



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 cross the High Street, following the towpath leads to the Grade 1 listed church of St Botolph with its lancet windows and Jacobean pulpit. Then return along the opposite side of the river past one of the most important historic houses in the area and through Bramber Street with its attractive houses, hostelrys and restaurants.

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



By Car

Steyping lies between the A24 and A23, just north of the A27. The A283 runs past the town. Free 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 Brighton via Shoreham-by-Sea and via Upper Beeding and Bramber to Steyping. Visit www.traveline.org.uk for more information.

By Foot or By Bike

You can reach Steyping easily from either the South Downs Way or the Downslink from Guildford.

Visit www.nationaltrail.co.uk/SouthDowns/ for more information.

Further Information:

Visit www.steyningsouthdowns.com for more information

Visitor information is also available at:

Steyping Library - Church Street BN44 3TB Tel: 01903 812751
Steyping Centre - Fletchers Croft, BN44 3XZ Tel: 01903 812042
Steyping Museum - Church Street BN44 3YB Tel: 01903 813333

For further information on the wider area including tourism publications visit:

www.visitsouthdowns.com
www.visitsussex.com

www.horsham.com
www.ruralways.com

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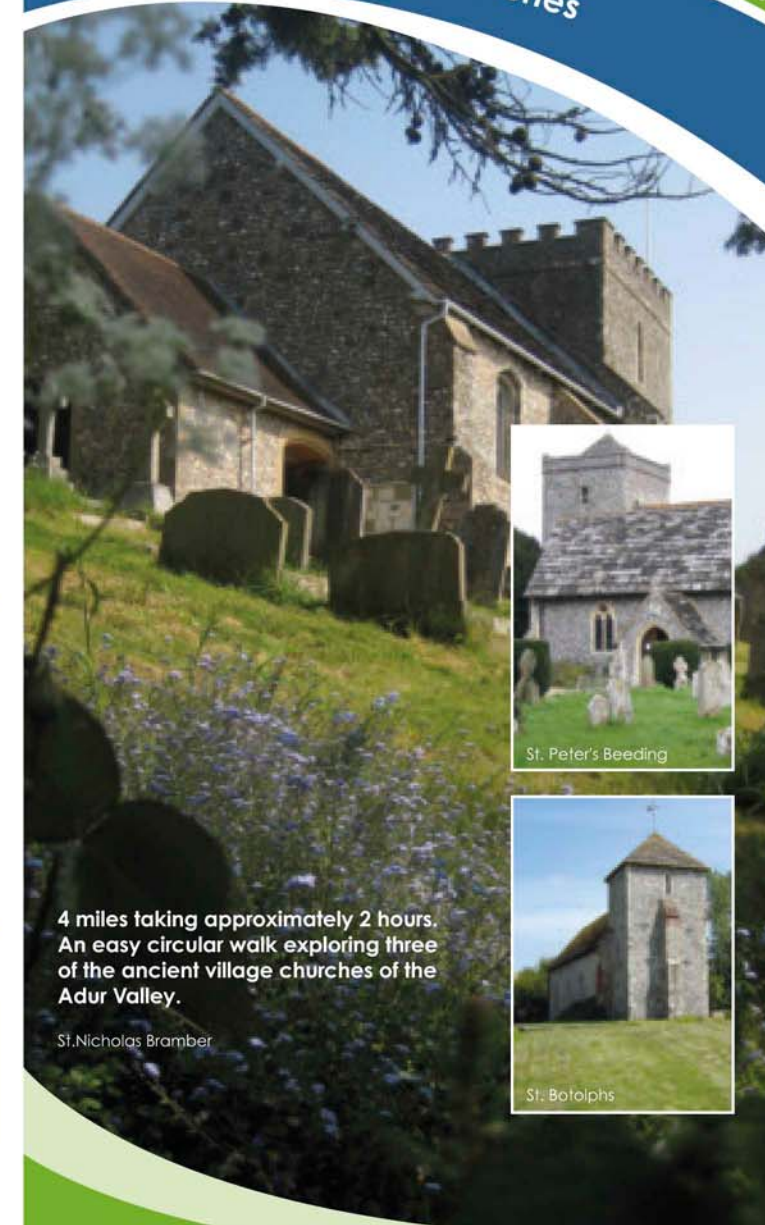


