

# SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

From rolling hills to bustling market towns, the South Downs National Park's landscapes cover 1,600km<sup>2</sup> of breathtaking views, hidden gems and quintessentially English scenery. A rich tapestry of wildlife, landscapes, tranquillity and visitor attractions, weave together a story of people and place in harmony.

For your guide to everything there is to see and do in the National Park visit [southdowns.gov.uk/discovery-map](http://southdowns.gov.uk/discovery-map)



## YOUR COUNTRYSIDE CODE: RESPECT. PROTECT. ENJOY.

### Respect other people

- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Keep to the paths unless on Access Land

### Protect the natural environment

- Take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs



## FIND YOUR WAY

Follow the arrows on waymarkers.

Footpath		
Bridleway		
Restricted byway		
Byway		
Open access land		National Trail Acorn



## TAKE THE LEAD

For a safe and fun visit with your dog please remember to keep them on a lead around livestock and wildlife. Always bag and bin your dog poo – any public bin will do!

## GETTING HERE

**By bus:** There are regular services to Offham and Cooksbridge, visit [traveline.info/se](http://traveline.info/se)

**By rail:** The nearest railway stations are Cooksbridge and Lewes. Visit [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

## CONTACT

South Downs National Park Authority:  
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@SDNPA /SDNPA



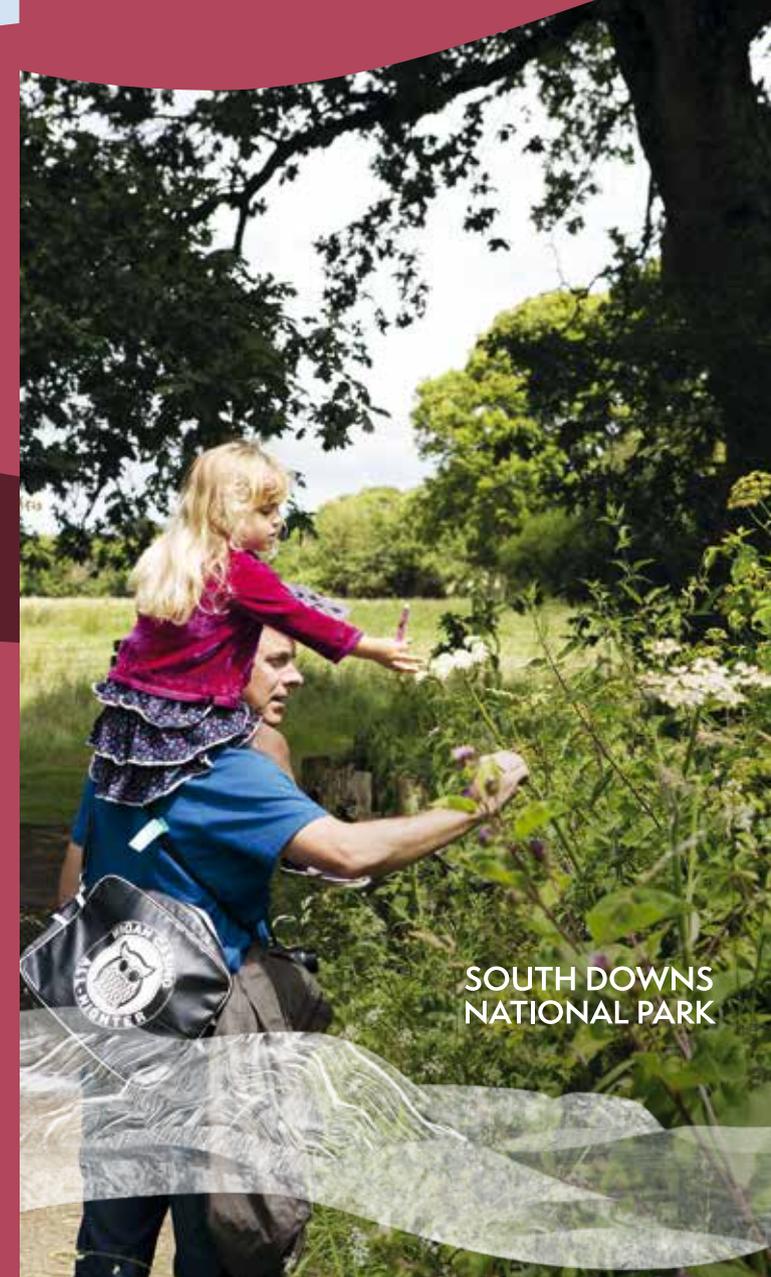
## SOUTHDOVS.GOV.UK

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## SOUTH DOWNS WALKS

# HAMSEY HERITAGE



SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK



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## WHAT TO SEE AND DO

### OFFHAM CHALK PIT

Clues to this area's industrial heritage can be traced to sites like the chalk pit on Offham Hill where man's activity has shaped this distinctive landscape. During the 18th and 19th century Offham Chalk Pit was a busy quarry. The site was perfectly positioned where the raw chalk of the Downs and the historic river highway were at their closest alignment. After being loosened by

gunpowder, the chalk was dug away before being taken to on-site kilns and burnt into lime. The lime was then transported by river barges to farms in the Weald where it was used as fertiliser for the growing of wheat.

### OFFHAM FUNICULAR RAILWAY

Said to be the first railway in southern England, the tunnels and portals of the Offham funicular railway were awarded

Listed Building Status in November 2013. The building is now listed at Grade II and has been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

Historically lime and chalk were transported by horse and cart down the steep hill from the Offham pit to river barges below, a slow and dangerous process for both men and horses. At the beginning of the 19th century, the pit owner, George Shiffner, commissioned a visionary

engineer, William Jessop, to solve this problem. In 1809 a revolutionary funicular railway was completed which took wagons of chalk under the road (now the A275) to waiting barges at a loading wharf linked to the River Ouse. The railway survived until 1870 due to the efficiency of its design and cost effectiveness.

To find out more about Hamsey's industrial heritage visit [hamseyheritage.org.uk](http://hamseyheritage.org.uk)



## HAMSEY PARISH

The villages of Cooksbridge, Offham and Hamsey sit in the East Sussex parish of Hamsey. Here you can discover a variety of landscapes ranging from high chalk downland, the

water meadows of the Ouse and the heavy clay pasture and woodlands of the Low Weald. There are great viewpoints from the top of Offham Chalk Pit and on the approach from the Ouse Valley.



**START  
COOKSBRIDGE  
STATION**  


**START  
OFFHAM**

**LEWES**  


**KEY:**

-  Point of interest
-  Pub
-  Refreshments
-  Toilets
-  Parking
-  Bus stop
-  Trail point
-  Railway station
-  Bridge
-  A Road
-  B Road
-  Restricted byway
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath
-  Woodland
-  Buildings

 0 0.25 miles 0.5km



# OFFHAM

TRAIL: 

ALLOW: 1 hour

GRADIENT:  
A couple of gradual climbs  
and some steps.

DISTANCE:  
2 miles (2km)

PATH:  
Mainly footpath and  
bridleway with some  
pavements.

MAP:  
OS Explorer 122

## Discover the industrial heritage around Offham

**1** From the Offham bus stop cross the main road, turn left and walk 50m along the pavement to the end of the cottages.

towards the kissing gate. Turn right through the first gate, then left through the second.

**2** Turn right on to the bridleway and then left towards the stile following the path up the hill.

**6** Follow the fence line on your left. At the first corner head diagonally towards another information board at the bottom corner of the field.

**3** Keeping to the left, cross the top of the chalk pit plateau (Treacle Mines). Climb the hill via the worn path between the trees and go through the kissing gate.

**7** Go through the gate, turn left on to the road. Cross the main road taking the tarmac path directly opposite.

**4** Follow the fence line on the left and head towards the information panel above the main Offham Chalk Pit.

**8** After a metal chicane, take an immediate left down the tarmac path towards Offham Road.

**5** From the information panel follow the path

**9** Cross the main road and take the steps and tarmac path down to the bottom of the hill.

**10** At the bottom of the hill turn left then immediately right down Blois Road. At the junction turn left into Crisp Road. Follow this road and cut straight across into Waldshut Road.

**11** Turn left into Fuller Road. Take the path directly opposite through the trees.

**12** Turn directly left onto a track (the Old Coach Road) and continue until you reach converted barns on your left. At the junction take the right fork.

**13** At the road, turn left towards the church and return to Offham bus stop.

# COOKSBRIDGE, HAMSEY AND OFFHAM

TRAIL: 

ALLOW: 2 hours

GRADIENT:  
Mainly flat.

DISTANCE:  
3 miles (5km)

PATH:  
Mainly footpath and  
bridleway with some  
pavements.

MAP:  
OS Explorer 122

## Explore Hamsey Parish and the banks of the River Ouse

**1** Exit Cooksbridge Station from the northbound platform and cross the road.

**2** Take the tarmac path between the picket fence; follow it round past a playground, then left down a footpath running alongside the stream.

**3** Cross the footbridge, head towards a stile and carefully cross the railway track (stop and look both ways before crossing). Turn right at the fingerpost and follow the fence line on your right.

**4** At the next fingerpost turn left alongside the hedge.

**5** At the opening in the hedge follow the footpath way-marker diagonally across the field towards the furthest corner.

**6** Exit the field opposite Hamsey Manor and turn right on the road.

**7** Turn left down Whitfield Lane and continue until you reach Ivors Lane.

**8** At the junction take the track in front of you signposted 'Sussex Ouse Valley Way'.

**9** Go through the kissing gate passing a pillbox on your right and follow the embankment.

**10** Take a right and cross under the railway following the path with the chalk pit cut on your left.

**11** Go through the gate and take a right along the Old Coach Road.

**12** At the road, continue left towards the church until you reach the main road (A275) with the Blacksmiths Arms pub directly opposite.

**13** Turn right and follow the pavement which runs alongside the road back to Cooksbridge Station.