

Ramsdean Rambles



BARROW HILL

barns



Introduction

Ramsdean, in the shadow of Butser Hill, with the South Downs to the South and the Hangars to the North, provides an excellent base for a wide range of country walks – often with a pub involved. The flora and fauna are diverse and always interesting: there's wild garlic, bluebells and orchids in the right season, yellow hammers, skylarks and red kites in the air with deer and badgers on the ground. And more rabbits than people.

Some fields will have farm animals in them. Firstly, do not worry; farmers never put dangerous animals in fields with footpaths in them. Secondly, please treat any animals with respect, particularly if there are young lambs or calves as their mother can, naturally enough, be very protective. Keep dogs on a lead when crossing these fields. Finally, please ensure that you close all gates that you pass through.

Where possible, walking routes have avoided roads and provide a rich variety of outstanding views and quiet landscapes.

Please wear appropriate clothing for the expected weather, ensure that you have enough food and water for the trip and ideally carry a compass and map of the area.










Cautions

From time to time it has been unavoidable to use some public roads. Be wary on any roads as traffic can move fast. Particularly busy roads have been marked on maps. When on public roads try and keep to RHS unless the view of you from a car would be obstructed by any bends in the road.

Hampshire countryside is muddy and all paths are subject to mud during, or recently after, rain. Areas particularly prone to heavy mud are marked on maps

The South Downs National Park is a designated dark skies area and can be extremely dark at night. It is strongly advised to walk only during daylight hours.

Key

	Less than 5 miles	BHB	Barrow Hill Barns
	5-10 miles		Pub
	10-15 miles		Potential mud or slippery after or during rain
	500-1000 feet ascent		Potential heavy/fast traffic
	1000-1500 feet ascent		Views

Credits

All maps have been based on data from openstreetmap.org

For users of electronic mapping GPX file have been provided

All comments on these walks gratefully received

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Walk 1 – Leg Stretcher.

Distance: 1.5 Miles.

Time: 35mins

Total Ascent: 130ft

Steepest Uphill: 9%

POI: Bluebells in March

Challenges: none

Description

A gentle walk across fields. Views of Butser Hill

Directions

1. From BHB turn left, downhill. Walk past Ramsdean triangle and take small road on LHS marked 'Ramsdean House'
2. At end of path, over stile and across field (leave central tree on your RHS). There may be sheep in field.
3. Over stile and down steps into lane and turn L
4. At top of lane, at road, turn L for 30yds
5. Take footpath on RHS opposite
6. Head along edge of field, over stile and down steps
7. Over stile at bottom of steps and diagonally across valley
8. Exit the field by fallen tree
9. In lane turn L
10. At top of lane turn R and back at BHB





Walk 2 – Butser via Grandfathers Bottom.

Distance: 3.4 Miles.

Time: 1 hr 30 mins

Total Ascent: 551 ft

Steepest Uphill: 28%

POI: Grandfather's Bottom (tranquil glade) and top of Butser Hill

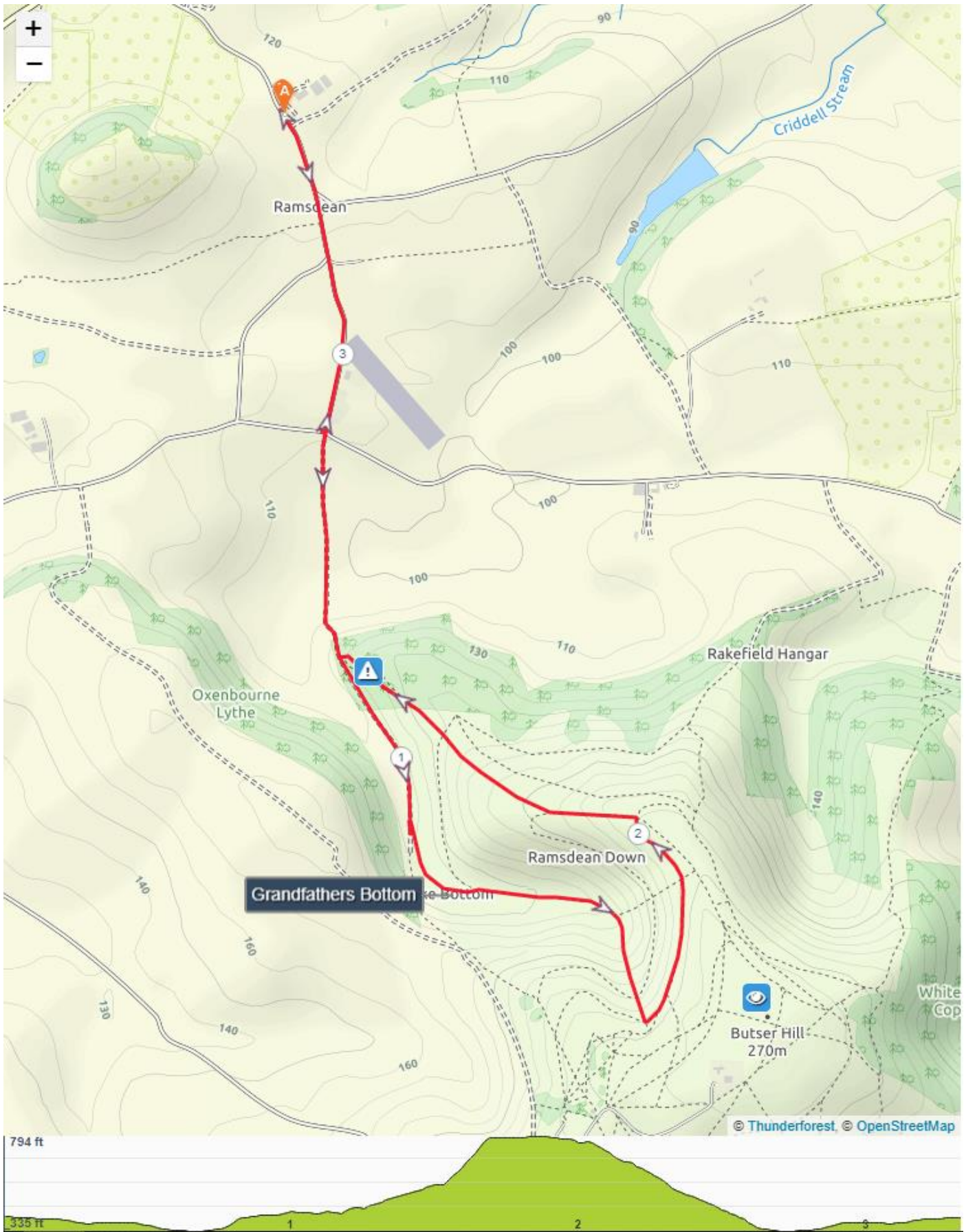
Challenges: climb above Grandfather's Bottom can be steep

Description

Up a dry valley (steep) passing the delightfully named Grandfather's Bottom and up to the top of Butser Hill (highest hill in the South Downs National Park) with glorious views all around.

