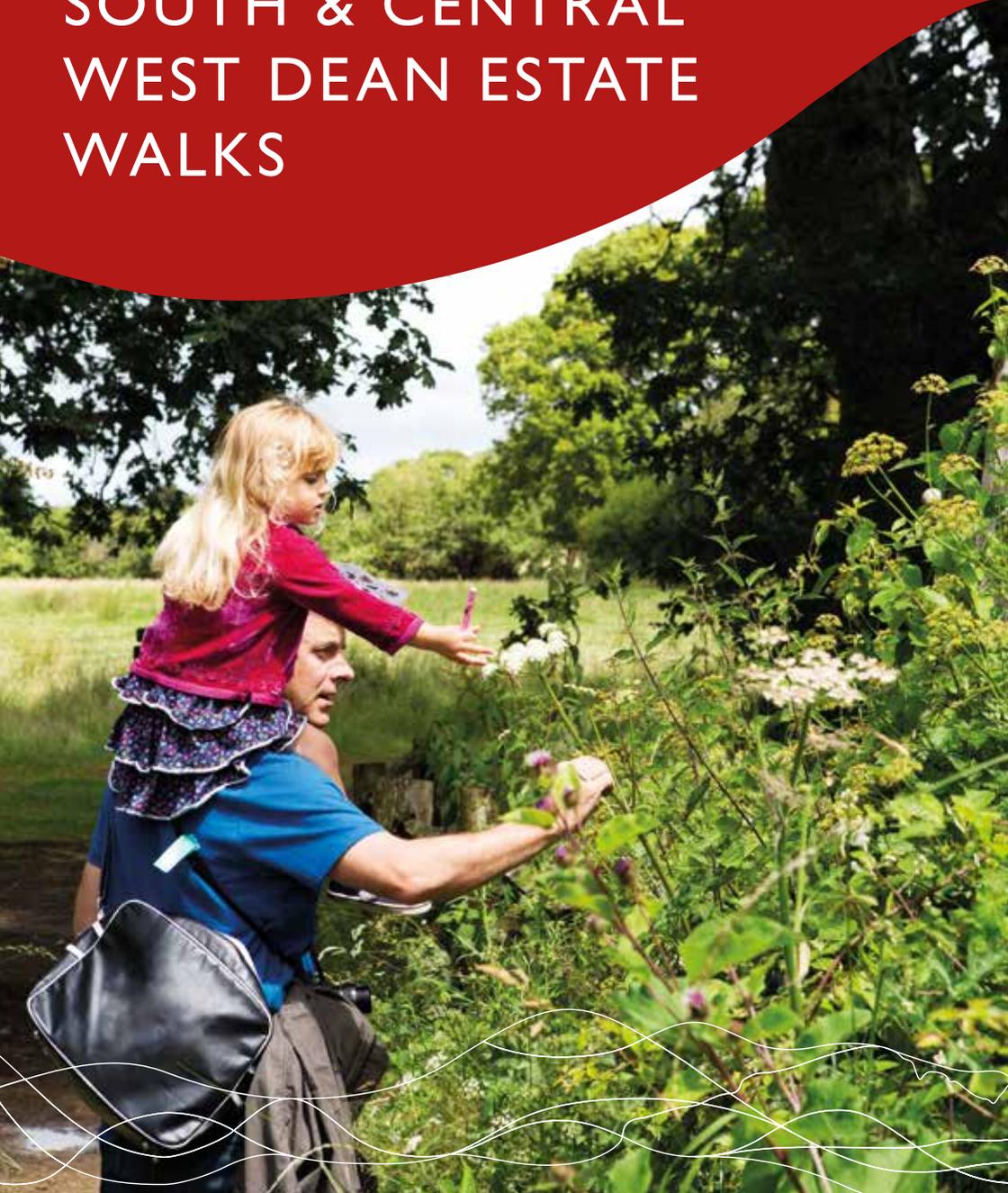




# SOUTH & CENTRAL WEST DEAN ESTATE WALKS



# INTRODUCTION

Covering 6,400 acres, West Dean Estate is owned by the Edward James Foundation, a registered educational charity which runs West Dean College and West Dean Gardens, and sits entirely within the South Downs National Park.

