



Mottistone Estate, Longstone Farmhouse, Strawberry Lane, Mottistone, Isle of Wight.
Nearest postcode PO30 4EA

TRAIL
Walking

GRADE
Easy

DISTANCE
2.75 miles (4.6km)

TIME
1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours

OS MAP
**Landranger 196,
Explorer OL29**

Contact

01983 741020
isleofwight@nationaltrust.org.uk

Facilities

**National
Trust**

nationaltrust.org.uk/walks

A Mottistone meander south to the sea, walk 2

Explore the delightful farmed countryside stretching south from Mottistone Manor to the coastal cliffs at Sudmoor Point. Enjoy splendid sea views and the chance to encounter rare wildlife.



Terrain

This circular walk has an ascent of 220ft (70m) with nine stiles and two bridges. Take care crossing roads, and avoid the crumbling cliff edge. Paths can be muddy in wet seasons. Dogs are very welcome, but please keep them under control and on a lead around wildlife. There is a dog bin in the car park. For those wanting a longer walk, this route can be combined with the other downloadable Mottistone trail ('A Mottistone Meander - Climb to the Common') to make a 7 mile (11km) figure-of-eight walk, starting from the car park.

Things to see



Mottistone Manor

Mottistone Manor was first mentioned in the Domesday Book but has been extensively rebuilt over the centuries. Described by the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens as 'modest in manner', the house and surrounding 650 acre (265ha) estate was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1963 by the 2nd Lord Mottistone. The Manor is still lived in by members of the family but the gardens are well worth a visit. These were the work of Lady Vivien Nicholson, who lived at Mottistone from 1947. It is now used to trial many southern hemisphere plants to determine how they respond to the areas dry and mild conditions.



Farming for Wildlife

Mottistone Manor Farm is farmed in an environmentally sensitive way to provide food, shelter and nesting habitats for wildlife. Wide grass margins are left around the arable fields for hares and farm birds, and stubble is left over winter to encourage flocks of finches and thrushes. Yellowhammer numbers have declined with modern farming practices, but the methods used here ensure that they continue to nest in the hedgerows. The network of hedges and copses creates wildlife corridors. Some fields are managed as hay meadows and the grass in the churchyard is not cut until the wildflowers have set seed.



Crumbling cliffs

The cliffs at Sudmoor are eroding quite rapidly but are home to rare insects. Look for the Glanville fritillary butterfly in May and June. It collects nectar from cliff-top flowers and lays its eggs on ribwort plantain right on the edge.



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Start/end

Start: Mottistone Manor
National Trust car park, grid ref: SZ405838. Nearest postcode PO30 4ED
End: Mottistone Manor National Trust car park, grid ref: SZ 405838

How to get there

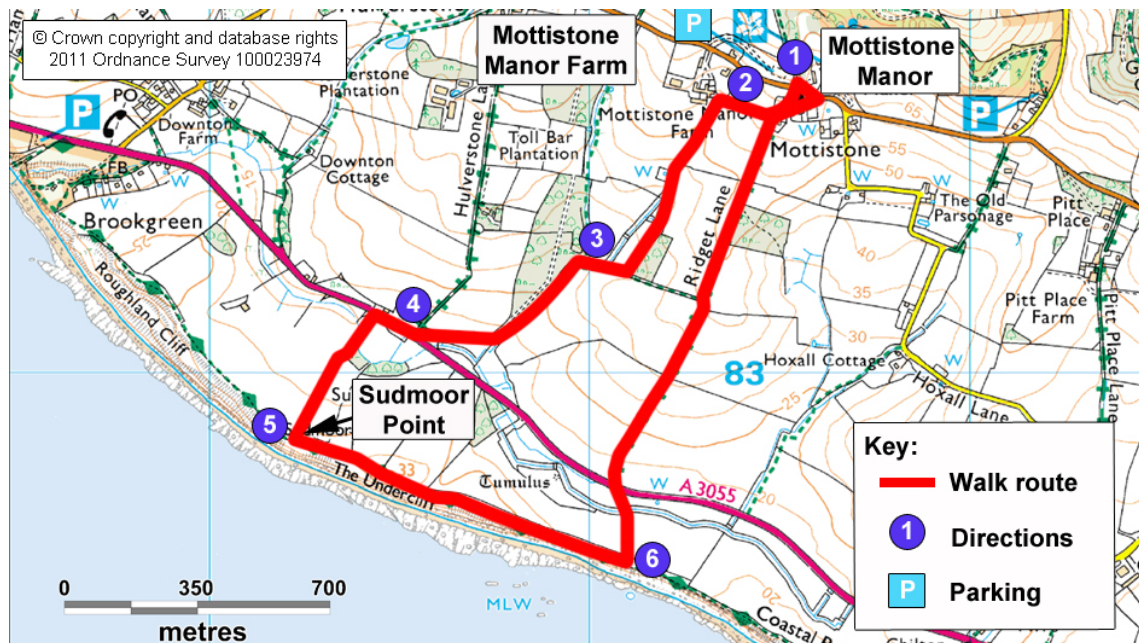
By foot: Mottistone lies approximately 1 mile (1.5km) north of the Isle of Wight Coast Path. The waymarked Tennyson Trail from Carisbrooke Castle to The Needles is followed between points 5 and 6 on the map

By bike: 'Round the Island' Sustrans regional route 67 passes along the B3399 through Mottistone

By bus: Southern Vectis No. 12 service from Newport to Totland passes by Mottistone Manor. Alight at the green

By ferry: Yarmouth-Lymington 7 miles, Fishbourne-Portsmouth 14 miles (Wightlink tel: 0871 3761000); East Cowes-Southampton 15 miles (Red Funnel tel: 0844 8449988)

By car: Mottistone lies on the B3399, between Brighthstone and Brook. Mottistone Manor car park is to the west of the property



1. Take the path down the steps from the car park towards the entrance to Mottistone Manor. Cross the road, enter the churchyard by the lych gate. Visit the church then leave by the south gate and turn right into Ridget Lane and follow it for 80yds (75m).
2. Turn right along the track signposted BS74 towards Mottistone Manor Farm, but take the stile on the left just before the farm yard to continue along BS74. When the track opens out just after a pond, bear left and follow the boundary keeping the trees to the left and wildflower meadow on the right.
3. Turn right at the T-junction where a hedgerow crosses and take the path between the hedges. Bear left when it narrows, with the wood and a small stream to the right. At the end of the wood, the path bears right over a plank bridge and stile. Follow the meandering path across the meadow. Cross the stile at the end of the field by a fingerpost and turn left through a farm gate onto the Military Road.
4. Turn right at this road and walk along the right-hand verge. Just after passing two cottages, cross the road and go over a stile opposite onto a permissive path. The path crosses a wooden footbridge then follows the field edge with hedges on the left to reach a stile almost in the corner of the field. Cross the stile and the next field, keeping the fence to the left until reaching the cliffs.
5. Turn left onto the coast path. Pass by a number of redundant stiles but cross over the stile on the path near an eroded section, with a few steps on the far side, and continue to follow the cliff-top path.
6. At the fingerpost signed BS75 cross a stile on the left and follow the field edge with the fence on the left to the field corner then cross more stiles. Go straight across the Military Road to join the byway BS100. This is a hedge-lined farm track which leads straight back to Mottistone. At the top of this track bear right and then left past the church to reach the road and the entrance to the car park.

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