








































# Symbols Key

	Parking		Picnic Site		Fishing		Bus stop
	Information Centre		Walks/Trails		Theme/ Pleasure Park		Train station
	Visitor Centre		Cycle Trail		Cathedral/ Abbey		Stile
	Public Convenience		Horse Riding		Museum		Viewpoint
	Forestry Commission		Public House		Castle/ Fort		Gate
	Public Telephone		Viewpoint		Building of Historic Interest		Hazards/ Take care
	Camp Site		Country Park		English Heritage		
	Caravan Site		Garden		National Trust		
	Camp/Caravan Site		Nature Reserve		Other Tourist Feature		
	Leisure Centre		Water Activities		High Weald Landscape Trail		
	Golf Course		Slipway		Interesting feature		

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*(Mon - Fri: 8am - 8pm)*



# Chapter 2: Cuckfield to East Grinstead, 2.1



## A Landscape for Leisure

Attractions abound along this section: reservoirs, railways and rock outcrops; picturesque villages; and houses and gardens open to the public. Most visitors to these popular destinations travel by car, allowing you a sense of virtue as you leave roads and car parks behind you to continue your delightful walk through the Ouse Valley and over the ridges to East Grinstead.

### 27. The great land lizard

Gideon Mantell, a Lewes doctor and amateur geologist, made his momentous discovery of the first fossilised bones of an iguanodon in a small sandstone quarry pit near Whitemans Green. His wife started it all by bringing in some fossil teeth she had found whilst out walking.

### 28. Brook Street

Driving along the B2036 road, you would probably dismiss Brook Street as a cluster of modernish houses.

On foot, you can see that Brook Farm, Tanyard Farm and Ivy Cottage are all at least partly medieval half-timbered houses. Brick and tile have been added according to fortune and need.

Dove House was built of up-market stone in 1852, eleven years after the nearby London to Brighton Railway opened; an early commuter's home?

Tanyard Farm is an exhibition of farm architecture in itself. As well as the various additions to the house, best seen from the east, you have a wide range of barn styles in brick, weatherboard and steel.

### 29. Parkland trees

Exotic trees mark the approach of Borde Hill Gardens. You will probably recognise horse chestnut with its "conker" fruits, plane trees will be familiar to anyone used to London's street trees, but others may be a puzzle. Such plantings are typical of the parkland surrounding great houses.

### 30. Ouse Valley viaduct

Silver grey conifers frame the view of the 37 arches of the Ouse Valley viaduct on the London-Brighton railway line. The 11 million bricks for this elegant 1841 construction were transported via the Ouse Navigation.

### 31. A little detective work

Two deep pits to the north of the path are almost certainly old stone quarries. Could the stone have been

used for Borde Hill House, built at the end of the 16th century, or one of its extensions?

You can get approximate dates by estimating the age of the large trees growing on the sides of the pits. Estimate the girth of the tree at breast height and count one year for each inch (2.5cms).

### 32. Copyhold Lane

A copyholder held land by right of a copy of the manorial roll made by the local lord's steward. Was this lane a boundary of some medieval farmer's land?

### 33. Plantation woodland

You pass through a regimented plantation of oaks and poplars on the way to River's Farm. No quick cash crop these, but someone thinking of his children or grandchildren.

### 34. River's Wood

This more natural woodland makes pleasant walking. The mosaic of broadleaf and conifer, sunny rides and dappled woodland glades attracts birds and insects too. A pair of specked wood butterflies spiralling high in a gleam of sun will be males sparring for supremacy.

### 35. The infant Ouse

It is hard to imagine that the river you are crossing was once navigable as far as Upper Ryelands Bridge about a kilometre to the west. You would have a job getting a boat load of bricks this far up the Ouse today.

### 36. Ardingly Reservoir

The reservoir was built in 1978 to cope with the ever increasing demand for water in the south east.

