

SOUTH DOWNS WALKS

# ST HUBERT'S CHURCH AND THE IDSWORTH VALLEY



SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK

## SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

From rolling hills to bustling market towns, the South Downs National Park's landscapes cover 1,600km<sup>2</sup> of breathtaking views, hidden gems and quintessentially English scenery. A rich tapestry of wildlife, landscapes, tranquillity and visitor attractions, weave together a story of people and place in harmony.

Visit [southdowns.gov.uk/discovery-map](https://southdowns.gov.uk/discovery-map) to plan your adventure and keep up to date with the latest South Downs news and events at [southdowns.gov.uk/newsletter](https://southdowns.gov.uk/newsletter).



### YOUR COUNTRYSIDE CODE: RESPECT. PROTECT. ENJOY.

#### Respect everyone

- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways and do not park on verges
- Keep to marked paths unless on Open Access Land



#### Protect the environment

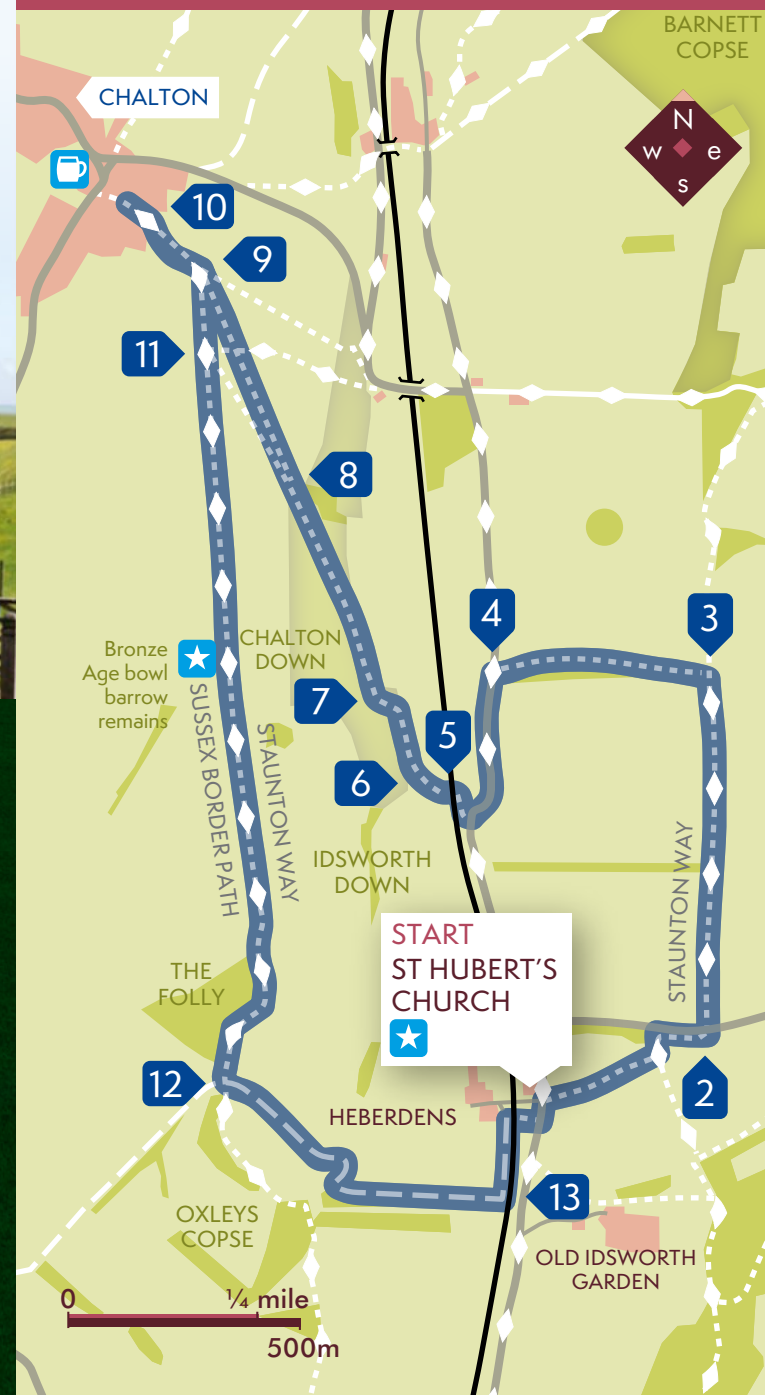
- Leave no trace – take your litter home