These walks were produced by the Steyping & District Community Partnership with assistance from Hidden Britain South East, and were funded by a lottery grant from Awards For All.

www.steyningsouthdowns.com

Steyping Walks

Three Ancient Village Churches



St. Peter's Beeding



St. Botolphs

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

St. Nicholas Bramber

www.steyningsouthdowns.com



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 free 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 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:

- **Easter Walking Races**
- **May Fair**
- **Steyning Festival** - May/June
- **Three Forts Challenge** - July
- **Round Hill Romp** - July
- **River Adur Bathtub Race** - August
- **Christmas Late Night Shopping**

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



For further details and for lots more events please see our website at:
www.steyningsouthdowns.com

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

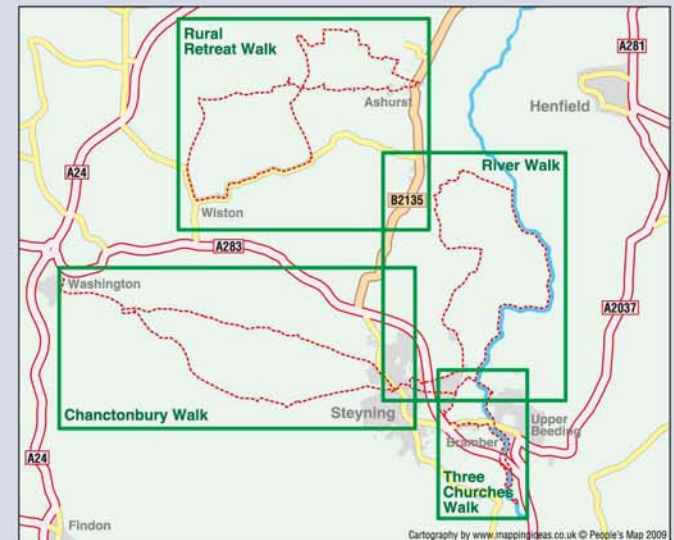
7 miles taking approximately 3-4 hours.

Moderately difficult circular walk with a steep ascent up to the South Downs Way and Chanctonbury Ring, returning via Washington.

Walk 4 - Rural Retreat

7.5 miles taking approximately 4 hours.

A lovely circular country walk through meadows, farms and woodland to Wiston and back.



About Us:

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

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.



The walk is around 4 miles and takes approximately 2 hours. There are some stiles and during the winter months it can be muddy. Apart from the Castle Mount most of the footpaths are in the river valley. The car park at Bramber offers free parking and the bus stop is close by. There are numerous opportunities for food and drink in Bramber and Upper Beeding.