Edward James inherited West Dean Estate when his father passed away in 1912. With no children of his own, Edward James set up the Edward James Foundation in 1964 and gifted the majority of the Estate to it, the remainder passing upon his own death.

Many of its cottages and older farm buildings are built from flint, several cottages are thatched and many are listed Grade II. The Grade II\* mansion house, now home to West Dean College, is made from knapped flints.

Let farmland makes up around two-thirds of the Estate and a range of arable crops is grown. Areas of permanent grassland are grazed largely by sheep with some beef cattle.

Timber is grown commercially on the remaining third of the Estate and since 1981 heating and hot water for West Dean College and some nearby properties has been provided by one of the UK's first woodchip-fired district heating systems.

In Edward James' parents' day, West Dean Estate was known for its high quality shooting and its impressive guest list: King Edward VII was a frequent visitor. A day's shooting on West Dean Estate is still valued today.

West Dean Estate supports a wide variety of flora, including many varieties of orchids and lichens and a colony of wild daffodils. A wide range of insects has been recorded on the Estate and the Edward James Foundation and Butterfly Conservation have been working together in recent years to maintain and improve the habitat favoured by the rarely seen Duke of Burgundy fritillary butterfly. The Estate's wild mammal population includes dormice and bats.

A good network of public footpaths and bridleways makes it an inviting prospect for those who enjoy exploring on foot and this booklet contains six walks to give you some ideas. One route is also suitable for exploration by cyclists and horse riders.

## KEY TO MAPS:

- |   |                   |   |                 |   |           |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------|
|  | Point of interest |  | Trail point     |          | Woodland  |
|  | Pub               |  | Trail           |          | Buildings |
|  | Refreshments      |  | Road            | All routes can be found on OS Explorer OL8 (formerly 120), Chichester, South Harting & Selsey |           |
|  | Toilets           |  | Railway station |   |           |
|  | Parking           |  | Bridleway       |   |           |
|  | Bus stop          |  | Footpath        |   |           |



# WEST DEAN VILLAGE

A stroll along the lanes in the village, returning along a woodland edge via a well-defined footpath.

**DISTANCE:**  
1.5 miles / 2.5km

**ALLOW:** 45 minutes

**GRADIENT:**  
Mostly flat with one stretch of steady uphill.

**STILES:** One

**BUS:** A regular bus service, Stagecoach 60 runs between Bognor Regis and Midhurst via Chichester, stopping at various points along the A286 including

West Dean. Alight at The Dean Ale and Cider House stop.

**PARKING:**  
Available on roadside near river.

**1** Leaving Harcourt House behind you, follow the road as it bears right towards the A286.

**2** On reaching the A286, cross, turn right, walk to the crossroads, then turn left and walk up past West Dean Primary School.

**3** Continue up the road, under a low railway bridge, past a group of houses on your right, and turn right onto a well-defined footpath heading diagonally back across a field towards the A286.

**4** When you reach the A286, cross and continue straight ahead down Cemetery Lane, passing the cemetery with the James family graves within.

**5** To visit St Andrew's Church, turn left at the end of Cemetery Lane and follow the Park Wall until you arrive at its gate. Otherwise, turn right at the end of Cemetery Lane and follow the Park Wall back to the start of the walk.

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

**Harcourt House**, the large house on the corner, is a Grade II Listed building. The western part of the house was built pre-17th century and the eastern half in the 18th century. One of the largest residential properties on the Estate, Harcourt House also has a priest hole.

The two flint and galletted (small slivers of flint pushed into the wet mortar during construction) terraces at the foot of the dip were built in 1812 and are Listed Grade II: 'A good quality terrace of agricultural workers' houses for the period.' The Warren has become quite a community in recent years with the addition of two Housing Association developments which provide affordable housing for local families.

The **cemetery** contains the James family graves, tended by a local resident. The lych gate was recently repaired and restored and is Grade II Listed.

# BRICKILN FARM

A circular walk taking in the southern edge of Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve. Good views over the Chilgrove Valley.

## DISTANCE:

4 miles / 6.3km

## GRADIENT:

Mixture of steep climbs, descents and level sections.

## PARKING:

Park on the roadside near Brickiln Farm.

**ALLOW:** 1 hour 45 mins

Carefully cross the busy B2141 and follow the bridleway uphill between the hedges.

