



# Celebrating our Landscape in association with the IW Ramblers

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

**Landscape:** This landscape character type is a distinct part of the coast and hinterland to the north and east of East Cowes. It includes the Osborne estate and Norris Castle. This landscape is characterised by rich ornamental and exotic planting, distinctive architecture in comparison to the surrounding traditional enclosed pasture agricultural land, and a wooded shoreline.

Isle of Wight  
area of outstanding  
natural beauty

**Description:** A walk along good tracks, visiting a walled garden and the gardens and grounds at Osborne including the beach.

**Distance:** 2.7 miles

**Start:** Osborne House main car park.

**Access Information:** Unusually, this is the only landscape within the AONB that has no legal informal public access, with no public rights of way recorded in the area. Access is available to members of English Heritage or by paid admission. Winter admission at weekends only. There is currently no access to Swiss Cottage until April 2014.

**Refreshments:** Tea room and restaurant at Osborne House.

**Toilets:** Near entrance to gift shop and cafe.

**Route:** From the car park (1) go to the entrance at the gift shop. Take the path to an estate road and turn left. Continue to a sign and

turn left to the Walled Garden (2). Go through the main entrance, once part of the Old Osborne house which was demolished in 1847. Explore the walled garden and greenhouses and return to the entrance. The walled garden provided flowers for Osborne House in Victorian times. Follow the path left and at an estate road go left. At a sign go right onto the Ring Walk (3), and go down the valley towards the sea.

At green metal gates, go half left on a grass path and follow this route by a wood all the way to Osborne Beach (4). There are excellent views of The Solent and a bathing pavilion and an alcove seat. A cafe is usually open.

Retrace the route by the wood, go through metal gates and follow the grass path by a fence line to a junction of gravel paths (5). Here go left for 50 yds and then go right following the sign to the Ice House which was built in 1846. This brick structure is 15ft across and 30ft deep. In 1852, Prince Albert's artistic adviser, Ludvig Gruner, built a classical entrance to the Ice House.

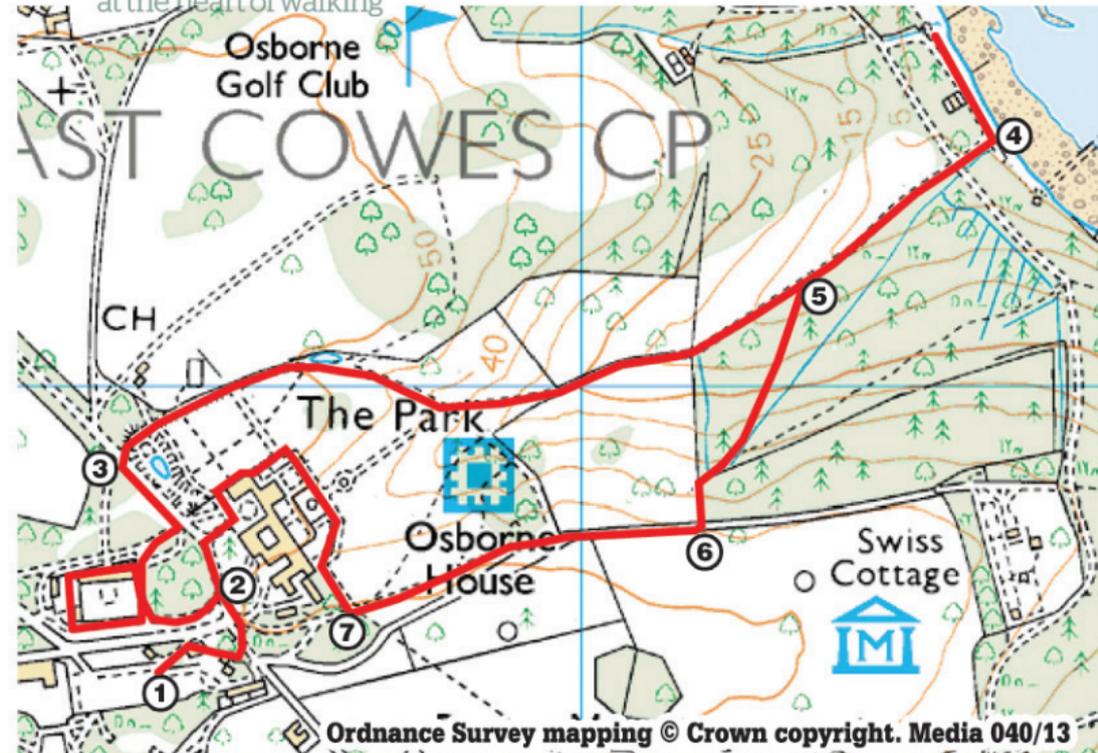
At the information board, take the path to the right and follow this to the left of the house. At the estate road, (6) turn right and, at a sign (7), go right towards the house. Explore the terrace gardens and then climb the steps to continue around the perimeter of the house. Then follow the exit signs to return through the gift shop.



## Osborne coast

ramblers

at the heart of walking



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