

# Rambles around the IW

## in association with the IW Ramblers

**Description:** A walk over the downs and through woodland.

**Distance:** 3.9 miles

**Start:** Free public car park by Niton Youth Club, Star Inn Road. An alternative starting point is by the church at Whitwell (8).

**Access Information:** Mainly open tracks, several stiles, one long hill. Some uneven paths.

**Refreshments:** Pubs/shops in Niton and Whitwell. Garden Centre cafe in Niton.

**Toilets:** Public toilets at Niton in Church Street.

**Route:** From the car park (1) turn right along Star Inn Road. Turn left towards the church and turn right into Pan Lane (2). Continue uphill along the lane, between cottages, which becomes a track and then a grassy footpath. The path continues between hedges and the Pepperpot can be glimpsed on the left hilltop. At a path crossing, go left and then immediate-

ly right over a stile (3). Here there are panoramic views across the Island. After 10 yds, go right over another stile.

Descend on the path across Head Down and cross two adjacent stiles (4). A well-defined narrow path rises through scrub and trees before descending through woodland. The path leaves the wood by two horizontal rails and then crosses a field to reach a stile by a gate (5). Here turn right along a lane, and at a right bend by Downs View, carefully cross the road to join footpath NT108 towards Whitwell. Cross a stile by a gate, turning right to follow the path. Cross two more stiles by gates and then head left across a small field to cross a stile into woodland. Follow this enclosed path to reach a path T-junction (6). Turn left and cross a stile into a field. Follow the path along the right hand edge of the field. Continue on NT101 towards Stockbridge with a large house on the right. Cross the right-hand stream over a footbridge and then turn left

to cross a track.

Cross the right-hand stile (7) and follow the path NT120 right, on the left side of a field and near bungalows. Go uphill and then cross a stile by a gate and follow the track to the road. Turn right into Bannock Road between houses and follow the road right and uphill to a main road (8). Here turn left, and just before St Mary and St Rhadagund Church, turn right onto NT17 footpath and follow this as it gently rises to a path junction (9). Turn right onto NT18 and follow this along the edge of woodland, passing a cemetery. At Mayflower Cottage, follow the path right. This path becomes a track by houses, bearing right, and eventually turns right to reach a main road (10). Turn left along Rectory Road to reach a road junction by a shop and continue straight ahead. Turn left at Niton Youth Club to reach the car park.

