

BMC London and South East Area Group Walk – Pre Event Information

Date: Saturday 17th March 2018

Start Time: 10:00 prompt

Location: Hassocks rail station (south bound side) (TQ 30422 15545)

End Time: 16:30 approx

Location: Hassocks rail station (TQ 30422 15545)

Distance: 13 miles

Total Ascent: 2500'. The route has 4 relatively steep, distinct ascents.

BMC Participation Statement

The BMC recognises that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

The Start

This circular walk will start from Hassocks rail station which is a 1h 20 minute train ride from London St Pancras. If travelling from London a return ticket should be purchased (£11.60 off-peak return).

A car park (£2.20) and bike racks are available at Hassocks Station.

The walk will begin at 10:00 and we will need to leave promptly due to the length, if you are going to be late please call or text the walk leader using the details on the next page.

The Walk

After a short walk heading south from the rail station the route quickly reaches the trig point at 670' in the centre of a Bronze Age enclosure on top of Wolstonbury Hill. The steady descent leads across the busy A23 and past the Brenton Stud show jumping ring at Pyecombe before ascending to the top of West Hill, the highest point on Newtimber Hill. Descending to the farm at Saddlescombe, the South Downs Way is followed to this walk's star attraction, Devil's Dyke. Said to be dug by the Devil's own hands, the 100m deep V-shaped valley will be ascended on the south side on the way to the spectacular view point with far reaching views across the Weald, a perfect place to stop for lunch. The return to Hassocks begins with a decent deep into the imposing Devil's Dyke with high valley walls on both sides before ascending back up Newtimber Hill then skirting around Wolstonbury Hill to arrive back at the station.

This walk takes place in the heart of the South Downs National Park and ascends three distinct hills. This is a relatively strenuous walk however the effort is rewarded with stunning

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views for much of the walk across the south coast to Brighton and to the north across the Weald, depending on the weather it may also be possible to spot the Isle of Wight.

The walk is approximately 13 miles long and 2500' feet of ascent will be encountered in total. If you would like to see the proposed route in advance please contact the walk leader.

Much of the route is on non-metalled tracks which are likely to be wet, muddy and slippery.

A few stiles will be crossed.

What to wear and what to bring with you

Although the walk is taking place in March when hopeful the weather will be dryer, it mainly follows non-metalled bridleways which have been very well used by horses and so the mud has been churned up. it is essential that a good pair of walking boots are worn with a decent sole to aid with stability on the muddy and slippery sections. Gaiters and trekking poles are also highly recommended.

It is also advisable to bring an extra warm layer and a waterproof jacket.

Please bring sufficient food and drink to last the day. Snack and lunch stops have been factored into the route.

There is a pub at the top of Devil's Dyke however as it is likely to be busy a picnic lunch will take place at the viewpoint opposite.

Under 18's

It is expected that most, if not all, participants will be adults. Under 18's are however welcome provided they are to be directly supervised at all times on the day by their parent or legal guardian who will take full responsibility for their care and welfare throughout.

Health Issues

If you have health issues that you believe might affect your ability to complete the walk safely then please let the leaders know in advance.

Please let the leader know if you suffer from any allergies in particular allergic reactions to stinging nettles or bee / wasp stings.

Contact

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