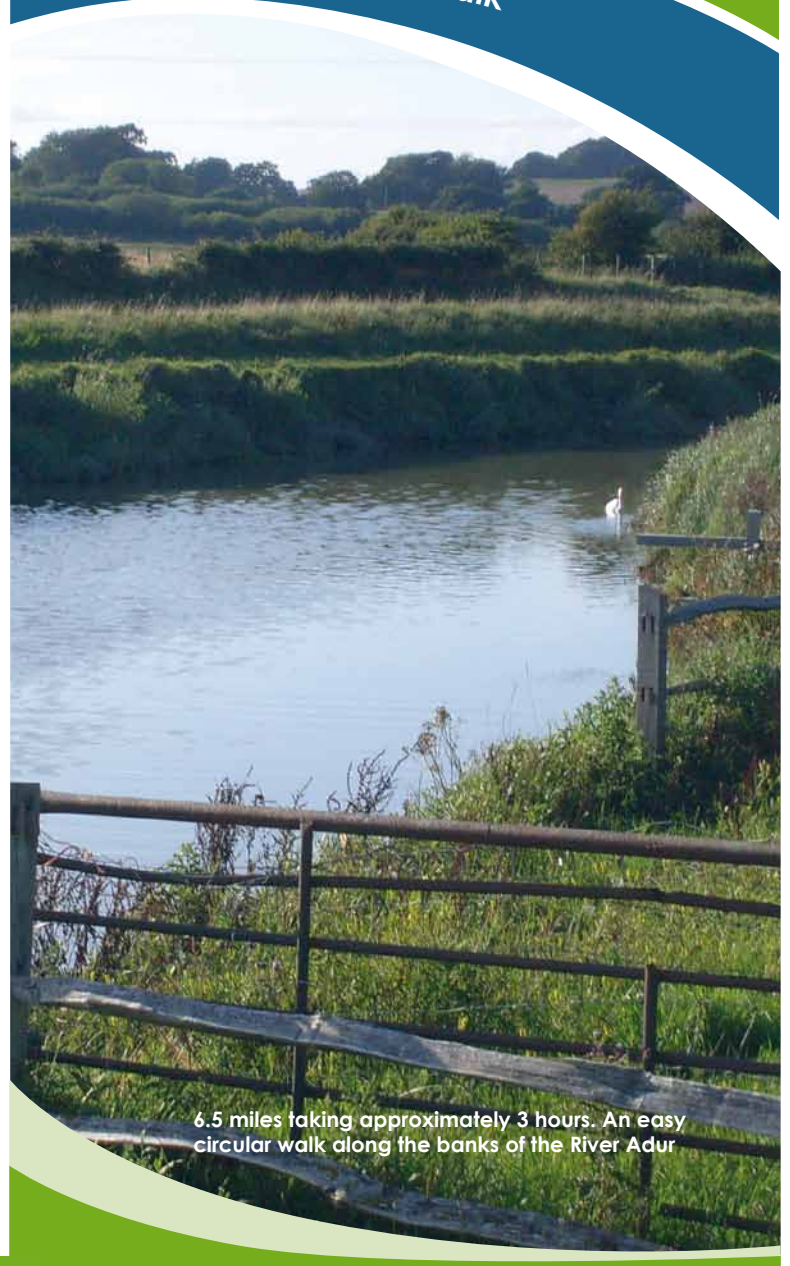
Steyning and District Walks

Walk 2

River and Countryside Walk



6.5 miles taking approximately 3 hours. An easy circular walk along the banks of the River Adur

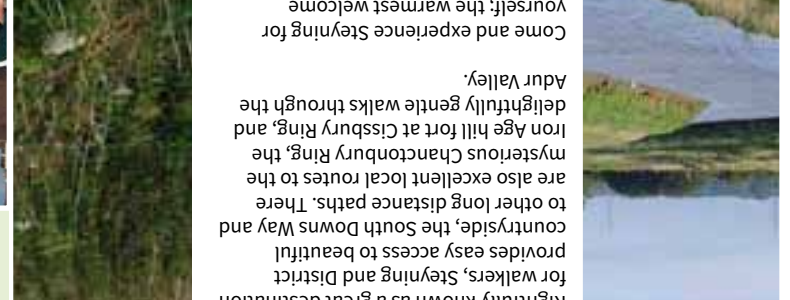
www.steyningsouthdowns.co.uk

Welcome to Steyning and District

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.



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.

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

Supported By:

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

Events

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:

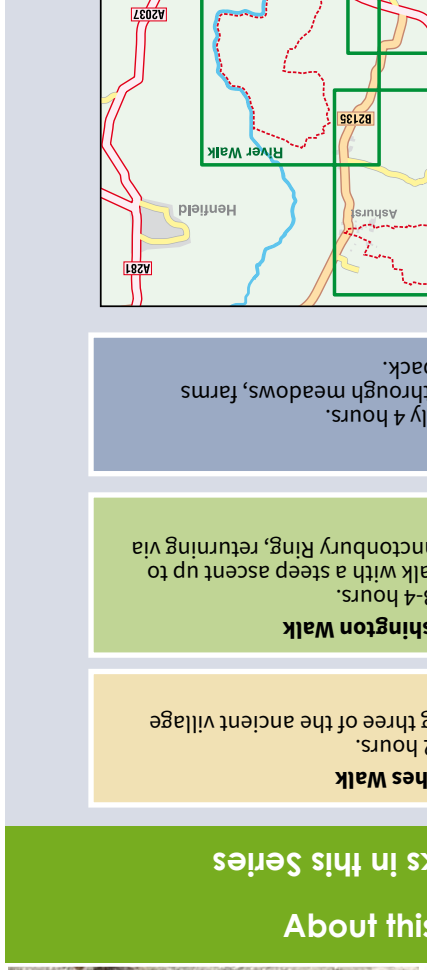
- **Steyning Country Fair** - May
- **Steyning Festival** - May/June
- **Three Forts Challenge** - May
- **Steyning & District Food & Drink festival** - September
- **Christmas Late Night Shopping** - December

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

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

www.steyningsouthdowns.co.uk

About this Walk



Beginning in Steyning you make your way to the banks of the River Adur. The land abounds with wild grasses and flowers and during the summer there are many butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies. The river attracts a wide variety of birds including herons, swans, ducks, kingfishers and cormorants.

The river once carried trade with France, including Caen stone for the churches at Steyning, Beeding and other buildings in the area. The stone was also extensively used by the cement works at Beeding. Today the river is a haven of peace and delight.

This walk crosses the Downslink (a bridleway linking the South Downs Way to the North Downs Way) and then takes you via local farms into the countryside. There are great views of Truleigh Hill, Chanctonbury Ring and Lancing College.

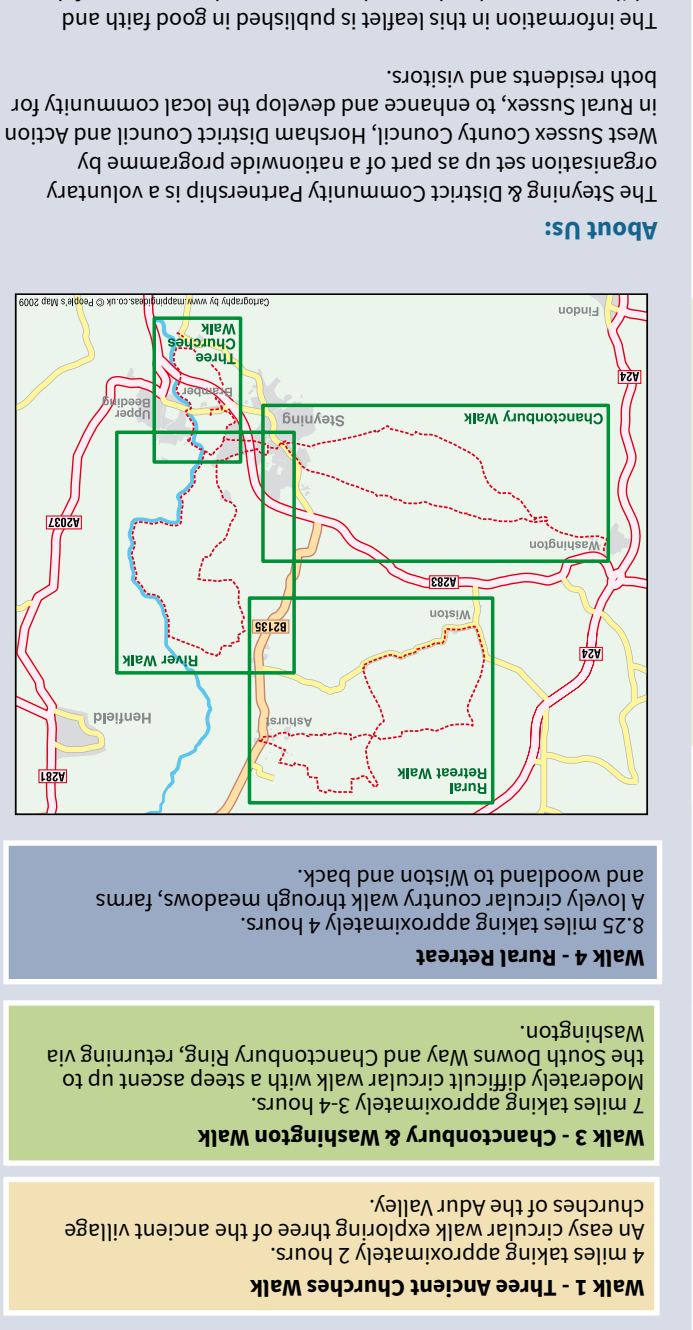
There are ample opportunities on the walk for picnicking, when dry on the river bank. The walk is suitable for dogs, providing they remain under control and on the lead near farms and animals.

