

7 Stenbury Trail

IW INDICATOR



Following bridleways along the river valley before gently rising up and over Appuldurcombe, Stenbury and Week Downs, affording fine views to both the north and south, then descending to the botanic gardens at Ventnor.

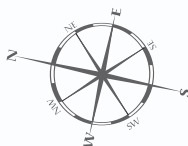
DISTANCE



3h

GRADIENTS

Easy walking, for the first half of the walk, before rising and falling over the Downs, steeply in places.



Godshell

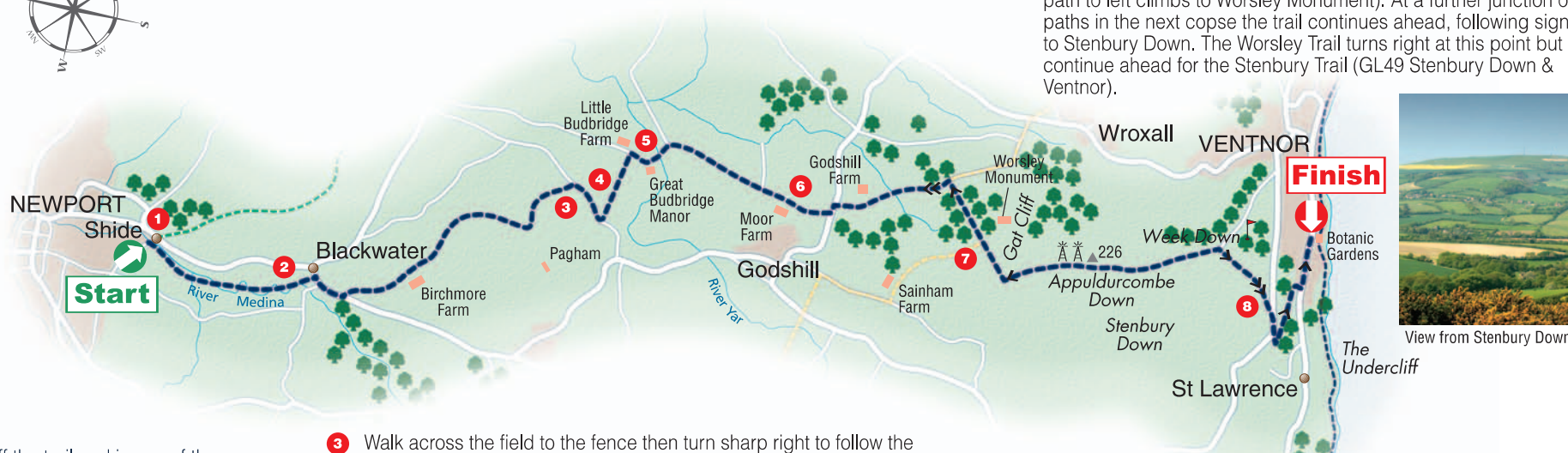
Stenbury Trail Landmarks

Godshell is only a few hundred yards off the trail and is one of the prettiest villages on the Island, with its thatched cottages and fifteenth century church.

The ruined mansion of Appuldurcombe is less than 800 metres (880 yards) south-west of Freemantle gate and well worth a visit. For centuries it was the seat of the Worsleys and is now maintained by English Heritage. The House and grounds are open to the public during most of the year.

The Worsley monument, an obelisk of Cornish granite, originally 70 feet tall but struck by lightning, was erected in 1774 by Sir Richard Worsley in memory of his ancestor Sir Robert.

At the highest point of Week Down the sea is visible in all directions. Note the tumulus (ancient burial ground) on Week Down, 210 metres (225 yards) to the right of the trail.



View from Stenbury Down

- 1 The trail begins at Shide, at the public footpath opposite the 'Barley Mow' public house at Shide Corner, approximately 1 kilometre (approximately 1/2 mile) south of Newport town centre. The footpath follows the River Medina along the former railway line to Blackwater.
- 2 At the end of the footpath cross the small bridge to Sandy Lane. Turn left and walk along the lane to Blackwater bridge. Turn right along the road and past a phone box on the left. By the thatched house, after the A39 footpath, take the public bridleway on the left, signposted A36 marked Stenbury Trail, Birchmore & Rookley. Walk along the track, passing Birchmore Farm on the right. Ignore Bridleway A37 to Rookley on the right and continue ahead past Little Birchmore, Stenbury House and Skinners. Continue on path to the left of Skinners entrance. Proceed along the path to where a bridleway to the left leads to Merstone Manor. Continue straight ahead.

- 3 Walk across the field to the fence then turn sharp right to follow the field fence with a ditch to the left. Continue to the gate at the end of the next field. Turn right along the track which bends around to the left between two fields, (waymarker at corner on gatepost) and continue on the track ahead. Turn left at the end to join bridleway. Go across the field with the hedge to the right then through the second field with the ditch to the left to arrive at Merstone Lane.
- 4 Turn right and walk along the lane for about 800 metres (880 yards) to where the road dips and bends sharply to the right. Leave the road on this corner (Bohemia Corner), to the left at bridleway A22 to Great Budbridge Manor.

Proceed with hedge on left, ignoring footpath A42 to the right, bearing round to skirt second field. At end of this field, carry straight on to Great Budbridge Manor through open field with large glasshouses to your right.

- 5 Turn right at lane and bear left at the next turning to continue in same direction as before, passing Great Budbridge Manor on your right and crossing the River Yar. Turn right following track as it turns south through Moor Farm and onwards until it reaches main Newport - Shanklin road, near Godshill (A3020). Cross the road slightly to the left and take well made track, GL44 Wroxall, leading to Godshill Park.
- 6 Do not go through the gates (unless visiting the house) but turn right where guide post indicates Stenbury, Footpath to Sainham. Continue through wood and field with stone wall on left (feeder path to left climbs to Worsley Monument). At a further junction of paths in the next copse the trail continues ahead, following sign to Stenbury Down. The Worsley Trail turns right at this point but continue ahead for the Stenbury Trail (GL49 Stenbury Down & Ventnor).

- 7 Go through the gate leading out of the copse and continue following Appuldurcombe Park wall on the left. Keep with the wall or fence on your left passing through two gates, until you reach a gate on top of Stenbury Down. Through gate, ignoring cattle grid on your left, and bear right along track (GL51), passing the second transmitter pylon on your right.
- 8 Do not descend where track swings round to the left after gate but proceed straight ahead with hedge on your right. Through farm gate, bear left to continue with fence and golf course on left. Descend, with fence on right, down a narrow path (V56) until you reach Whitwell Road. Go through small gate half way down and with the hedge on your left reach the Whitwell Road. Turn right past sports ground, then left after the V71 footpath to descend bridleway V73 leading into Inglewood Park estate. Walk down to Undercliff Drive (A3055) and turn left to Ventnor Botanic Gardens.