Welcome to Steyning and District

Steyning and District Walks

Walk 3

Chanctonbury & Washington Walk

7 miles taking 3-4 hours. A moderately difficult circular walk with a steep ascent up to the South Downs Way

www.steyningsouthdowns.co.uk

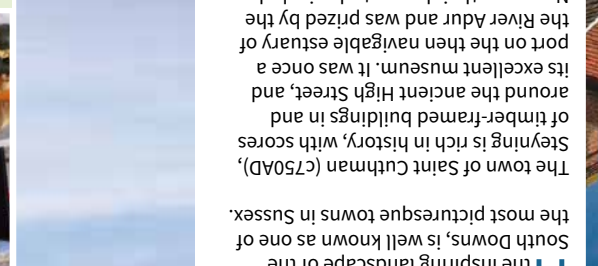
Historic Steyning, nestling against the inspiring landscape of the South Downs, is well known as one of the most picturesque towns in Sussex.

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.



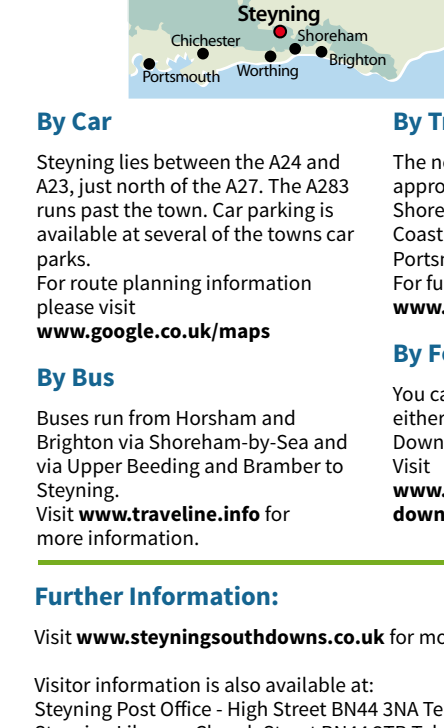
There is always plenty going on in and around Steyning, with events and activities for all tastes. Below is a just a small sample of the many things going on throughout the year:

- **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



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.horshamvisitor.co.uk
www.visitsussex.org
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

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 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 4 - Rural Retreat

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

About this Walk

The route of this circular walk takes you out of Steyning and then steeply up to join the South Downs Way. Following the trail, with excellent views, brings you to Chanctonbury ring, a great spot for a picnic.

Chanctonbury Ring is an Iron Age hill fort, perched on the northern edge of the South Downs, 783 feet above sea level. The Ring's current fame stems from a crown of Beech trees planted in 1760 by Charles Goring of Wiston House. Although not well received initially, the trees later became a well known landmark. However, the trees in the centre didn't grow too well, and it was discovered that they had been planted on an old Roman temple. Many of the trees were destroyed in the great storm in October 1987, and the Goring family, who still own Wiston House, are working to restore the ring to its former glory.

On leaving the ring the route descends towards the Village of Washington where an optional extension allows for a visit into the Village, at the time of printing the Village Pub, the Frankland Arms is closed, please check to see if it has re-opened. Then following paths along the base of the Downs you return past Wiston House to Steyning.

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

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.

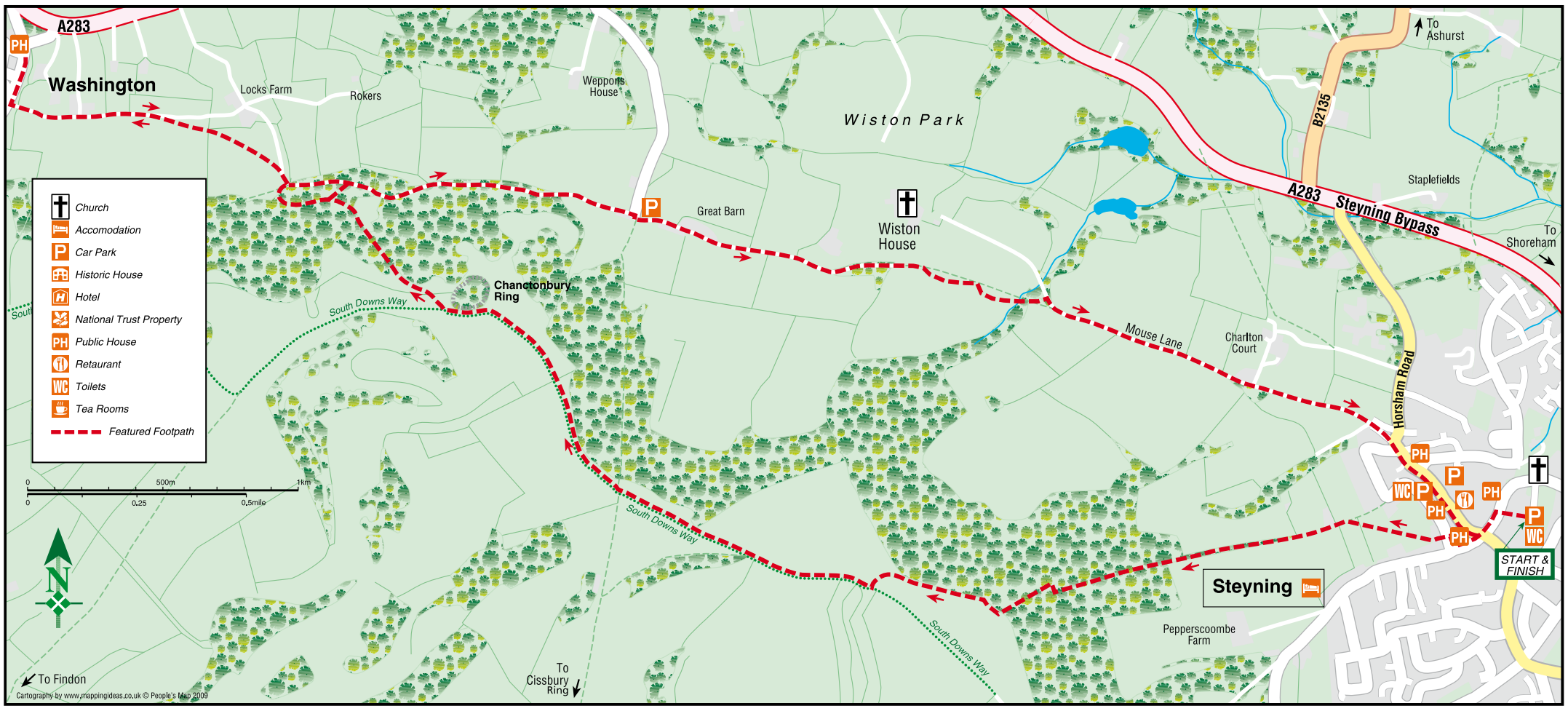
About Us:

