

Walks Around Steep village: The 14 Stile Walk



Footpaths numbers 11, 713, 505, 712. & 2, Steep village

Duration of the walk – perhaps about 45 mins to one hour, depending on how long you stop to look at the views.

Distance: 2 – 3 miles

Suitability: Adults – a suitable fitness for climbing the stiles is required, but otherwise the terrain is flat, mostly over grassy fields and established paths. An ideal walk for families with young children – the next stile is nearly always in sight and children will love climbing all the stiles. Care will be needed with children on Ridge Common Lane, where there is no pavement. Suitable for dog walkers – there are places for dogs to go through the stiles.

Parking:

- Either at Steep Village Hall car park in Church Road, Steep GU32 2DN
- Or, if refreshments are required before or after the walk, there is parking at the Cricketers Inn GU32 2DW

Directions for Walk

- Turn left out of the Village Hall car park and walk west along Church Road to the crossroads with the C18 Alton/Stoner Hill Road.
- Cross the C18 Alton/Stoner Hill Road and enter Ridge Common Lane.
- Walk until you pass the entrance gates to Collyers on the left.
- Shortly after the gates to Collyers you will see a fingerpost on the left and a stile. Take the path indicated here and cross this stile Stile 1.
(footpath 11) [Ch Q1](#)
- Head in a left diagonal across the field and through the trees to stile 2 in the fence. Proceed along a narrow path under trees to the drive to Collyers House. The house is private, please respect the privacy of the occupants and keep to the designated footpath. [ChQ2](#)
- Cross the driveway following the yellow way marker post coming to stile 3. Cross this stile into a field. Follow this path on the right of the field.
- Cross stile 4 and follow the path to the right of the field.
- The path now goes down into a dip or gully. Cross the gully and climb the bank to stile 5.
- Follow the path to the left of the next field. There is a corrugated barn on the right.
- Cross stile 6. There is a telephone mast on the right. [ChQ3](#)
- Follow the path to stile 7, taking the path to the left of the field.
(Footpath 713)[ChQ4](#)
[ChQ5](#)
- A gate on the left, leads to a footbridge crossing the motorway and to footpath 506 to Petersfield. Ignore this and continue straight on along footpath 505.
- Cross stile 8, noting the views to the Hangers (wooded slopes) to the right.

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- Cross [stile 9](#) noting the yellow way marker sign pointing to the right across the next field. ([Footpath 712](#))
- Cross [stile 10](#). The path crosses the next field with a view to the right towards red brick cottages and the hangers. ([Footpath 2](#))
- [Stiles 11 and 12](#) are close together and separated by a wooden bridge. On the left of the next field, barns can be seen, with trees on a small incline/hill nearby. There are views of Butser Hill on the left.
- Cross [stile 13](#) to the next field where animals may be grazing. Cross this field towards the cottages. Look back towards the view.
- Cross [stile 14](#) which is in front of Melstock Farm. The way comes into a small lane. Turn left and follow this, passing Cooks Cottage and Cherry Cottage to where it exits onto Ridge Common Lane again.

Stile 15 is directly opposite and leads to [footpath 5](#) but it is not advised to continue here as, at the time of writing, the way on footpath 5 is not so well maintained.



ChQ6 and ChQ7

- Turn right and head east - back up Ridge Common Lane in the direction from which you came. Pass the pair of red brick and tile hung Soal Farm Cottages.
 - Pass houses on the right & a stand selling English honey on the left.
 - Pass more cottages on the right. A finger post on the left leads to [footpath 10](#) to Ridge Hanger. Ignore this and continue east along Ridge Common Lane & cross the C18 crossroads, returning to the car park.



Children's questions:

Child Task: As you walk, try to think of names all the different stiles/ fields.

ChQ1: How many oak trees can you count in the first field?

ChQ2: How many chimneys can you count on Collyers roof?

ChQ3: What do you think happened to the old tree lying in the field near the motorway footpath?

ChQ4: What difference do you notice in the noise levels here?

ChQ5: After which stile do you get the first view of Butser Hill?

ChQ6: At what speed limit should traffic be travelling along Ridge Common Lane?

ChQ7: Which is the best side of the lane on which to walk?