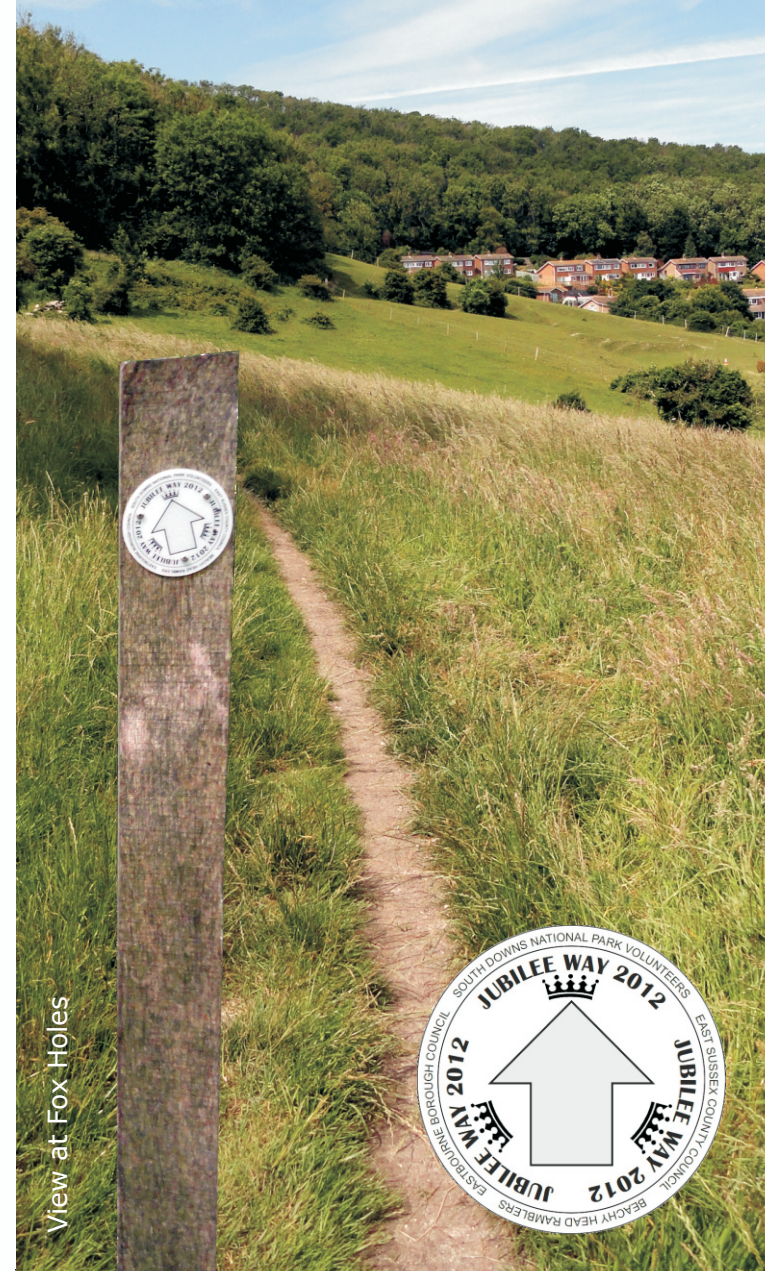


Eastbourne Downland Jubilee Way

Eastbourne seafront to Willingdon through meadows and woodland

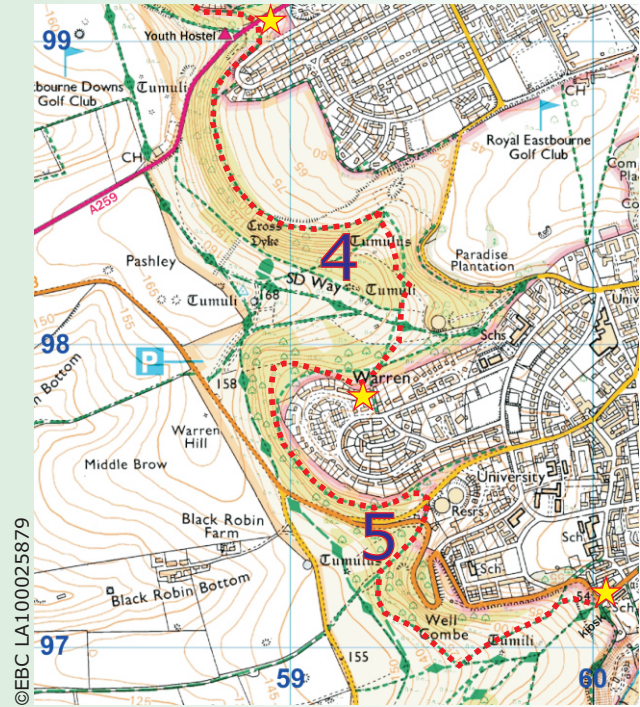


View at Fox Holes



Just by the northernmost of these a gently sloping meadow is often smothered in thousands of early purple orchids and common spotted orchids (TV 594 975). South of the road crossings the path follows a series of ancient track terraces across a narrow meadow wooded on either side. An open meadow section forms the surroundings nearest the seafront. There are two prominent pre-historic tumuli (burial mounds) on this meadow, the path passing right by the topmost of the two (TV 595 969). If starting the walk by the kiosk at the seafront go immediately up to the right not straight up the hill.

SOUTHERN SECTIONS 4 AND 5



Near the Royal Eastbourne Golf Course

Section 4/ Pashley / Warren Hill. TV 588 990 to TV 592 979
 Here the Jubilee Way provides panoramic views from a woodland edge and from open meadows above Paradise Plantation. Most of the woodland here is self-generated sycamore and ash. Just south of the A259 East Dean Road the path curves gently around a wooded valley and the Royal Eastbourne Golf Course opens out to the east with views extending east to Hastings. The golf course was founded in 1887 the same year in which Queen Victoria granted permission for the 'Royal' prefix. On the spur south of the golf course, a set of mountain bike trails will be seen on the steep wooded hillside below the path. Where the path rounds the prominent spur and traverses a small meadow area the South Downs Way crosses. A very short detour up the hill here brings you to a larger open meadow where the sparse flint-walled remains of an horizontal windmill can be seen (TV 591 983). Built in 1752, the wind driven mechanism unusually consisted of sails set around a vertical driveshaft. On the south of this spur the path crosses a meadow near the back of the houses and an alleyway, marking the south end of this section, runs between the houses to Upper Carlisle Road.



Phyteuma orbiculare.
 A scarce downland flower also known as Pride of Sussex and Round-headed Rampion. The bright blue flower heads are quite small and most noticeable from mid-summer onwards. It occurs in small colonies in the meadows along the route.

Section 5/ Warren Hill / Well Combe. TV 592 979 to TV 600 971
 This, the southern section of the Jubilee Way, runs through mainly ash and sycamore woodland with open grassland only near the seafront terminus. Below the summit of Warren Hill there is one area, on a steep, nutrient-poor, dry slope, almost exclusively of hawthorn that have developed into low trees creating dense shade with little ground vegetation. In the same vicinity there is also a much damper area favoured by hart's-tongue fern and various lichens. Approximately half way along this section the path crosses two roads in quick succession.

The Eastbourne downland is managed for your enjoyment by Eastbourne Borough Council. Please follow the Countryside Code.
 In particular please -

- Take all litter home
- Protect wildlife and plants
- Keep dogs under control

Leaflet funded by the Beachy Head Group of the Ramblers.
www.beachyheadramblers.com

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All information believed correct at time of printing.

Eastbourne Downland Jubilee Way

This walk provides the opportunity to explore the wooded slopes of the South Downs escarpment overlooking Eastbourne. The route follows a path joining Eastbourne seafront to Butts Lane in Willingdon, six miles (9.6 km) in total. Between the two it passes through alternating sections of woodland and open grassland with magnificent vistas across Eastbourne and Pevensey Levels.

Finding your way

It is possible to use the Jubilee Way as part of a circular walk by using the South Downs Way, along the crest of the Downs, to return to where you started. Alternatively, buses run from the main road at Willingdon back to town or from the seafront and town centre to Willingdon. This leaflet is designed to help you enjoy the walk in either direction. On the ground there are more than sixty Jubilee Way markers to follow. The route is covered by the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 mapping series, the relevant small sections of which are reproduced in this guide with the path marked by red dots. National Grid References are given in the text to assist with locating features and to help those using GPS.

Origin of the route

The Jubilee Way originated as a series of short walks that two local residents informally joined up into what they named the '300 foot contour path'. Later the Borough Council recognised the value of the route and in 1977 it was renamed the 'Jubilee Way' in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee. With assistance from the Open Spaces Society, the Beachy Head Group of the Ramblers' Association waymarked the route. During 2014 and 2015 the South Downs National Park Volunteer Rangers assisted the council in renovating steps and installing new waymarkers.

Some basic advice

Most of the Jubilee Way is sheltered from the prevailing wind and weather by being on the east-facing slope of the Downs. The woodland also provides some shade in summer. Most of the route has a natural surface that can be slippery and tree roots can make the surface uneven. Flights of steps are used to negotiate the steeper slopes. There are a few seats but something waterproof to sit on on the ground might be useful if you want to rest or picnic. On occasion the vegetation can close in on some of the narrower sections.

Description of the route

For the purposes of this guide the Jubilee Way has been divided into five sections. This is reflected on the ground by changes in character and other factors. The route does naturally split into two larger sections separated by the main A259 bus route near the youth hostel. There is a frequent bus service here to and from Eastbourne town centre. The five section descriptions are arranged from north to south but can be read in any order to suit your direction of travel.

Section 1/ Ratton. TQ 584 021 to TQ 583 013

The northern most section of the path, immediately joining Butts Lane, is dominated by self-sown sycamore and ash trees with some holly and privet in the understorey. Where the path follows a long curving track, set on a ledge above the houses, the woodland is longer established and contains many mature yew and beech. This area is called The Warren and was formerly part of the grounds of Ratton House, the country residence of Lord Willingdon (died 12th Aug 1941) at different times Liberal MP, Governor General of Canada, Viceroy of India and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Ratton House burnt down during the Second World War. The yew trees cast dense shade causing areas of bare ground. South of this wood a spur of land called Babylon Down juts eastward and is dominated by ash that, like much in the area, is badly infected by the fungal disease Chalara fraxinea (ash dieback). A steep flight of steps marks both the north and south sides of Marcia Dean, a small open glade (TQ 582 014). The south end of this path section coincides with an ancient sunken trackway called Linkway. This is a well-used footpath and bridleway linking to the top of Willingdon Hill where there used to be a windmill near the site of a modern triangulation pillar (TQ 577 009). The trees here are mostly beech, elm and sycamore.



Ratton House as it was in about 1906. Built in the 1890s in mock Elizabethan style it was formerly home to Lord and Lady Willingdon.

Section 2/ Willingdon Golf Course. TQ 583 013 to TQ 584 004

The northern section of the path runs through recently developed ash woodland bordering Willingdon Golf Course. The course belonged, until 1918, to the Ratton Estate. The land was formerly called Sheep Lands and alludes to the area once being pasture. Another clue to the former meadowland is the woodland dew pond which provided drinking water for livestock (TQ 580 010). South of the golf course the wood is characterised by frequent beech, yew and chestnut which help define where Further Plantation used to be (TQ 582007). This was an isolated small woodland area surrounded by a fence of which the old metal gate posts remain. During the spring patches of common twayblade occur on the woodland floor.

Section 3/ Fox Holes / Beachy Brow. TQ 584 004 to TV 588 990

This, the middle section of the Jubilee Way, hugs the urban edge and is well used by local residents. A bridleway cuts across the north end of this section and heads down to Hill Road and on to Victoria Drive bus routes. Just south of the bridleway the path follows close against the back garden fences but at Fox Holes there is a sloping meadow and a small enclosure grazed by horses (TQ 583 002). The housing covers an area that used to be small holdings. Some of the original bungalows remain amongst the more recent houses. The view extends to the coast of Pevensey Bay and Hastings. Around the middle part of this section the path leaves the mainly ash woodland and crosses Beachy Brow, a spur of land with extensive views eastwards.

On a ridge to the east can be seen the large expanse of Ocklynge Cemetery. A short detour to the top of this meadow brings you to a seat dedicated to former Rambler, Harry Comber (TQ 585 997). On a clear day the views from this seat extend as far as Dungeness nuclear power station. The southernmost part of the path runs through woodland consisting mainly of ash and some elm. Adjacent to the back gardens there remain a few large beech trees that mark the old field boundary when this was open farmland. The A259 East Dean Road is at the top of a flight of 48 steps and marks the southern edge of section 3.

NORTHERN SECTIONS 1, 2 AND 3

