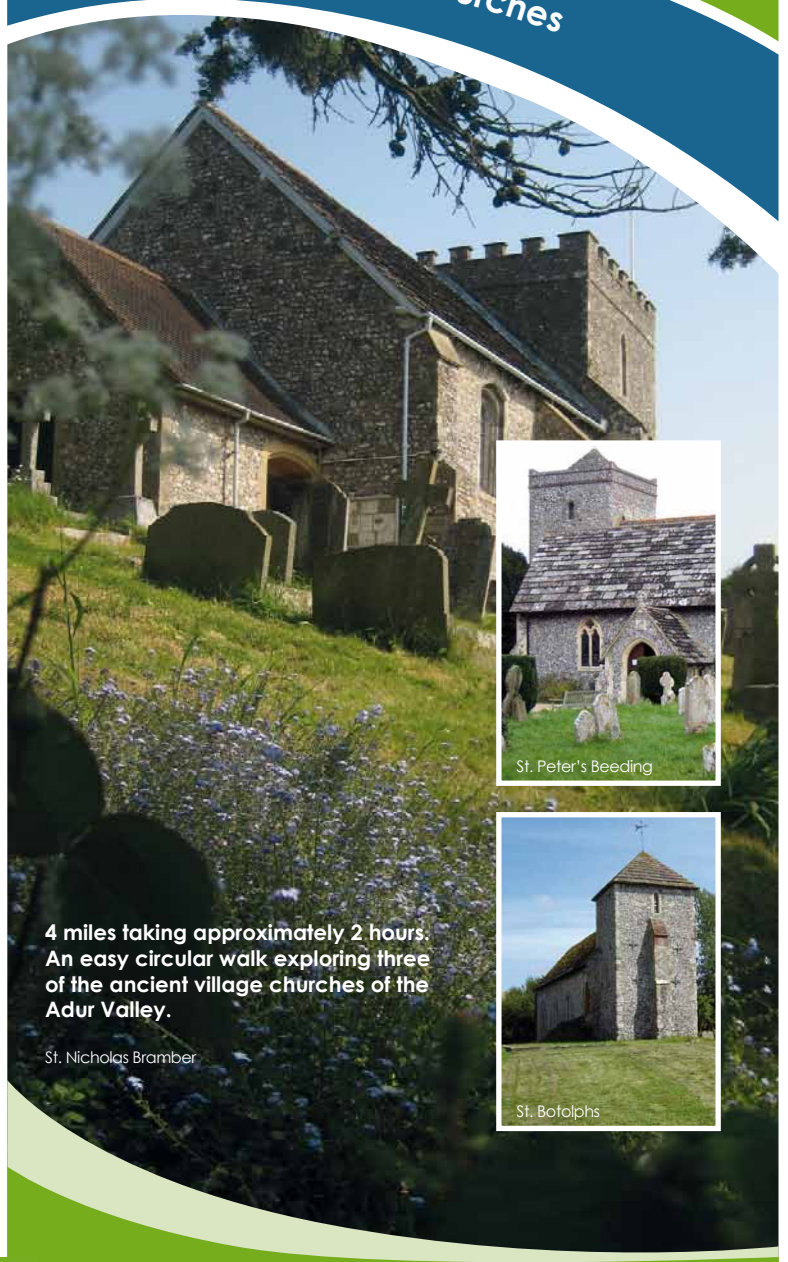
Welcome to Steyning and District

Steyning and District Walks

Walk 1

Three Ancient Village Churches



4 miles taking approximately 2 hours. An easy circular walk exploring three of the ancient village churches of the Adur Valley.

St. Nicholas Bramber

St. Peter's Beeding

St. Botolphs

Events

How to get here

By Car

Steyning lies between the A24 and A23, just north of the A27. The A283 runs past the town. Car parking is available at several of the towns car parks.
For route planning information please visit **www.google.co.uk/maps**

By Train

The nearest station is approximately 5 miles away at Shoreham-by-Sea on the South Coast line between Brighton and Portsmouth.
For further information please see **www.nationalrail.co.uk**

By Bus

Buses run from Horsham and Brighton via Shoreham-by-Sea and via Upper Beeding and Bramber to Steyning.
Visit **www.traveline.info** for more information.