- Do not light fires or have BBQs outside of permitted sites
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight – we are a farmed landscape with livestock and rare ground-nesting birds
- Dog poo – bag and bin it, any public waste bin will do

#### Enjoy

- Plan ahead and be prepared

## ST HUBERT'S AND THE IDSWORTH VALLEY





## St Hubert's Church

© Stefan & Sara Venter  
upixphotography.com

### START:

St Hubert's Church,  
PO8 0BE

### DISTANCE:

5 miles (8.3km)

### TIME:

2 hours

### OS MAP:

Landranger 197,  
Explorer 120

**1** After visiting St Hubert's church follow the grassy path left past the church to a gate in the hedge. Go through the gate turning left to follow the footpath.

**2** Go through another gate, cross the lane and pass through the gate to follow the footpath through arable fields.

**3** At the path junction, follow the yellow footpath arrow to turn left along an ancient rew (traditional hedge).

**4** At the field corner go through the trees and gate to the road. Please be careful as this is a national speed limit road. Turn left and follow

the road round a sharp bend. At the second sharp bend, look for the signpost and stile on the right side of the road. Go over the stile and follow the footpath as it bears right along the field edge next to the railway.

**5** After a short walk turn left to pass under the railway through the pedestrian tunnel. Continue along the footpath through an arable field.

**6** Continue to follow the path as it goes through a thicket until you reach a wooden gate.

**7** Go through the gate into Open Access land. Bear right to follow the path along the hedge

line and then up and across Idsworth Down.

**8** Continue through the kissing gate at the top of the hill and follow the path through the middle of a crop field. Continue through a gap in the hedge and along the path through another field.

**9** Go through the kissing gate and follow the grassy path down to St Michael's Church and the Red Lion Inn at Chalton.

**10** Leave Chalton by retracing your steps back through the churchyard to the arable field. Take the right hand of the three paths and head towards the gate.

**11** Pass through two kissing gates continuing on the footpath. Pass through the third gate to follow the path along the field edge.

**12** At the junction of paths turn left following the bridleway, then bear right following the bridleway sign. At the edge of the copse turn left following the bridleway sign down the grassy track to the railway.

**13** Turn left onto the road and walk parallel to the railway track. Turn right opposite the farm to pass through the tunnel under the railway and back to your starting point opposite St Hubert's Church.

## ST HUBERT'S CHURCH

Set in stunning Bronze Age landscape in the South Downs National Park, the earliest recorded reference to 'the little church in the field' is from 1053 but its foundations show evidence of an earlier history, with the north and west walls likely to date from the 900s and re-use of Roman material in the arches.

Inside you will discover nationally acclaimed 14th century Wall Paintings and a Millennium Wall Painting by Fleur Kelly. The church is open throughout the year, visit [idsworthchurchfriends.org](http://idsworthchurchfriends.org) for more information about this special place and details of The Idsworth Church Friends Trust.



## VIEW RANGER

All of our walk and ride guides are now available for free on View Ranger, the outdoor discovery app. Simply download this easy-to-use app using the QR code or visit [southdowns.gov.uk/viewranger](http://southdowns.gov.uk/viewranger) for more details.





# ROWLANDS CASTLE AND ST HUBERT'S CHURCH

**START:**  
Rowlands Castle  
Railway Station

**TIME:**  
2 hours

**DISTANCE:**  
6 miles (9.5km)

**OS MAP:**  
Landranger 197,  
Explorer 120

**1** Turn left out of the station, then left again at the T-junction. Turn left under the railway bridge, passing The Castle Inn and continue along Finchdean Road for approximately 1/4 mile.

**2** After house number 73 turn left down the track between the houses. Follow the path as it bears right past garages and continue onto the footbridge over the railway line. Continue to follow the path through an open field to Great Wellsworth.

**3** Exit the field following the signpost for the Sussex Border Path. Where the track forks, bear right following the deer symbol for the Staunton Way. Go

through a metal gate onto Wellsworth Lane which is a track across the field.

**4** At the end of Wellsworth Lane the path turns into a wooded track. Pass through a metal gate beside an iron gate following the track to the road. Turn right and follow the road down to Finchdean – there is no pavement so be careful.

