

Hassocks, Oldland Mill, Ditchling, Keymer, Hassocks



Distance: 3 miles

Hassocks Community Partnership Visitor Group
www.visithassocks.co.uk

How to Get Here

By Train: Frequent services from Brighton, Haywards Heath, Gatwick and London

By Road : A23 London to Brighton. If southbound take the A2300 via Burgess Hill. From Brighton use A23 then A273 Pyecombe to Haywards Heath. From east/west use B2116 Lewes to Henfield road. There is a station car park with pay and display parking. Two further car parks in the village operate disc parking. Discs £1 (May 2010) can be bought from local shops (check notices in car park for details) and kept for future visits.



The Countryside Code



The Countryside Code applies to all parts of the countryside. Most of it is just good commonsense, as it is designed to help us all to respect, protect and enjoy our countryside.

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

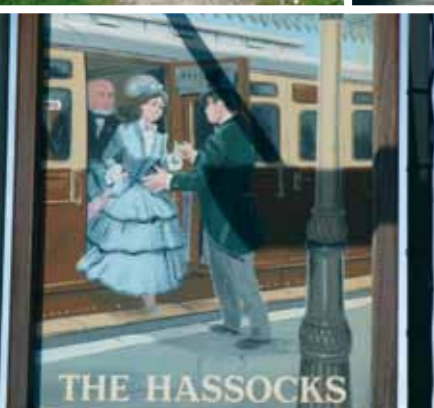
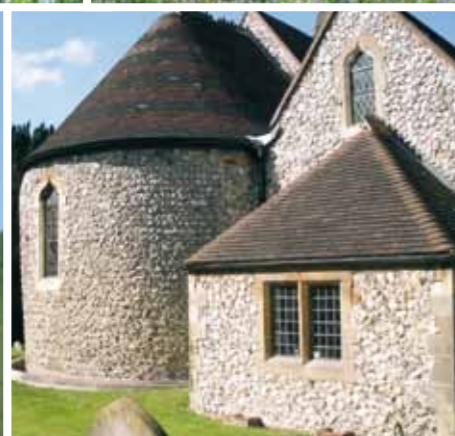
We hope you have enjoyed this walk.
Why not try one of the others in the series?

Route 1: Hassocks, Butchers Wood, Keymer, Hassocks (2 miles)

Route 2: Hassocks, Clayton, Jack & Jill Windmills, South Downs Way, Keymer, Hassocks (4 miles)

Route 4: Hassocks, Clayton, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks (5 miles)

Route 5: Hassocks, Clayton, Wolstonbury, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks (5 miles)



Route Description

An easy walk with one gentle descent. Some sections can be muddy in winter and after rain.

1 From the east side of Hassocks station (southbound platform entrance/exit), walk downhill past The Hassocks public house to the mini-roundabout. Continue straight ahead past shops and Hassocks Infant School, then turning left into Grand Avenue.

The houses in Grand Avenue, King's Drive and Queen's Drive were built on the site of The Orchard Tea Gardens. From Edwardian times until 1935 they were a popular day out attracting visitors from London as well as all over Sussex. Amusements included swing boats, a cycle track and even a boating lake.

2 At the end of Grand Avenue, opposite fields, turn left as far as a sharp left hand bend. Cross the road just before the bend and go right along the signed bridleway which leads to Oldland Mill.

Oldland Mill is an 18th century post mill which was saved from dereliction and continues to be restored by volunteers. Details of the open days are displayed at the site.

3 Ignore the path to the left, walk on for a few yards and, opposite a small clearing, bear right into a field and walk ahead along a fenced path to a stile. Continue over the stile and carry on ahead on a 'ridge' path with fine views to the South Downs.

4 At the end of the field go left, over a stile and right into Lodge Hill Lane. Then, almost immediately, go left through a squeeze stile giving access to Lodge Hill. The public are allowed access by kind permission of the landowner but please note that access is not

permitted on December 21st each year for legal reasons. Pause to enjoy the views from the top of the hill before bearing left downhill to join Boddingtons Lane.

5 Turn left along Boddingtons Lane then right into Ditchling. Follow the high street to the crossroads.

It is worth breaking the walk in Ditchling for refreshments and to admire its many fine buildings, church and museum.

6 At the crossroads turn right into West Street and shortly after passing 'Wings Place' on your left, turn right into Lodge Hill Lane with the village green and pond on your right. Shortly after the lane bears sharp left and opposite the stile exit from Lodge Hill, go left over a step stile and follow the obvious path ahead to eventually go over another stile with decking over a wet area.

7 Bear half left to find a further stile and go left over two bridges. Follow the obvious path ahead to the outskirts of Keymer. As the path ends, walk ahead then bearing right into The Crescent. Follow the road uphill and out on to Keymer Road. Turn right and follow the road back towards the centre of Hassocks and the railway station, passing the parish Church of St Cosmas & St Damian on your right and, after crossing Ockley Lane, Stafford House then Adastra Park.



Keymer Church is mentioned in the Domesday Book, though most of the present church dates

from the 1860s. It is one of only four churches in England dedicated to St Cosmas & St Damian, Syrian doctors martyred in 4th century.

Stafford House was owned by Edward Stafford who, following World War I, gave land from the grounds for a Garden of Remembrance, prompted by the death of his son Ewart in the War. He later left Stafford House to the Salvation Army which runs the present elderly care centre. Entering the gate in the flint wall just beyond Stafford House will take you through the now much altered Garden and into Adastra Park which was also given by Edward Stafford.