Restored by English Heritage Trust in 2003.

Tankerville 17th Century Silver: Presented to Up Marden church in 1724 by Camilla, Countess Tankerville of Uppark. Now on display at Uppark.

Beautiful bluebell woods: **Blinkard Copse** and **Grevitts Copse** in Spring.



Distance: 1¾ miles

Time: 1 hour

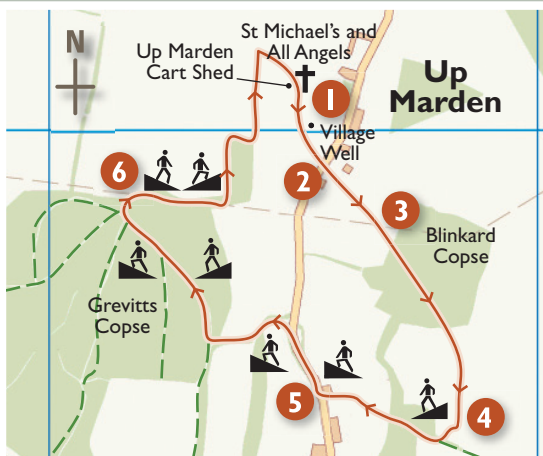
Access: An undulating walk with steep ascents, 5 stiles.

Getting there: Car, bike or walk – no bus to Up Marden.

Parking: Limited short term parking for 2 cars near restored cart shed.

ROUTE

- 1 From church porch; straight ahead under graveyard yews to footpath fingerpost at edge of field. Bear left ← across field to marker post in hedge.
- 2 Through hedge. At footpath fingerpost on lane turn right →. After 30 yards turn left ← at footpath fingerpost through gate. After 30 yards through next gate bear right → along fenced path between paddocks.
- 3 Cross stile into Blinkard Copse. Follow path to marker post on edge of copse. Cross field towards farm buildings.
- 4 At marker post, turn right → onto bridleway; continue downhill then uphill to lane.
- 5 Turn right →. Walk uphill 200 yards to footpath fingerpost. Turn left ← over stile. Follow path bearing left ← then right → at footpath marker post to T-junction with 3-way fingerpost. Turn right → and follow path downhill, then steeply uphill to 3-way fingerpost on edge of wood. Turn right →. After a few yards cross stile to exit wood. Turn right → into field.
- 6 Follow headland downhill then steeply uphill. Bear left ← around top of field, then right → at marker post. After 50 yards bear right → through hedge to field marker post below Up Marden church. Turn left ←. Follow edge of field to bridleway. Turn right →. After 100 yards re-enter churchyard.



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

Hookway: The Royal Oak

www.royaloakhookway.co.uk

Tel: (01243) 535257

B&Bs & SELF-CATERING COTTAGES

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

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.mardendown.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: (07717) 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).