**1** As the bridleway enters woodland, turn left and enter Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve which contains one of the finest yew forests in western Europe. The bridleway follows the bottom of a wooded hill with good views ahead and to the left. As it bears right it passes a badger sett on the left before rising steeply into yew woodland.

**2** Continue along the bridleway, passing Goosehill Camp, a multiple enclosure fort, on your right, until you reach a crossing point of two bridleways.

**3** Turn right to a marker post and wooden gate.

**4** Turn right, passing Blackbush House, and continue along the bridleway, leaving the Nature Reserve.

**5** At a T junction with another bridleway, turn right.

**6** Cross the busy B2141 with care, turn right and take the green path running alongside the B2141 to the far end of Chilgrove Green.

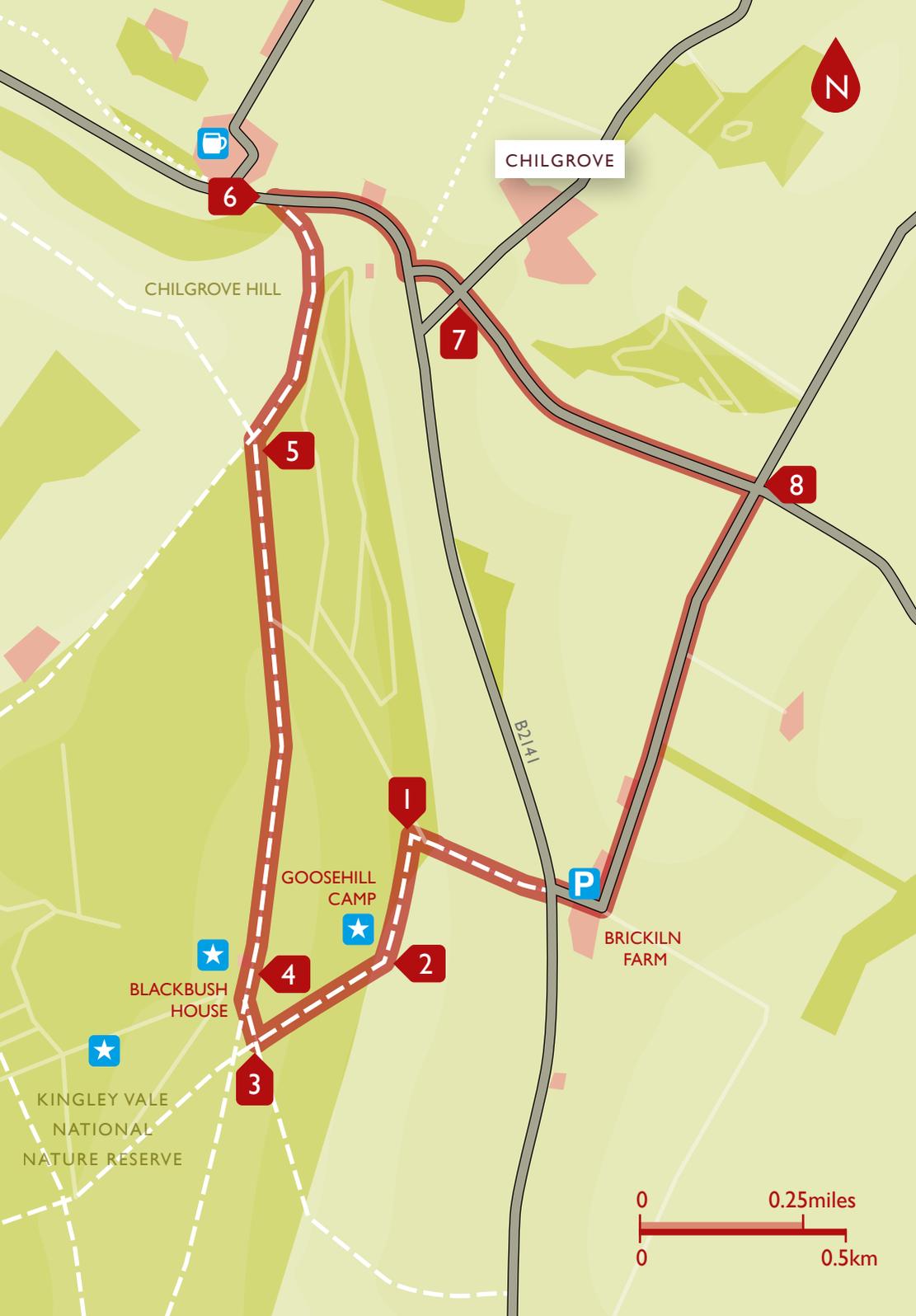
**7** Turn sharp left up a minor road, continuing straight on at a crossroads.