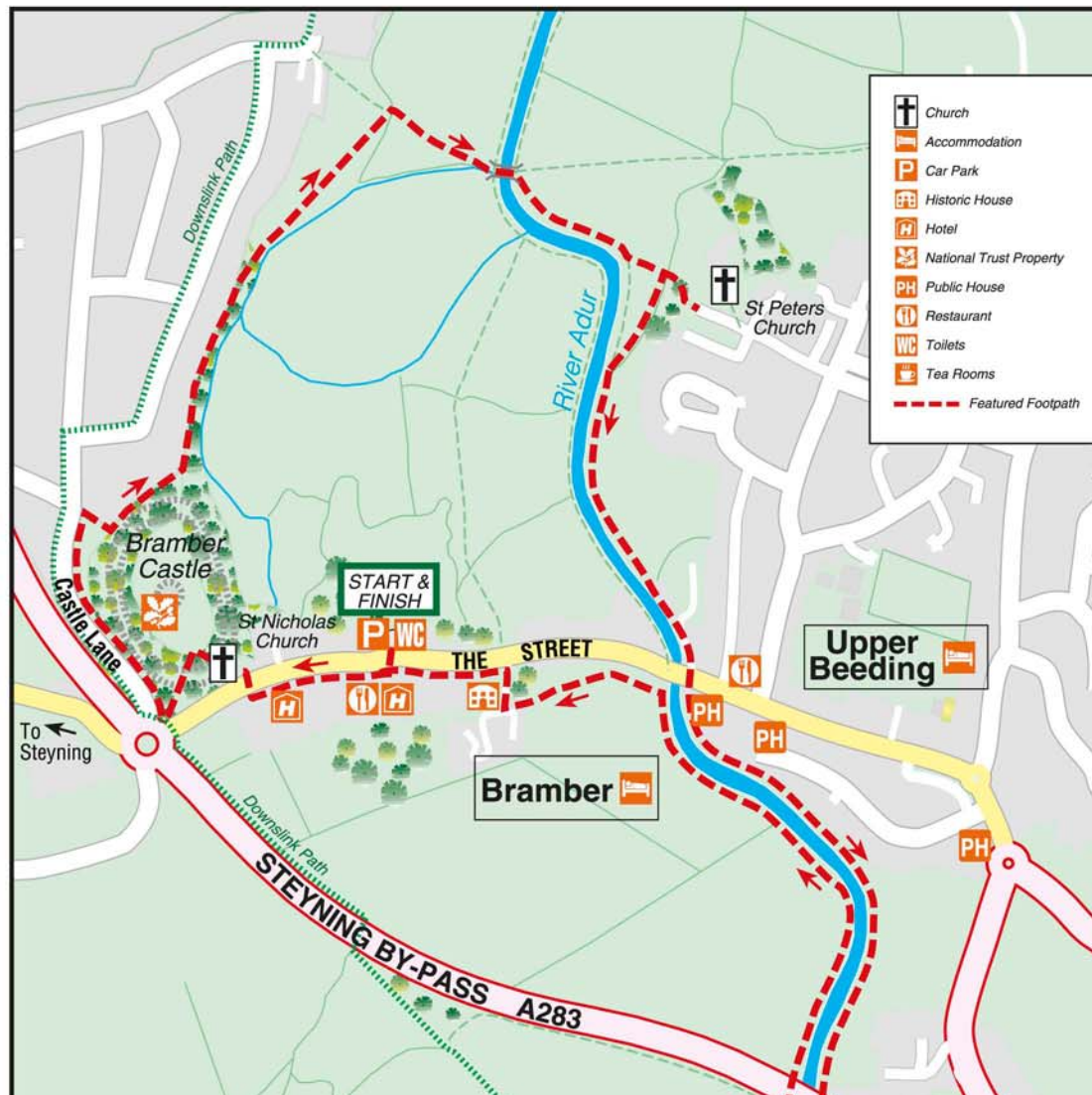
The Street Bramber Start

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 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



road bridge. Continue on river bank and after about 10 minutes the old cement works are visible beyond a metal footbridge. Turn right over this bridge and cross river, signposted South Downs Way. Turn right on far bank. After a short distance you will see a path off to the left signposted public bridleway next to a small stream. This leads to the road (ignore right turn onto Downs Link). 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 leper hospital in Bramber).



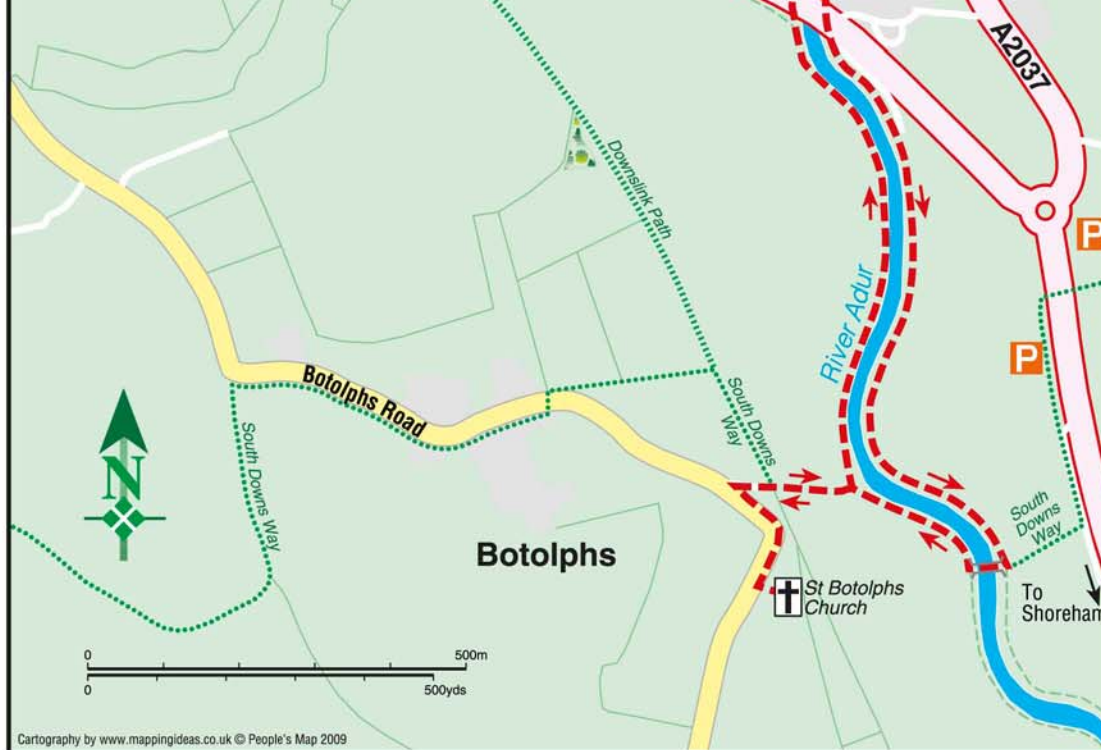
After leaving the church, turn right and enter the ruins of Bramber Castle built by William de Braose around 1073 with its fine 360 degree views over the surrounding villages and countryside and offering a wonderful spot for a picnic. Leave by same route.



Descend from the car park via gravel road and turn right into Castle Lane (narrow road), turn right at a junction marked public footpath which gently climbs and bears left to path junction. Turn left on path behind high garden fences to stile ignoring left footpath shortly before the stile into open fields. Cross the stile



following the high path alongside stream. At next stile turn right towards metal footbridge, cross the bridge, turn right, following curve of River Adur and turn left over the field, towards a wooden bridge & take the steps up to St Peter's 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 down the steps and cross the wooden bridge again, turn left alongside stream towards the river bank, pass through kissing gate by a pump house and continue by the river to the brick road bridge via another kissing gate. Cross the road and take the path



alongside the Bridge Inn with the river on your right. Pass the garden of the King's Head, continue along the river deviating around an old dry dock, and on under a concrete



Finish at The Street Bramber

Turn right on leaving and retrace route to the river. Turn left away from the footbridge and continue on river bank. There are three stiles before the concrete road bridge is reached. Go straight on under the bridge along the bank until you reach the flint wall at the cottage opposite the Bridge Inn before Beeding Bridge, turn left and keep hedge on right, with the mobile home park in the distance. When you reach that, go through a kissing gate and turn right along drive. Just before the road, you will see the historic St Mary's House (a 15th century inn for pilgrims on their way to the tomb of St Thomas at Canterbury) on the left. Turn left up the Street, passing the Castle Inn and the car park is on your right.

