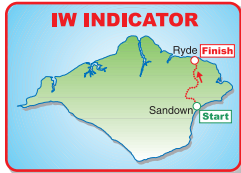


12 Nunwell Trail



This walk starts in Sandown, finishes in Ryde, passes water meadows and crosses the spine of chalk downland that runs the length of the Island.



View to Sandown

Nunwell Trail Landmarks

From the Nature Reserve bird hide, it is possible to see the only regular colony of Sand Martins on the Island. Other birds include Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler.

From the top of Brading Down there are panoramic views which encompass the whole of the East Wight, Solent and Spithead.

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway runs from Havenstreet, west to Wootton and east to Ryde. The railway crosses the trail near Smallbrook. There is a station at Smallbrook Junction.

- 1 Start from Sandown Railway Station. Leave the station on the South-side and turn right out of the station courtyard. Follow through the underpass and at the exit, take the footpath signed 'Adgestone'. Continue northwest through the Sandown High School playing fields. Pass left of the water works then along the bridleway (SS47), keeping the golf course on the left.

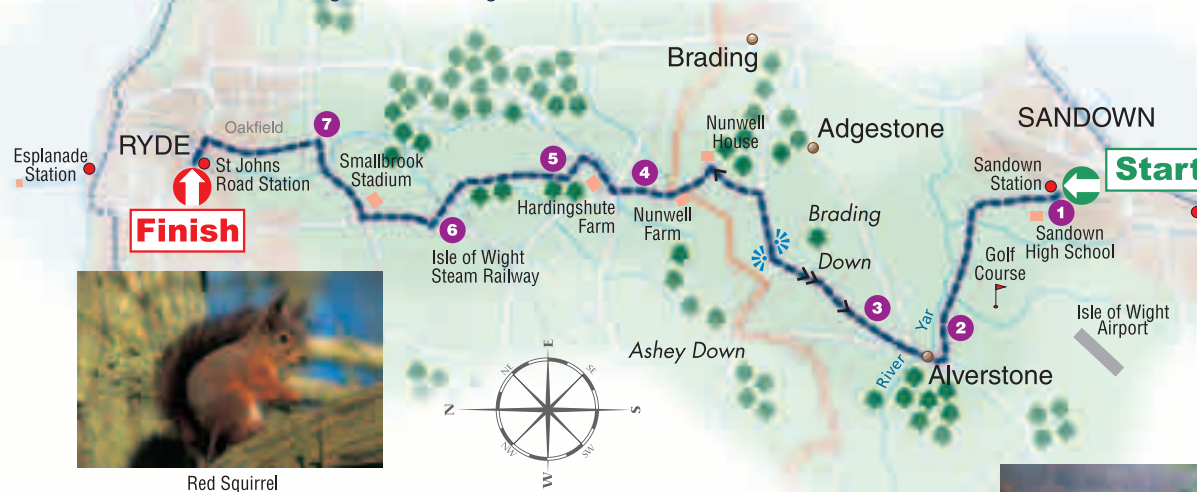
After leaving the golf course continue along the path over the bridge, through the 5 bar wooden gate and continue straight ahead to another gate.

- 2 Continue along the well-defined bridleway which turns sharp right but follows a semi-circle pattern on your left. Ignore the signed path to Adgestone and do not cross the stream. Continue to the sign marked Footpath NC17 Alverstone.

Follow this direction through the woods to the gate passing the Nature Reserve bird hide on the right. Bear right to the stile, continue to the second stile, then over the decking to the stile leading to the road. Turn right along the road, over Alverstone Bridge and through the village. Continue north for about 100 metres (110 yards) where the road through the village turns a sharp right. Leave the road at this point proceeding straight ahead up a lane which becomes a bridleway after passing two houses.

- 3 This path climbs gradually, then steeply up to the top of Brading Down to meet the Newport - Brading Road.

Turn right along this road for 500 metres (550 yards), before passing through a gate on the left. Follow the track (B30) through field gate, keeping to the left of the fence. Continue over the rise then downhill and bear right to a further gate.



Red Squirrel

Turn left through gate and continue with the wood on your right to join the road at Nunwell West Lodge. Nunwell House is on the right.

- 4 Turn left along the road past Nunwell Farm to the road junction. Turn right at the road junction then left at the fork onto Harding Shute after a few metres. Continue along the road for about 400 metres (440 yards), turn left just past the farm pond at Hardingshute Farm, follow farm track with hedge on your right to the corner of the copse.

- 5 Turn right and follow path with hedge on left. Pass through gate, and then keeping hedge on right proceed to another gate. Go through the gate and turn left. Keep woodland to your left and proceed to the gate in the corner of the field to Whitefield Farm. Pass through farm gate and turn right to walk between building and stock yard, through another gate out of the farm and then along farm track, bearing slightly right and sharply left around field boundary, to crossing of steam railway line. After crossing the railway follow bridleway to join Ashey Road. Always take care when crossing railway lines.

- 6 Turn right, follow road approximately 150 metres (165 yards) and turn right into Smallbrook Stadium. Follow footpath R50 which runs behind the stadium, turning right onto Smallbrook Lane.

- 7 After passing over railway bridge take the path on the left beside railway track (taking care especially with small children), continuing until built-up area is reached. Bear right immediately past Oakfield Football ground, then left into Oakfield High Street. Turn right into St Johns and left down the St Johns Hill to St Johns Railway Station where the trail ends.

The walk can be continued into the centre of Ryde. Turn right over the bridge into Monkton Street. Continue down the hill 800 metres (880 yards) and turn left into East Street. Continue until you reach Dover Street, turn right and cross over the Esplanade to the seafront. Island train and bus stations along with the ferry and hovercraft terminals for the mainland are to the left along the Esplanade.



Isle of Wight Steam Railway