### 37. Hammer pond

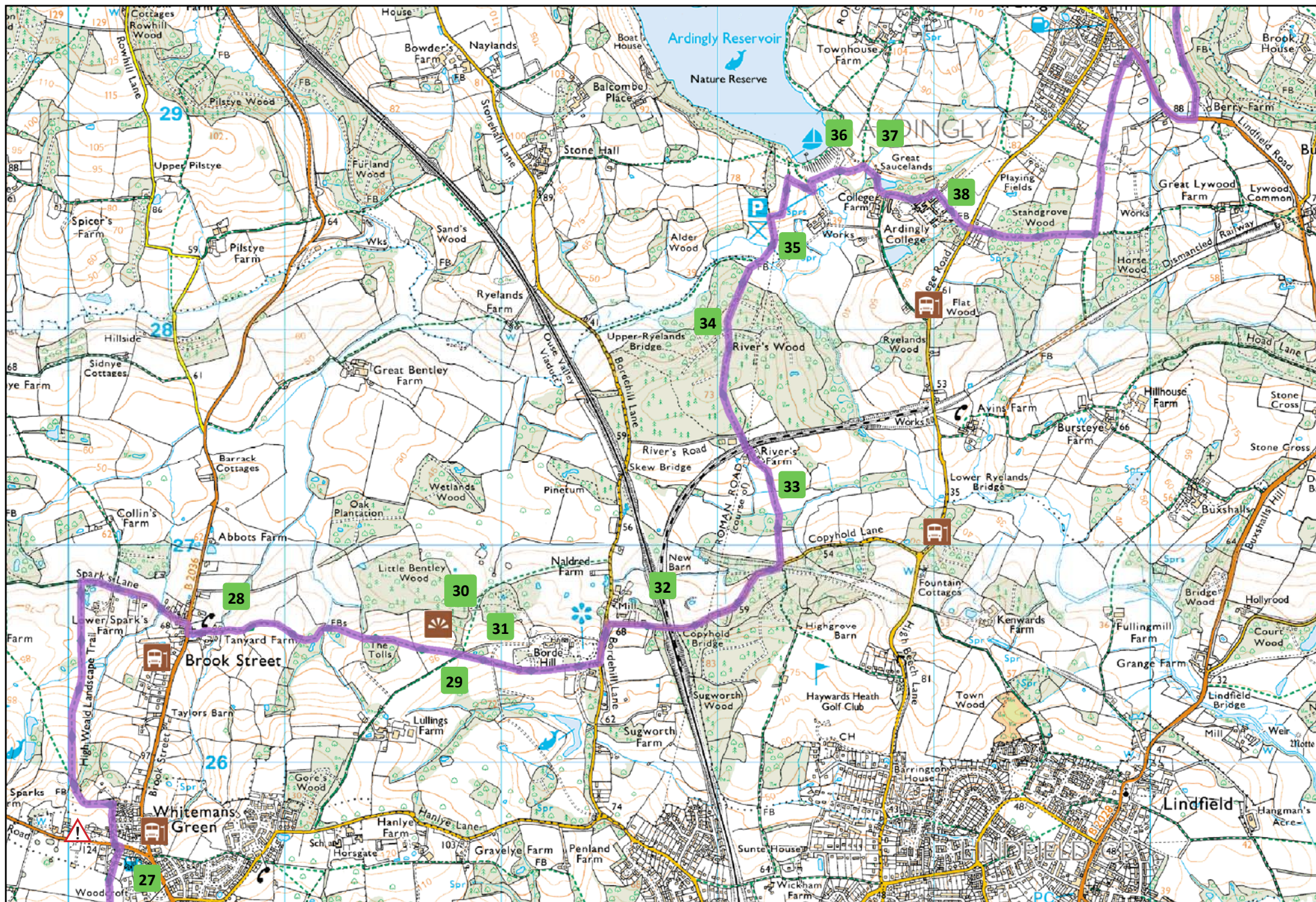
You walk across the embayment of the hammer pond for the Saucelands iron smelting furnace, active in the 16th century. An earlier forge site lies under the reservoir.

