



04 EAST SUSSEX DITCHLING COMMON & BEACON

▶ Distance: 9¼ miles/15.5km ▶ Time: 5 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



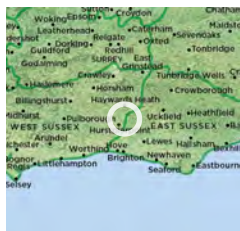
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FEATURE
ON PAGE 70



The nature trail is home to bluebells and wood anemones.

PHOTO: FIONA BARTROP

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Folders Lane East car park, BN6 8SQ, grid ref TQ335181

Is it for me? Mostly easy walking with one big ascent/descent; return along waymarked Sussex Border Path. Longer option is additional 1¼ miles/2km. Ditchling Comon Nature Trail: dragonfly waymarks on posts. Dry conditions recommended

Stiles 12

PLANNING

Nearest town Burgess Hill
Refreshments Green Welly café, Nutmeg Tree tea room, Bull Inn and White Horse, all in Ditchling
Public toilets Ditchling village car park
Public transport Buses 167 & 168 from Burgess Hill stop at Ditchling Common, compass-travel.co.uk
Maps OS Explorer OL11; Landranger 198

CHOSEN BY...

FIONA BARTROP

Situated to the east of Burgess Hill,



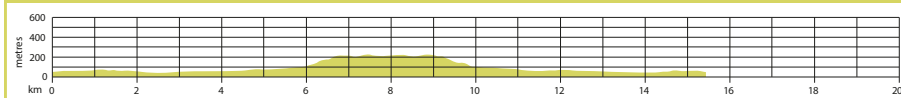
Ditchling Common Country Park is a popular area of common land, well used by local walkers. It is at its loveliest in the spring when carpeted in bluebells with the blackthorn and hawthorn blossom out too. There's a 1-mile waymarked nature trail round it, which takes in the various habitats – a worthwhile optional addition to the main walk. There are more bluebells, as well as wood anemones, to enjoy in nearby Blackbrook Wood, which this route takes you through, thereafter heading to the South Downs. A bridleway that angles up the

cowslip-speckled slopes above a distinctive 'V' stand of trees (planted in 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee) is followed to the top. Then there's an exhilarating stretch along the ridge, with a return via the charming village of Ditchling (home to the late Dame Vera Lynn).

1 Start

From top R corner of car park bear R gently up grass/path towards trees and turn R at T-junction, then R at crossing track to road. Cross and continue along track opposite. After house on L and before gate bear L along grassy path to pass stile and fingerpost with Sussex Border Path (SBP) waymarks on R. Continue to

GRADIENT PROFILE



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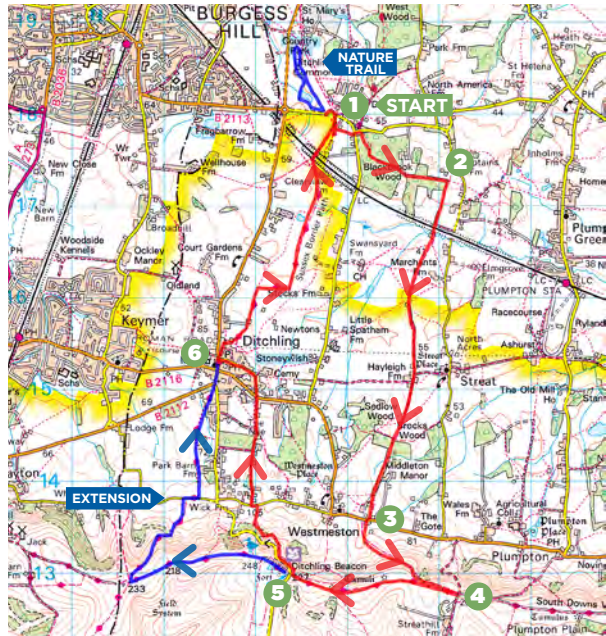
► OS Explorer map OL11 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

Spatham Lane near road junction. Cross and keep ahead along verge of Middleton Common Lane, soon turning R along footpath through Blackbrook Wood.

2 1/4 miles/2km
At far end turn R along bridleway, soon emerging from trees, view of South Downs in distance. Bridleway, which is followed all the way to the foot of the Downs, takes you under railway line, across a footbridge and a little further on becomes a tarmac lane leading to Hayleigh Farm. Keep ahead at intersection now on a track. In the distance you should be able to spot the 'V' tree plantation on the Downs. Track becomes tree-enclosed but with views again approaching road, B2116.

3 3/5 miles/5.8km
Turn briefly R then cross road and follow bridleway opposite. After going through a gate route continues up slopes of lovely open grassy downland (look out for cowslips) with ever-improving views. Path curves round above V to reach top at gate and junction with South Downs Way.

4 4 1/2 miles/7km
Turn R on other side of gate and follow SDW to road, car park and Ditchling Beacon on other side. For longer option continue along SDW for a little under 1 1/4 miles, turning



R through gate just before brow to join SBP there bearing R downhill and on to Ditchling.

5 5 1/2 miles/8.7km
Turn R down bridleway beside road on L. At bottom turn L along lane and next R and follow bridleway north ignoring turnings to L. Cross B2116, continue along East End Lane to High Street and turn R.

6 7 1/2 miles/11.8km
Take next R, East Gardens, rejoining SBP, followed north back to Ditchling Common. When lane bends R and surfaced track keeps ahead continue on narrow enclosed

path to L of drive, soon turning R through kissing gate. Follow waymarked paths across and alongside fields, passing Mac's Farm. In due course you emerge in bottom R corner of field. Path bears slightly L uphill to cross bridge over railway. On other side keep straight ahead to gate at far end, and retrace initial steps to start. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING