



West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes
North Lodge, Northgate, Chichester PO19 1BJ



West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes



View across to Bramber from Bramber Beeches

Walks to Bramber Beeches



Keeping the path through Bramber Beeches clear

Feel part of the South Downs, marvel at the work of our WI members who created and keep the wood path open, and take a rest on the seat at the bottom edge of the wood where the view extends over the Sussex Weald. Tell your WI members and other WIs about Bramber Beeches. Join our Federation's success in achieving its ambition for Bramber Beeches—it is a landmark on the West Sussex Downs. Long may it continue to be part of WSWFI's heritage.

You can see more about Coombes Farm on www.coombes.co.uk. More information about Bramber Beeches is available via WSWFI on 01243 783134 www.wsfwi.co.uk or secretary@wsfwi.co.uk

Jan Marsden, *Chair, Environment and Public Affairs sub-committee WSWFI*

History of Bramber Beeches

Bramber Beeches was planted by West Sussex Federation of WIs, and sits in Coombes Farm, near Lancing, on top of the South Downs. The farm, in the valley in the South Downs National Park, is about 1,000 acres of downland and brookland. It is mixed farming with cattle, sheep, barley and wheat. The Passmore family has farmed here for over 100 years.

It was due to the generosity of the Passmore family WSWFI, in conjunction with West Sussex County Council, was able to take part in conservation, and plant over 600 trees, to celebrate the Federation's Diamond Jubilee in 1980. Our Federation's vision was to create a landmark and for the woodland to be part of our heritage.

Our Federation's commitment to Bramber Beeches, however, has not been without challenges. A fire damaged the trees; storms tested the weaker trees; nettles and brambles overtake the space; the wooden seat and stile gradually rot and get eaten by bugs, and the wood can only be accessed via the South Downs Way footpath.

Bramber Beeches, however, is thriving and with the goodwill of the Passmore family, the wood is there for all WI members to enjoy.

Thanks go to:

- The landowners: the Passmore Family of Coombes Farm, for access and use of the land.
- The Environment and Public Affairs sub-committee for work in compiling this leaflet.
- West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes Board of Trustees for commitment to Bramber Beeches.

Disclaimer

Although routes have been tested and checked as correct at the time of writing, things in the countryside change, and WSWFI takes no responsibility for changes in the routes.

Walk at your own risk. Follow the countryside code: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code>

Facilities:

There are no toilet facilities or cafes on or near the walks. The nearest toilets and cafes are in Steyning town, Findon Village and superstores at Lions Way, Downlands Business Park off the A27 at Sompting.

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Walk 1 Steyning Bowl to Bramber Beeches

Description

A two-mile linear walk to Bramber Beeches, along the South Downs Way footpath, with a gentle hill. Access to Bramber Beeches is along a field edge and can be rough under foot.

Directions to car park

Car park Map Reference: TQ 16521 08890

From Steyning From the A283 at Bramber roundabout, turn into Clays Hill. Before reaching the town, take the left turn into Bostal Road (which is the road over the Downs from Steyning to Sompting). At the top of the hill, pass Steyning Bowl and the South Downs Way footpath on the left, and park in the car park, which is a small triangular lay-by on the left.

A27 from Worthing Pass Lions Way Downland Business Park on the left at Sompting. Then take the second of two small lanes on the left (Church Lane). Pass Sompting Abbots on the right and continue for about two miles up Titch Hill. This is the road over the Downs to Steyning. Pass the car park on the left. At the top of the hill, the road levels out toward the top of Steyning Bowl. The car park is a small triangular lay-by on the right.

Walking Route

Turn left out of Coombes Farm onto the lane. Continue for about ¼ mile. As the lane reaches the top of the slope, take the footpath between the hedges, on the left. The footpath leads through a gate and into an overgrown dell, with a short steep path down to a further gate. Go through this gate into a field. Keep to the left edge of the field going uphill until you reach a white house on the left. Continue about 25 metres past the white house and exit the field through a gate on the left.

Go up a wooded slope and turn left at the South Downs Way footpath. Follow this path/track continuing uphill. After the right hand bend there is a gate. Go through the gate and continue uphill. The views open up to the left over the River Adur and valley, and out to sea. The farmland is rotated with wheat, barley and pigs. As the brow of the hill is approached a wooded area on the right hand side comes into view. This is Bramber Beeches. At the top, go through the gate and turn right immediately. Follow the fence line to Bramber Beeches.

Reverse the route to return to Coombes Farm.



Walk 3 Coombes Farm to Bramber Beeches

Description

A 3-mile walk from the farm along a lane, footpaths and tracks. It is a gradual uphill most of the way to Bramber Beeches, with one short steep area in a dell near the start. Access to Bramber Beeches is along a field edge and can be rough under foot.

Start at Coombes Farm, Coombes, Lancing BN15 ORS. Park in the road into Coombes Farm.

Directions to car park

Car park Map Reference TQ 19155 08232

From the A27, at the double set of traffic lights, north of Shoreham airfield, take the road signed Lancing College and Coombes. Coombes Farm is about two miles along this road on the left.

From the A24, at Washington roundabout take A283 to Steyning. At the next roundabout, take the fourth exit into Maudlin Lane. At the T-junction turn left into Annington Road. Coombes Farm is about three miles on the right along very narrow road.



Walking route

From this car park, facing the road, turn right and walk along the road on the car park side for about 100 metres toward signed South Downs Way footpath gate. Turn right onto the South Downs Way footpath.

Keep on the footpath for about a mile, and go through one field gate. Bramber Beeches wood appears as a copse of trees on a slope on the left hand side. At the next gate, stop before the gate, and come off the footpath by turning left and walking along the field edge for about 25 metres. The gate for Bramber Beeches is straight ahead.

Reverse the route to return to the car park.



Walk 2 Cissbury Ring to Bramber Beeches

Description

A 7.5 mile walk on downland footpaths and tracks, with gentle hills. Some of the paths are chalky, stony and uneven. There is one road to cross. Access to Bramber Beeches is along a field edge and can be rough under foot.

Directions to car park

Car park Map Reference: TQ 13925 08514

About three miles north of Worthing, at the roundabout on the A24/A280, turn into Findon into School Hill. At the crossroads, cross over the road into Nepcote Lane. After about ¼ mile, Nepcote Lane bears left, signed for Cissbury Ring. Continue up Nepcote Lane, keeping the green area on the right. Follow this narrow lane to the very end where there is a car park next to Cissbury Ring (BN14 0HT).

Walking Route

From the car park, with the National Trust entrance to Cissbury Ring on your right (do not access Cissbury Ring for the walk), go through track gate straight ahead. Pass a barn on the right and continue through an area called Canada Bottom. Ignore the footpath coming in from the left. After about a mile there is a crossroads of paths with 10 field gates! The wind farm out at sea comes into view on the right.

Continue straight ahead along the path going uphill.

Go through a gate and continue gently up, and then up a steep short slope. Continue up and through a gate to a road. Cross over the road – note the car park area on your right.

Continue up on a footpath with pylons ahead. Go through a gate. Ignore the path to the right. At a broken gate, just in front of a pylon, turn immediately sharp left. The single path continues between hedges and fences until a gate into an open field. Continue straight ahead on the path at the side of the open field, where model aircraft are flown, towards the next 5-bar gate and single footpath gate. Go through the gate into a small area where cars can park. From this car park, facing the road, turn right and walk along the road on the car park side for about 100 metres toward signed South Downs Way footpath gate. Turn right onto the South Downs Way footpath.

Keep on the footpath for about a mile, and go through one field gate. Bramber Beeches wood appears as a copse of trees on a slope on the left hand side. At the next gate, stop before the gate, and come off the footpath by turning left and walking along the field edge for about 25 metres. The gate for Bramber Beeches is straight ahead.

Reverse the route to return to the car park. Look out for two dew ponds towards the end of the walk.