**8** At the T junction of minor roads, turn right, signposted 'Chichester', to return to the start of the walk.

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

**Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve** contains one of the finest yew forests in western Europe, including a grove of ancient trees which are among the oldest living things in Britain.

In years gone by **Blackbush House**, now a family home, played an important role in the development of the inoculation against smallpox, serving as an isolation unit for patient trials.



# SANDY'S BOTTOM

A circular walk for the most part in woodland of varying ages and species, taking in West Dean Woods Nature Reserve and a considerable stretch of the Andy Goldsworthy Chalk Stone Trail.

## DISTANCE:

4.5 miles / 7.3km

ALLOW: 2.5 hours

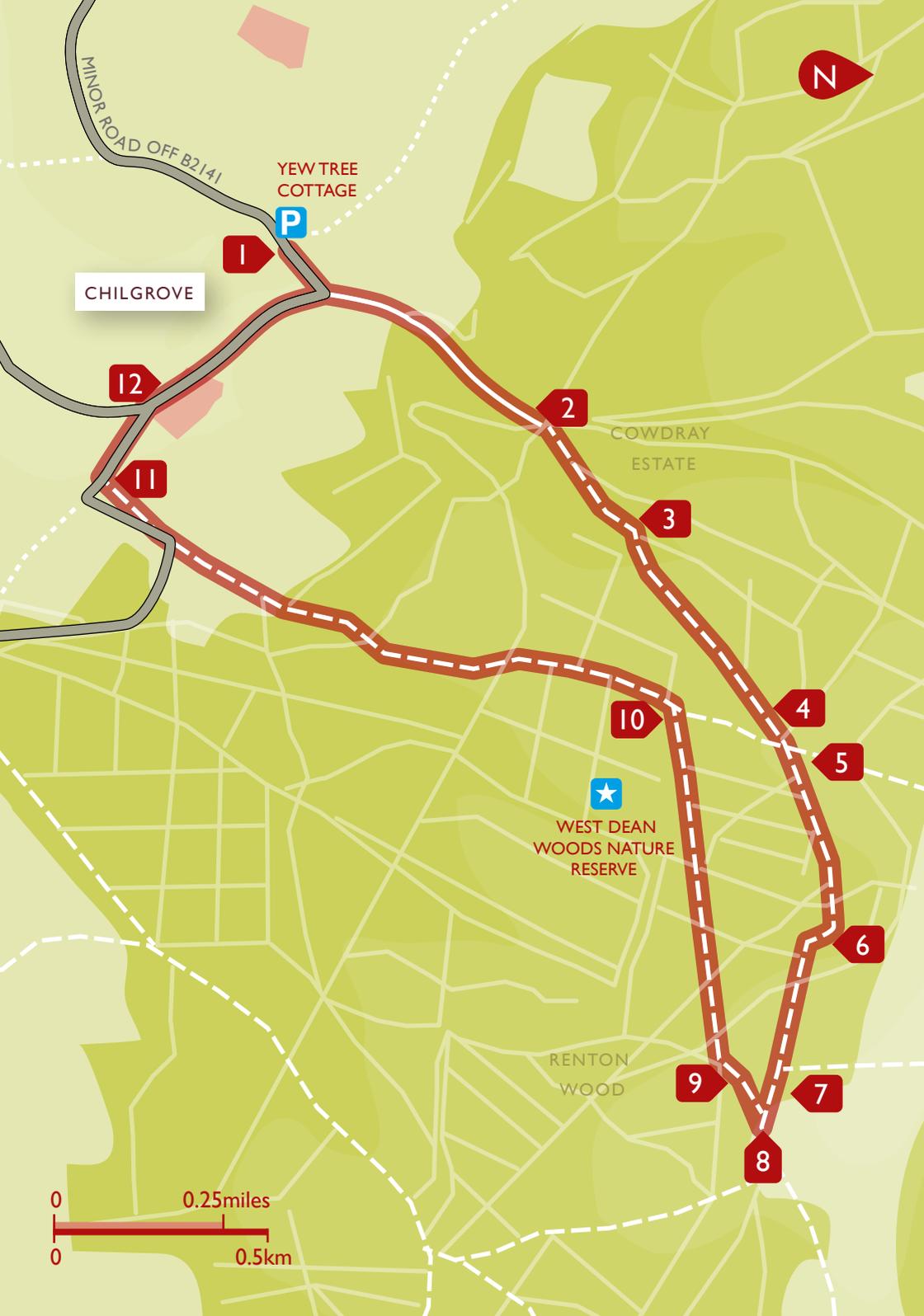
## GRADIENT:

Mixture of climbs and descents, none of them particularly challenging.

## PARKING:

Park on the roadside near Yew Tree Cottage, Chilgrove.

ALSO: Suitable for cyclists and horse riders.



**1** With Yew Tree Cottage behind you, turn left on to the minor road, then left onto the bridleway.

**2** At a marker post, turn right on to the lower bridleway, entering Cowdray Estate.

**3** Follow the bridleway right at a marker post.

**4** Stay on the bridleway as it bears left.

**5** At a marker post, turn right onto a different bridleway which bears left towards another marker post.

**6** At a crossroads with a chalk stone, go straight across, remaining on the bridleway.

**7** Continue straight ahead.

**8** At the next marker post, turn right on to another bridleway.

**9** At the next marker post, turn right to stay on the bridleway for some distance until reaching a T junction with another bridleway.

**10** Turn left on to the bridleway to re-enter West Dean Estate and pass West Dean Woods Nature Reserve.

**11** On reaching a minor road, turn right.

**12** At the junction with another minor road bear right to return to the start of the walk.

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

**Andy Goldsworthy** sculpted and installed **13 chalk stones** in 2002 to form a 5 mile (8km) trail between West Dean and Cocking Hill on Cowdray Estate.

**West Dean Woods Nature Reserve** is managed by the Sussex Wildlife Trust. In a non-intervention area, old lichen-covered oaks grow through a colony of wild daffodils which spills out onto the glade. This is kept clear by **West Dean Estate** to encourage it to do just that by removing competition from brambles, bracken and the like. The main purpose of the Reserve is to preserve the old management system of hazel coppice with oak standards.

# MONKTON VALLEY

A circular walk with good views, taking in a mixture of farmland, woodland and archaeological sites.

## DISTANCE:

5 miles / 8km

**ALLOW:** 2.5 hours

## GRADIENT:

Mixture of steady climbing and level sections.

**STILES:** Four

## PARKING:

Park on the roadside near Yew Tree Cottage, Chilgrove.

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

### Old medieval chapel

The site is visible in the woodland strip with scattered fragments of building material.

### Old Monkton

A deserted medieval village.

### Devil's Jumps

Bronze Age Bell Barrow Burial Humps are managed by the Murray Downland Trust. In recent years, trees and undergrowth interfering with the archaeology have been cleared. The turf is rich in downland flora and the views are extensive.



**1** Take the footpath in front of Yew Tree Cottage and follow it to Old Monkton in the valley bottom.

**2** Keeping Old Monkton on your right, continue along the footpath as it turns sharp left at a fingerpost, follows a field boundary and then enters woods. Where several paths meet you have a choice.

**3a** To visit the Devil's Jumps Bronze Age Burial Humps, turn right, signed 'South Downs Way', and a little later left towards kissing gates protecting them from wheeled traffic. Retrace your steps to the junction and take the bridleway to the Royal Oak public house.

**3** Turn left and follow the bridleway downhill to the Royal Oak public house. Turn immediately left and follow a bridleway to a well-signposted intersection with a footpath.

**4** Turn left and when the footpath emerges onto a private road, turn right. Turn left when you reach the junction with the public road.

**5** Follow the public road to return to the start of the walk.

# HIGHDOWN

A walk through woodland and across fields, passing Warren Hanger, Lodge Hill Farm and Whitedown.