By Foot or By Bike

You can reach Steyning easily from either the South Downs Way or the Downslink from Guildford.
Visit **www.nationaltrail.co.uk/South-downs-way** for more information.

Further Information:

Visit **www.steyningsouthdowns.co.uk** for more information

Visitor information is also available at:
Steyning Post Office - High Street BN44 3NA Tel: 01903 879033
Steyning Library - Church Street BN44 3TB Tel: 01903 812751
Steyning Centre - Fletchers Croft, BN44 3XZ Tel: 01903 812042
Steyning Museum - Church Street BN44 3YB Tel: 01903 813333

For further information on the wider area visit:

www.southdowns.gov.uk
www.visitsussex.org
www.horshamvisitor.co.uk
www.west-sussex-weekends.com

Supported By:

Steyning & District Community Partnership

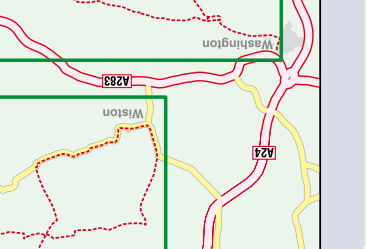
Wilson MEMORIAL TRUST

These walks were produced by the Steyning & District Community Partnership, and were funded by a grant from the Wilson Memorial Trust.

www.steyningsouthdowns.co.uk

Other Walks in this Series

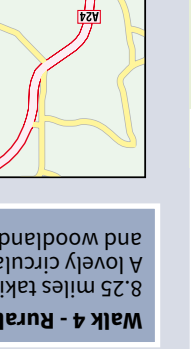
About this Walk

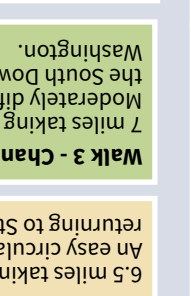


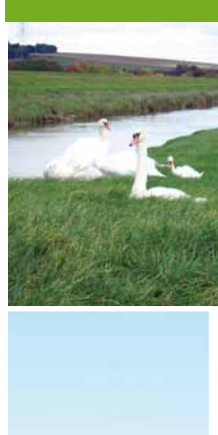
This is a fascinating tour of three historic parish churches in the downland villages of Bramber, Upper Beeding and Botolphs. Starting from the car park in Bramber, you walk up the mount to the early Norman church of St Nicholas with its unique stone carvings, visit the Castle ruins, which offer superb views of the river and the South Downs.

The walk then descends to the river valley, an area alive with wetland birds, butterflies and dragonflies in the summer, reed beds with wild flowers and grasses abound. The path crosses the River Adur and climbs to St Peter's church at Upper Beeding. This is the former church to Sele Priory, founded when the Benedictine monks moved from Bramber.

Returning to the river you follow it south and cross it at Bramber Bridge continuing south it leads to the Grade 1 listed church of St Botolph with its lancet windows and Jacobean pulpit. The return is via the Downslink path you passed before the church. When you return to the car park continue on for a hundred yards to see St Marys house, one of the most important historic houses in the area.







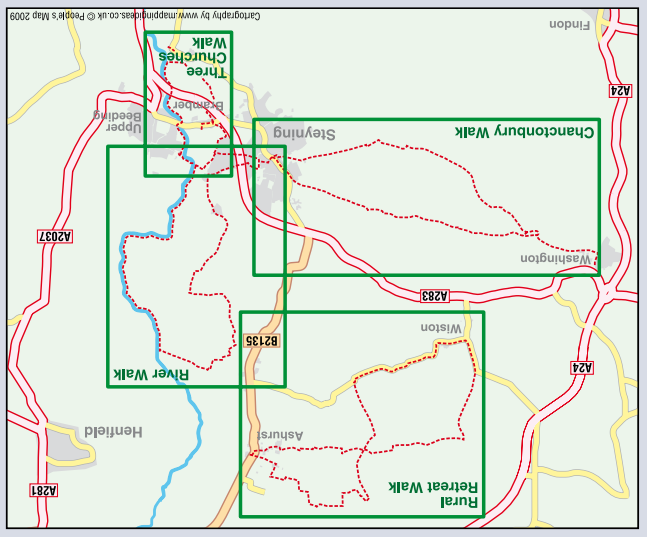
Country Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under control and on the lead through farms
- Consider other people
- Wear sensible clothing and sturdy footwear

Walk 2 - River & Countryside Walk
6.5 miles taking approximately 3 hours.
An easy circular walk along the banks of the River Adur, returning to Steyning via the Downslink path.

Walk 3 - Chanctonbury & Washington Walk
7 miles taking approximately 3-4 hours.
Moderately difficult circular walk with a steep ascent up to the South Downs Way and Chanctonbury Ring, returning via Washington.

Walk 4 - Rural Retreat
8.25 miles taking approximately 4 hours.
A lovely circular country walk through meadows, farms and woodland to Wiston and back.



The information in this leaflet is published in good faith and whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information, Steyning & District Community Partnership cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused by errors, omissions or subsequent changes.

About Us:

The Steyning & District Community Partnership is a voluntary organisation set up as part of a nationwide programme by West Sussex County Council, Horsham District Council and Action in Rural Sussex, to enhance and develop the local community for both residents and visitors.

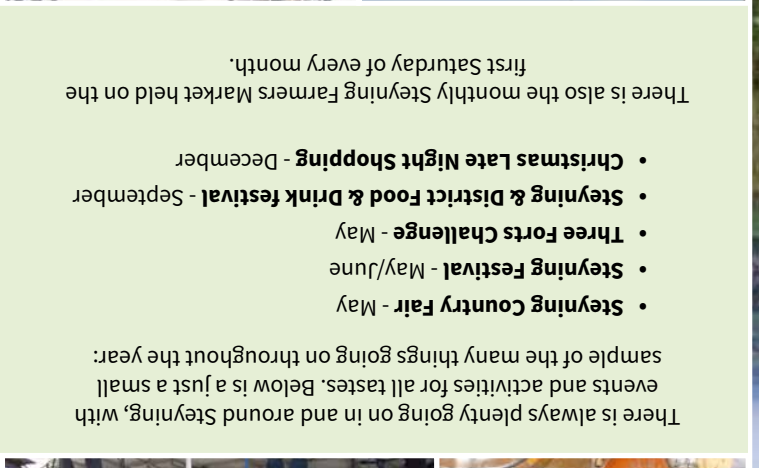
For further details and lots more events please see our website at:

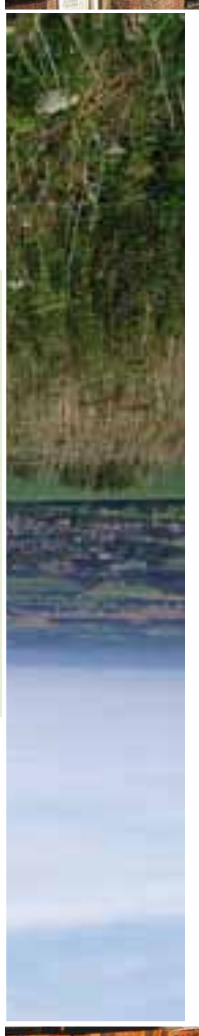
www.steyningsouthdowns.co.uk

There is also the monthly Steyning Farmers Market held on the first Saturday of every month.

There is always plenty going on in and around Steyning, with events and activities for all tastes. Below is a just a small sample of the many things going on throughout the year:

- **Steyning Country Fair** - May
- **Steyning Festival** - May/June
- **Three Forts Challenge** - May
- **Steyning & District Food & Drink festival** - September
- **Christmas Late Night Shopping** - December





Historic Steyning, nestling against the inspiring landscape of the South Downs, is well known as one of the most picturesque towns in Sussex.