### 38. Ardingly College

The College, opened in 1870, sits commandingly on its hillside yet marries well with the natural elements of the skyline. The colour of the brick seems to vary according to the light.







Kilometres 0 0.5 1  
Miles 0 0.25 0.5

High Weald Landscape Trail

4 Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 135  
**Section 2, Map 1, Cuckfield to East Grinstead**  
[www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent)





### 39. Ardingly

Ardingly has two centres; one around the ancient church, one on the high road. House names at either end of the road section suggest that it has gradually encompassed two other village greens. Once again there are medieval houses, 19th century houses, modern estates. Sussex House, close to the bakery, shows decorative Victorian brickwork. Brickyard Cottage, a few doors further, is plainer.

### 40. Great-upon-Little

In the bareness of winter you will glimpse some of the great rocks of Ardingly sandstone that rear above the Chiddinglye Valley. Most famous is Great-upon-Little, where the exposed edges of a softer sandstone base have been eroded, perhaps by wind blown sand, leaving "Great" perched precariously on "Little".

### 41. Rocks and fossils

Two quarries in this area, Philpotts and Hook are both SSSI's. Geologists study the sand and clay layers uncovered there, piecing together the story that began some 130 million years ago when great rivers deposited sand and silt and trapped

the skeletons and shells of the creatures that lived there. All the rock exposures are on private land.

### 42. West Hoathly

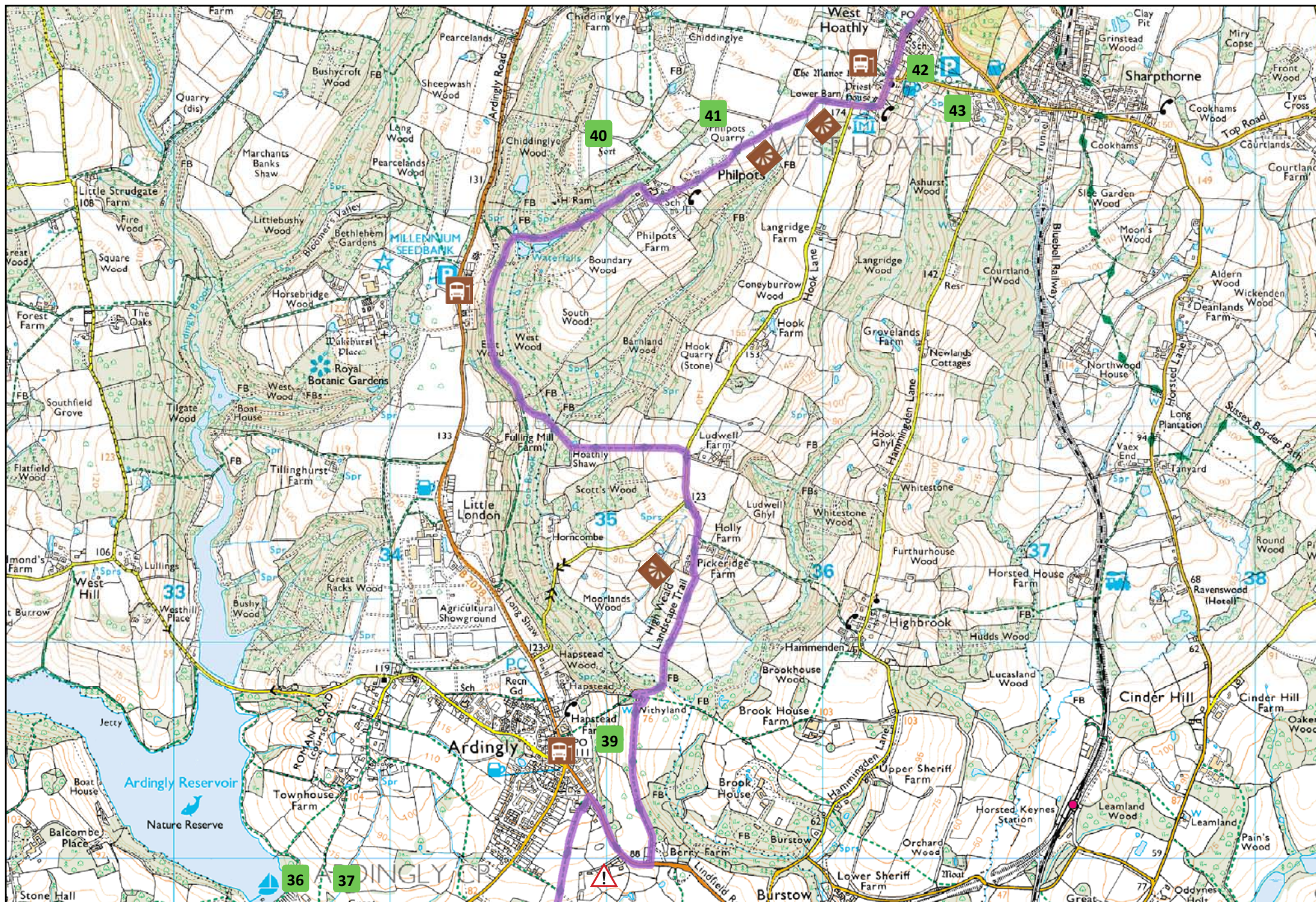
Be prepared to linger in this village. The Priest House, jewel in the row of medieval buildings close to the ancient Church of St Margaret, allows you a close look at the inside (when open) and outside of a 15th century timbered house.

### 43. Mysterious terraces

A specially constructed viewpoint in the unusual terraced churchyard looks across the Ouse valley to the South Downs. Why terrace a churchyard? Local wisdom suggests there is a connection with the cottage a few doors down named "The Vineyard".







Kilometres 0 0.5 1  
Miles 0 0.25 0.5

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#### 44. Illustrated history

Don't miss the mural on the facade of the West Hoathly Garage.

#### 45. Gravetye Manor

The 17th century dwelling of the Infield's, local ironmasters, became home to gardener William Robinson in the late 19th century. During summer you may stroll around the Lower Lake: once a hammer pond, now a quiet haven with its water lilies and swans.

#### 46. The Bluebell Line

The vintage steam trains of the Bluebell Railway run from Kingscote Station to Sheffield Park along the old Lewes to East Grinstead line, closed in the 1950s. Kingscote was the official station for Turners Hill, the existing settlement on the turnpike road.

#### 47. Stone Hill Rocks

This exposure does not hide itself away like the rocks in Chiddinglye Valley. Climbers of all abilities are welcome here, including parties of school children testing their nerve and their muscles.

The grooves at the tops of the rocks have been worn by ropes attached

to the bolts hammered in there.

Take the lower track to watch the climbers or to study the rocks. You can trace the layers of different sands and peer up through the great vertical cracks where the blocks have split along lines of weakness as their underlying support has been eroded. Or you could search for strange shapes and faces in the irregular contours or look for spider nurseries in the rows of pockmarks made by some quirk of erosion! The higher path is the one for views across the reservoir.

