

Chanctonbury Ring from Washington

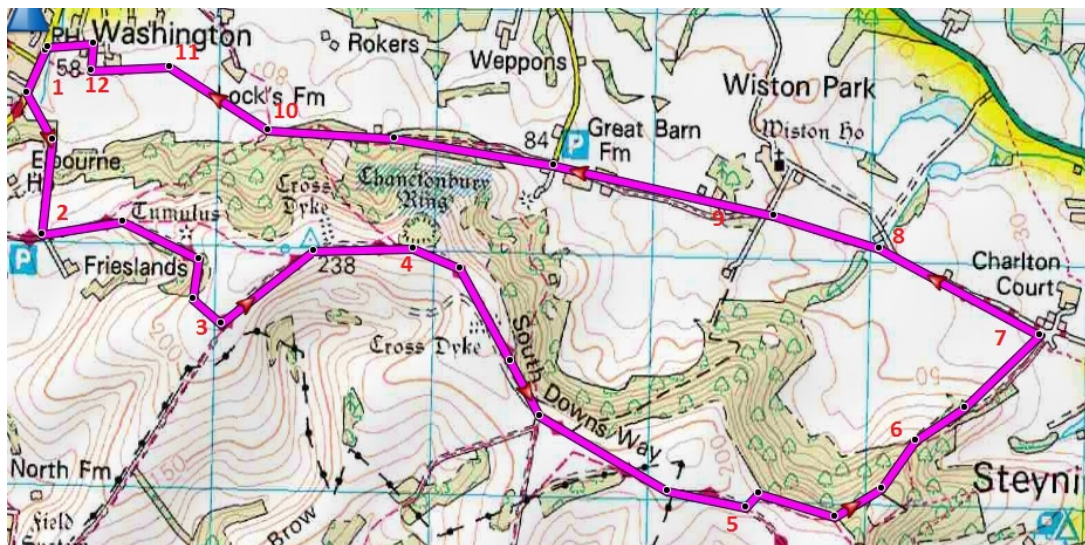
Distance: 7.1 miles or 11.4 km

Time: Around 3 hours

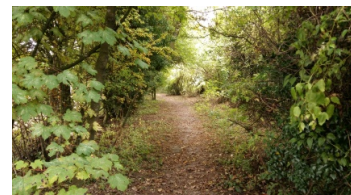
Walk Start: Washington village centre (TQ 122 127)

Parking: Opposite the pub

Washington lies around 3.5 miles to the north of Findon, easily accessed via the A24. There is parking opposite the pub, The Frankland Arms, where our walk starts. There are a number of interesting landmarks on this route. Apart from the magnificent Chanctonbury Ring itself, there is a dilapidated house, Wiston House and its unusual footbridge. The quest for wonderful views always mean ascents, and there is one near the beginning here. However the effort rarely fails to bring rewards if only for fitness levels and heart rates!



With the pub on your right (1) walk up the road and pass The Street. A short while after, at Stocks Mead, cross the road, go through two gates and take the path diagonally up the field to some steps and a stile. Follow the winding wooded path passing a disused quarry on your right and emerge at the top at a junction with the South Downs Way (SDW). Turn left (2)



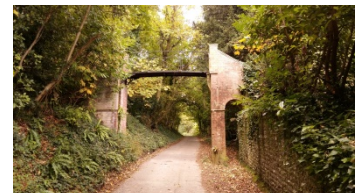
Continue onwards ignoring paths and bridleways to left and right and climb the chalky, rutted SDW all the way to the top. At a junction (3) bear left on the SDW. Rolling valley views to your right and the emerging Chanctonbury Ring make the effort worth it. A note for dog owners: there are almost always quite large flocks of sheep on these parts. Pass the Ring (4), on over the cattle grid and at a crossroads of paths continue ahead.



After around a ½ mile bear left at a path signposted Steyning 1.2 miles (5). Bear right shortly after and proceed along the edge of the wood. Where the path divides, take the left fork descending into the wood to enjoy what is a really nice path at any time of year.



At the bottom ignore the kissing gate (6) (don't miss the dilapidated house on the right) and continue straight ahead to emerge at the top corner of a large arable field. Head to the bottom corner (7) and turn left following the lower edge of the field parallel to Mouse Lane. This is glorious Sussex countryside by anyone's reckoning! At the far corner (8) pass through a small copse and over a stile. Follow the path ahead and then on the right edge of the field to cross another stile. To your right sits 16th century Wiston House. Currently used by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office it also hosts the southern Big Church Day Out each summer. Turn left upon reaching the road to then see a most unusual footbridge (9). The road you are on was the main Washington to Steyning highway until 1778. The bridge was built to avoid the road and connect Wiston with its land to the south.



Further on don't follow the road right dog leg but go straight ahead through the gate. Pass through Great Barn Farm noting a very strange place to find a tram car, albeit now in a poor state of repair! At the farm entrance ignore the path directly ahead. Instead bear right and immediately left past Maltose Cottage Too. Through the gate and into woodland; the path here can get quite muddy. Through another gate further on past a clearing on the left. At the edge of the wood go through yet another gate and the one immediately opposite into fields (10). Diagonally cross three fields joining the edge of the latter (11). Proceed into a fourth fields looking out for a stile on the right; cross it (12). Pass a red roofed house, over another stile and down to the bottom corner to join a track. Cross this to a not-very-well-defined path leading you to a bridge over a stream. A final stile ahead brings you conveniently back to the pub for refreshments.

