

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.

7 WEST MARDEN

A delightful short walk through open fields, woodland paths and quiet country lanes. Much of walk crosses a shooting estate, so dogs should be kept under control.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Victoria Inn: A good walker and dog friendly country pub; landlord will open early for walkers and with prior notice cater for larger walking parties.

ROUTE

- 1 From West Marden crossroads turn up Locksash Lane by bus stop. After 20 yards, turn right → at footpath fingerpost, up narrow path into field.
- 2 Head uphill; then straight across open field to left of utility pole in mid-field; over a farm track and through a row of beech trees. Cross arable field downhill then uphill with Malthouse Copse on left. Pass through gap in hedge with marker post on left. Climb uphill through wood and over arable field to footpath fingerpost beside gap in hedge and gateway; enter Locksash Lane.
- 3 Turn right →. After 250 yards, turn right → again at brideway fingerpost. Continue down to main road, crossing over track in wood – good views of Watergate Hanger and West Marden.
- 4 Cross main road into Oldhouse Lane (signed Rowlands Castle and Forestside); after 200 yards uphill at footpath fingerpost turn right → onto farm track and footpath.
- 5 Immediately cross stile (gate on left). Follow path into woodland.
- 6 At footpath fingerpost cross stile into field and turn left ←. After 90 yards at 3-way footpath fingerpost turn left ← over stile back into woodland. Continue along path to edge of wood. Cross stile and follow fence line across field. Cross next stile (gate on right); continue over field.
- 7 Cross stile into road and turn right → downhill – Victoria Inn on left and crossroads ahead.



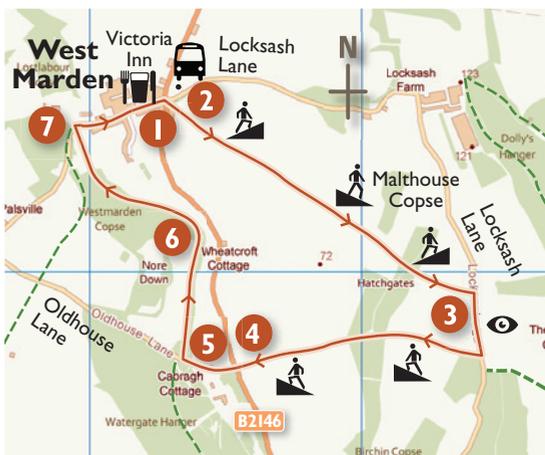
Distance: 2½ miles

Time: 1 hour

Access: Undulating walk with 6 stiles.

Getting there: Bike or bus – limited parking.

Parking: If you can't use a bus or bike, up to 3 cars may be parked for short periods in lay-by on main road. Alternatively, use the Victoria Inn car park with landlord's permission.



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).