

# Hassocks, Clayton, Wolstonbury, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks



## The Countryside Code



The Countryside Code applies to all parts of the countryside. Most of it is just good commonsense, as it is designed to help us all to respect, protect and enjoy our countryside.

- 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 close control
- Consider other people

We hope you have enjoyed this walk.  
Why not try one of the others in the series?

**Route 1:** Hassocks, Butchers Wood, Keymer, Hassocks (2 miles)

**Route 2:** Hassocks, Clayton, Jack & Jill Windmills, South Downs Way, Keymer, Hassocks (4 miles)

**Route 3:** Hassocks, Oldland Mill, Ditchling, Keymer, Hassocks (3 miles)

**Route 4:** Hassocks, Clayton, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks (5 miles)

## How to Get Here

**By Train:** Frequent services from Brighton, Haywards Heath, Gatwick and London

**By Road :** A23 London to Brighton. If southbound take the A2300 via Burgess Hill. From Brighton use A23 then A273 Pyecombe to Haywards Heath. From east/west use B2116 Lewes to Henfield road. There is a station car park with pay and display parking. Two further car parks in the village operate disc parking. Discs £1 (May 2010) can be bought from local shops (check notices in car park for details) and kept for future visits.



Design by Mid Sussex District Council. Information provided by Hassocks Community Partnership along with special thanks to Les Campbell for devising the route. The information in this leaflet is published in good faith and has been verified as far as possible. Hassocks Community Partnership accept no responsibility for loss, damage or distress caused by the information contained herein.

Distance: 5 miles

Hassocks Community Partnership Visitor Group  
www.visithassocks.co.uk

## Route Description

A pleasant walk with good views, which includes a steep ascent of Wolstonbury Hill.

**1** From the east side of Hassocks station (southbound platform entrance/exit) walk downhill past The Hassocks public house to the mini roundabout. Turn right, cross the road and walk back towards the railway bridge. Just before the bridge, turn left up some steps and follow the footpath alongside the railway for a little under a mile to reach the A273 at Clayton.

**2** Cross the road and turn right then left into New Way Lane beside the Jack & Jill public house.

Note the castellated turrets above the entrance to Clayton Tunnel, the longest tunnel on the London to Brighton line at over 1 mile long. Built in the 1840s the then landowner would not allow access unless an edifice was built.

**3** Shortly after passing two houses on your right in New Way Lane, take the signed bridlepath on your left, following this uphill.

**4** Pass the first stile on your right and continue up the steep ascent until you are almost at the top of the hill where on the right there is a stile with a clear view across the field to Wolstonbury Hill. Climb over the stile which also states 'Access Land' and turn immediately left to take the upper path bearing right around the field.

**5** When you reach the gate, go through and continue along the path. As the path begins to descend there is access between two wooden pillars to the right leading to the triangulation point at the summit of Wolstonbury Hill (680 ft).

The Bronze Age encampment at the top of the hill gives glorious views over the Weald. Wolstonbury is mainly open chalk grassland, a manmade habitat maintained by cattle and sheep grazing, with some ash and sycamore woodland at the foot of the north scarp. The grassland is species rich with over 50 different plant species occurring including adder's tongue and the greater butterfly and man orchids. The conditions are also suitable for other rarities such as the Adonis Blue butterfly.



**6** After visiting the summit, head down hill towards the east where you can see a mill pond on your right. Go over the stile and walk straight ahead. Once through the gate at the bottom of the field turn left. At the path intersection, bear right.

**7** Go through the gate, turn left and follow the track downhill past a building called 'The Warrenne' to join New Way Lane.

**8** Turn right and follow the lane till you reach a track on your left leading to Coldharbour Farm. On reaching the farm buildings, follow a grassy path ahead, to the left of a pond. Turn right over a stile at its end and go forward then through a squeeze stile into a field.

**9** Ignore signed paths to left and right and go straight across field to a gap in the boundary ahead, then ahead across the next field, alongside a fence immediately on your left.

**10** At a kissing gate bear half left to another gate, then bear right alongside fenced woodland.

**11** Just after a pond on your left, leave the field via a gate then a stile and go forward past houses in Crossways Lane. Turn right over a stile alongside the curiously named 'Sound of Luing' into Talbot Field.

**12** Cross the field diagonally to a stile and join the B2116 Hurst Road. Cross to the opposite pavement, turn right and walk to the traffic lights at Stonepound.

The A273 was built as a turnpike towards the end of the 18th century to cater for the increasing popularity of Brighton. Stonepound Gate was where the tolls were collected for those heading south.

**13** Cross with care and follow North Bank to the Station and the centre of Hassocks.