Directions

1. From BHB turn left downhill and continue to the end (T Junction). Straight across junction and continue along flat path
2. Continue on path, uphill and pass first gate on LHS
3. At second gate on LHS go left and continue into valley
4. Continue up the valley floor (Grandfather's Bottom on RHS), follow valley floor past right hand bend
5. Ascend valley at head (steep) and continue to top (last section bears to R)
6. At top, head towards single tree and take gate on LHS
7. Head towards microwave tower and after 50m bear L and over the hill (Top of Butser is to your right, towards microwave tower, and provides excellent views to the Solent)
8. Follow parallel to fence (curving to L) and through gate
9. Downhill, along a ridge and into woods at the bottom (can be slippery through woods)
10. At the bottom, through gate and turn R onto path
11. Along path to the road, straight across and back to BHB





Walk 3 – Seven Stars

Distance: 3.5 Miles.

Time: 1 hr 30 mins

Total Ascent: 364 ft

Steepest Uphill: 14%

POI: Nearest Pub

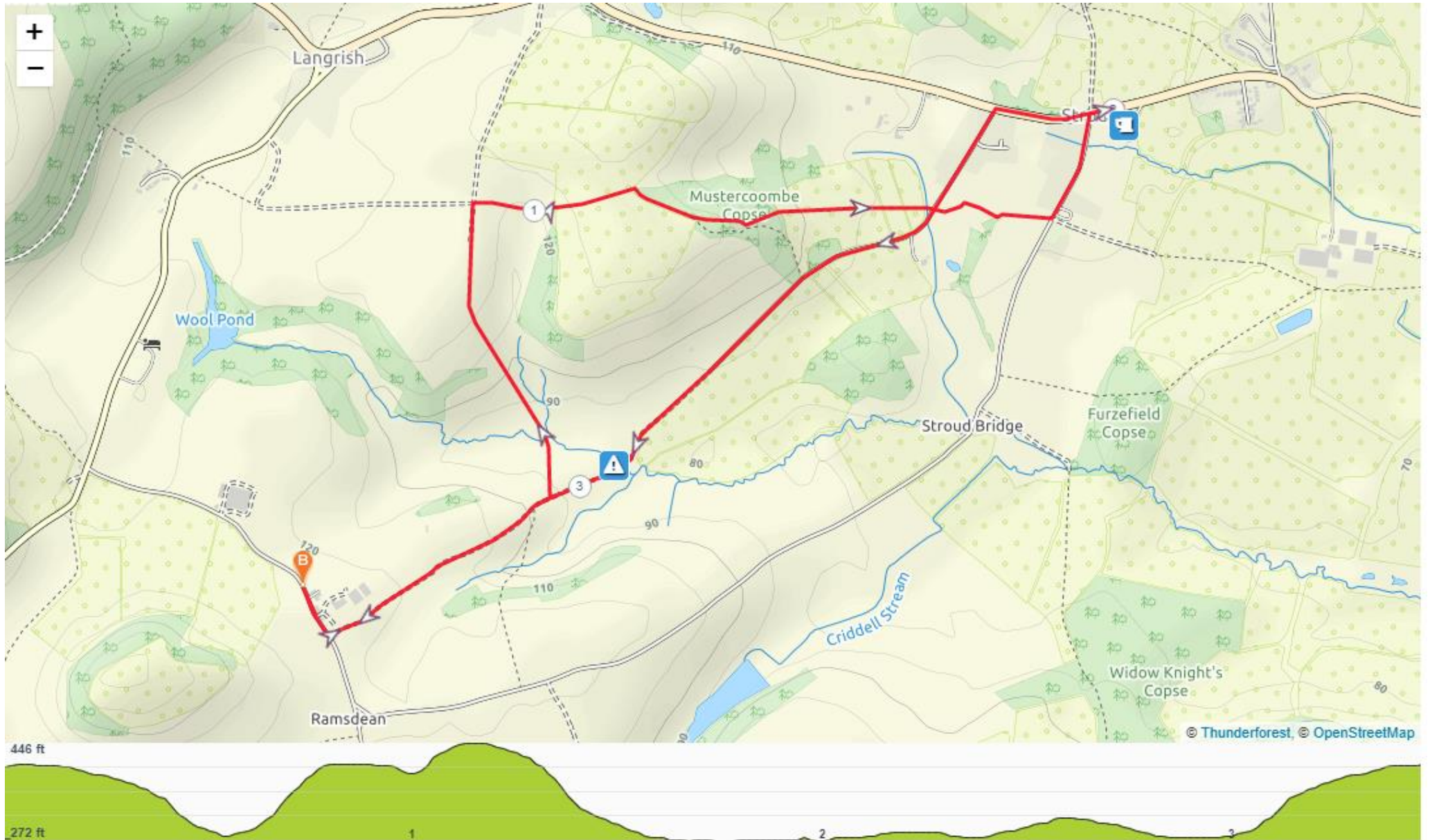
Challenges: None

Description

A pleasant stroll down to the local pub through fields and open countryside. If you want to just go to the pub take the path just to the R facing BHB and continue to the end. At the road turn R and the Seven Stars is on your RHS after about ¼ mile.

Directions

1. L out of BHB and immediately turn L down lane. After about ½ mile (just past the end of the sunken lane section) take a footpath over a stile to your L. Down field, passing lightening struck tree, over small bridge and gate and continue uphill.
2. Continue over two stiles and at a path crossroads turn R.
3. Follow path, passing broken stile. Path bends to R and after ¼ follow path to L into woods.
4. Follow path down through woods and over a stile into a field. Leave the lone tree to your LHS and cross 3 stiles and a small bridge to the lane
5. Straight on across the lane, through 3 gates and a stile to emerge onto road opposite Langrish Primary School
6. L to the end of the road. The Seven Stars is on your RHS.
7. RETURN. L out of pub and continue on main road for ¼ mile
8. L onto North Stroud Lane and continue to the end and home to BHB





Walk 4 – East Meon

Distance: 4.0 Miles.

Time: 1 hr 30 mins

Total Ascent: 147 ft

Steepest Uphill: 5%

POI: Flat walk, two pubs, village

Challenges: Potential mud if rain

Description

The walk is along level paths, sunken tracks and fields to the local village of East Meon. Dating from 400-600 AD East Meon was chosen as a representative Norman village for the Domesday Book 900 year celebrations (1966) (there is a model of East Meon as a typical Norman Village at the Bayeux Museum). It has a Norman Church (the tournai marble font is one of only 7 in the UK), two pubs: Izaak Walton and Ye Olde George Inn, a village shop and 15th Century Court House (private).

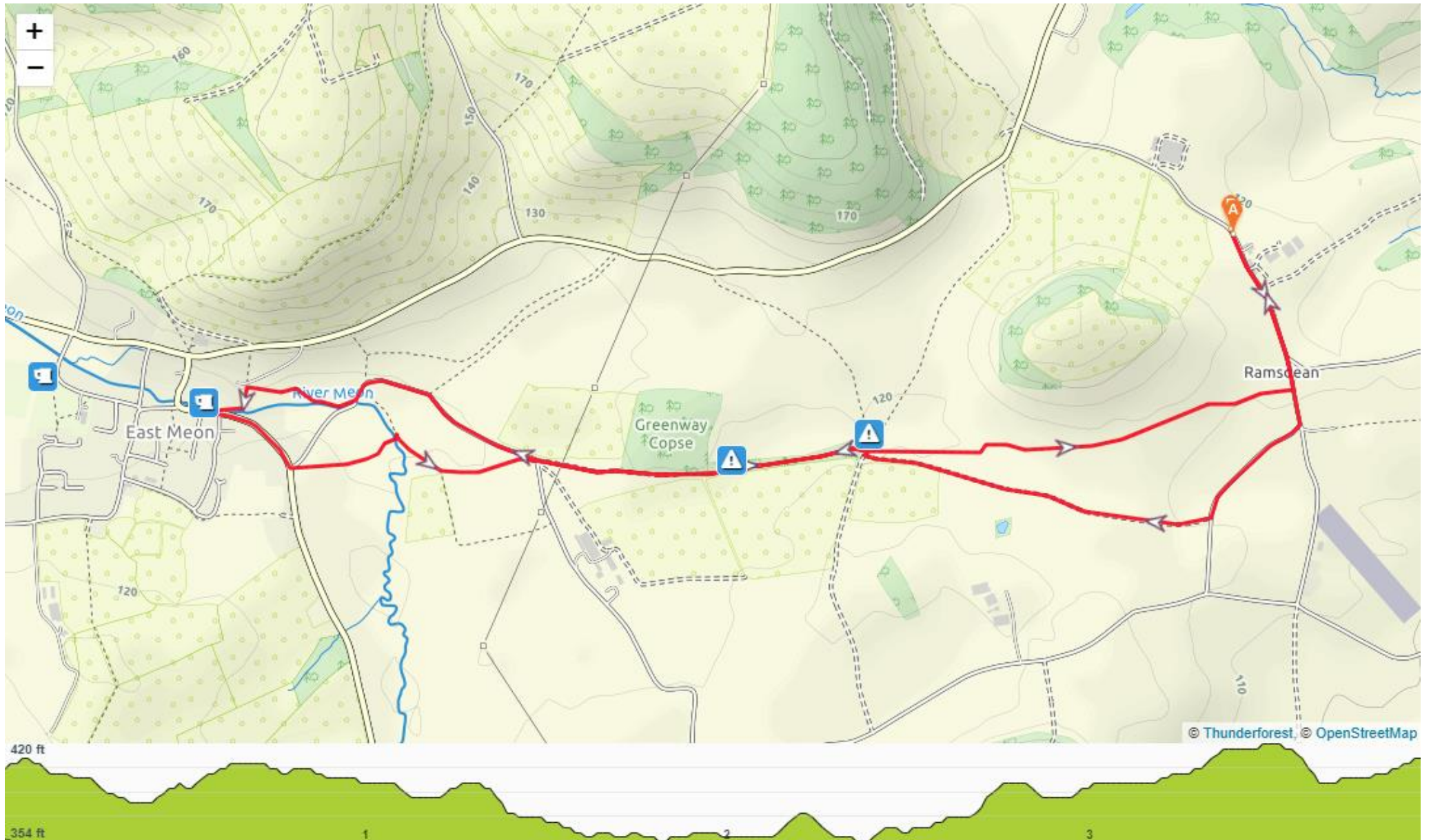
Directions

OUT

1. L out of BHB, past the Ramsdean triangle and take the first road on RHS. Just after the road turns to the left take the track on R
2. Follow footpath until you arrive at 5 ways junction and continue straight on
3. At the end of the footpath continue past a gate on to a track and continue down track until you reach a road
4. At road turn R. Just before the bridge over the R Meon take footpath on R and continue, passing allotments and between two thatched houses. This is the village of East Meon

BACK

5. With your back to Izaak Walton L along road
6. Opposite Forge Cottage take L and immediately R onto the cricket pitch
7. Head straight across pitch (if no game in progress) and exit by opposite gate and down a fenced footpath
8. Over a small bridge and R. Pass stile and gate and when the path forks take L hand fork
9. At road cross straight over and go up the track
10. When the track turns into a driveway continue straight on a footpath
11. At 5 ways intersection go straight on and take path to LHS. Continue across fields, over stiles and when you arrive at a road L and home





Walk 5 – Langrish Loop

Distance: 4.5 Miles.

