

Waveney Ramblers Newsletter

Number 94 July 2024

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Editorial by Tony

Welcome to the last Waveney Ramblers Newsletter – unless there is overwhelming demand that it should continue! Our plan is to have a rolling news feed on our website and on facebook.

Here's a preview ...

<https://waveneyramblers.org.uk/news>

I have had the pleasure of pulling together your contributions, adding photos and filling the gaps for 15 years. Over that period so many things have changed and now that we have moved from a 4 monthly programme of walks to a continuous rolling online system with associated social media, a Newsletter seems less relevant.

It has been pleasing to note that our constant pleading for new walk leaders has started to pay off. With several longstanding walk leaders hanging up their boots over the past couple of years and at least one (me) getting to near their sell by date and our oldest walk leader, Grant on the wrong side of 80 allegedly, we still need a few more to fill the inevitable gaps.

When/if you read this, it will be the height of tick season. A reminder that incidences of Lyme Disease and tick-borne encephalitis are on the increase in East Anglia and with the wet start to the year may pose even more of a hazard this year. Easy to avoid by tucking trousers into socks or alternatively carrying out a good inspection of vulnerable areas after your walk if it has been through wet grass, ferns etc. It's worth getting a tick card. This allows the tick to be removed without squeezing toxic material into the bite area.

IMPORTANT:

From May 15th, the requirement to write and keep risk assessments was dropped. However we **do** still need to risk assess our walks and we have new guidance and links detailed below ...

15 years ago, updates on good local lunch stops were introduced and run for a couple of years. For this final edition, it's been revised – see below ...

Sad News

Margaret Harmer, David's wife died in early May. There was a lovely and very well attended funeral service at the Beccles crematorium, Ellough. Margaret will be greatly missed.



Spotted on our Reydon Walk together with acres of asparagus, bluebells in Reydon wood and a path through oil seed rape to guide us back to the start.



Pub Lunch Stops Lost - Update

It is a little depressing to note the decline in the rural pub over the last few decades and our walking areas has seen may close or change use. These include a number regularly used by the Ramblers

- Metfield – Duke William
- Broome – Artichoke
- Framingham Pigot – The Gull
- Wissett – Plough
- Yoxford – The Griffen & Kings Head

And many, many more.

Pub Lunch Stops Going Strong

On a more positive note, the now limited number of pubs currently used are very welcoming and accommodating. These include the

- Barnby Swan
- Wenhaston Star
- Westhall Racehorse
- Homersfield Black Swan
- Ringfield Tavern
- Wrenthan Five Bells
- Thurton George & Dragon
- Chedgrave White Horse
- Rumburgh Buck

There are more but space and memory are limiting.

Some landowners keep the footpaths very clear – we thank you.



Farmer Pyke's Forgotten Railway

The May walk from Thurton with rest stop and sign about a forgotten railway.



The sign is about 'Farmer Pyke's Forgotten Railway' which was used to transport sugar beet to the river for loading onto a Wherry for onward transport to Cantley sugar beet factory.

In the 1920s, the local roads were poor and unmetalled and lorries had to use the Reedham ferry, which had a weight limit and would incur a charge with each crossing.

The innovative Mr Pyke instead decided to construct his railway, to take the beet to a riverside wharf where it could be loaded into wherries or lighters and taken to Cantley.

Using surplus equipment from the War Department and steel from the Krupp factory in Germany, the line ran for a mile from the village itself, across the marshes to the river.

Several pine bridges had to be built across drainage dykes.

There is a lot more information about this online.

New Guidance for Walk Leaders

Please continue to use the old risk-assessment system until you've had time to get up to speed with the new training materials and guidance documents. It's not too difficult but you might need some help if your computer is ancient or you struggle with IT. The training takes about 90 minutes and can be split into multiple short sessions.

Online Training: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/support-us/online-training>

Dashboard: <https://ramblersvolunteertraining-ramblers.talentlms.com/dashboard>

Resources for walk leaders: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/resources-walk-leaders>

- The Walk Leader Handbook
- Walk Leader Checklist
- Walk Leader Resource Pack

Risk Assessment

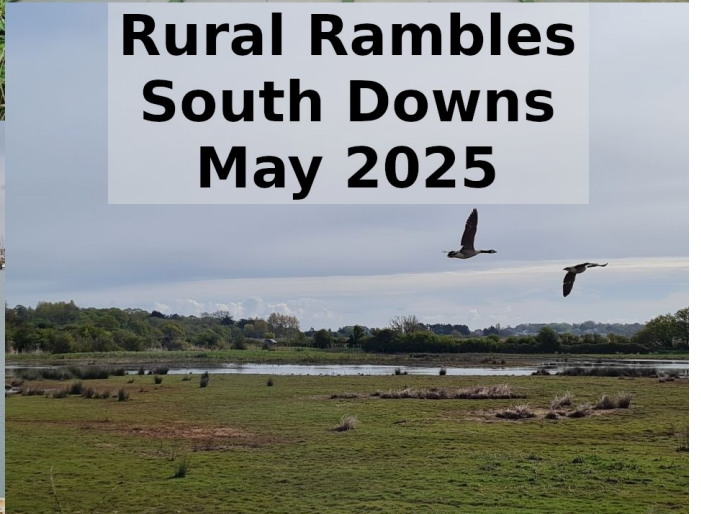
This applies to all walks and does not need to be edited.

