



Celebrating our Landscape in association with the IW Ramblers



Freshwater Bay Chalk Downs

Part of a series of 11 walks to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Island

Isle of Wight
area of outstanding
natural beauty

Distance: 5.8 miles

Start: Freshwater Cliffs NT car park (free). This is situated 300 yds east of Freshwater Bay on the Military Road

Access Information: Hilly and exposed.

Refreshments: Various cafes, hotels at Freshwater Bay

Toilets: Freshwater Bay en route

Route: From the car park (1), cross the road and follow the chalky coastal path towards Freshwater Bay passing a seat along a sunken way. The path goes right and then continues along the cliff edge to some wooden steps leading to the beach. Follow the esplanade to the Albion Hotel and by the wishing well, follow the road pavement, passing a car park which is on your left. Follow the coastal path left (2) by toilets and along a track. Turn right through a gate at Tennyson Down and follow the path uphill going through a gate gap and eventually to the Tennyson

Monument. Pass to the right of the toposcope and follow the path downhill to find a Ramblers gate by a beacon. (3) Go through the gate and take the right hand path downhill between gorse.

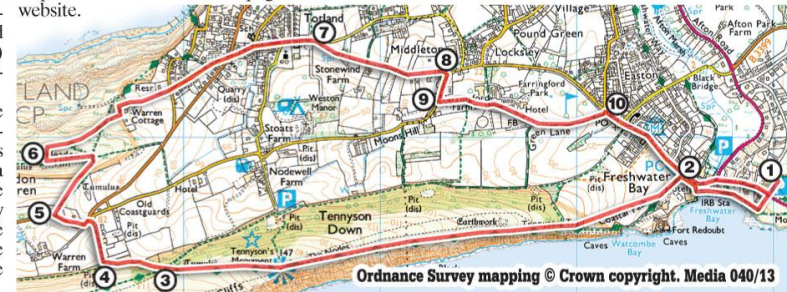
Take a right hand path over a stile leaving the down (4). An enclosed path passes some houses and emerges at a road junction. Here go left downhill on the main road verge. Go right on path T16 over a stile (5) going uphill following a left hand barbed wire fence to reach a NT stile at Headon Warren in access land. Continue uphill and just before a wooden footpath sign go left on a grass track passing an underground reservoir. Follow the gravel track uphill and reach a Bronze Age burial mound. Go left and then right around the mound to find an information board. (6) Here there are views of The Needles and heath land which is purple in August.

Continue past the board downhill through heather and gorse with views of Hurst Castle and Fort Albert. Pass another information board and seat. Follow the sandy and grass path as it winds around the edge of a bungalow. Turn left on a track to reach a lane. Continue into York Lane to reach Christ Church. Cross the main road into York Road and reach Saint Saviour's Primary School. Continue past a cemetery and turn right through a gate on T7 towards Middleton (7). Go across a field and over a stile into a copse. Emerge at a second stile and cross a field to a stile

by Stonewind Farm. Continue on a track which becomes a concrete track emerging at a lane. Here turn right (8) and follow the lane verge. Continue along the lane to find a left hand gate on F44 towards Farringford. (9) Go over a grassy field and follow the public footpath along a field edge to a Ramblers gate near Farringford Farm. Continue on a bridleway which follows the edge of the Farringford estate. The green lane emerges at a road. (10)

Go right to pass the thatched church and Dimbola museum and tearooms to reach the bay. Continue uphill and along the Military Road to return to the car park.

GPS Users: Waypoints for this walk can be found at our web site: <http://www.iowramblers.com/page5.htm>. All walks in this series can be downloaded from this website.



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