On returning to Steyning don't miss a visit to the visit to the Church of St. Andrew and St Cuthman.

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

Other Walks in this Series



Walk 1 - Three Ancient Churches Walk
4 miles taking approximately 2 hours.
An easy circular walk exploring three of the ancient village churches of the Adur Valley.

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.

Steyning and District Walks

Walk 2

The walk is about 6.5 miles, taking around 3 hours, and is relatively flat with some stiles. Some paths can be overgrown in the summer, so sturdy footwear is recommended all year round. Car parking is available at Fletchers Croft in Steyning, and bus stops are nearby. Refreshments and public toilets are available in Steyning, but none on route.

Start

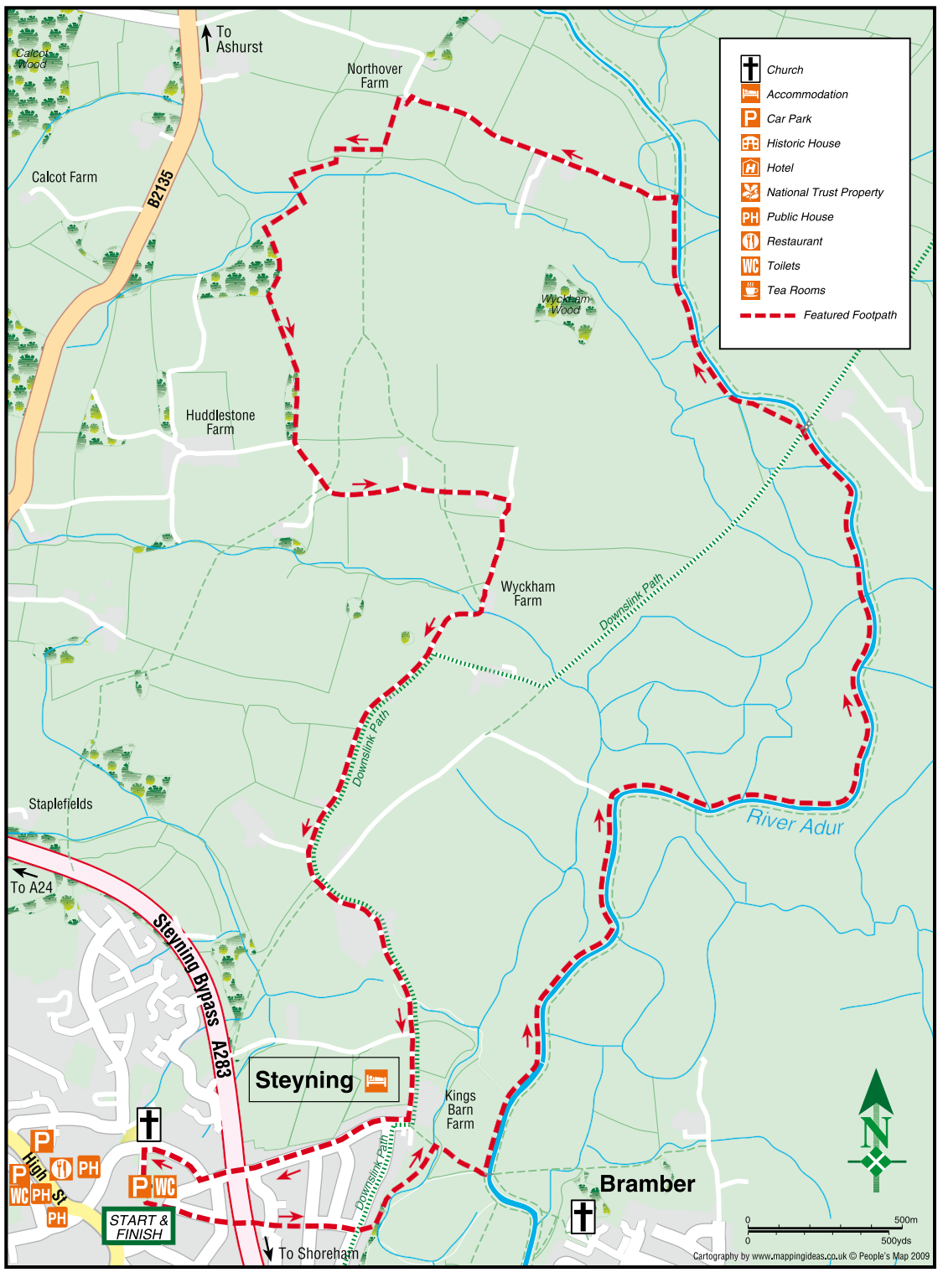
From the car park cross a wooden bridge over a small stream alongside a children's play area and turn right up to a crossing path. Turn left up to a road. Cross into Holland Road. At the end, cross a road and go along a path between houses, which crosses the bypass on a high footbridge. Turn right and immediately left into a path. Stay on this path, and on reaching a road, cross over into Castle Way, stay on the left-hand side, cross a side road, and another road to follow a footpath sign between two houses.

