

Rambles around the Island

in association with the IW Ramblers



Description: A level walk along a dis-used railway line and then through a nature reserve with a bird hide. Possibility of seeing red squirrels. After the war, Alverstone used to be a favourite boating area with tea rooms now long gone.

Distance: 4.2 miles

Start: Sandown Railway Station car park (free)

Access Information: Flat walk with stiles on return leg. Several seats along the route.

Refreshments: Sandown or Spar shop en route.

Toilets: Sandown

Route: From the station car park (1) enter the station at platform 2 and cross to the opposite platform using the subway. Take the exit along a concrete path with murals. At the road, turn right into Perowne Way. Pass Sandown Middle School. Opposite the Spar shop (2) turn left onto the Sandown to Newport cycleway no 23.

Follow the cycleway through marshes, passing a water works, and over a metal bridge to Alverstone. (3) Turn right at the white gate to follow a quiet lane through the village, passing The Old School Hall. Where the road turns right, continue straight on a narrow lane. This lane turns left and reaches Chiddles Farm (4) with fine views of the distant downs. Continue along the lane passing farm buildings on the right. Turn left over a stile onto footpath B52. Follow the right hand field path to a stile and continue past gardens. In front of a gate, turn left onto a track to rejoin the village at the Old School Hall. Turn right and at the next Public Footpath sign, turn right through a gate. Follow the enclosed path to the river and weir by the mill. Follow the riverside path to a stile and back onto the cycleway (5). Turn left and follow the tarmac path back to Alverstone at a white gate. Here turn right over a stone bridge and continue along the road.

Turn left into Alverstone Nature Reserve

(6) on footpath NC17 at the memorial gate. Go along boardwalks, built by The Ramblers, and cross two stiles into a woodland path. At a road, by a bench leading to a bird hide, turn left down a lane, to follow the track which turns right at a double 5 bar gate (7). Skinners Meadow is on the right. Continue on the path which follows the outside edge of the field. The path turns left through two gates, and through woodlands with a golf course on the right. Follow a track to the clubhouse. Turn right along a lane (8) and pass the water works. Pass the sports ground on the right, and at the sign for Fairway Athletic Centre, where the road bears right, (9), cross the road and follow a path straight ahead between trees and along the left side of a green. Cross the road at the crossing and follow the subway. Turn left to the station car park.

