

ISLE OF WIGHT

Discover Dunsbury trail

Take a breezy and invigorating walk over the farmland and downs of the Dunsbury Estate on the Isle of Wight for magnificent coastal views and to learn a bit about the history of the island's coastguard too. We're working to improve the habitat here so that wildlife can flourish so, along the way, keep your eyes peeled for birds such as skylarks and butterflies such as the Glanville fritillary.



Information

Address: National Trust car park, Compton Bay, Brook Chine, Military Road, Brook, Isle of Wight.

OS map: Landranger 196, Explorer OL29

Activity: Walking

Moderate: Uneven, natural surfaces that can be muddy and slippery in wet weather. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs on leads are welcome, and there's a dog waste bin at the car park.

Full trail: Miles: 3.4 (km: 5.44)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 1 hour 30 mins - 2 hours

Terrain

Total ascent is 115m (380ft). The exposed down can be windy, and some of the tracks and bridleways can be muddy and slippery.

Total steps: 7

Start point: Brook Chine car park, PO30 4HA, grid ref: SZ385836

1. From the car park, take the path into the field just to the left of the track which leads down to the beach. Take the left-hand fork, following the line of the hedge and the road. Leave the field by the cattle grid and carefully cross the busy Military Road. Go along Brook Village Road and after 220yd (200m) turn left into Coastguard Lane. Follow the track past some houses then the terrace of coastguard cottages.
2. When the tarmac ends, continue straight ahead on the track signposted 'BS87 Shippards Chine'. Go through a field gate and past a pond on your left, then through another field gate. Turn right opposite the entrance to Compton Grange along the path signposted 'BS48 Dunsbury Farm and the Downs' and head up the field to a track about 110yd (100m) before the fence line.
3. Turn left along the track. When you reach Dunsbury Grange on your left, turn right through a gate and head steeply up a field, keeping the fence close to your right.
4. Cross a stile on the ridge and turn right. Go onwards through a field gate and keep just to the left of the ridge top. Pass through another field gate and follow the grassy path through the next gate. Turn right immediately after the gate on 'BS86 Dunsbury'. Keep to the right of the track and take the higher grassy path when the main track bears left and descends. Head downhill to Dunsbury Farm, with hedges on both sides.
5. Go through two field gates and turn right onto the tarmac farm track, then quickly left after just 40yd (40m) between the buildings, signposted 'BS102 Hamstead Trail'. The tarmac track bends left then right, heading gently downhill with buildings on both sides. Take the next left and go between hedges to a T-junction with a seat.
6. Turn right here along BS107 to follow the bridleway down a sunken lane, eventually reaching Badger Lane. Bear right and follow the lane into Brook village. Turn left to visit the village, or continue with the trail by turning right along the road and go past Coastguard Lane back to the Military Road.

7. Take care crossing this fast and busy main road to the track opposite. Unlike the outward path, head straight ahead along the track which services the houses on Brookgreen. From here you can see the old lifeboat station near the cliff edge at Brook Chine. Just before a little bridge, follow a coast path marker post on the right through a field and head back to the car park.

End point: Brook Chine car park, PO30 4HA, grid ref: SZ385836