The town of Saint Cuthman (c750AD), Steyning is rich in history, with scores of timber-framed buildings in and around the ancient High Street, and its excellent museum. It was once a port on the then navigable estuary of the River Adur and was prized by the Normans; their legacy today includes the magnificent parish church and the ruins of the castle in nearby Bramber.

Steyning offers the visitor a fantastic selection of interesting shops (including the award winning Cobblestone Walk), a monthly farmers market and ample parking. There are also restaurants, pubs and tea rooms offering delicious food and drink, plus a wide selection of great accommodation for the weary traveller.

Rightfully known as a great destination for walkers, Steyning and District provides easy access to beautiful countryside, the South Downs Way and to other long distance paths. There are also excellent local routes to the mysterious Chanctonbury Ring, the Iron Age hill fort at Cissbury Ring, and delightfully gentle walks through the Adur Valley.

Come and experience Steyning for yourself; the warmest welcome awaits you.

Steyning and District Walks

Walk 1

This is a 4.3 mile walk taking approximately 2 hrs. This is a fairly level walk with no stiles. The car park at Bramber offers free parking, a public convenience and is next to the St Mary's bus stop. There are pubs and hotels in Bramber and Upper Beeding.

The Street Bramber Start

Leave the car park in The Street, Bramber; turn right along the road to the sign on the right to St Nicholas Church, take path up to the church and car park; this is one of the oldest Norman churches in Sussex and originally the chapel to the castle.

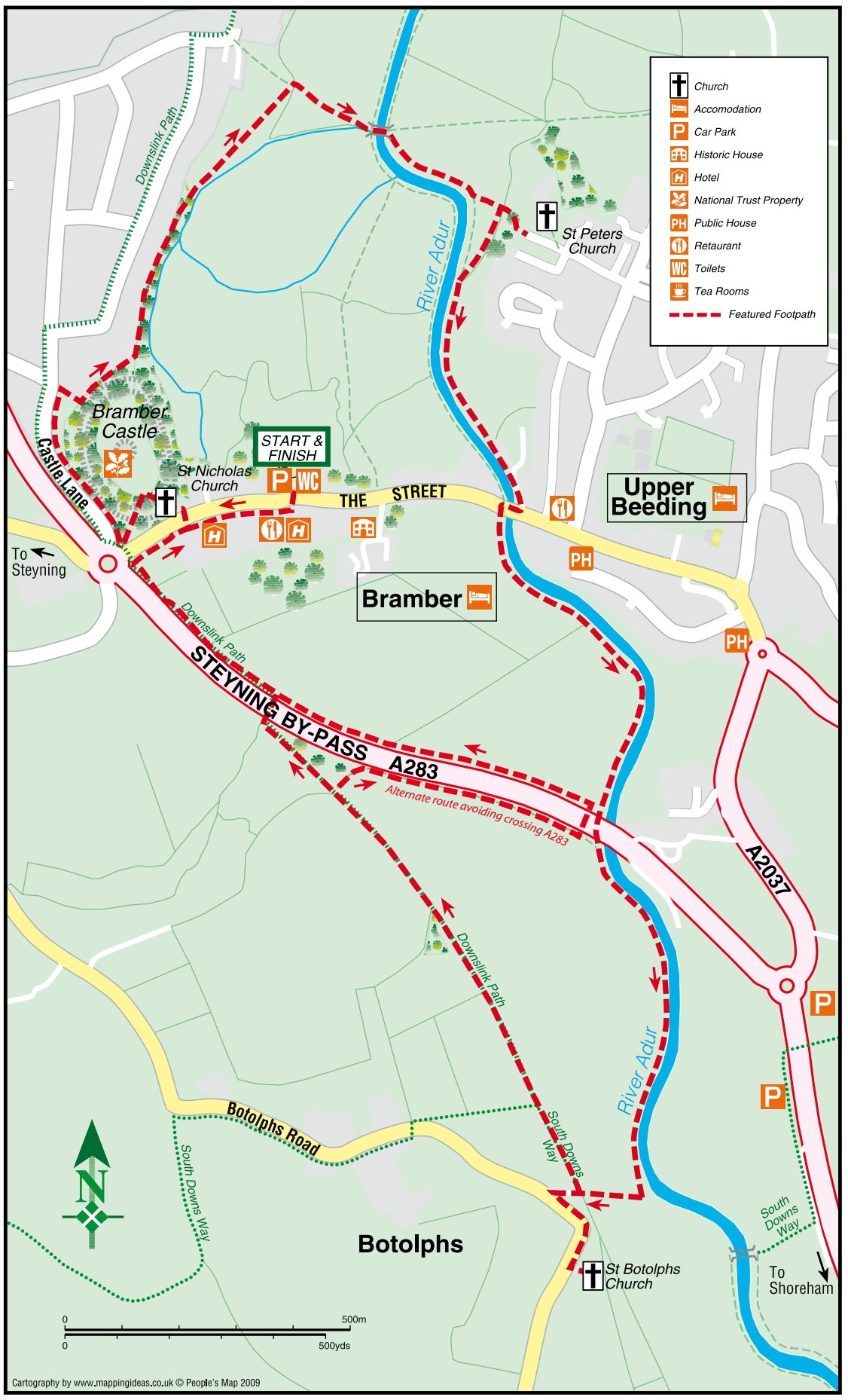
Look out for the early Norman carved capitals on the chancel arch. Also the Royal Coat of Arms & Bramber Mace and take in the breathtaking views to the south over the Adur Valley.