**5** At the junction cross the road to the pavement and turn left. Then turn left onto the road opposite The George Inn, following the signpost to Staunton Way and Queen Elizabeth Country Park, passing the village pound on your right.

**6** Continue along the road. Where a small road comes in from the right, look for a gap in the hedge on your right with a fingerpost. Go through the gap and follow the path along the field edge. At the corner turn right to follow the path uphill. From the top of the hill you can see the church in the valley.

**7** Continue along the informal track through Oxleys Copse, then take the first right turn and follow the grassy path downhill along the field edge. At the path T-junction turn left, walking parallel with the railway. Take the next right through the tunnel under the railway to emerge opposite St Hubert's church.

**8** Turn left, then cross the road to pass through the gate onto the path up to St Hubert's church. After visiting the church, continue to the left of the church, following the path to a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate and turn

immediately right on to the Staunton Way. Head downhill, then at the field corner pass through a metal kissing gate, bearing left to go through another kissing gate. Turn left to follow the path up to the woods passing a well on your right. Go through the wooden kissing gate and follow the path through the woods.

**9** Continue through the woods ignoring two paths coming in from the left and emerge at a wooden stile. Cross this and the field to another stile, then to a wooden kissing gate. Continue along the broad grassy track past a house to the road.

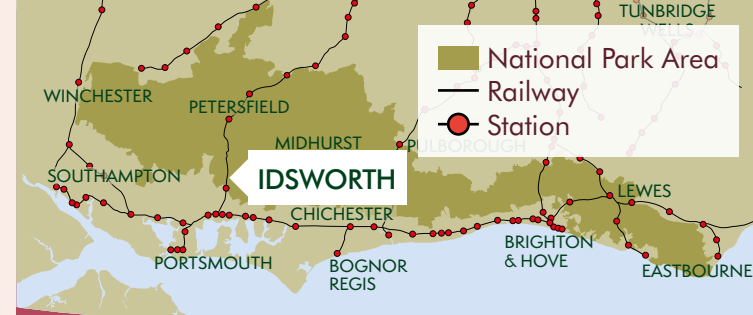
**10** At the road turn left, then just after the farm house turn right onto a hedged track. Follow this to a path crossroads by a thatched house. Continue straight ahead uphill into woods known as Woods Copse. Go through a gate and then cross the field at a 45 degree angle to

a wooden kissing gate. Go through the gate and along the path past houses to Finchdean Road.

**11** Turn right along the road for 200 metres to a finger post indicating a path on the left through a gap in the hedge. Follow this down the hill and go through a metal kissing gate. Bear right and pass through a second metal kissing gate then follow the wooded path to another metal kissing gate. Go through this and continue through another kissing gate on the right side of the field to follow the grassy path.

**12** Still on the Staunton Way head back to Rowlands Castle with Stansted Forest on your left. Pass through a kissing gate and go straight across the junction of paths continuing along the Staunton Way, then through another kissing gate. Continue through the field along the fence line.

**13** At the end of the large field go through a wooden kissing gate and turn right to follow the path through the trees, keeping right. Go over the wooden footbridge and turn right to return to Finchdean Road. Turn left to retrace your steps to the railway station.



## FIND YOUR WAY

Follow the arrows on waymarkers.

Footpath		
Bridleway		
Restricted byway		
Byway		
Open access land		



## TAKE THE LEAD

For a safe and fun visit with your dog please remember to keep them on a lead around livestock, horses and wildlife. Always bag and bin your dog poo – any public bin will do!

## GETTING HERE

By bus: There are regular services to Rowlands Castle, visit [traveline.info/se](http://traveline.info/se)

By rail: Rowlands Castle station is on the direct line to London Waterloo. Check [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk) for details.

## CONTACT

South Downs National Park Authority:

01730 814810

@SDNPA /SDNPA

southdownsnp

## SOUTHDOWNS.GOV.UK

Cover image: © Mischa Haller / SDNPA. Details correct at time of going to print. Please be aware that routes are shared with other users (vehicles, pedestrians, dogs, horses etc) and users of this route do so at their own risk. We do not accept any responsibility for loss, damage or injury, however caused, arising directly or indirectly from use of this leaflet. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013.

SDNPA/The Way Design/June 2021. © SDNPA Crown copyright



Please  
recycle me  
after use