#### 48. Weirwood Reservoir

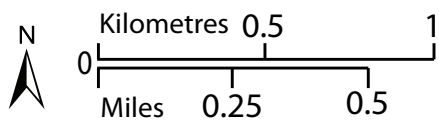
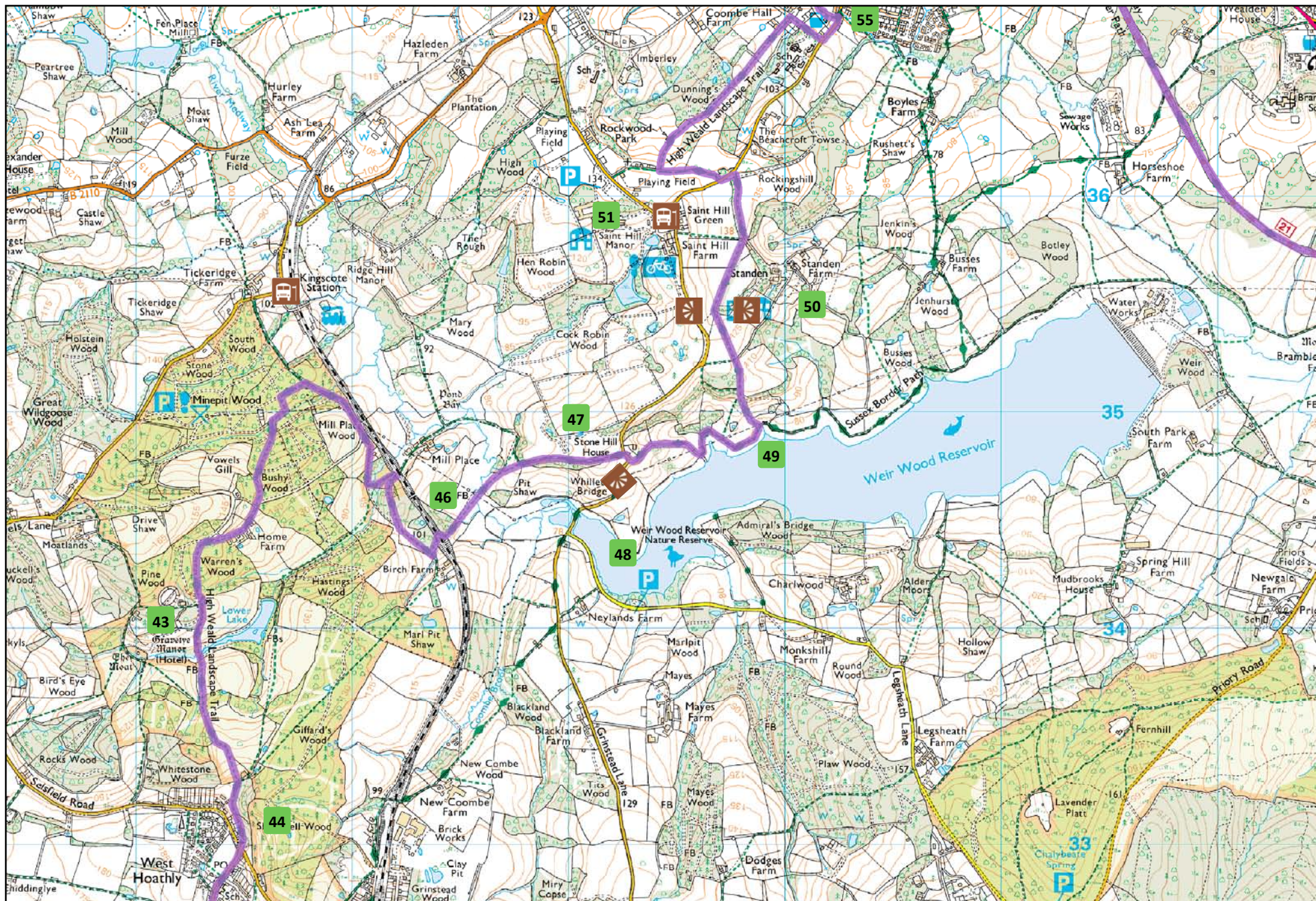
The River Medway was damned in 1954. The western end is now a Local Nature Reserve and an SSSI because of its value to resident and migrant birds. The bird hide and picnic area on the southern shore is the best place to see residents like the great crested grebe or watch for rarities such as ospreys passing through.

#### 49. A drowned road

You can follow (by eye!) the line of the old road you walk along, across the water to where it emerges on the other side.







- High Weald Landscape Trail
- 4 Interesting feature

Also use Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 135  
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