



Devil's Dyke Road, Near Brighton, West Sussex

TRAIL
Walking

GRADE
Moderate

DISTANCE
1 mile (1.6km)

TIME
3 hours

OS MAP
**Explorer 17;
Landranger 198**

Contact

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Facilities

Car park and toilets at Devil's Dyke pub

**National
Trust**

nationaltrust.org.uk/walks

Devil's Dyke butterfly walk

There are lots of butterflies of note on this walk, including large populations of Adonis blue, chalkhill blue and green hairstreak and smaller populations of brown argus, dark-green fritillary and silver-spotted skipper. Also, large populations of six-spot burnet moths (day-flying) and all three species of day-flying forester moth. There are a variety of chalk grassland flowers too, including drifts of common rockrose and horseshoe vetch and frequent carline thistle, dropwort and downland orchids.



Terrain

Chalk downland valley with steep slopes. Dry ground, though downslope paths can be slippery when wet. Route avoids the steepest slopes - zig-zags downhill and takes gentle incline back up. Suitable for older children. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads, as livestock in surroundings fields. No dog bins so please take dog litter home.

Things to see



Green hairstreaks and other butterflies

Green hairstreaks are usually numerous here during May and early June, with the males perching on the bushes. Also brown argus and various blue butterflies.



Butterflies

A rich area of open fescue turf with a general butterfly interest, including many marbled whites and some dark-green fritillaries during July. Look for butterflies on tall thistle flowers in areas cleared of scrub, and on carline thistles during late summer.



Butterflies and flowers

A wooded section, with butterflies including speckled wood and spring flowers such as early purple orchids.



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Start/end

Start: Main car park by Devil's Dyke Hotel, grid ref: TQ257110
End: Main car park by Devil's Dyke Hotel, grid ref: TQ257110

How to get there

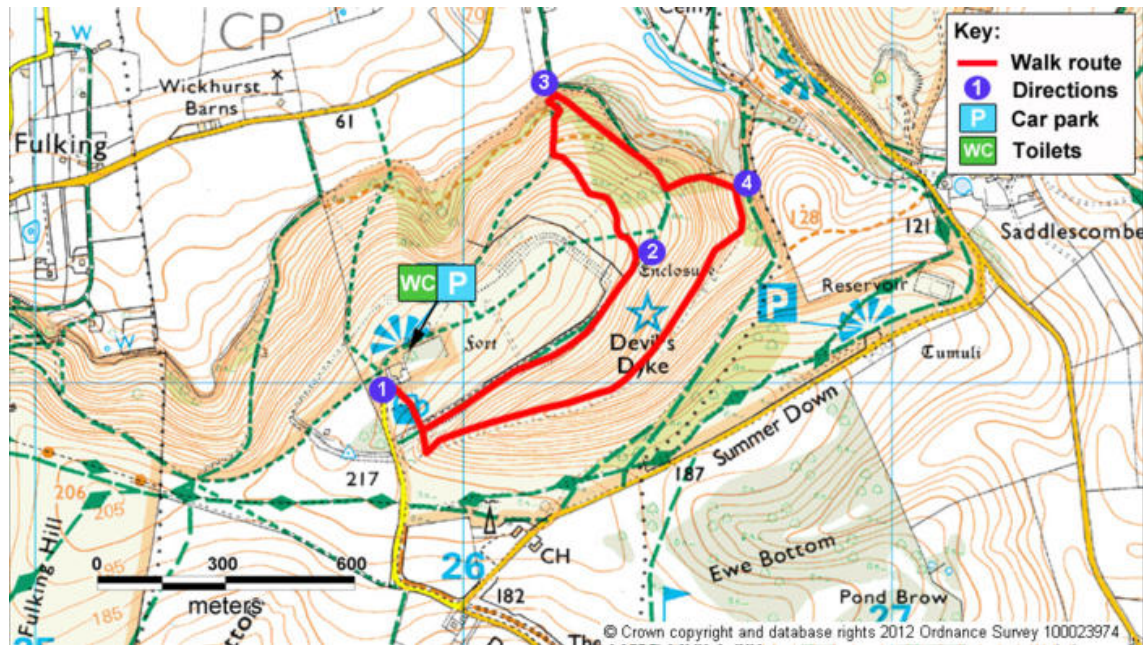
By foot: Footpaths from Brighton (5 miles / 8km), Fulking and Poynings (both 1 mile / 1.6km) or South Downs Way

By bike: Cycle path from Hove off National Cycle Network Route 20, plus others, including the South Downs Way

By bus: Service 77 from Brighton, daily in high summer, weekends and bank holidays for rest of year

By train: Brighton 7 miles (11km) from Devil's Dyke, then take 77 bus

By car: 2 miles (3km) north of A27 Brighton bypass. Nearest postcode for Sat Nav is BN1 8YJ



1. From the car park, take the first on the right, just by the roundabout, climb over the bank and walk down a short section of path. Turn left on to the main path running along the top of the Iron Age hill fort embankment. At the far end there are some stunted oaks.

2. Swing left of the path after the bridle gate, to wander over the lower slope of the open downland, heading downslope of two stunted oaks on the spur, and dropping down to pick up a long flight of steps leading down to a kissing gate amongst hazel bushes.

3. After the kissing gate at the foot of the steps, turn right to follow the main path through ash woodland. Straight over a cross rides and descend a flight of some 20 steps, cross the stile into the bottom of Dyke Valley.

4. After the stile, turn right to follow the main path up the Dyke's bottom, all the way up. (In windy weather, stay on this path but in calm weather follow one of the sheep tracks running along the lower slope, rejoining the main path later). Near the summit, the main path sweeps right. Follow it through the bridle gate back into the car park where you started.

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