Time: 2 hrs

Total Ascent: 541 ft

Steepest Uphill: 22%

POI: Tranquil woods and views to S Downs

Challenges: A farmer regularly plants across a footpath

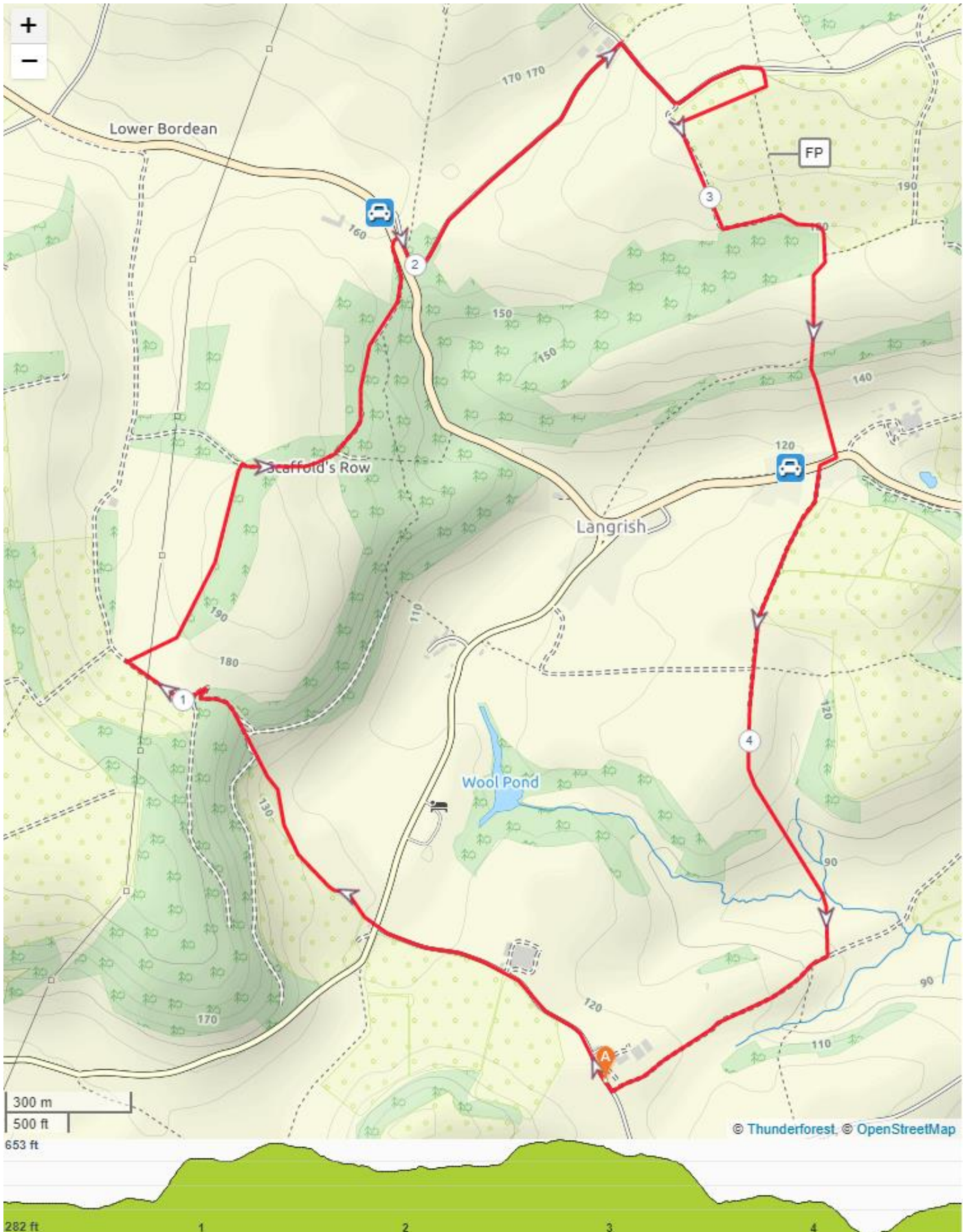
Description

A gentle ascent up a short dry valley followed by a wooded meander, over the A272 and home through gently sloping fields.

Directions

1. R out of BHB and continue to the end of the road. Straight across road and up a bridleway to RHS of the house
2. Up a short, steepish gully. At the top L then R.
3. After 100m take footpath on R. When the path forks take L fork and continue with woods on RHS
4. Just before the end of the woods turn R and continue to another wood and straight on (diagonally down thru wood. Path joins ridge path, keep L and continue until you reach the main road by Bordean Nursery.
5. Cross (carefully) road, central reservation and R at next road. Follow road around bend to left and continue for ~ 1mile.
6. By farmbuildings, when road turns to left, take track to R. 50m after the LH bend take footpath to R.
7. At end of the small wood is a footpath (marked FP on map) heading across the field. Generally the local farmer is growing crops across this footpath and rather than walk across I prefer to walk around the edge of the field to the wood on the opposite side
8. Follow the edge of the wood until the end and turn R following signs.
9. At next field straight across (hed slightly to R of masts on Butser Hill)
10. Down steps, over stile and straight across field to the road. At the road, through gate and R for 20m
11. L up track by Coach House and continue up track (straight on at crossroads)
12. Over 2 stiles, through a gate, over a bridge and through a stile onto a track
13. R at the track and follow back to BHB







Walk 6 – Snow walk

Distance: 5.6 Miles.

Time: 2 hrs 30 mins

Total Ascent: 688 ft

Steepest Uphill: 21%

POI: Fantastic views to N and S

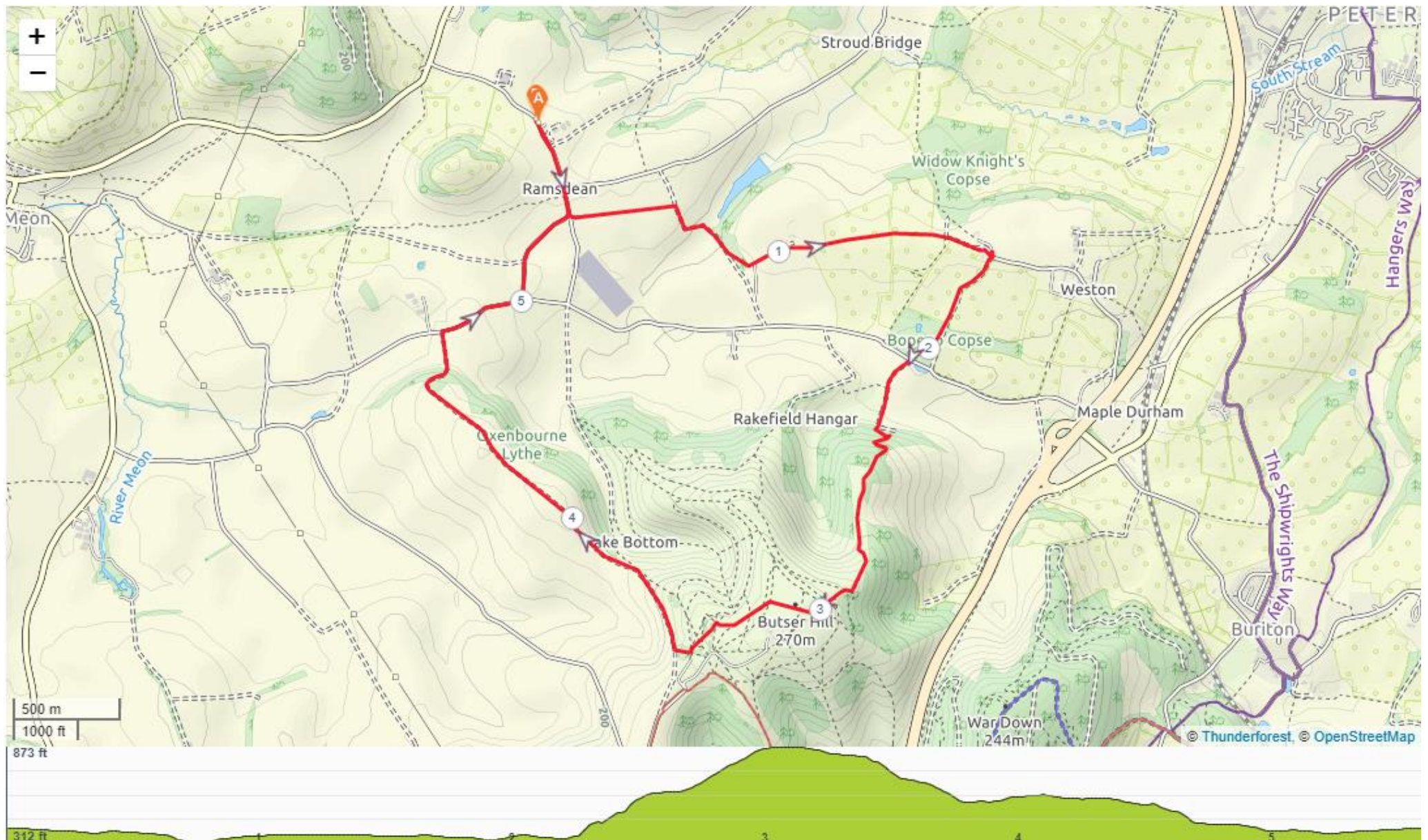
Challenges: Potential mud, steep climb to top of Butser Hill

Description

We discovered this walk one winter's day when the snow had drifted into large, frozen standing waves. Interesting and fun. The walk is, however, suitable all year round. There is one steep section to the top of Butser Hill but most of the remainder of the walk is flat or downhill.

Directions

1. From BHB turn left, downhill. Walk past Ramsdean triangle and take small road on LHS marked 'Ramsdean House'
2. At end of path, over stile and across field (leave central tree on your RHS). There may be sheep in field
3. Over stile and down steps into lane and turn R
4. 50m past the bottom of the lane take a path to L sloping diagonally up through the wood. At top turn L along driveway. Before the house take footpath on RHS and continue ~ 1 mile
5. Passing ruined building and onto road. Cross road and take footpath. If the footpath is overgrown or flooded continue down edge of field to RHS of footpath. Follow path, over bridge and into woods
6. At road continue straight on (passing fishing pond) towards Butser Hill. At path junction continue to R and zigzag through woods up Butser Hill
7. When near top head towards radio mast and trig point. At trig point straight on leaving mast to LHS. Straight on at path crossing and take gate on RHS by large lone tree
8. Straight on and then R hand fork heading downhill passing a large clump of bushes on LHS. Path can be seen rising on opposite hill.
9. Continue following path skirting, a second clump of bushes to arrive at a gate
10. Through gate and straight over path and follow path up then down until you arrive at a road (about 1.5 miles).
11. At road turn R and take the first road on LHS and back to Ramsdean





Walk 7 – Meon Source

Distance: 6.8 Miles.

Time: 3 hrs

Total Ascent: 669 ft

Steepest Uphill: 12%

POI: Source of the River Meon, South Downs Way, views

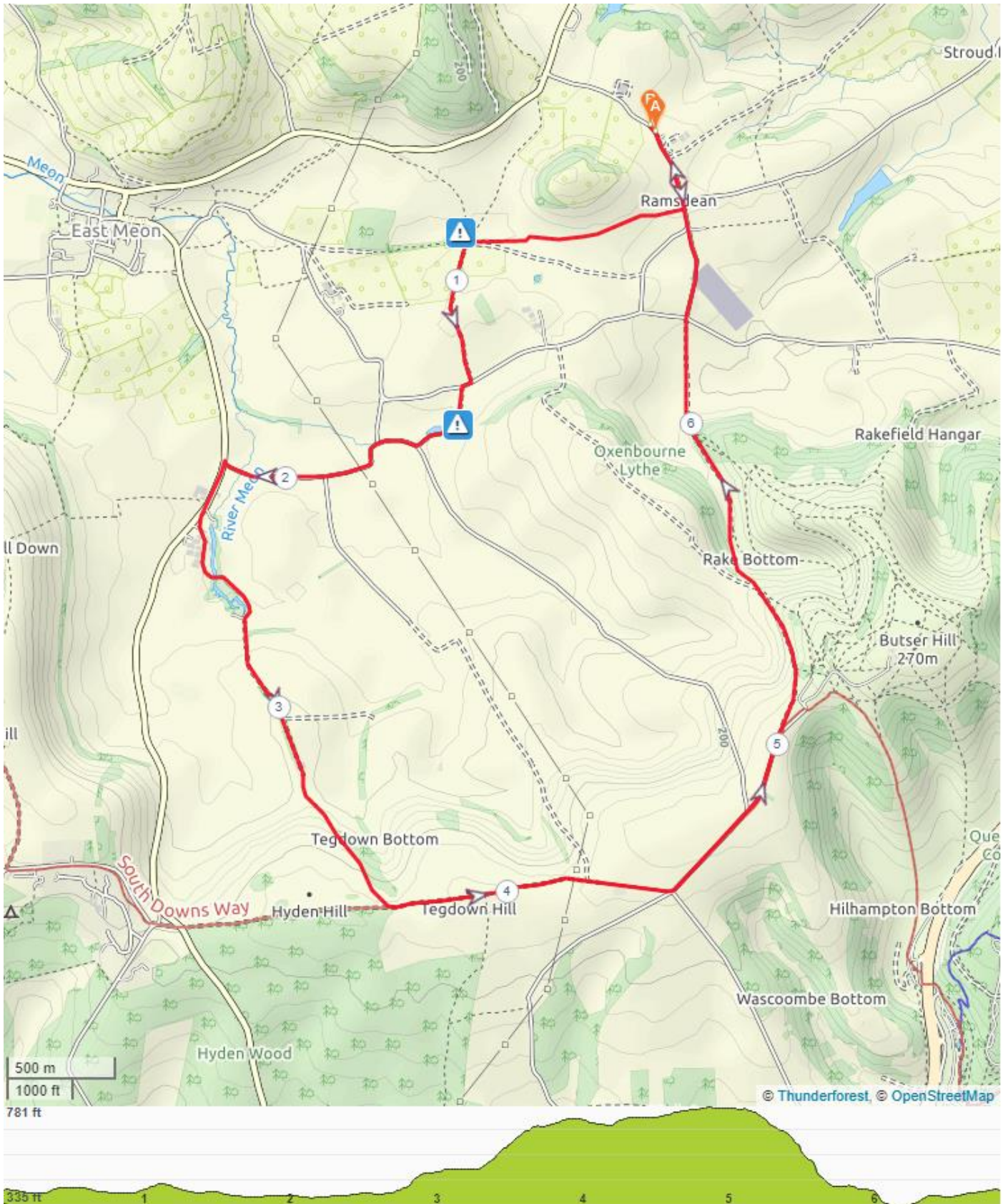
Challenges: Possible mud and track damage from motorised vehicles

Description

A cross country walk to the source of the River Meon, up to the South Downs and back to Ramsdean with great views to the North

Directions

1. L out of BHB, past Ramsdean triangle and take a footpath just beyond the last house on the RHS. Follow path over stiles to arrive at an intersection of 5 footpaths (known as 5 ways). At the intersection turn L
2. At the road junction R then L after 15m. Continue along footpath, passing pond, bearing R parrallel to a small stream. At the next junction turn L towards Clanfield/E Meon (Giants Cottage on your RHS).
3. Continue on road until the end (crossing R Meon). At the road junction turn L and continue.
4. Just after Lower Mill Barn take footpath on LHS, thru field and L into farm buildings.
5. Follow concrete road beyond the farm buildings (crossing R Meon again). Just past the houses on RHS are the various springs that are the beginning of the R Meon
6. Continue up the track and at the barns continue up a footpath and uphill
7. At the top turn L onto South Downs Way
8. After ~ 1 mile turn L onto Hogg s Lodge Lane. After another mile take footpath to L marked with sign prohibiting cars.
9. Follow footpath downhill and at fork take R hand path. Continue to road
10. Cross straight over road and continue back to Ramsdean





Walk 8 – Small Down

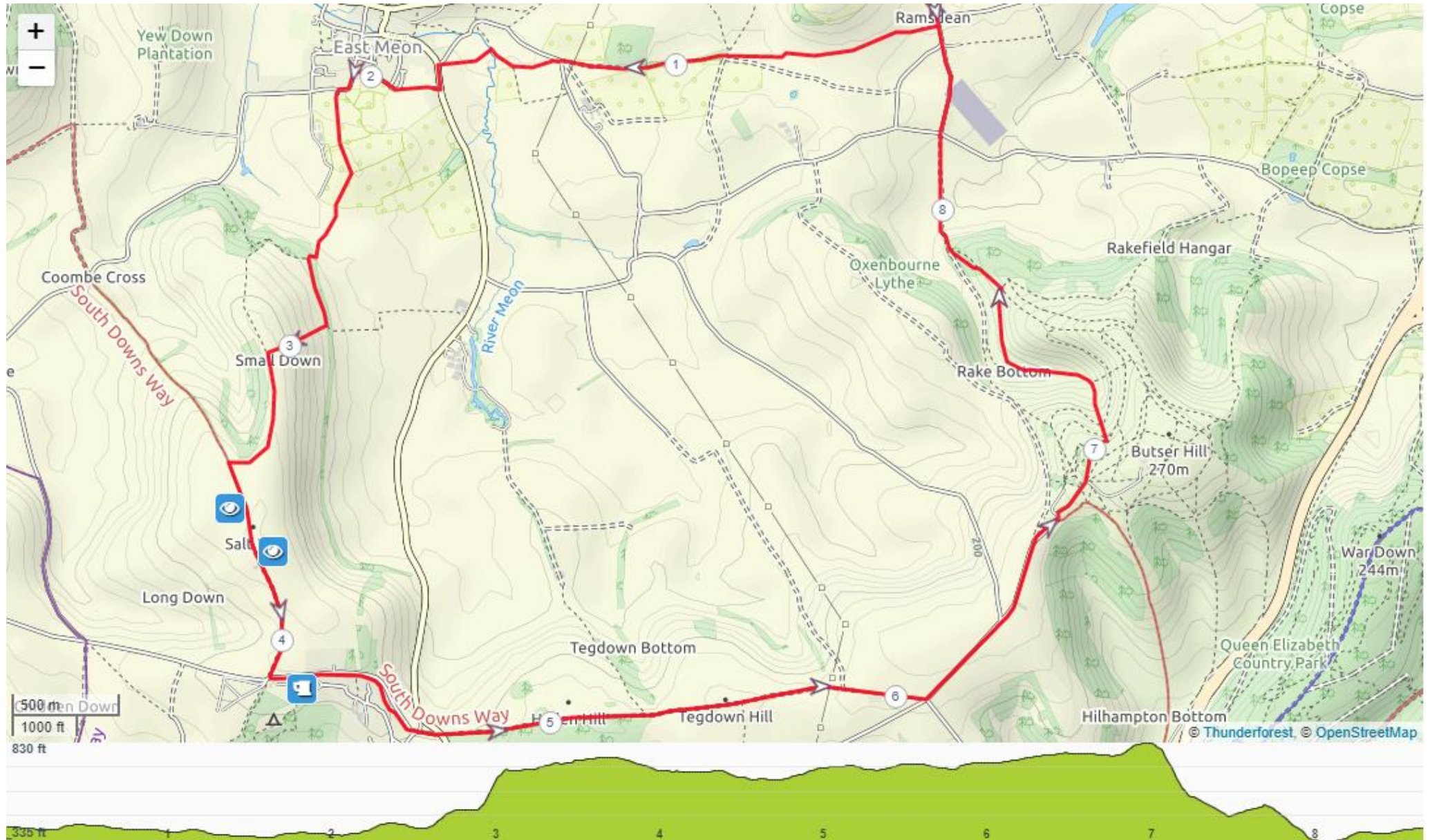
Distance: 8.7 Miles.	Time: 3 hrs 30 mins	Total Ascent: 843 ft	Steepest Uphill: 24%
POI: Great views across high and low downs		Challenges: steep ascent and descent	

Description

This route was planned for my wife's significant birthday. It skirts East Meon, climbs to Small Down, with fantastic views to the North and continues along the South Downs Way (via a café) to Butser Hill. Finally it descends past Grandfather's Bottom (for an optional celebratory event) and home

Directions

1. L out of BHB, past Ramsdean triangle and take a footpath just beyond the last house on the RHS. Follow path over stiles to arrive at an intersection of 5 footpaths (known as 5 ways), continue straight on for about half a mile and past gates/post into sunken lane. Continue to end of lane
2. Cross over road and follow footpath across field. After a gate and stile follow footpath to left and continue over a small bridge (R. Meon). Through gate onto cricket ground and exit in far R corner
3. At main road L. Turn R after 50m by Templars Ridge and continue along edge of field to main road (Coombe Road). Turn L
4. After 100m turn L, through car park and follow path uphill
5. Follow path, after 1 mile go through the edge of a small wood, through gate and follow fence on LHS
6. When you get to a track do not follow. Instead turn right and head steeply uphill along the fence line. (Resting place at top of this field). At top of field cross two stiles and continue to follow fence line (now on your RHS)
7. At top of hill turn L towards radio masts. This is Small Down. Exit through farm gate just to R of radio masts and L onto South Downs Way (SDW).
8. At main road turn L by YHA and continue to follow SDW. Beech Café in Sustainability Centre on RHS.
9. Straight on at a small road junction and then cross main road and continue on track marked SDW
10. Continue to Hogg Lodge Lane and turn L. Continue through Queen Elizabeth car park to Visitors Centre (conical roof)(toilets)
11. Take gate above and to R of Visitors Centre and take L hand path
12. Take 2nd gate on LHS and follow path to R and downhill (steep). Cross path and continue down into valley
13. Pass Grandfather's Bottom and to end of path. Turn R and follow to road. Straight across road and continue up to Ramsdean





Walk 9 – Hawkley

Distance: 13.1 Miles.

Time: 6 hrs

Total Ascent: 1482 ft

Steepest Uphill: 30%

POI: Good pub at mid point. Fabulous views

Challenges: Lengthy but only 7 miles one way

Description

This is one of my favourite walks - at varying points offering fabulous view to the South Downs and the Hangers and terminating at an excellent pub, The Hawkley Inn.

It is rather a long walk and it is perfectly acceptable to walk to the Hawkley Inn and take a taxi back to BHB.

If you want to eat at the Hawkley Inn it is preferable to book ([01730 827205](tel:01730827205)) as tables can get pretty full

The route back is mostly on quiet country roads

Directions Organisation

On a map the walk is rather longitudinal and I have therefore split the map into two sections. The first showing the Western section and the second showing the Eastern section. The mid point is Stoner Hill.



Walk 9 – Hawkley OUT

Distance: 7 Miles.

Time: 3 hrs

Total Ascent: 1482 ft

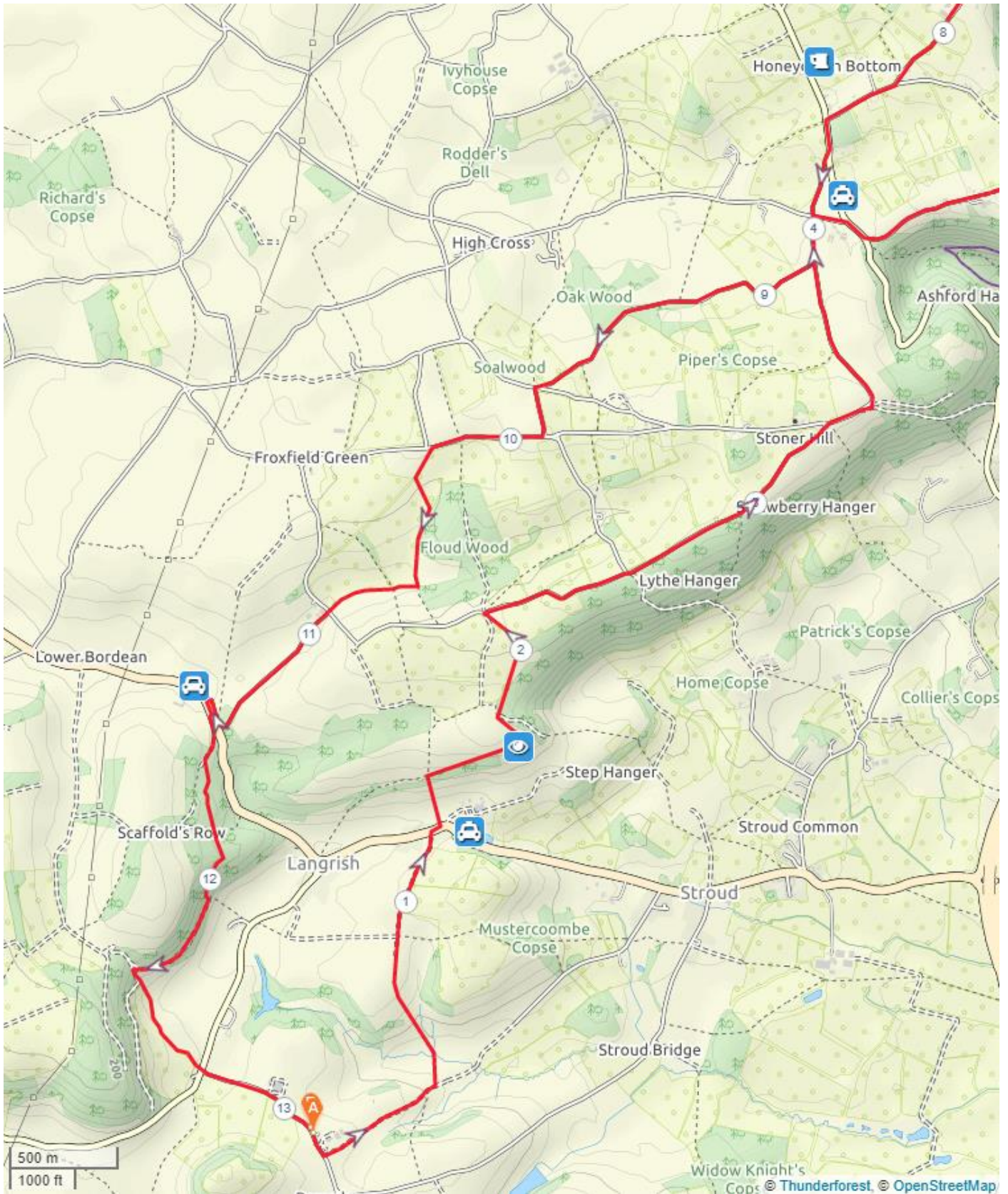
Steepest Uphill: 30%

POI: Good pub at mid point. Fabulous views

Challenges: Lengthy but only 7 miles one way

Directions OUT

1. L out of BHB and immediately turn L down lane. After about ½ mile (just past the end of the sunken lane section) take a footpath over a stile to your L. Down field, passing lightening struck tree, over small bridge and gate and continue uphill.
2. Continue over two stiles and at a path crossroads continue straight on until you reach a road
3. Cross road, R and after 10m take footpath to your L. Straight across field, over stile and up steps to the top.
4. At the top of the steps R
5. Follow edge of the field until the path turns sharply L and away from the edge by a gate. Follow path to L
6. After 200m bear R passing fallen tree trunk and continue straight on along the edge of a field. Follow around the field to a gate onto a short track. Follow track and at road R
7. Follow road for ~ 1mile. When you come to a junction R and stay on road. Follow road through Stoner Hill until you reach a crossroads. R at crossroads (signpost Petersfield) and at the main road R.
8. After 50m L onto Cockshot Lane. Continue for ~ 1mile and road becomes Old Litten Lane
 - a. There is a fabulous view slightly off the route. After 100m take footpath to your R signposted Hangers Way, Shoulder of Mutton. Continue 50m to the top of Shoulder of Mutton Hill
 - b. There are sweeping views over Petersfield towards the South Downs
 - c. If you are feeling energetic there is a monument to Edward Thomas (famous local poet) about halfway down the hill
9. Another 50m further on take footpath to L signposted Hangers Way and continue down the valley to the bottom by Middle Oakshott
10. Cross the road and continue on Hangers Way path to your R
11. Continue following path until it merges into a road
12. At road L and continue until you reach a village green (Hawkley). Pub is to your R



Walk 9 – Hawkley BACK

Distance: 6.5 Miles.

Time: 3 hrs

Total Ascent: 1482 ft

Steepest Uphill: 30%

POI: Good pub at mid point. Fabulous views

Challenges: Lengthy but only 7 miles one way

Directions BACK

1. Out of pub and R, passing village green and continue down road to LHS
2. Take 1st road on LHS signed to Oakshott and Wheatham
3. After ~ 1 mile, beyond Oakshott Farm, take bridleway on RHS and continue up a long steep track to Hill Farm
4. Continue along road. At junction with Old Litten Lane R. At main road L (Trooper Inn to your RHS)
5. Take 1st road on RHS signposted to Froxfield and at crossroads straight over onto Stoner Hill Road
6. After ~ ½ mile take R onto Soalwood Lane
7. At junction L down Floud Lane towards Froxfield Green & Langrish
8. At next junction R continuing towards Froxfield Green & Langrish
9. Take footpath on LHS just before road to High Cross Village Hall and Privett
10. Follow footpath towards and then along the edge of a wood. At the bottom R and continue to road
11. Continue along the road. Just after the 'bend' sign on the A272, cross reservation and A272 and follow footpath to your L
12. After 200m take R fork and continue along a bridleway
13. When the bridleway meets a track, under telegraph poles, turn R and continue up track
14. After ½ mile, at far edge of woods on LHS take footpath to L running down edge of wood
15. When the path reaches a track L and at junction L and turn sharply R after a further 10m
16. At the bottom of the valley the track rises uphill to the R. Do not follow track but continue straight on along a footpath
17. When the footpath reaches a road, straight across the road and continue up to BHB and home

