

STAGE  
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# Midhurst, Stedham and Iping Commons

Enjoy extensive views of the South Downs as you cross Cocking Causeway and walk towards Midhurst Common, owned by Cowdray Estate.

On the south-eastern edge of this heathland, sand quarrying and brick manufacturing ran from 1919 to 1985, leaving large pools of water and sheer sandy cliffs. At the southern end of Midhurst Common are the remains of the old Petersfield to Midhurst railway line. Built by London & South Western Railway (LSWR) it opened in 1864, running passengers and freight until 1955.

- Cattle grazing, check site signage.
- Ground-nesting birds: March to mid Sept.
- Heathlands sculpture.

**i PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

- Start: From Cocking Causeway A286 (the Greyhound Public House) Stagecoach bus 60.
- At Habin Hill, Nyewood for Stagecoach bus 54 to Petersfield or Chichester.

Walking through The Severals look out for the wide forestry rides which support butterflies and aid their movement from site to site – one woodland plant species here is the **common wintergreen** which thrives in dappled shade created by the large woodland tracks.

As you move through Sussex Wildlife Trust owned and managed **Stedham Common** enjoy resting at the next **heathland sculpture** **1** Dragonflies Rest, and look out for the cattle that often graze here.

Crossing the road onto **Iping Common**, the long, sandy track is a good place to watch **silver-studded blue butterflies** **2**



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Dragonflies Rest sculpture: Iping and Stedham commons are home to all five of the heathland dragonfly species, including emperor, southern hawk, broad-bodied chaser, common darter and the golden-ringed dragonfly.



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nectaring on bell heather in the summer, and in the evenings to listen out for churring **nightjars** and spot the green luminous bottoms of female **glow worms**! Iping Common is also a **Dark Sky Discovery Site** **3**, designated for its clear open skies, away from light pollution, making it an ideal place for stargazing.

In the south-east corner of the site look out for the remains of a barrow complex and Roman road.