Bramber Castle to St. Peter's Church

After leaving the church, turn right and enter the ruins of Bramber Castle built by William de Braose around 1073 with its fine views and offering a wonderful spot for a picnic. Leave via same route.

Descend from the church car park via the gravel road and turn right into Castle Lane (narrow lane), turn right at a junction marked public footpath which climbs gently and bears left to path junction. Turn left on path behind high garden fences, ignoring left footpath by electricity pole, to a kissing gate into open fields. Follow high path above

stream, at next kissing gate turn right towards metal footbridge, cross the bridge and turn right, initially following curve of the river before turning left towards St Peters Church. Cross small wooden bridge and up steps to visit church. This largely dates from 1307 and was part of Sele Priory, a Benedictine house established in 1073 and dissolved in 1487.



Look out for the font installed in 1307, standing on a modern plinth. The corona was designed and made by Pugin, which matches the rest of the set in the House of Commons. Note the beautiful early window and low door in the south chancel wall.

St. Peter's Church to St. Botolph's Church

Return to top of steps and turn left taking footpath behind gardens, at crossing path continue ahead initially under low pylons, at wooden footbridge turn right to River and then turn left towards Bramber Bridge (this is Saltings Field). Cross road and turn right over footbridge (Charles II

crossed here while trying to escape to France – part of the Monarch's Way) then left along river bank. After 1.8 miles (passing under road bridge)on a bend before another river footbridge turn right, ignore right turn (the Downslink, your return route) to visit St Botophs Church. Straight on to road, turn left taking care at the sharp corner. The Saxon Church of St Botolph's is on the left. This simple church once had a north aisle when it was part of a prosperous and populated area.

Look out for evidence of wall paintings on the chancel arch; the finely carved Jacobean pulpit and the two low-side windows. This type of window, giving a slant view of the altar, was for those not allowed inside the church (lepers from the nearby hospital in Bramber).

Finish at The Street Bramber

Retrace steps to Downslink sign, and turn left. Continue for some distance to a Right Hand Bend. The safest route is to follow the sign for Henfield, avoiding the A283, which takes you to Bramber Bridge, where you pass safely under the bridge, to return on the Footpath along the North side.

Alternatively, at the Right-hand bend, turn left and follow the sign to the A283, crossing the road with care.

On reaching the roundabout turn right to return to car park. Continue a short distance past the car park to visit St Mary's house (a 15th century inn for pilgrims on their way to the tomb of St Thomas at Canterbury) on the left.