

## Hannington, Cottington's Hill



HAMPSHIRE  
COUNTRYSIDE  
SERVICE

**Distance:** 3.75 miles (4.5 mile option)

**Start:** Village Green – No Stiles

### **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**

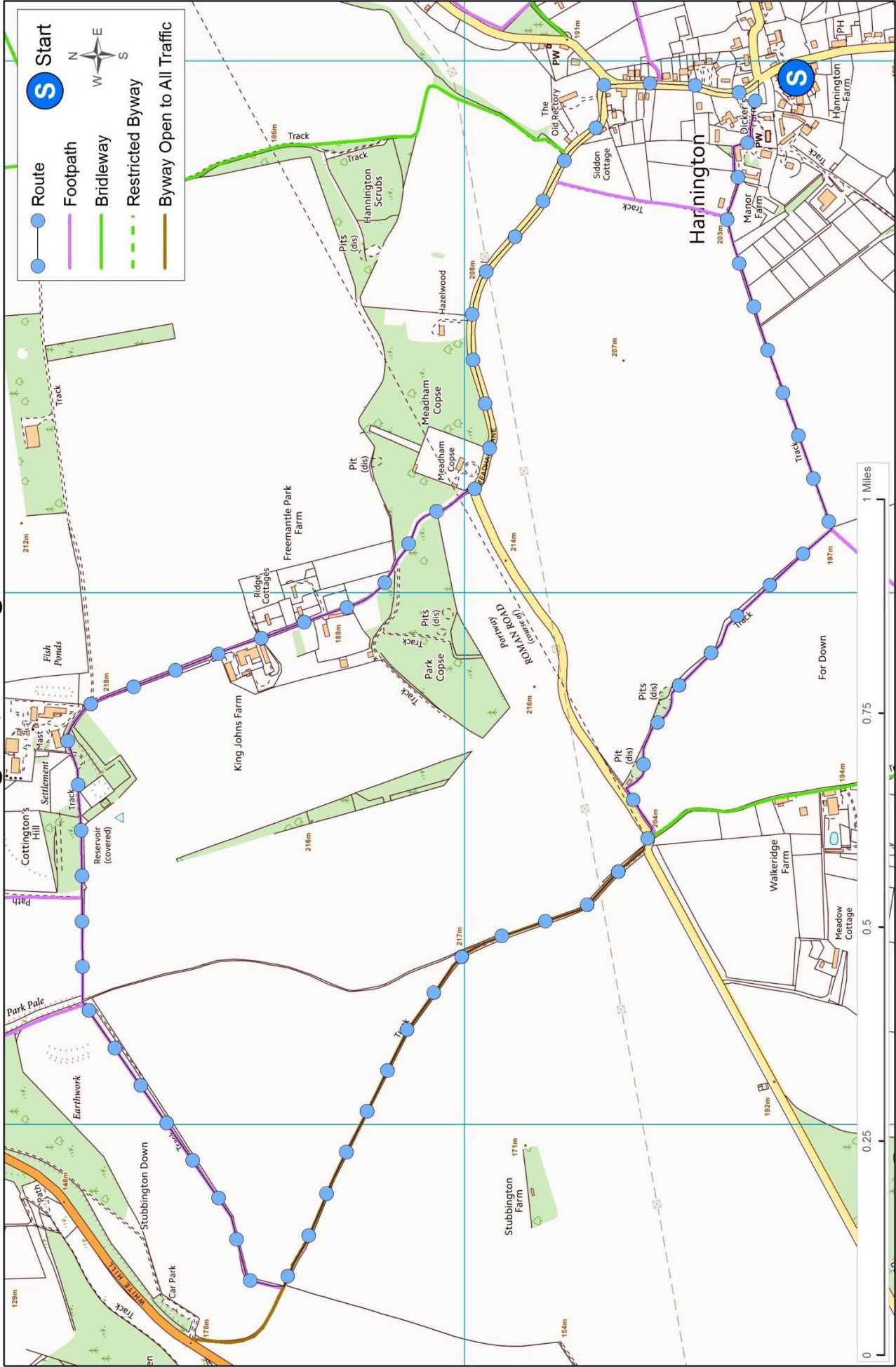
Take the path to the right of the Church. Go to the picket gate. At the gate at the top of For Down, turn right following the headland path; at the road junction cross diagonally to join Wayfarers Walk heading NW.

Continue for 3/4mile, at the bottom of the dip turn right up the hill, go through the kissing gate halfway up, continue towards the mast on the top of Cottington's Hill.\*

Go straight ahead through the kissing gate, and follow the farm track & road for about 1 mile & return to the village along Meadham Lane.

\* Optional extension. At the gateway/kissing gate turn left down the hill, through the kissing gate and turn right following the path alongside the wood. On reaching the field (might contain livestock) go straight ahead down the hill to the kissing gate in the corner of the field. Turn right up the farm track, down through the dip and eventually rejoin Meadham Lane.

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