

## Joan Deacon and The Ramblers



The walk described in this leaflet was a favourite of Joan Deacon, who helped found the Isle of Wight Ramblers in 1968. Joan lived most of her adult life in Rookley and, as Footpath Secretary of the local branch of The Ramblers, played a major part in promoting walking and developing the rights of way network across the Island.

Part of the walk on the west side of Rookley has been established as a trail to celebrate Joan's endeavours. Access has been significantly improved by replacing eight stiles with footpath gates through the Isle of Wight Ramblers' Donate a Gate scheme. Ramblers' work parties have also cleared routes, replaced footbridges and improved path surfaces.

## Around Rookley

**Description** A linear ramble along footpaths and bridleways in open countryside with panoramic scenery. The walk starts and finishes on a number 3 bus route. **Distance** 4-5 miles. **Start** Bus stop at Blackwater Hollow. **Access information** Mainly level walk which can be quite muddy after periods of rain. There is one set of steps on the main walk and no stiles. (There is one stile at Rookley Farm, if taking the optional path to The Chequers pub). **Refreshments** The supermarket can provide some take-away food and drinks. Rookley Country Park restaurant. The Chequers pub can be reached via Rookley Farm (road walking not advised). **Toilets** Patrons of The Chequers, Rookley Country Park. **Internet** All walks in this series can be downloaded from [www.iowramblers.com/page44.htm](http://www.iowramblers.com/page44.htm).

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## Around Rookley

**SOUTHERN VECTIS**  
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A ramble around the green heart of the Isle of Wight, in open countryside with panoramic scenery

**Route** From Blackwater Hollow bus stop 1, follow the footway by houses and bungalows to pass a footpath A39 and then go left onto bridleway A36 signposted to Rookley and Merstone 2. Proceed along this track; a cycle route joins from the left and at a fork bear left to stay on the bridleway until after 1/2 mile you reach Birchmore (green sign) where you turn right onto bridleway A37 3 signposted to Rookley. This track follows a field edge with a hedge and small stream on your left. Also on your left you soon pass a small copse full of bluebells in season. After 3/4 mile you meet the A3020 and the outskirts of Rookley 4.

Turn left along the road and after a short distance take the first right turn into Bunkers Lane 5. Walk up the lane passing houses and emerge onto a rough track which enters a wood. Follow the track as it meanders along the edge of the wood. Just before a right hand bend, turn sharp left up some wooden steps 6. Go through two gates.

Follow the fenced path along the field edge. Go up a slope and through a gate into a field, crossing it and aiming for farm buildings in the distance. At a fence line 7, go through double gates, and so head right of the farm. Go through a 7 bar metal gate and soon turn right 8 to go through a similar gate. Follow the grassy track which bends to the left and leads to a field corner 9. Here there is the option to take the path to the Chequers pub. Go right on the path and over a stile at Rookley Farm. Follow the track to the left of the farm and then continue straight ahead on the surfaced bridleway GL5a which leads to the road and pub. Return along this route to point 9. Go through a gate into an enclosed path and cross a boardwalk and small wooden bridge. Go on along the sunken path to go through two gates into a field 10 and turn left. Follow the field edge heading towards a white house. In the corner of the field go through a gate into a garden 11. Follow this right of way on the left side of a garden towards a tree by a brick garage and find a gate in the hedge. This leads down onto a lane. Here turn right and follow Harts Lane to the main road by a post box. Turn left along the main road on the verge. After a field gap and a chevron sign, there is a path signposted on the right 12. Follow the footpath across open fields and emerge between houses onto the main road. Turn left 13 and follow the road to the Co-op on the left and Rookley Country Park on the right. Here, there is a bus stop (Rookley Country Park).

### Information

bus times 0871 200 22 33  
calls from landlines cost 10p per minute

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### Key

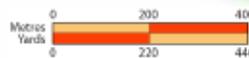
-  Tea rooms
-  Public house
-  Bus stop
-  Public footpaths
-  Walk route



**Pictured Inset** (Top) Near Rookley Manor Farm  
(Bottom) A view through Bunkers Copse



Scan this code with your smart phone to access the Southern Vectis timetable applicable to this walk.



# Around Rookley



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Rambles by Bus