Pages 4, 5 and 6 apply to us: <https://cdn.ramblers.org.uk/media/files/risk-assessments.pdf>

Group Holiday May 2025

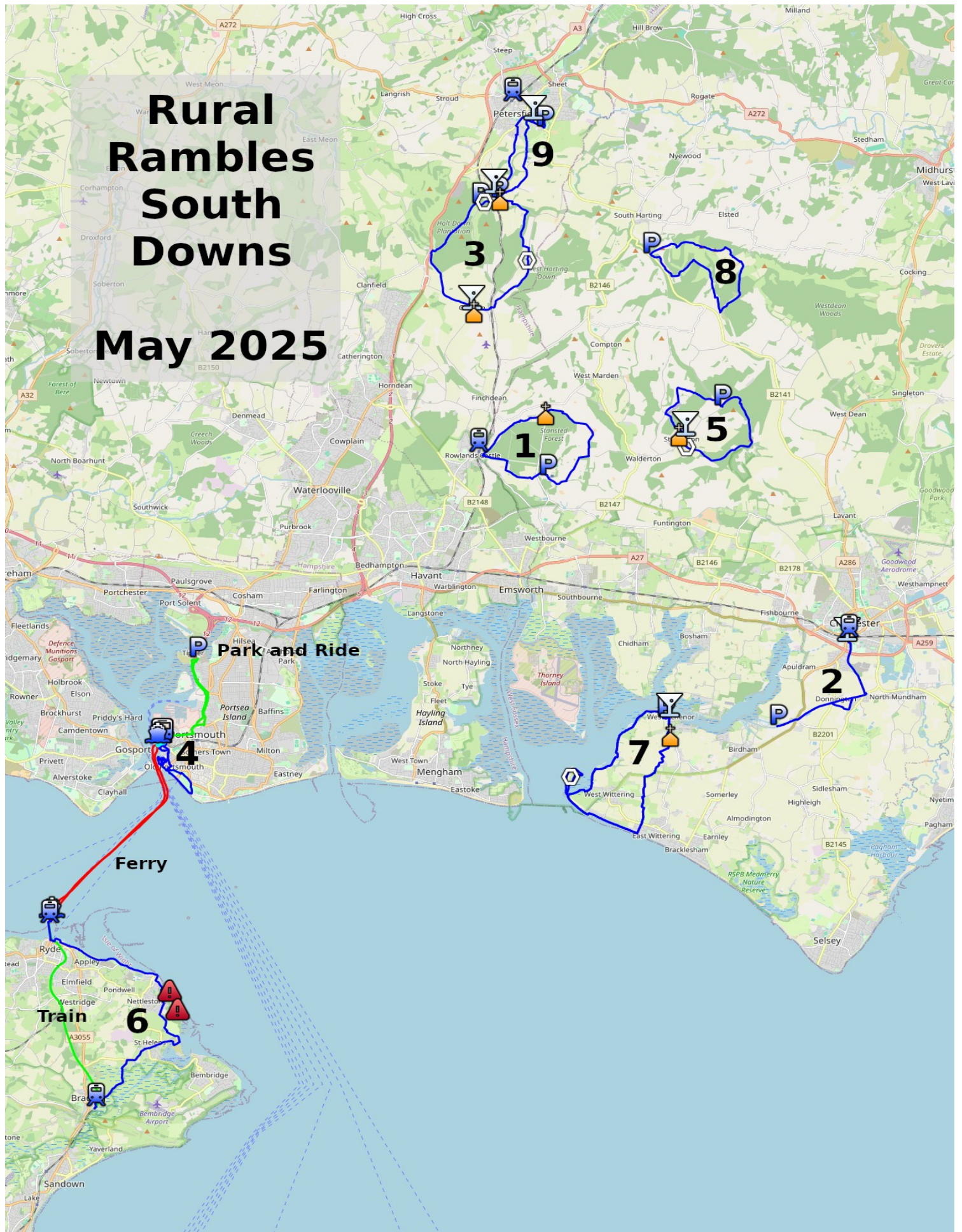


Rural Rambles South Downs May 2025



Rural Rambles South Downs

May 2025



For all nine walks, book to arrive on Friday May 9th and depart after the walk on Sunday May 18th.

Please book your own accommodation.

Visit for a few days or the whole nine walks.

Skip walks if you are tired or worried about the more strenuous ascents.

Please book your own afternoon activities like HMS Victory, Mary Rose etc ...

Please contact Neil if you are coming – nbauers@btinternet.com – 07 411 811 093

View the Programme: https://waveneyramblers.org.uk/programme#w_1895

View the Brochure: https://waveneyramblers.org.uk/guides/Guide_South_Downs.pdf

OS Map of the Walks: https://waveneyramblers.org.uk/map_bing_os/Guide_South_Downs.kml

Google Satellite View: https://waveneyramblers.org.uk/map_google/Guide_South_Downs.kml

The Walks

1) Stansted Park	7 Miles	350 feet ascent.
2) Chichester Ship Canal	7 miles	level terrain.
3) Buriton and Chalton	8 Miles	860 feet ascent.
4) Historic Portsmouth	5.5 miles	level terrain.
5) Stoughton Down	6.6 miles	920 feet ascent.
6) Isle of Wight	8 miles	500 feet ascent - EARLY START.
7) Chichester Harbour AONB	8.7 or 10.25 miles	level terrain.
8) Harting Down	6.6 miles	1050 feet ascent.
9) Petersfield and Buriton	6 miles	320 feet ascent.

And Finally

A huge thank you to Tony for 15 years of newsletters !.!.!



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