

# CISSBURY RING AND STUMP BOTTOM, WEST SUSSEX



*Challenging Terrain*

**5 miles**  
**Circular**  
**2.5 hours**

271015



## Access Notes



1. The walk has several climbs and descents throughout and the bridleway tracks can be muddy and slippery with the chalk clay, so good boots are a must.
2. The first half of the walk follows fenced bridleways between fields (which you will be sharing with cyclists) and the second half explores the National Trust site of Cissbury Ring, which sometimes has livestock grazing.
3. Dogs are welcome in Cissbury Ring, in fact it's a great place for your furry friend to meet other dogs.
4. You will need to negotiate a couple of kissing gates and a few steps but there are no stiles on route.
5. The high paths are very exposed so wrap up warm in the colder months.

## Hi there! Adele here and this is my West Sussex Weekends walk

It's a great 5 mile loop around Cissbury Ring, the largest hill fort in Sussex, near to the tiny village of Findon. The effort of getting to the top of Cissbury Ring is always worthwhile and on a clear, sunny day I'm rewarded with a changing vista in every direction. To read my full story visit [www.west-sussex-weekends.com](http://www.west-sussex-weekends.com) so I can tell you why I think you will love this walk and what highlights to expect. The West Sussex Weekends website is a great resource where you will also find ideas for places to stay, eat and drink plus plenty more inspirational stories to tempt you to explore more corners of West Sussex.

## Getting there

Cissbury Ring is located close to the village of Findon, just north of Worthing in West Sussex. From the roundabout where the A24 meets the A280, take the small road heading east signed for Findon village. At the crossroads go ahead into Cross Lane which then becomes Nepcote Lane. The post code **BN14 0SG** should get you to this point.

Just before the large green on the left, turn left (signed for Cissbury Ring) and follow this lane all the way along as it becomes a single track and then finally meets a gate ahead (with the hill fort mound visible on your right). There is a small parking area to your left here.

## Walk Sections



### Start to Stump Bottom



Standing with your back to the access lane, with the mound of Cissbury Ring to your right, turn left along the stone track bridleway which leads you directly away from

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Cissbury Ring between fenced fields. NOTE: You are likely to be sharing these tracks with plenty of cyclists. At the end of the first field you will come to a subtle crossroads marked with a waymarker post.

Go straight ahead, passing alongside a vehicle barrier and continue on the track between more fields. It's a popular walking and cycling area up here and it's not hard to see why. Fellow walkers and cyclists are always ready with a cheery greeting.

At the end of the track you will come to a T-junction with a hedgerow ahead. Turn right and, a few paces later, bear right at the fork to join a grassier track between fields (with another track running visibly across to your left). Follow the track up over the brow of the hill and down into the valley at the far side. Towards the valley bottom you will reach a fork. Take the right-hand branch and follow it as it swings left and takes you to the bottom of the slope. Swing right (to merge with another track coming in from the left) and a few paces later you will see a waymarked junction at the bottom of the valley, known as Stump Bottom.

## 1 → 2 Stump Bottom to Metal Barn



Take the main track ahead and swinging right, passing a gateway on the left. The level path runs with a bramble hedgerow on the left and wire fence on the right. After about 100m, pass through the small metal gate ahead and follow the narrow path passing between sections of tall hedgerow.

The narrow path meanders along the valley bottom and then widens out to a grass track. After 1.2 miles you will pass Lychpole Dewpond on the right (home to masses of dragonflies in the summer) and reach a T-junction with a farm track. Turn right through the gate to join this stone vehicle track. Stay with this track all the way up to pass a green metal barn on your left.

## 2 → 3 Metal Barn to Rampart Tops

About 70m beyond the barn, turn sharp left through a wooden gate (marked National Trust) to enter the site of Cissbury Ring. Follow the narrow path along the edge of the site, passing back behind the barn on your left. Further along the path leads you to a fingerpost just before a gate ahead. Do NOT pass through the gate, instead turn sharp right to join the grass bridleway climbing up the woodland slope.

Towards the top, you will come to a waymarker post at a crossroads with a grass track. Keep ahead and continue up to the next waymarker at a junction with a stone vehicle track. Cross the track and continue up the grass path to reach the wooden kissing gate. Go through this, follow the stone chalk path up into the gap in the ramparts and then turn left up the



steps to reach the path on the rampart tops.

## 3 → 4 Rampart Tops to End



It's at this point that you really appreciate the height you've reached. On clear days there's a vista in every direction, across Worthing to the sea one way, views of Brighton and Devil's Dyke in another and the fields and hills towards Storrington when looking north west. Once on top I walk in any direction, depending on the way the wind blows – and some days it really does blow.

To keep it simple, just follow the rampart path ahead, circling the ring in a clockwise direction. Fun fact time: Some historians say the fort was used to house a mint, making coins and safeguarding the riches from invading Vikings. It's weird to think we might be walking on the old equivalent of the Bank of England...Now brace yourself for some terrible bank-related puns. There are still plenty of banks around...Cheque your step as it can be slippery...With these views there's no chance of losing interest...OK, OK enough already...HaHa!

Continue all the way round to the far side of the ramparts and, as you draw level with the car park down to your left, turn left down the set of paved steps. Cross the outer ramparts and continue down the steps. At the bottom, a kissing gate followed by a single gate leads you back to the car park where the walk began. There are the pubs or Julia's Kitchen in Findon Village for a drink and a snack if you fancy.

If you enjoyed this walk, remember to visit [www.west-sussex-weekends.com](http://www.west-sussex-weekends.com) where you will also find ideas for places to stay, eat and drink plus plenty more inspirational stories to tempt you to explore more corners of West Sussex.

## Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. If you notice any changes required to this walk please contact us at [walks@ifootpath.com](mailto:walks@ifootpath.com)

## Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

