



Pub or Teashop Walk: Compton near Chichester and Petersfield

Distance 5¼ km=3¼ miles easy walking

Region: West Sussex

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Refreshments: The Coach and Horses / The Village Shop and Tea Room

Map: Explorer 120 (Chichester) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

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Village, woodland, hills, views

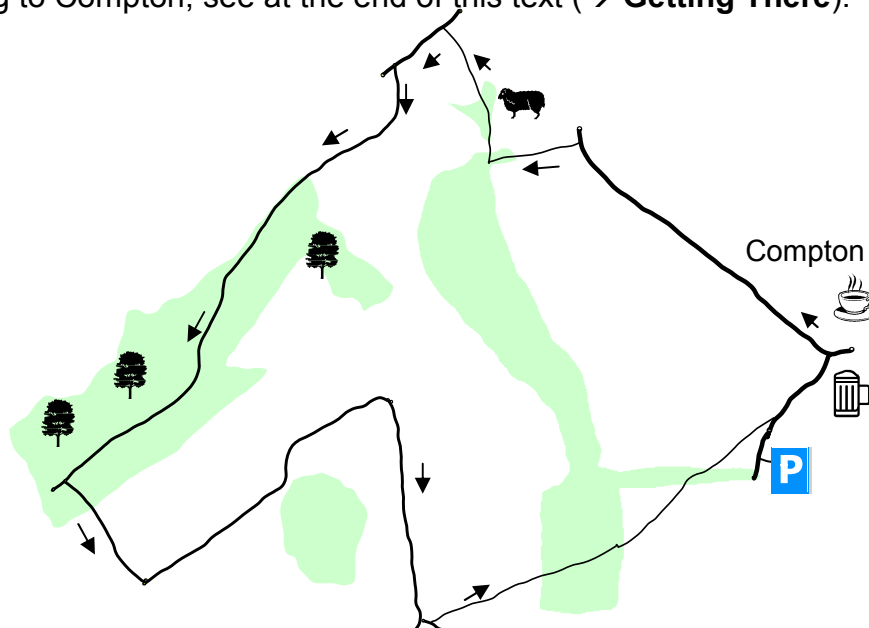
In Brief

Compton nestles in the South Downs just below Compton Down on one side and Telegraph Hill on the other. It has timbered houses and an old church and, of course, its pub. The *Coach and Horses* is the best kind of local offering food and a wide selection of real ales as well as rare events such as *stake nights*. Just opposite, *The Village Shop* doubles as a pretty and popular teashop with outside tables which serves really good fancy pork pies, filled rolls and hot snacks.



There are no nettles on this walk and good shoes are adequate. There are two stiles at the start that may be a problem for a large dog (see text).

The walk begins in Compton village, postcode PO18 9HA, grid ref 775148 , so refreshments come at the end of the walk. Please don't park in the little square by the pub and teashop. There are some parking spaces in the recreation ground about 400m south on the B2146, on the left, just by the 30mph sign. For details of getting to Compton, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).



The Walk

- 1 With your back to the pub, turn **right** along the main road, the B2146, going through the village and passing the Vicarage, *Compton House* and the half timbered *Farndens*. Soon you are in open country and you pass an end-of-speed-limit road sign. About 200m after the road sign, look for a stile* on the **left**. [*2012: a large dog will have difficulty over this stile and the next. There is a gate 150m down the road and another on the other side, just to the left of the stile.] Go over the stile onto a path running between a field and, on your right, a sheep pasture. At the end, go over a stile and turn **right** on a path in a verdant area under beech trees beside the sheep pasture. The path widens to a large sloping meadow with scattered ash trees. Keep straight on up a slope. (Note: it is possible to take an alternative short cut by turning left in the meadow up to the two metal gates. This avoids the stile, the walk on the lane and the gate. However, this route is not an official footpath and we therefore do not recommend it.) Continue to a stile in the hedgerow. Go over the stile and turn **left** on the lane. In just over 100m, turn **left** through a small metal gate on a signposted bridleway. *As you go, visible on the hill sharp left is the National Trust stately home of Uppark.* Follow the path to a pair of metal gates. Turn **right** here and take a path in the direction of the fingerpost, gently uphill.
- 2 At the other side, go through a metal gate and follow a path with a field on your right and woodland on your left. *On a good day, you can see Portsmouth Harbour in the distance. In the hills on your right, the hamlet of Eckensfield can be seen.* Go through a wooden gate beside a metal gate and continue gently uphill in a wood of ash, yew, hawthorn and hazel. Another similar pair of gates lead to an area of more yews as the path curves right. The path now weaves gently through this magical stretch of forest and eventually reaches a gate in a wire fence. Go through a gap beside the gate, the remains of a broken wooden gate, and immediately, at a fingerpost, turn **left** on a footpath.
- 3 Follow the grassy path between field. At the corner, by an old farm shed, turn **left** on a path between hedgerows which, judging by the number of species must be quite old. At a T-junction by a small wooden shed, turn **left**. The path immediately wheels right. *You now have extensive views right to the South Downs.* Your wide path bends sharp right and there is a hewn wooden seat at the corner from where you can admire the view down to West Marden. At the bottom you reach a 4-way fingerpost. Take the **first**, not the second, **left** turn as indicated by the pointer, thus leaving your original wide path which also bends left here. Your path goes across the field on a straight narrow line made by a tractor. On the other side, go through a gap in the hedge and through a tall metal gate. You are now in a grassy meadow dotted with trees and shrubs and thick with wild flowers.
- 4 On the far side of the meadow, go through another tall metal gate and turn half **left** across the field on a distinct path. On the opposite side, go through a double line of ornamental trees and out into another field. Go half **right** across this field and, on the other side, down steps to a road. Turn **left** on the road, arriving at the *Coach and Horses* and *The Village Shop and Tea Room*.

Getting there

By car: Compton is on the B2146, reachable via South Harting from Petersfield, and hence from the A3. If coming from the south, the B2146 or B2147 can be joined from the A27.

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