Go down to a crossing path and turn left, shortly reaching a gate into open fields. Stay on a high path alongside a stream until a gate and turn right over the stream towards a metal bridge over the River Adur. Turn left at the bridge and walk along the high bank keeping the river on your right.

Pass through a gate and, still keeping the river on your right, join a path coming in from the left before another gate/stile. A pylon to the left by the river is used as a roost by cormorants later in the year. Keep following the river, keeping it on the right.

The path reaches two gates and a stile; continue on keeping to the river side, the path is now grass. At low tides, look right at the first left hand bend and the remains of an old quay can be seen. A trackway ran from here to a quarry at Small Dole.

After a few bends, you reach an old railway bridge, which crosses the river. This is the Downs Link which starts a few miles away at Bramber and goes to St Martha's near Guildford in Surrey mostly using old railway tracks.



Cross a stile up onto the old railway track bed. There is a bench here with great views north. The row of white houses north eastwards is the Neptown area of Henfield. After crossing via a gate, continue along the river bank.

Pass through two gate/stiles close together and then two more before reaching a marshy area on the left, where grey heron and white egrets can be seen.

At the fifth gate is Northover Pump. Turn left away from the river and follow the track, pass through a field gate (after passing a high hedge Chanctonbury Ring is clearly visible on the far horizon). Pass some houses and farm buildings on the left. At a junction, turn left through a field gate into a farmyard where there are free range chickens waiting to greet you.

Bear right through gate/stile and turn left, and walk along the edge of a field, to cross another stile, then walk around to the right following the field boundaries and the footpath signs. In the fields, there are brown and small blue butterflies.

Cross a wooden bridge with kissing gates either side before eventually walking uphill with a small oak copse on the right, to an area where farm machinery is kept. On the right, the farm buildings of Huddlestone Farm can be seen.

Turn left and follow the minor road, ignoring side paths and tracks. At a junction, there is a bench, with lovely views of Truleigh Hill, and in the distance, Devil's Dyke and the chapel at Lancing College.

Turn right and here the surface of the road becomes a track. Shortly you join the Downs Link (straight on, not left). Follow this snaking track. At Greenfields Farm entrance, the track becomes a road again and you soon cross an old railway bridge. Stay on this minor road passing a water treatment works and Kings Barn Farm.

At the end, turn right. Continue straight on, leaving the Downs Link as it turns left between Kings Barn End. Stay on this road as it crosses the bypass on a high bridge and follow it down to the right before it turns left towards the church. The car park is on the left opposite the church.