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 3

The walk is about 7 miles, taking 3 to 4 hours, the optional extension into Washington takes 30 to 40 minutes. An easy and dog friendly walk, but with a steep ascent and descent of the South Downs. Car parking is available at Fletchers Croft in Steyning, and bus stops are nearby. Refreshments and public toilets are available in Steyning.



Start

Walk towards the Steyning centre, turn right and pass between the school buildings. At the road, turn left, at the mini roundabout, cross over to the White Horse and continue right down the High street.

At No 97, walk up the steps between the houses. At the top, turn right, cross over and follow the road alongside the Tennis courts to the signposted footpath leading to The Downs.

Through a gate, immediately right and then left into the old rifle range conservation area. Keep left up the hill (bench at top). Exit via gate, stay on path uphill. At crossing turn right through gate into Steyning Coombe conservation area and continue uphill ignoring side paths (bench near top). Exit via gate and continue uphill ignoring side paths.

At signed junction next to gate turn right and almost immediately left up unsigned narrow path up through woods.

This area is used by mountain bikers and has MBT trails off to the right, take care and give way to cyclists. As path levels out near top bear right ahead, soon at the edge of the woods near the top of the hill join another path coming from the left, keeping right, keep trees on your right, ignore side path down before reaching the corner of the field, follow path turning left to join the South Downs Way (SDW).

Turn right. Views left of Cissbury Ring one of the largest Iron age forts in Europe and beyond to the coast. Ignore side paths and follow SDW signs. After gate and cattle grid go stay ahead towards Chanctonbury Ring, excellent views and a good place to picnic. On leaving the Ring, immediately turn half right leaving the SDW and walk down to a gate, after gate descend steeply on grass path down through woods. On the right some way down after a clearing is an unmarked path

which descends to a track; take this path if you don't want to go to Washington and wish a slightly shorter walk.

For the full circuit keep on the original path, passing through a gate and after a short rise, descend to a junction of paths. Drop down to a lower path and turn right. Shortly, arrive at small clearing with 4 gates. To the left, a field gate and a smaller gate, this is the route to Washington. To the right a pair of field gates; the one on the right into woods is the way back to Steyning.

For Washington, go through the small gate and bear half left across a field on a footpath. Cross a stile and walk straight on towards the right hand side of the next field. Join a track and bear left to pass through a gate. Keep ahead on grass when the track turns into a farm. Ignore a side path and go straight ahead to the right corner and another stile. Descend via steps then up to a stile and a road to reach Washington.

Return by the same route to the clearing with 4 gates, take the right hand field gate into woods. Just after old gate posts near the brow of a rise, the path from the right is the slightly shortened route mentioned.

Continue on the main track. Pass a house shortly before a minor road. Turn right and then left over stile to pass farm buildings behind Wiston House. Stay ahead crossing stiles and under a high footbridge.

Where the tarmac track turns left, keep right and walk between trees and a fence, follow the way to another stile. Cross a tiny steam and follow the path, at the field corner turn right to walk parallel to Mouse Lane.

Continue to a crossing path via stile and steps. Turn left here to join Mouse Lane. Before turning right note stone plaque on the far left bank (the original is in Steyning Museum). Mouse Lane leads down to the Steyning High Street. Turn right; although in fact you are carrying straight on and walk along the High Street until you come to the White Horse, turn left and back to the start.