



South Eastern Chillerton Walk

Directions: R Payn



This circular walk provides an exploration of countryside to the South and East of Chillerton. It can be described as an undulating walk with some shortish but fairly steep climbs and descents.

Access: Hollow Lane by Village Hall, Chillerton PO30 3EU
Grid Reference: SZ 48692 83771
Distance: 3 miles **Time:** Allow 1 ½ hours
Difficulty: The route requires a degree of fitness and may be unsuitable for unsteady walkers or those with breathing problems.
Terrain: Farmland, sunken lanes, quiet roads.
Some muddy sections in winter and some indistinct paths across fields.
In springtime, prior to cutting, the paths may be overgrown with high grass and nettles
Stiles: None **Gates:** some footpath gates
Dogs: Look out for signs where dogs should be on leads, especially between Lower Rill and Upper Rill, where there may be sheep
Bus: No. 6 - Main Road, Chillerton (Newport/Ventnor)
Parking: Main Road, Chillerton
Bicycles: Not suitable for footpaths on this route
Toilets: None **Refreshments:** None

Route

A.

Start from public bridleway signpost (G15a) for Shepherds Trail and Worsley Trail, outside Village Hall at the 'Hollow Lane' sign. The walk commences along a rough road with the village green on the left hand side and continues for about 200 yards, past some cottages, before becoming a sunken lane which takes a Southerly direction. Under foot, the lane has a base of stones but is quite uneven and can be very wet and muddy following rain. During very wet weather it becomes a stream, as can be witnessed by the erosion created by the water. On either side, badger digging is strongly in evidence. The lane remains sunken for some 500 yards, with a moderate climb, before opening out to fields. Here, turn left on the pathway which soon bears round to the right to pass between hedges on both sides. The track here can be quite muddy in wet weather. The track comes to an end after about 300m where it meets a path running to the right and left. Look for a signpost, off to the right. On reaching the signpost, look to the right for views of Chillerton Down and its mast or to the left, towards Rookley and, in the distance, Culver Down.





- B.** Follow the signpost direction (G15) down a well-defined track towards Ramsdown. After about 100 yards there is an empty, ramshackle shed on the right housing nothing more than badger diggings. This path is lined with trees but opens up on the left for views across the fields. Ramsdown Farm is the next major landmark to appear and here there is walk through the farmyard which can be very muddy.
- C.** The path leads onto a tarmac road where it is necessary to turn left and head downhill. Pass by a copse, on the left, and views of fields towards the South. This road, like the others on this route, is very quiet but it is necessary to be alert for the occasional vehicle. After some 500 yards there is the 'Roslin Lane' sign which is accompanied by a 'Dead End' sign. Follow this road to the right for approximately 200m to a Public Bridleway sign denoting The Worsley Trail, Public Bridleway (G14) showing Lower Rill ½ and Cridmore ½.
- D.** At the sign post, turn left to pass between the buildings towards Lower Rill and Cridmore. In the early Spring, this area has many Snowdrops on display. This gravel road continues for about 120 yards, past private gardens on the right, to a farm gate. The route now becomes a farm track. To the left, there is a steep hill but there are views of farmland which can be seen to the right, over the hedge. After some 400 yards, Cridmore Farm can be seen on the right hand side.

E. Here, at the Public Bridleway sign, follow (G16) towards Lower Rill. The ground underfoot now becomes a grassy track for about 40 yards to a footpath gate. In Spring time this path may become overgrown.

From here, the path climbs upwards over a barely discernible track. Keep the hedge to your left hand side. The route continues upwards past a field gate on the left. To the right, some distance away, there is large, black silhouette of a bull. Lower Rill farm buildings can be seen, ahead downhill. Continue for 100 yards or so, towards another footpath gate. Go through this gate then, after about another 100 yards, look for a gap in the hedge. Pass through this gap to find a blue direction arrow on the other side. Proceed downhill, noting the roof of a house, above the hedge on the right, and a barn ahead to the left. After about 150 yards this path meets a tarmac road.

F. Follow the road right for about 100 yards to Bridleway sign G16A (on the left) showing Chillerton $\frac{3}{4}$. Head in that direction, over a concrete surface, to a footpath gate on the left. Within a few yards there is another gate. From here, the route heads up a field with trees on the left. The trees soon give way to an open field. Keeping Upper Rill farm buildings to the right, head towards gates on the other side of the field. The path across the field is hard to see. It is about 150 yards to the gates. On the other side of the footpath gate is a bridleway which needs to be followed to the left (*Direction arrows can be found on the other side of the gate.*) The bridleway has a gentle climb. Soon the banks rise on either side to create a sunken path, with trees overhead and ferns on the banks. There is much evidence here of badger digging. The bridleway eventually comes to an end at a farm gate bearing the notice, 'Private. No Public Right Of Way.' There is also an unreadable Bridleway sign pointing to the right.

G. Follow the direction of the sign to a footpath gate then up a steep climb. Keep the metal fence/hedge to your left hand side. The upward climb finishes at a footpath gate. Turn around to view Stenbury Down to the South East or the village of Rookley, with Culver Down in the distance to the North East.

On the other side of the gate, cross the field towards a small copse. The mast on Chillerton Down can be seen clearly from here, to the left. The path in the copse descends steeply before turning to the right to continue downwards on a narrow path which can be very muddy in wet weather. It is also likely to be pitted with rabbit diggings – so beware of footing. To the right of this path is a bracken covered bank which becomes a beautiful carpet of blue bells and campion later in the Spring. The houses of Chillerton can be seen lower down, ahead. The path eventually reaches a footpath gate. Here there is an alternative route to the right to Loverstone Lane, designated by a yellow arrow marker.

Continuing downhill for about 100 yards, there is the Chillerton Play area on the right. Chillerton's Main Road is only a short walk downhill from here. At this juncture there is a public Bridleway sign (G16b) pointing back up in the direction from which you have just come, towards Lower Rill $\frac{3}{4}$ and Rookley $1\frac{1}{4}$.

H. To return to the start of this route, turn left and walk 300 yards or so along the road back to Hollow Lane.

This road is busier than the other roads encountered on the route so it is necessary to remain alert for traffic.