**DISTANCE:**  
4 miles / 6.5km

**ALLOW:** 2 hours

**GRADIENT:**  
Some steep slopes; can be muddy in places.

**STILES:** Two

**BUS:** A regular bus service, Stagecoach 60 runs between Bognor Regis and Midhurst via Chichester, stopping at various points along the A286 including

West Dean. Alight at West Dean Gardens.

**PARKING:**  
Park in the West Dean Gardens car park.

**1** With your back to the Edward James Studios, walk through the gate ahead, cross the A286, turn left and walk along it.

**2** Opposite the gates of West Dean College, turn right under the railway arch and follow the footpath through woodland until its junction with a minor road.

**3** Turn left, cross the minor road, climb over the stile and take the footpath through woods and across fields to Lodge Hill Farm.

**4** Continue on the footpath until it meets a chalk track.

**5** To your left is Jack's Rew and ahead the site of a Roman Villa is demarcated. Retrace your steps along the footpath to Lodge Hill Farm.

**6** Take the right-hand footpath across the field and through woodlands until its junction with a minor road.

**7** Cross the road and follow the footpath until its junction with the A286.

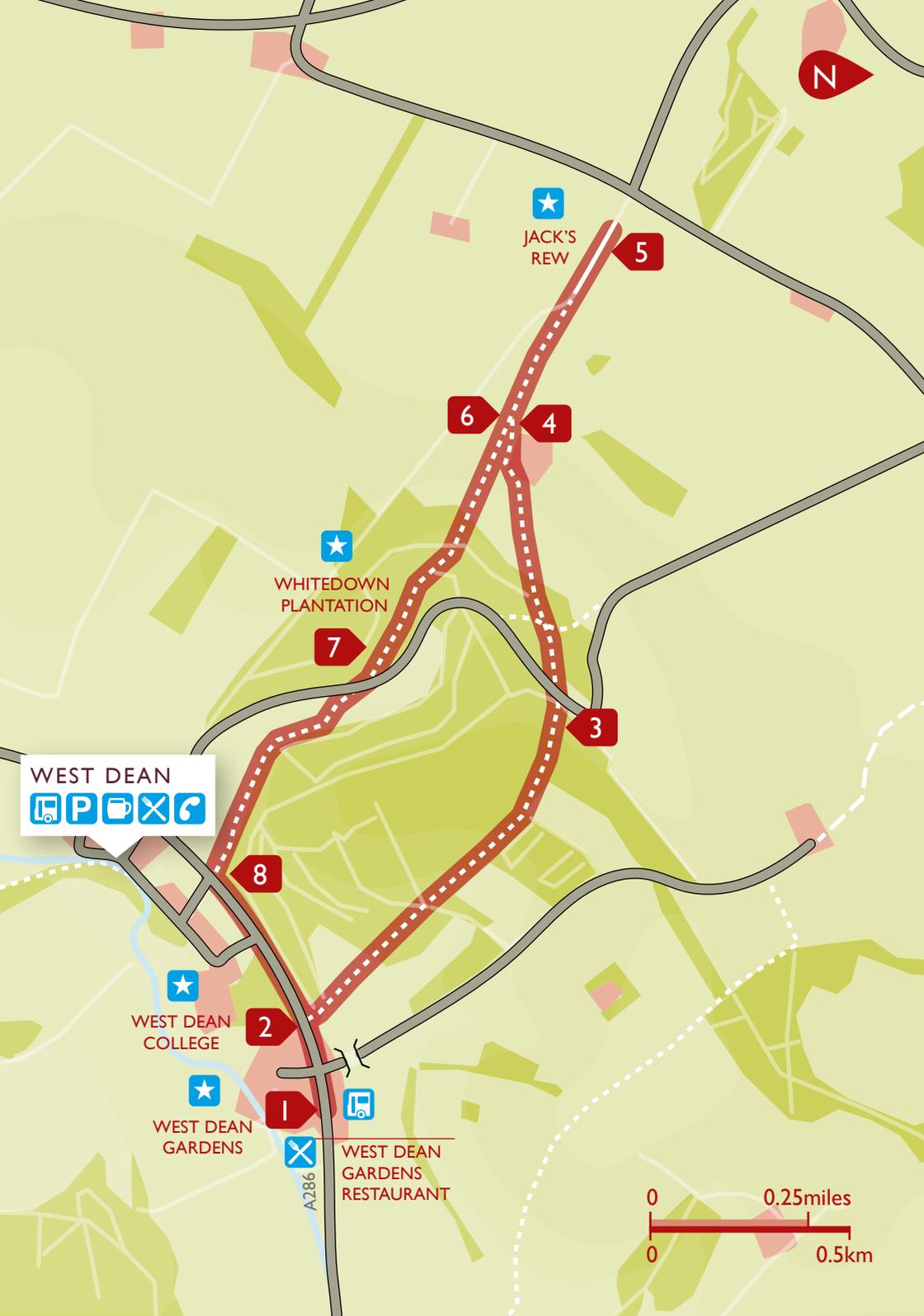
**8** Turn left and walk back along the A286 to the start of the walk.

