

Hannington, North Oakley

Distance: 3 miles – No Stiles

Start: Village Green



**HAMPSHIRE
COUNTRYSIDE
SERVICE**

The Village

Hannington is recorded as a settlement in 899AD, and is listed in the Domesday Survey. It is a vibrant village community of 140 households. The Church, Village Hall, Michael's playing field, The Vine pub, Hannington Country Fair, the Hannington Silver Band (founded in 1924) and wonderful countryside contribute to this unique place.

All Saints Church

People have worshipped here for over 1000 years. The sundial on the south wall used to help parishioners arrive on time to enter through the 12th Century doors. Inside are two fine window engravings by Laurence Whistler. The millennium tapestry shows how Hannington residents lived in 2000AD. The Squint allows the priest to see those in the south aisle.

Countryside

Situated high in the North Wessex Downs an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Hannington is surrounded by a network of public rights of way affording walkers and riders superb opportunities to explore and enjoy this beautiful landscape.

Spectacular views extend south and west from For Down, and north and south from Michael's Field with its children's play area and parking. Skylarks, yellowhammers and many other wild birds can be seen and heard during most seasons. Fieldfares and redwings are regular visitors in winter. Wild flowers abound in the hedgerows and field margins. The bluebell woods are a delight in spring.

There is evidence of a bronze-age barrow, a large Romano-British farmstead and a royal house used by Henry II at Tidgrove Warren Farm, west of the village.

Directions

Take the path to the right of the Church. Go through the picket gate and follow the path down to the next gate and onto For Down. Turn left at the junction with Wayfarer's Walk.

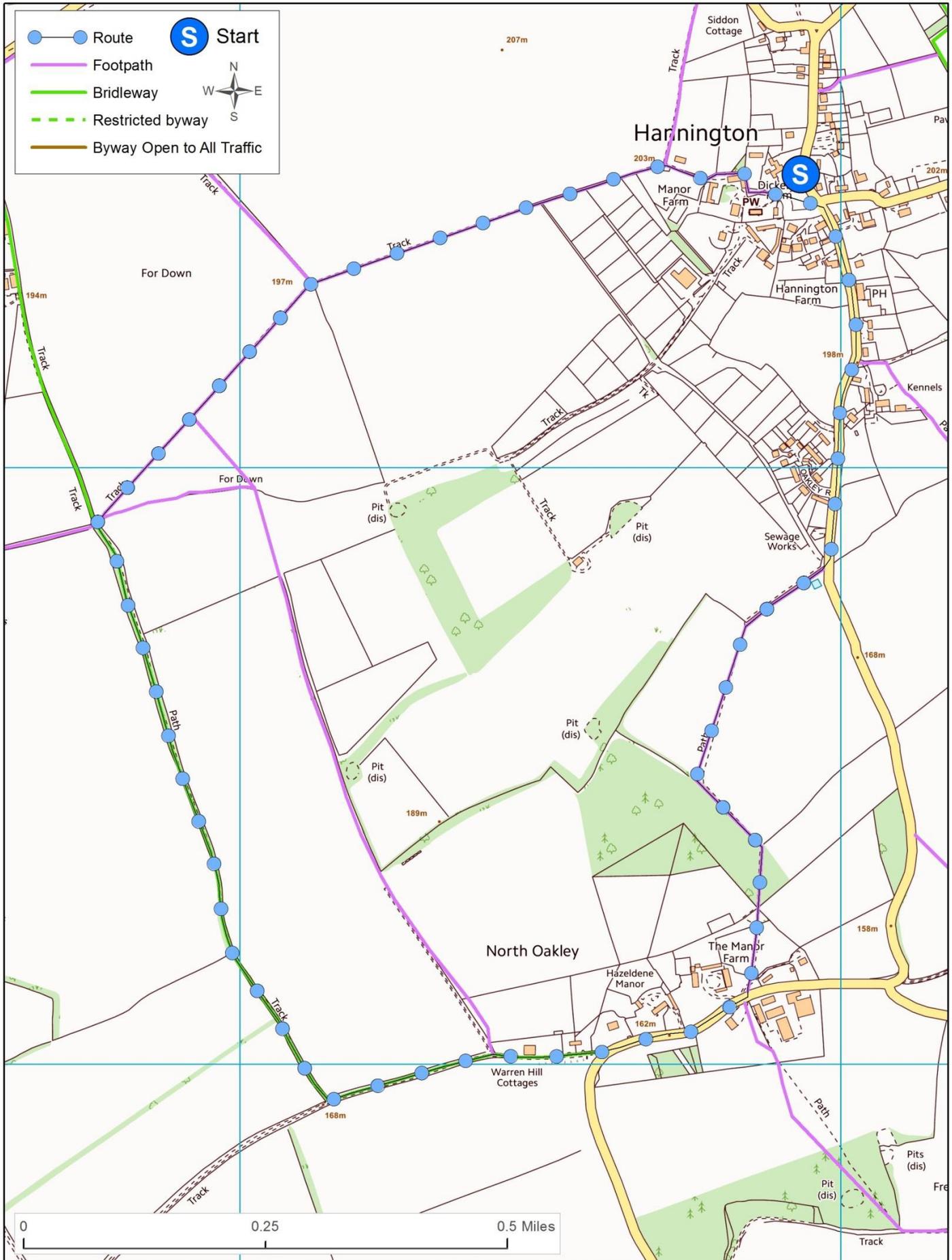
Follow bridleway for 3/4mile to the T- junction turning left to North Oakley.

Follow road past Manor Farm and turn left following footpath signs through the kissing gate and across a paddock (might contain livestock). After the 2nd kissing gate, through the gate, along the footpath for 1/4mile then left then right, down the hill across the field to the corner of 'Huggies' copse.

Bear right through the copse to Summerdown Lane taking care when descending at the road. Turn left, up the hill past the Vine pub.

Historical note: From the top of For Down the site of Henry II's Royal house may be seen on the hillside in front of you.

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