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

**Jack's Rew**, planted in 2013 with oaks, walnuts and fruit trees for amenity, wildlife and landscape value.

In **Whitedown Plantation** keep a watchful eye open for Red Kites which have been re-introduced locally in recent years and are often seen soaring overhead.

**West Dean Gardens** are open from February to December.



WEST DEAN  
P  
X  
G

WHITEDOWN PLANTATION

JACK'S REW

WEST DEAN COLLEGE

WEST DEAN GARDENS

WEST DEAN GARDENS RESTAURANT

A286



# GREAT COOMBES

A 'triangular' walk between woodland and downland with big skies and long views, it follows alongside West Dean Park's flint boundary wall, just crossing the boundary with Goodwood Estate to St Roche's Hill and the Trundle.

## DISTANCE:

4.25 miles / 6.8km

## ALLOW:

2 hours

## GRADIENT:

Stretches of steady climbing; can be muddy in places.

## BUS:

A regular bus service, Stagecoach 60 runs between Bognor Regis and Midhurst via Chichester, stopping at various points along the A286 including West Dean. Alight at The Dean Ale and Cider House.

## PARKING:

Park on the roadside near the river at Manor Farm.

**1** With the Park Wall on your left, cross the River Lavant and follow the bridleyway uphill until you reach the Rubbing House on your left.

**2** To climb up to the Trundle and fine views, turn half left, head for a clearly visible car park and follow the clearly defined route.

To avoid the Trundle, at the far side of the Rubbing House turn right and follow the bridleyway gently downhill until it reaches a bridleyway which runs north/south. Then follow on from instruction 4.

**3** To continue the walk, retrace your footsteps back to the Rubbing House, turn left and follow the bridleyway gently downhill until it reaches a bridleyway which runs north/south.

**4** Passing through a bridle gate, continue to follow the bridleyway downhill towards the River Lavant.

**5** At the field boundary, turn right and follow the bridleyway as it runs above and parallel to the River Lavant and the A286.

**6** When you reach the Park Wall, turn left and follow the bridleyway downhill until you return to where you started.

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

**The Trundle**, the remains of an Iron Age hillfort lying on top of the remains of very rare Neolithic enclosures. It is also an Ordnance Survey trig point, sitting at 206m above sea level, overlooking Goodwood Racecourse to the east and West Dean Estate to the north and west.



## GETTING TO WEST DEAN

**By bus:** Stagecoach 60 runs regularly between Bognor Regis and Midhurst, via Chichester and passing through West Dean.

Visit [www.traveline.info/se](http://www.traveline.info/se) to plan your journey.

**By cycle:** The Centurion Way cycle route runs between Chichester and West Dean.

**By foot:** The Centurion Way cycle route runs between Chichester and West Dean.

**By rail:** Chichester Station is some seven miles from West Dean.

**By car:** The A286 passes through West Dean.

## REFRESHMENTS

West Dean Gardens Restaurant  
West Dean Stores and Tea Room  
The Dean Ale and Cider House  
The White Horse, Chilgrove  
The Royal Oak, Hooksway

## OS MAP

**OS Explorer OL8 (formerly 120)**  
Chichester, South Harting & Selsey  
Scale 1:25 000; 4cm to 1km;  
2.5 inches to 1 mile.

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

#### Respect other people

- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Keep to the paths unless on Access Land

#### Protect the natural environment

- Take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

#### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

West Dean College & Gardens  
West Dean, Chichester,  
West Sussex PO18 0QZ



[www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk)



**SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK**