

# High Weald Anvil <sup>2001</sup>

A **FREE** guide to the Area of **Outstanding** Natural Beauty



*Local Products • Walking & Cycling Routes • Homes & Gardens • Events • Wildlife • Map*



Horsham • East Grinstead • Haywards Heath • Crowborough • Heathfield • Battle • Wadhurst • Royal Tunbridge Wells • Cranbrook • Tenterden • Rye

## President celebrates 'Countryside' law to protect High Weald



**S**ir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, President of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and countryside conservationists are celebrating a new law that provides more protection for England's finest rural landscapes.

Sir Geoffrey says: "These are crucial times for the countryside in general, AONB's in particular, and the High Weald especially. The High Weald is a unique, nationally important landscape, as rich in natural and cultural heritage as better-known rural areas such as the Cotswolds, South Downs and Lake District. But, with its agriculture in crisis and being so close to London, the High Weald is extremely vulnerable to suburban development pressures. We must balance economic pressures with the social and environmental needs of all those who live, work in or visit the area."

As a local MP, Sir Geoffrey helped to steer a new law, called the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, through Parliament.

"The CROW Act will increase public access to more open countryside and provide further protection for special wildlife sites. Its greatest impact on the High Weald, however, is a section that can help to strengthen the conservation, enhancement and sustainable management of AONBs," Sir Geoffrey adds.

Basically, the act introduces two new measures relevant to the High Weald:

- It requires the 15 local authorities responsible for managing the AONB to jointly prepare and publish a new Management Plan for the AONB by 2004.
- It allows a new, formal, legal partnership with executive powers to be created for individual AONBs where there is local support – either by improving an existing Joint Advisory Committee, or by establishing a Conservation Board.

Additionally, all other public bodies whose work affects the area, must show a new 'duty of regard' to AONB policies when planning and doing their work.

Soon to retire as an MP, Sir Geoffrey hopes to devote even more time and effort to his High Weald presidency.

In 1993 the **High Weald Forum**, a partnership of over 40 local, regional and national organisations and groups, was set up to promote and co-ordinate the conservation of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The work of the Forum is guided by the **High Weald Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)** composed of councillors from 13 local authorities, the Countryside Agency and five individuals drawn from Forum member organisations to represent community, recreation, wildlife, farming and forestry interests. The current Chair of the JAC is Councillor Bob Tidy of East Sussex County Council.

The JAC directs the work of the **High Weald AONB Unit**. The Unit is the specialist team that sources and provides advice, expertise and guidance to care for the area. The team encourages and enables others to work together to manage the area sustainably.

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Funded by members of the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee (see back page for members).

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate. However, the publishers can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

# R a w

While we talk of 'natural beauty', the character of the High Weald is undoubtedly the result of human activity. The mass of woodland, the hedges, the radiating drove roads, the pastures, the heathland, the dispersed settlements, and even the soil, all reflect the civilising of the High Weald. But human impact has been influenced by the geology and landform of the area. Dr Roland Harris explores these truly natural elements of the landscape...



The sandstone ridge meets the sea at Fairlight

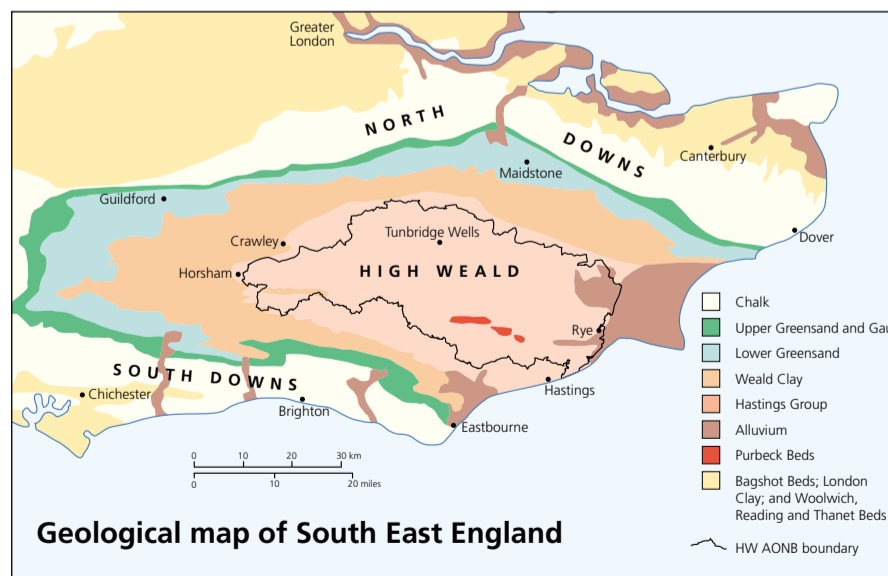
## Geological evolution

The rocks of South East England are sedimentary: that is, they were created from sediments deposited by rivers and the sea. The earliest of the sediments in this area were formed in shallow lagoons around 140 million years ago, when dinosaurs still roamed: they are known as the Purbeck Beds. The landscape then

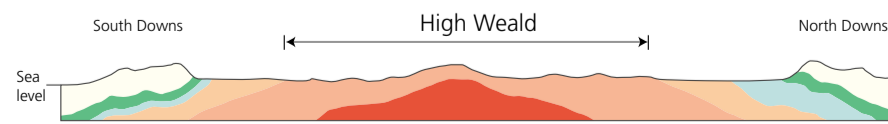
changed to one of floodplains and rivers, which laid down iron-rich clays and sandstones, known as the Hastings Group. All of these are the rocks of the High Weald today, but later geological events are relevant.

Deposits, known as the Weald Clay Group, carried on being laid down by the rivers and floodplains until the whole area sank below the sea around 110 million years ago. Within the gradually deepening sea, new layers were created, initially clays and sands, and then chalk.

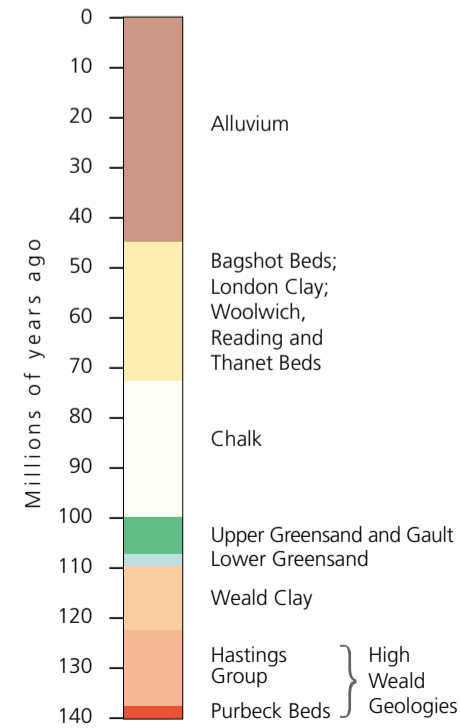
Around 75 million years ago a great uplift began, creating the Wealden Anticline: a huge and gently folded dome of chalk. Erosion then removed the chalk except around the rim, where it survives as the North Downs and the South Downs. Likewise, in the centre of the anticline, the soft Weald Clay also eroded leaving exposed the older geologies of the Hastings Group. The differing resistance of soft clays and harder sandstones of the Hastings Group has given us the ridged High Weald of today.



Geological map of South East England



Cross section of the High Weald



Geological timescale for SE England

# Nature

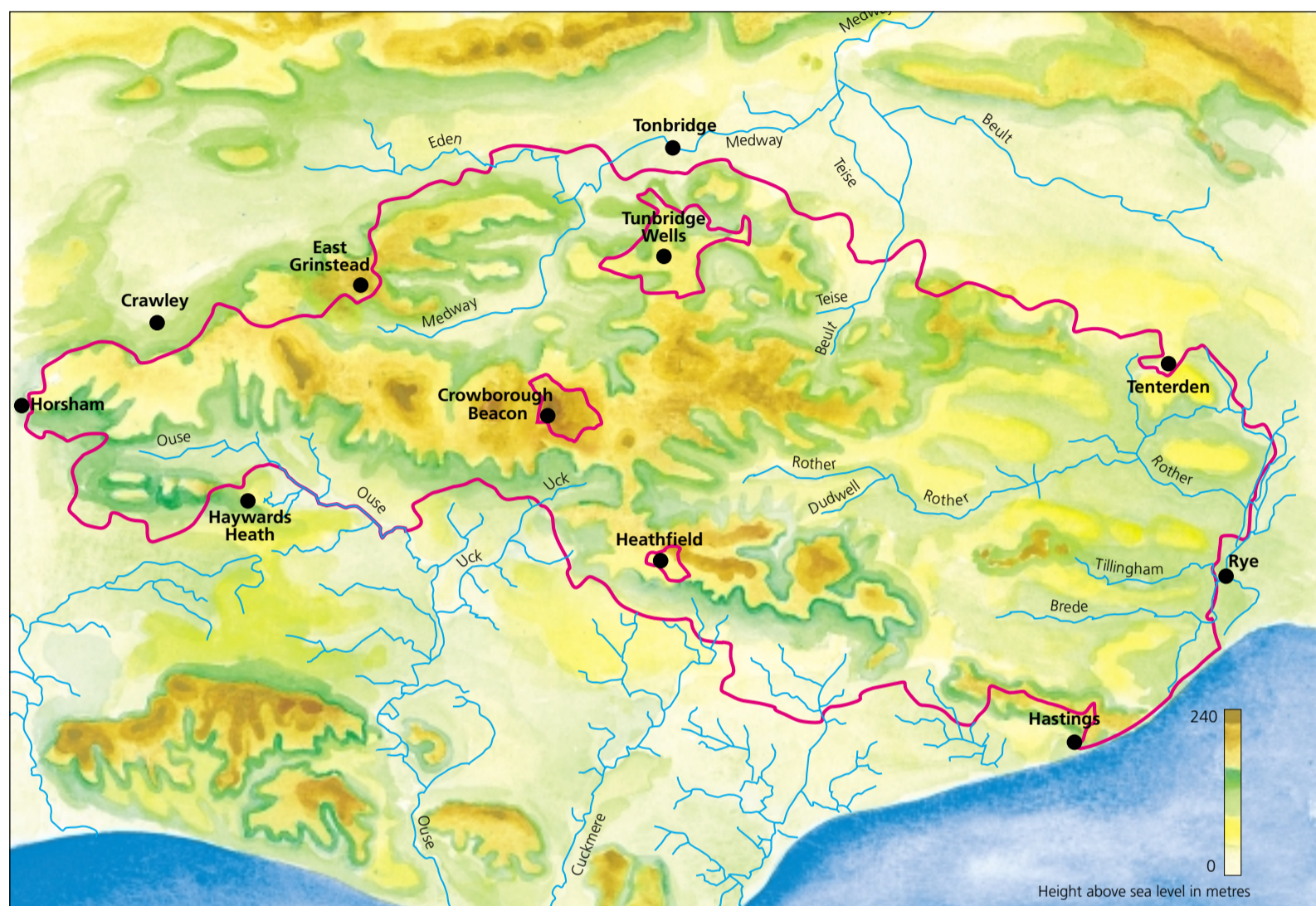
## Landform and rivers

The geological development of the High Weald has left us with a distinctive landform.

A major ridge stretches east to west from Cranbrook to Horsham, with its highest point at Crowborough (241.3m). South of Crowborough, an attached ridge extends and narrows, meeting the sea at Fairlight. In the southern slopes of this ridge and the main ridges are found the upper reaches of the north-south running Sussex rivers – Adur, Ouse, Cuckmere and, on a smaller scale, Waller’s Haven and Combe Haven.

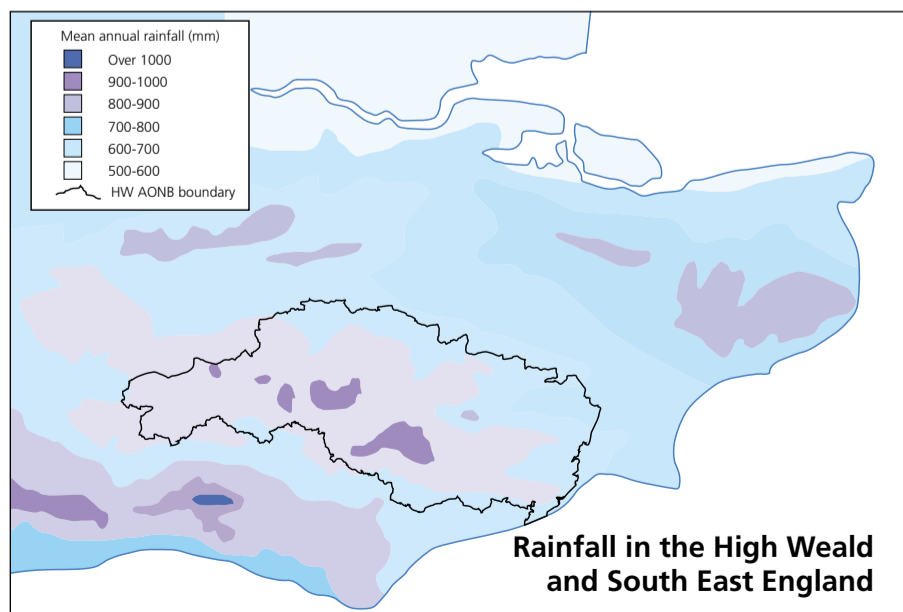
Other subsidiary ridges curve northwards and north-easterly from the main ridge of the High Weald, providing water catchment for the Medway and its tributary, the Eden. The Teise and Bewl, running north-east from the Kentish end of the main ridge, also feed the Medway.

This leaves the south-eastern part of the AONB relatively low lying, with the long and broad valleys of the Brede, Rother and Tillingham. All of these rivers are fed by small streams that descend from the main ridges through narrow, wooded valleys known as gills.



Left, the River Rother

Below, Punnets Town – one of many settlements located on the sandstone ridges which are a feature of the High Weald



Rainfall in the High Weald and South East England

This shows the higher rainfall on the inland, higher ground. The High Weald also has less sunshine, more days of snow, and less wind than along the coast.

## Inside this issue...

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| <b>The Weald at work</b>      |       |
| Fruit farming                 | 4-5   |
| <b>Wildlife</b>               |       |
| A closer look at ponds        | 6-7   |
| <b>Exploring</b>              |       |
| Walks and cycle ride          | 8-13  |
| <b>High Weald AONB map</b>    |       |
| Attractions and information   | 14-15 |
| <b>Events listings</b>        | 16-17 |
| <b>Homes and gardens</b>      |       |
| Brick and tile                | 18-19 |
| <b>Made in the High Weald</b> |       |
| Local woodland products       | 20    |
| From wood to charcoal         | 21    |
| Producers list                | 22-23 |
| <b>Now and then</b>           |       |
| Sandrock                      | 24    |
| Place names                   | 25    |
| <b>Questionnaire</b>          | 25    |
| <b>Kids stuff</b>             | 26    |
| <b>People and places</b>      |       |
| Local authors                 | 26    |
| <b>Contacts</b>               | 27    |
| <b>South East AONBs</b>       | 28    |

## Farm built by fruits of family's labours

In 1947-48, Kent fruit grower Raymond Wickham OBE planted 50 of 140 acres at Poppinghole Farm with 'top' fruit orchards – apples, pears, plums and cherries – underplanted with 'small' berry fruits. The farm also included 20 acres more of apples and pears, 25 acres of woodland, a Victorian farmhouse and an oast-house.

In 1951, Matthew's grandfather bought Poppinghole and made Matthew's father farm manager. From 1953, when Matthew was born, his father became the owner, re-named it Oakwood Farm, and built two semi-detached cottages. Since then, they have sold the other properties and built a fruit pack-house and cold stores.

Both Matthew and his future wife Carol, a dairy farmer's daughter from Sedlescombe, went to university. He did an Agricultural Botany degree, while Carol studied Geography and then trained as a secretary. As a student, Matthew played cricket for Gloucester and Hampshire:

*"I really wanted to be a professional fast bowler, but minor health niggles made this unlikely, so I settled for a farmers life at Oakwood,"* he says.

At first, Matthew's decision looked doubtful: the 1976 drought, the 1977 frost, and finally the tide of Common Market fruit imports began to flood in – all hitting the farm's already-low income very hard. Matthew and Carol married in 1981 and she moved to Oakwood Farm. For many years she was a self-employed book-keeper.



Matthew examining a budding tree

They grew potatoes on around 20 acres to pay for a programme of re-planting the orchard trees, which has to be done every 20-25 years. By 1989, the potato market had become so unprofitable that they sold their quota. They had re-planted about 12,000 trees.

Since May 1999, Matthew has been involved in local politics. He is a Rother district Conservative councillor for the Sedlescombe and Whatlington ward, and chair of the council's Local Agenda 21 environmental working group.

He says: *"I believe that someone who appreciates the vital link between the socio-economics of business and the absolute necessity for a sustainable environment must influence council policies from within. Running a farm, especially within an AONB, quite rightly means working with constraints to protect the countryside."*

Matthew says that the number of nearby households involved in agriculture has fallen from 20 out of 23 to nine out of 31. Most properties are now 'telecottages' – a communications centre with a home and garden for commuters – which leads to very little local community spirit.



# Organic apples save orchard

**Positive attitude is everything, especially in a crisis. High Weald fruit growers Matthew and Carol Wilson have remained remarkably upbeat over the past 20 years while developing a family farming business in a declining agricultural area. Ian Spindley, communications officer for the High Weald AONB Unit, tells their story...**

Three things sustain organic apple growers Matthew and Carol Wilson when times are tough. Firstly, the business of family farming is in their blood. Secondly, they love the High Weald countryside with a passion. And thirdly, they have at least two inspirational poems on the kitchen wall.

One verse reads:

**"When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you are trudging seems all uphill,  
When funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile but you have to sigh . . .  
. . . Stick to the fight when you are hardest hit –  
It's when things get worse that you mustn't quit!"**

Matthew, 47, and Carol, 42, are a prime example of the inextricable links between the social, economic and environmental facts of country life: of how rural families and communities, land-based businesses, and the landscape itself all depend upon each other; and of how a positive attitude to change underpins the whole relationship.

In 1997, unusually harsh frosts at Matthew and Carol's High Weald farm destroyed two-thirds of their budding apple crop. In a desperate bid to avoid future financial ruin, they decided to convert their business to one of only a few, small, licensed organic orchards in the AONB. Almost as an afterthought,

### Modern orchard



Matthew and Carol Wilson with son James

they also began to produce, market and sell their own bottles of juice.

*"Unless we did something drastic,"* says Matthew, *"we knew we would hit disaster the following autumn and beyond. Supermarket prices to apple producers were very low, and imported fruit cheaper because of sterling's strength."*

They contacted the Organic Conversion Information Service (OCIS). An officer provided free advice about the farm's suitability. *"He told us that ours was the first where he was more persuaded by our dedicated attitude to the organic process, than by the farm itself,"* says Matthew.

This recent chapter in the story of Oakwood Farm near Robertsbridge, in

rural East Sussex, is typical of that faced by many High Weald fruit growers, and farmers in general.

For many hundreds of years, the High Weald's climate and parts of its landscape have suited orchard 'top' fruits, especially apples. Since 1987, however, two factors have led to a 40% decline in orchards within the AONB. Firstly, an increase in pests, disease and unpredictable weather, all meant poor harvests. Secondly, supermarket demands for cheaper, more reliable supplies of uniform-appearance apples led to a huge increase of imports.

Most traditional, old orchards – with tall, gnarled and well-spaced trees in sheep-grazed meadows that attracted a great variety of wildlife species – have been replaced by rows of grafted shrub-sized trees, planted densely for easier management and harvesting.

In the early 1980s, Matthew and his father had seriously considered converting to organic production. *"But, because the organic market was so small, and because of our fear of the unknown, we decided it was too radical and risky,"* says Matthew.

In 1997, Matthew and Carol became Soil Association licensees, converting to organic over three growing seasons. Carol says: *"Conversion can be the worst of both worlds. Ending the use of man-made chemicals leads to a short-term increase in pests and disease, and so fewer saleable apples. Those that do sell fetch a lower price because they are neither blemish-free nor organic."*



**Picking apples using a traditional tapered ladder**

*“To avoid thousands of apples going to waste, we bought a juice-pressing machine, re-wired a farm shed for it, and got environmental health approval to produce juice on the premises.”*

They had thousands of litres of juice to sell. Fortunately, despite their relative inexperience in marketing and selling, says Carol, they persuaded around 30 of their existing apple outlets to take juice too, and some new juice outlets to take apples. Oakwood finally achieved its full organic status on 1 September 1999.

Matthew says: *“When it came to promoting and selling our new product, I drew on my father’s experience. He’d got his fingers burned as part of a co-operative, so I’ve remained a staunchly independent grower and marketer. There is a place for co-operation – perhaps for an essential foodstuff such as meat, which demands continuity of supply – but not in today’s global, luxury fruit market.”*

Oakwood’s selling ‘territory’ stretches from Robertsbridge, west between the A27 and A272, as far as Southampton. Their main customers are organic shops and box schemes, National Trust properties in East Sussex and Kent that have a ‘buy local and organic’ policy, many local village stores, and a few catering establishments.

Matthew says: *“We deliver our own products to our outlets, because it is vital to cultivate face-to-face relationships with contacts. Ultimately, it’s repeat orders that count.”* Juice is available

year-round, but they usually sell two-thirds in the summer. They regularly attend East Sussex events, such as Lewes farmers’ market, shows such as the Food and WoodFairs at Bentley Wildfowl Museum, near Halland, and the English Wine Fair at Plumpton College.

To many, the obvious answer for farmers to build their business is to supply the major supermarket chains.

Carol says: *“We have met a few buyers for supermarkets and listened to their ‘deal’. Between us, Matthew and I had studied the same aspects of agriculture and business as them. We detest the overbearing purchasing policies of supermarkets, and their huge power over the consumer.”*

Matthew adds: *“Our business philosophy is to expand our market share a little, either by diversifying what we grow or by selling more processed product to our existing outlets. This would eventually clear our ‘conversion and processing’ debts, and allow us to improve the farm’s processing buildings.*

*“Accredited and environmentally-sound farming will only thrive if we educate consumers now. Suppliers must give shoppers incentives to help them to realise that food is either a) organically, safely and locally-produced, but costs a little more in the long-term; or b) intensively, cheaply and riskily produced in the short-term – hence the outbreaks of BSE and foot-and-mouth. It cannot be both cheap and safe all of the time,”* says Matthew.

## Quality comes of controlling process

**F**rom January to March, Matthew and Carol prune 12,000 apple trees and manure the orchard soil; and they begin to spray the trees, every two weeks through to July, with a feed derived from seaweed, and with sulphur to protect the leaves. They mow the grass under the trees while the apples grow between April and August.

For two to three weeks in September, a team of casual pickers harvests the apples into 660lb wooden crates called bulk bins. The apples are put into coldstore, then graded into fresh dessert ‘eaters’ – in 30lb boxes with minimum packaging – and those for juicing.

‘Juicers’ are tipped into a mill – a cylinder drum on the press – where blunt, rotating arms crush them into pulp. This is pressed through layers of wooden boards and special, loosely woven cloths, and the juice pumped into a 100-gallon



holding tank. From there, it is gradually released through a ‘flash pasteuriser’ which instantaneously heats it to 75 degrees Celsius, before it is piped into bottles for immediate labelling and storage.

Oakwood offers limited quantities of Gala, Ida Red, and Adams Pearmain, but mainly produces four different juices:

- Russett** – traditional, distinctive with sweet rich flavour
- Jonagored** – vintage flavour from the apple voted tastiest at the 1998 National Fruit Show
- Fiesta** – fine and rich with a tang
- Cox blend** – mixed with Spartan, a sharp but refreshing taste.

Matthew says: *“The juices come exclusively from our own apples. By solely controlling the growing and picking methods on our own farm, we can guarantee a consistent product. There are plenty of other juice and potato producers in our area, but our outlets and end-consumers consistently tell us that ours are the best locally.”*



## Our closest relationship with nature

Whatever you want to know about orchards – from cider apples, to Kent cobnuts to quince jelly – the environment and arts charity, Common Ground, have defined the wonders of them all in an engrossing new book.

It celebrates orchards as our closest relationship with nature. It explores how they continue to shape local culture across the world, and urges us to value old orchards for their local distinctiveness and their delicate ecology. Scores of examples demonstrate how, in town and country, community orchards provide wholesome food, wildlife havens, and inspirational arenas for shared celebrations such as Apple Day.

Thoroughly researched and passionately written, it includes sections on Local Distinctiveness, Orchard Fruits, Sharing with Nature, Produce, An Apple a Day (health), Everyday Tasks (maintenance), and Appendices with a county gazetteer.

Ian Spindley

**The Common Ground Book of Orchards: community, conservation and culture.**

224 landscape pages; colour/b&w photos/illustrations; £18.95 in bookshops (add £5 p&c) from:

**Common Ground**  
PO Box 25309  
London NW5 1ZA.  
[www.commonground.org.uk](http://www.commonground.org.uk)



## Worms vital to natural balance

**M**atthew says: *“Organic production means sustaining a natural, diverse and healthy balance between the crop and the surrounding ecosystem of good soil and beneficial wildlife – such as plants, insects, mammals and birds – that controls fruit pests. We only use naturally-occurring substances approved by the Soil Association: absolutely no broad-spectrum pesticides or insecticides.*

*“Without doubt,”* Matthew continues, *“the most important creature to any crop grower is the humble earthworm. It pulls vegetation, such as dead leaves, underground, guaranteeing that the soil will be replenished.”*

Among the impressive diversity of wildlife species seen at Oakwood Farm



are: mammals such as deer, Badger, and Hedgehog; birds such as warblers, Nightingale, Bullfinch, Skylark, Swallow, Song Thrush, owls and Sparrowhawks; insects like bees, dragonflies and butterflies; and many types of flowers.

## Types of pond in the High Weald

### Seasonal ponds

These are the ponds that regularly dry out (usually in the summer months) but remain important features in the landscape. They often look in need of management, but this is not always the case, as they can support a wide variety of specialist species, including breeding frogs and toads.

### Hammer ponds



These are historical ponds created by damming a stream or river in order to control the flow and so provide power for the iron industry and other industries. They are generally quite large in area and fringed by woodland, providing a valuable habitat for otters.

### Woodland ponds

These are generally clogged up with leaf litter and shaded out by trees, which some people automatically assume is bad and seek to rectify with drastic management 'solutions'. This is not the case as these ponds are often specialised habitats for certain flies and water beetles.



### Farm ponds



A recent survey showed that the number of breeding birds on a farm is greatly increased by the presence on a pond on site. They can also increase the value of the land and provide an emergency source of water for livestock and fire control. In some cases they can help with flood control.

### New ponds



These are quickly colonised by new flora/fauna and can help compensate for loss of ponds in the area. When creating a new pond, be careful to assess what is being replaced and make sure a net gain in habitat enhancement is achieved.

# A closer look at p

**Thousands of ponds dot the landscape of the High Weald. Usually the by-products of past industries, they are found hidden in woodlands, tucked in field corners, next to houses and at the centre or on the outskirts of a number of villages and hamlets. Jim McGregor takes a closer look...**

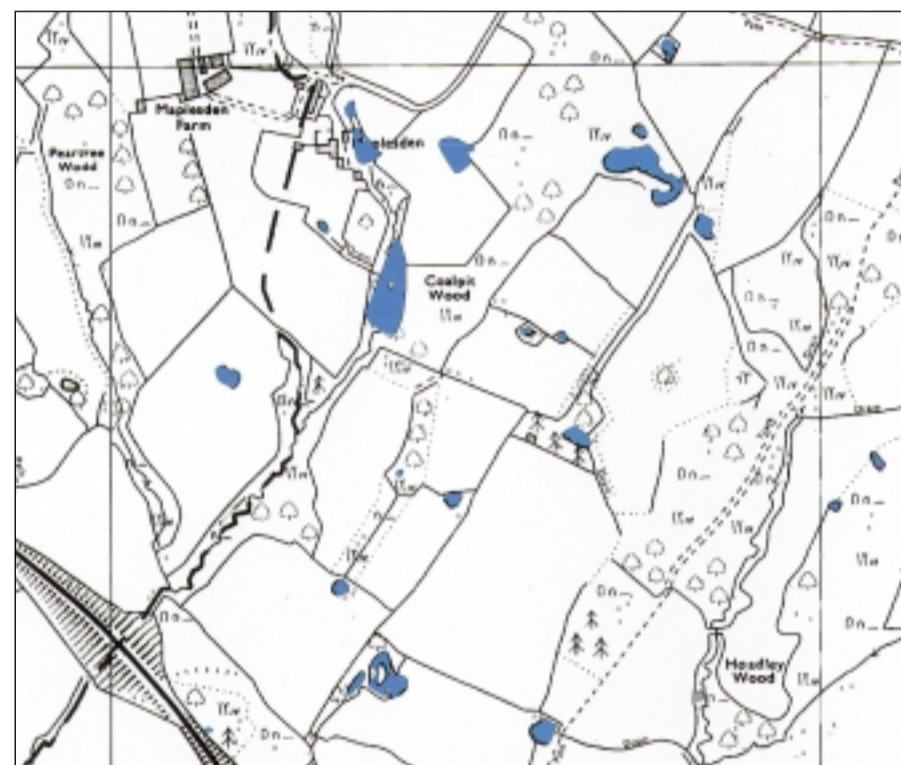
A pond is defined as 'a small body of water between one square metre and two hectares, which holds water for at least four months of the year'. All ponds are subject to ecological succession. This is a natural process whereby the pond will gradually change from open water to woodland unless specific management is employed to stop this progression. It happens when the sediment builds up to such a degree that the water changes from pond to wet marsh and finally to dry land, usually with the encroachment of surrounding vegetation.

Each stage of this change provides a home to certain species of plants or animals and, as a result, ponds in all stages of ecological succession are valuable. It is an important point to make, as there is a school of thought that says certain ponds, such as shady woodland ponds or even seasonal ponds, need to be cleared out and managed in a way that will keep them clear and tidy. In some cases this can be the best policy, but not always. When in doubt, the best way forward is to conduct a survey to see what is there and then base the future management on this information.

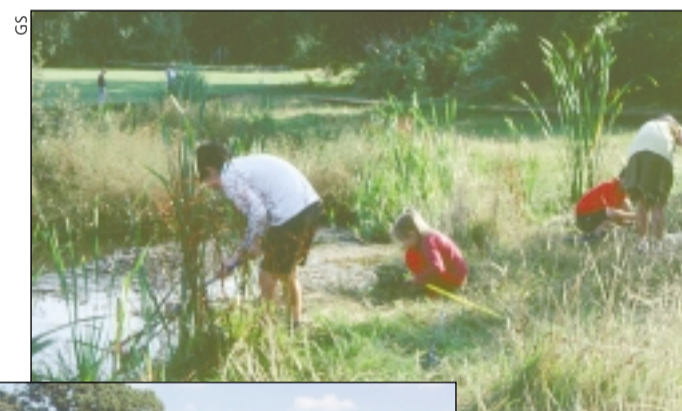
The number of species found in and around a pond, even a relatively small one, is quite outstanding. This array of life includes amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, fish, birds and small mammals. The areas of land surrounding a pond are also very important and an integral part of the ecosystem. A strip of rough grassland or scrub on the perimeter of the pond is highly beneficial. It provides cover and hunting grounds for a number of species, and prevents chemicals and silt entering the pond by acting like a 'sponge'.



Water Plantain



A closer look at an Ordnance Survey map reveals the huge number of ponds in a square kilometre.



Pond dipping is one way of discovering which small species are living in a pond.



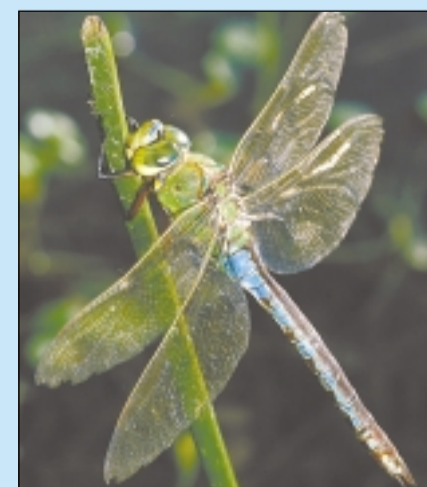
Rough grassland around the pond is beneficial to its wildlife.

## Dragonflies and damselflies

Dragonflies and damselflies are among our largest and most spectacular types of insect. Their preference for flying on warm, sunny days, amazing aerobic skills and vivid colours can add a new level of enjoyment to a summer afternoon stroll.

They have complex behavioural traits that are easily observed by just sitting down on the bankside and watching them go about their daily business. In days gone by, dragonflies were known as 'Horse-stingers' and damselflies as 'Devil's darning needles'. These names probably arose from their slightly ferocious appearance. But this is misleading, as both are completely harmless to humans.

Both dragon- and damselflies belong to the same biological order, Odonata. As a general rule, damselflies are smaller and more delicate than dragonflies. A good tip for telling the difference is: if you see one at rest and its wings are folded behind it, then it's a damselfly; if the wings are outstretched, then it's a dragonfly.



© John Lynch

# ponds

Dragonfly emerging from larval skin



Three-spined Stickleback



Toad



Illustrations by Sandra Fernandez

*Nature knows best for ponds and their wildlife*

Pond Snail



Frog



### Further information and publications

If you would like to find about more about ponds, in particular their wildlife, how to care for them, or even how to create one, contact the Environment Agency or your local advisor (see contacts page 27).

## Common pond problems

### What should I do with all the tadpoles in my pond?

The best thing to do with tadpoles is to leave them. If you have fish in your pond, the huge number of tadpoles spawned each year provides the fish with a glut of food each spring. This will give the other species a brief respite from predation, as the fish gorge themselves on the plethora of tasty tadpoles.

### My pond is covered in duckweed or algae – how do I get rid of it?

If you're having trouble with algae blooms, there is an instant solution available. Barley straw is the natural way of tackling this problem; the straw gives off hydrogen peroxide, which prevents algae growth. Duckweed presents more of a problem, as there is no quick-fix solution. The reason for both duckweed and algae blooms is high levels of nutrients in the water. To get rid of duckweed, you first have to address the cause by lowering the levels of nutrients. The weed should not grow again, unless, of course, the nutrients return!

### I have too many reeds!

Gently, gently is the best approach here. Remove the offending reeds in sections, ideally leaving the cut reeds by the side of the pond for a few days to allow any creatures living in them to re-enter the pond.

## Introducing harmful species into the High Weald

Introducing plants to ponds can sometimes seem the best thing to do, as it may look a little barren. However, as a general rule, this is not the case. Plants will naturally colonise new ponds very quickly, especially if there is an existing one locally. Many ponds have had their ecological balance upset by a well-meaning person throwing in, for example, a handful of the non-native plant parrot's feather which quickly forms a thick layer of detrimental and suffocating vegetation.

There is a rogue's gallery of non-native, invasive species that should not be introduced to a pond or watercourse, no matter how sorry for itself it may look. These species are generally very aggressive and out-compete the native species for light and nutrients. This can lead to localised extinctions of local plant species and therefore the insects and other animal life that rely on them.

The less you do to a pond, the better. Nature will always, if allowed, sort itself with the perfect, balanced solution.

## Rogue's Gallery



Japanese Knotweed



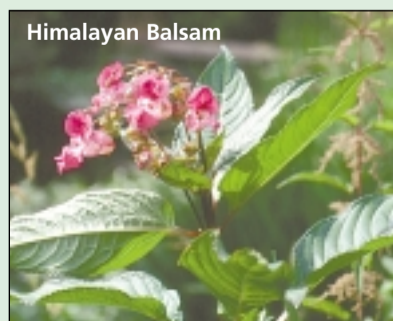
Parrot's Feather



Floating Pennywort



Giant Hogweed

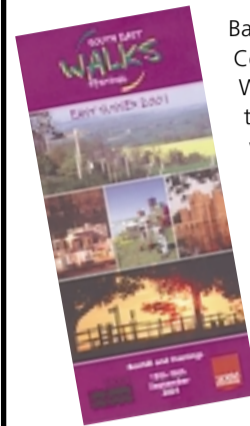


Himalayan Balsam

**It is now illegal to release some of these plants into the wild**

## SOUTH EAST WALKS FESTIVAL

13th-16th September 2001  
Bexhill-on-Sea and Hastings



Based in the heart of historic 1066 Country, the 3rd annual South East Walks Festival will be a four-day celebration of walking in the beautiful and varied landscape of East Sussex. From dramatic coastal scenery to historical evening strolls, from the High Weald to the South Downs, there will be something to suit everyone.



A full programme and booking form is available from

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- Chickens
- 8 Types of Sausage inc. gluten-free

Buy direct from the farm or see us at  
Farmers' Markets in Brede, Lewes,  
Tunbridge Wells, Battle & Brighton

### SUNBEAM FARM

Udimore Road, Broad Oak, Rye, East Sussex  
Tel. 01424 883237

# Discovering the High Weald

The countryside of small fields, scattered farmsteads, wooded rolling hills and river valleys that make the High Weald so unique, remains largely undiscovered. The following pages suggest ways for you to head outdoors and explore the AONB.



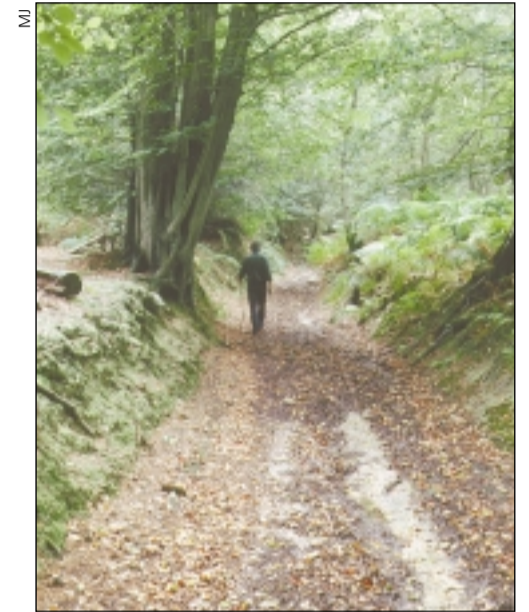
Local produce



Houses & gardens



Industrial heritage



Hidden countryside

## Planning your visit

### Travelling around the High Weald AONB

Wherever possible, areas promoted in this guide are accessible by public transport. Information on the frequency of the services is provided but, for exact times, please call the relevant travel line (see page 15). If you do choose to travel by car, please use the car parks indicated on the maps. If car parking spaces are not available, please park in a sensible location that will not damage road verges or cause obstruction. Leave your car securely locked with any valuables out of sight.

### Following the rights of way

The recommended walking and cycling routes largely follow public rights of way that cross private land and minor roads. Most landowners

welcome people on their land, provided that they do not stray from the rights of way and that they abide by the visitors code. Following the routes is possible using the maps and directions provided and given the waymarking and signposting on the ground. However, the use of OS maps or the route guides is recommended.

### Be prepared

Paths can be muddy at all times of year so waterproof boots are recommended. Be prepared for changeable weather by carrying waterproofs in a rucksack. Trousers can be useful in providing protection against any high or prickly vegetation or rain-drenched or dewy crops. For an up-to-date weather forecast, contact Weathercall on 0891 772272.

### Foot and Mouth Restrictions

At the time of going to press, access to certain footpaths is restricted due to foot and mouth disease precautions. Please note that, should this affect any of the walking routes featured in these pages, the villages themselves are unrestricted and are well worth a visit.

### Advice and further information

If you have any queries or comments about rights of way in the area, or would like further information on access to the High Weald countryside, contact:

#### West Sussex

West Sussex High Weald Countryside Management Service – **01243 777620**

#### East Sussex

Rights of Way and Countryside Management Service – **01273 481654**

#### Kent

Kent High Weald Project – **01580 715918**

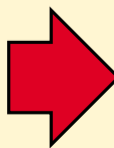
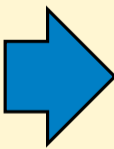
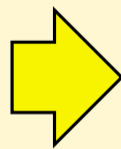
## Waymarking information

Where rights of way leave the road they are indicated by metal or wooden finger posts or a stone plinth. At other points, such as field boundaries or path junctions, footpaths are marked with short post or taller finger posts. In addition to the posts, public rights of way in Kent and East Sussex are usually marked with small coloured arrows to show the status of the path and direction. In West Sussex the classification of the rights of way is routed in words in the finger post. If the status of a path changes along its length, so does the colour of the arrows or the wording on the fingerpost. Where a right of way is a promoted path the arrows are used in conjunction with the route's own symbol.

**Footpaths**, for use by pedestrians only, are marked using yellow arrows

**Bridleways**, for use by horses, cyclists, and pedestrians, are marked with blue arrows

**Byways**, paths open to all traffic, are marked with red arrow



Stone plinth



Short post



Tall finger post

## Maps

The following Ordnance Survey maps are applicable in the High Weald:

### Landranger Series, scale 1:50,000, 1 1/4 inches to 1 mile (2cm to 1km)

- 187** Dorking, Reigate and Crawley
- 188** Maidstone and the Weald of Kent
- 189** Ashford and Romney Marsh
- 198** Brighton and the Downs
- 199** Eastbourne, Hastings

### Explorer Series, scale 1:25,000, 2 1/2 inches to 1 mile (4cm to 1km)

- 123** South Downs Way
- 124** Hastings and Bexhill
- 125** Romney Marsh
- 134** Crawley and Horsham
- 135** Ashdown Forest
- 136** The Weald
- 147** Sevenoaks and Tonbridge



# South East Walks Network

The 843 miles of long-distance trails that criss-cross the South East region, link seaside resorts, market towns and cathedral cities, creating a unique network. The Wealdway is one of three trails that traverse the High Weald AONB.



The network has been developed and promoted by the South East Walks Partnership which brings together County Councils, the South East England Tourist Board and countryside organisations in the region. Its principal objectives are to brand the South East as a walking destination; to help maintain, improve and extend the footpaths within the network; and to bring business into rural areas through encouraging use of the services they offer to walkers.

**All the walks on this network offer:**

- well maintained and waymarked paths
- exceptional countryside
- a good range of accommodation
- a variety of attractions and places of interest
- good public transport links

## Further information

[www.southeastwalks.com](http://www.southeastwalks.com)  
 South East Walks Partnership  
 01892 540766

## The Wealdway – Buxted to Ashurst

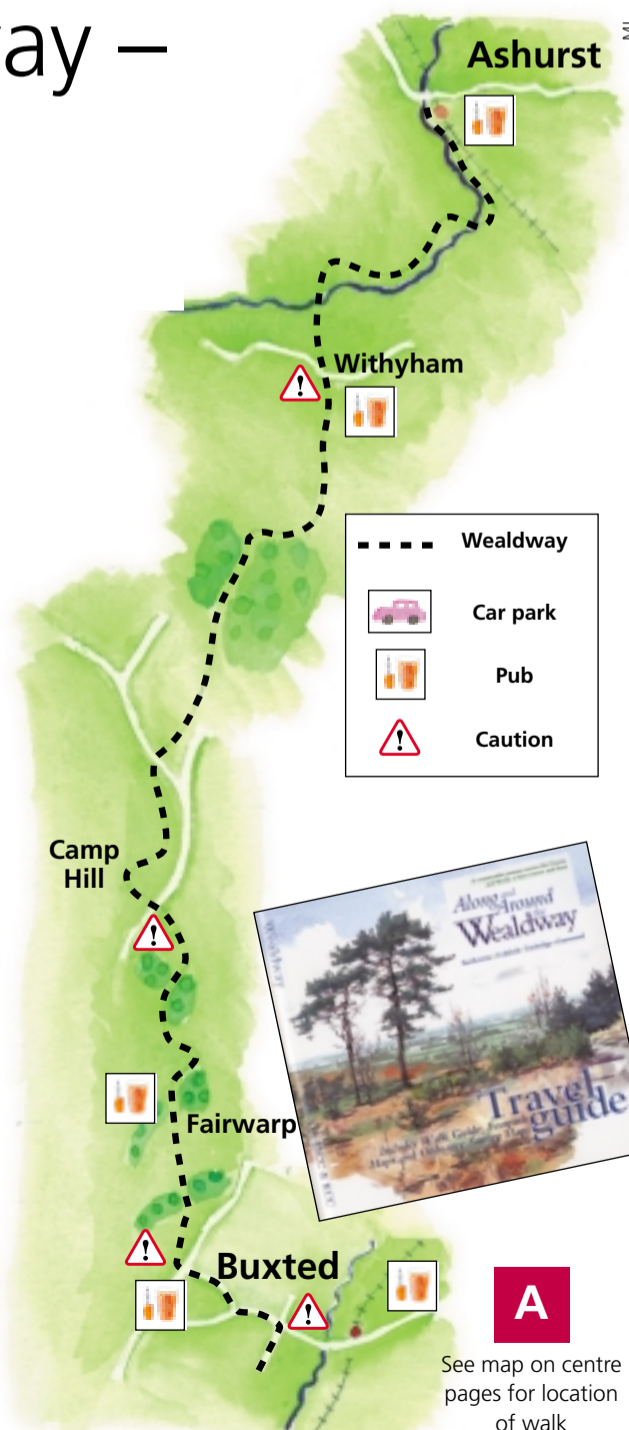
### Route Description

The Wealdway cuts across England's south-eastern corner, running for 82 miles between Gravesend and Eastbourne. Because it generally avoids towns, much of the walk feels surprisingly remote, and there is a great variety of landscape, including chalk downland, river valleys, wooded farmland and open heath.

The stretch of the Wealdway between Buxted and Ashurst crosses the Ashdown Forest – high, heathy and wild. The Wealdway climbs up the high ridge on which the forest sits, providing superb views south towards the Downs from the little clump of pines that crown Camp Hill. At Greenwood Gate Clump the path crosses the watershed between the river catchments of the Ouse and the Medway and there are views north over the Medway valley, which is the setting for the last few miles of the walk.

To start in Buxted, walk west alongside the A272 (under the railway) and turn left along the footpath just beyond Buxted Lodge. Fork right uphill to church. Beyond churchyard pick up the Wealdway by turning right down the driveway leading out of Buxted Park.

Although the Wealdway is waymarked, the route can be quite challenging to follow where it crosses the open spaces of Ashdown Forest. Nearing Ashurst the path crosses under the railway, and at the next path junction it is necessary to leave the Wealdway by turning left along the Sussex Border Path (West). After passing Jessup's Farm, follow the driveway down to Ashurst Station.



Walkers at Camp Hill, Ashdown Forest



## Fact pack information

**Distance & Time:**  
 15 miles/24km (up to 8 hours)

**Nearest Towns:**  
 Buxted is 2 miles from Uckfield, Ashurst 5 miles from Tunbridge Wells.

**Terrain:**  
 Hilly, with many stiles. Fairly strenuous walking. Muddy in places in winter.

**Services:**  
 There are public houses at each end of the walk at Buxted, Five Ash Down & Fairwarp in the south, and at Withyham & Ashurst in the north, but very few services between.

**Maps/Guides:**  
 OS Explorer 135 Ashdown Forest Guidebook £8.95 available from local bookshops or Kent County Council 01622 221526  
 email: [env.publications@kent.gov.uk](mailto:env.publications@kent.gov.uk)

**Public Transport:**  
 Trains are extremely useful for this walk, allowing a return to Buxted from Ashurst. The service runs hourly Monday to Saturday, less frequently on Sundays.

**Start/Finish Points:**  
 Buxted: Train Station. Grid Ref. TQ496233  
 Ashurst: Train Station. Grid Ref. TQ507388

See map on centre pages for location of walk

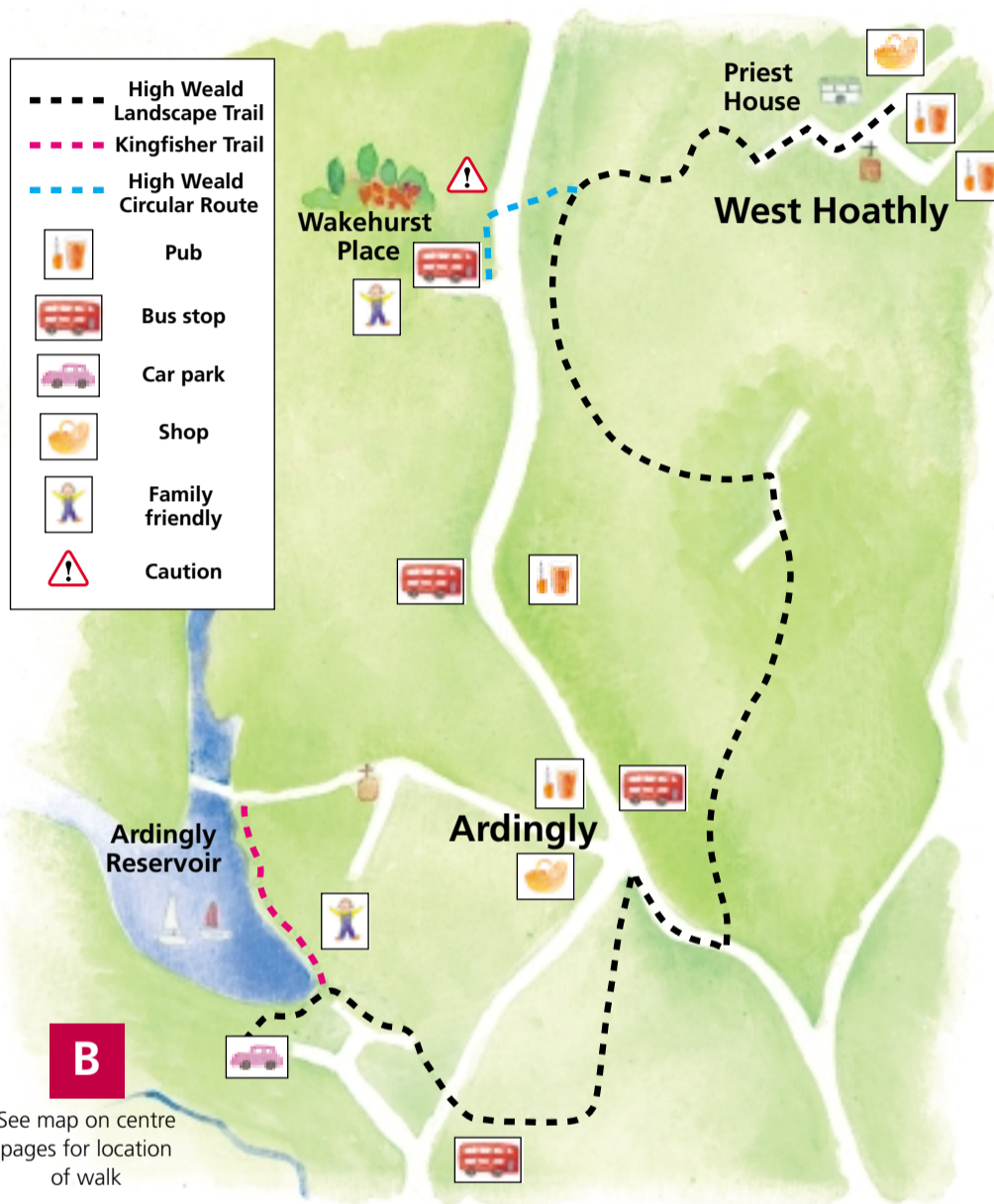


The Priest House, West Hoathly

# Discover Ardingly

## Mansion house, waterside wildlife and a dinosaur's dinner!

Ardingly, set on a plateau and surrounded by steep-sided wooded valleys, is a village with two centres: one around the ancient church, one on the high road. Short walks at Ardingly Reservoir and Kew's country cousin, Wakehurst Place, provide an opportunity to explore local and more exotic plantlife, while a stroll along the High Weald Landscape Trail will take you away from it all.



### Wakehurst Place

The ornamental trees and shrubs of Wakehurst Place are planted on either side of one of the steep valleys which characterise the area. The 16th-century mansion is built of local sandstone; the **Rock Walk** allows you to admire it in its natural form. **Dinosaur's Dinner Trail** offers puzzles to solve and a secret to discover – a descendant of a type of tree that hungry Iguanodon would have feasted upon 120 million years ago.

#### Distance & Time

As far as you wish and as long as you like!

#### Terrain

Extensive network of hard paths around most of the garden.

#### Waymarking

Directions to the Rock Walk are clearly marked on fingerposts. Trees on the Dinosaur Trail are marked with cream labels and a star.

#### Start/Finish Point

Front of the Mansion.

### High Weald Landscape Trail

For the more adventurous, the High Weald Landscape Trail links the villages of Ardingly and West Hoathly. The climb through the cool, humid valley to the hill-top village (183 metres above sea level), is a refreshing contrast to the more open pasture at the beginning and end of the walk. If you look carefully, you may spot sandrock outcrops among the majestic trees.

Once in the village, the timber-framed Priest House, the sandstone church and the pub all offer pleasant diversions while waiting for a taxi or summing up the energy to return back to your starting point.

#### Distance & Time

7 miles (12km) there and back. Allow 2 hours each way.

#### Terrain

Steady climb to West Hoathly.

#### Waymarking

Follow High Weald Landscape Trail logo.

#### Start/Finish Point

Reservoir car park.

### Ardingly Reservoir

The Kingfisher Trail follows numbered posts.

#### Distance & Time

1 hour.

#### Terrain

Hard surfaced path suitable for wheelchairs.

#### Waymarking

Numbered posts with Kingfisher waymark.

#### Start/Finish Point

Reservoir car park.

### Fact Pack

#### Attractions

Contact details and opening times can be found on pages 14 and 15.

#### Services

There are pubs and a village shop in both Ardingly and West Hoathly.

#### Public transport

Trains: Balcombe station 3.5 miles (6km), Haywards Heath station 5 miles (8km), East Grinstead 8.8 miles (13km), Crawley 11 miles (19km).

Bus: The 472 between and Haywards Heath passes the gardens every 2 hours on week-days. 'Heart of Sussex Link' is a regular bus service from and to Haywards Heath station at the weekend.

Taxi: It costs approximately £7 to travel by taxis between Ardingly and West Hoathly.



Ferns enjoy the dappled shade of the wooded valleys

### Further information

#### High Weald Landscape Trail Guidebook – Along and Around the High Weald Landscape Trail

ISBN 0 9536013 0 7 available from local bookshops or Kent County Council 01622 221526, priced £8.00.

Email: env.publications@kent.gov.uk

#### Kingfisher Trail

There is a leaflet dispenser at the car park and within the bird hides or, if open, from the Activity Centre. South East Water will send out leaflets on request – 01323 870810.

#### Rock Walk and Dinosaur's Dinner Trail

Leaflets are available at the property entrance and from the mansion shop. They can also be sent out on request – 01444 892701.

#### Ardingly Village Guide and Public Rights of Way

Produced by Ardingly Parish Council. Available from the sweet shop – 01444 892108.

### Local Products

Charcoal made from local coppiced woodland (see page 21) is available from the shop at Wakehurst Place, and the village shop sells trugs and willow trellis products.

For local food products, try the WI market in the village hall. Havelock Deer and Poultry Farm sells venison and other meat and vegetable products. Contact David and Stella Soper 01444 892438. The pubs sell beer produced in Sussex, still brewed using local hops.

### High Weald Heritage

Ardingly College is another magnificent brick building (see page 18). In the village itself, Sussex House, close to the bakery, shows decorative Victorian brickwork. Brickyard Cottage, a few doors further, is plainer. Both Wakehurst Place and the hammer pond (see page 6) at Great Saucelands are reminders of the iron industry that was once prevalent in the area; the former was an ironmaster's house, the latter provided power for the Saucelands iron smelting furnace.

### A Parish Pedal

Suitable for family outings this route explores the gentler hills at the eastern end of the High Weald. Once at Wittersham Road you can return to your starting point on one of the Kent and Sussex Railway steam trains or, having admired the station, retrace your route.

#### Distance & Time

11 miles (17 kilometres) one way. Allow 2-3 hours

#### Terrain

Gentle

#### Start/Finish Point

Kent and East Sussex Railway station

### The Walk

The walk follows the High Weald Landscape Trail as far as Small Hythe. To connect with the trail, walk up to the High Street from the station, cross the road and turn left, walking towards Waitrose. The first sign post is at the entrance to Bell Lane.

Having crossed open pasture, the route enters Tilder Gill – a steep-sided wooded valley-bottom delightful at all times of year – whether it be the flush of spring flowers, dappled shade on a hot summer's day or autumn colours. At the pond at the bottom of the gill, listen for the croak of a Marsh Frog, an introduced species that threatens our local species. Its raucous sounds have earned it the nickname of 'Laughing Frog'.

At Small Hythe you can either carry on to Wittersham station and return via the steam train, or spend time exploring the vineyard, church and Smallhythe Place before retracing your steps. Watch out for traffic as you walk between the attractions in the hamlet. The footpath to the station can be found immediately on the right after the vineyard.

#### Distance & Time

Tenterden to Small Hythe 2.75 miles (4.5km).

Small Hythe to Wittersham station an additional 4.75km (3 miles).

#### Terrain

Downhill to Small Hythe and Wittersham – gentle climb back

#### Start/Finish Point

Kent and East Sussex Railway station.

#### Waymarking

Follow the High Weald Landscape Trail waymarking discs between Tenterden and Small Hythe.

### Local Products

The cycle route passes Biddenden Vineyard and the High Weald Landscape Trail at Tenterden Vineyard. At both you can discover the secrets of wine- and cider-making as well as quench your thirst or stock up for a later date. Rolvenden farmers' market is held on Thursdays.

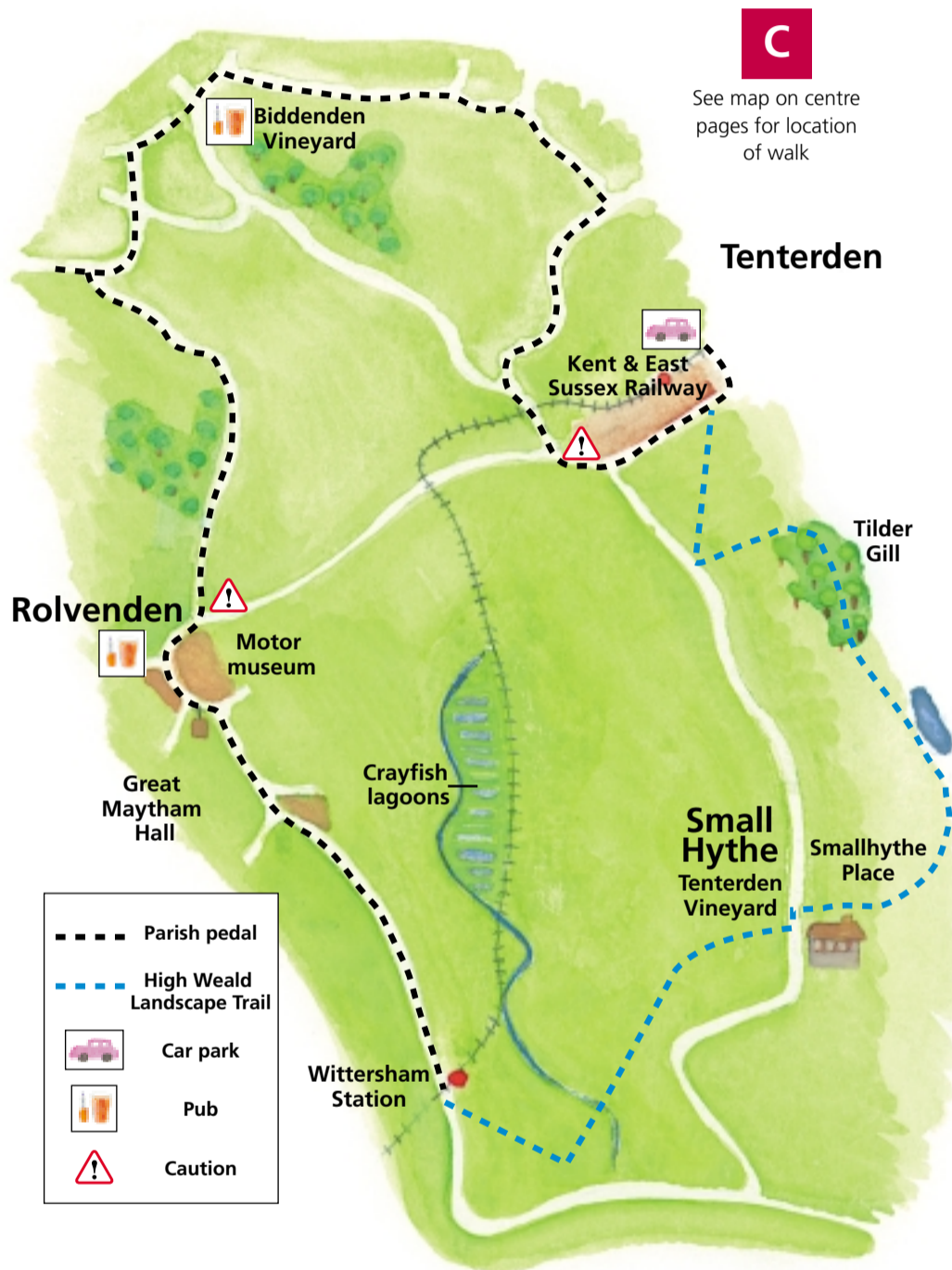
#### Grape harvest at Tenterden Vineyard



# Discover Tenterden

## Elegant market town, vineyards and steam trains

Options for exploring this part of the High Weald abound. A town trail permits exploration of historic Tenterden derived from 'Tenet-ware-den' meaning 'pig-pasture' for the people of Thanet. The proposed walk and cycle route offer opportunities to leave the wooded hills of the High Weald and drop down into the floodplains of the Rother. A steam train ride is the relaxing way back. Both routes offer a vineyard stop.



The maritime heritage of Tenterden is indicated by the town sign

### Further information

#### Town Trail

Available from the TIC in the foyer of the Town Hall.

#### High Weald Landscape Trail

**Guidebook** – Along and Around the High Weald Landscape Trail, priced £8.00  
ISBN 0 9536013 0 7 available from TICs, local bookshops or Kent County Council 01622 221526  
Email: env.publications@kent.gov.uk

#### Parish Pedals

Circular route around Benenden & Hemsted Forest, Appledore and Woodchurch, the Isle of Oxney and Tenterden  
Price £1.00. Available from local TICs or Kent High Weald Project – 01580 715918  
kenthighwealdproject@kent.gov.uk

#### Tenterden Circular Walks

Available from the TIC in the foyer of the Town Hall.

#### Grazing marsh surrounds the higher land



### High Weald Heritage

Tenterden was once a centre for the woollen trade. At the widest part of the High Street are the Greens where the Tenterden Fairs and weekly stock markets were held. The High Street has a predominantly Georgian feel but this is deceptive as many are medieval and Tudor, faced with brick or tiles.

Small Hythe was once a busy port on the River Rother until the sea retreated and the Rother silted up. Smallhythe Place was the harbourmaster's house and the church tower at Wittersham, visible in the distance, had a beacon to guide ships up the Rother.

The church at Rolvenden, the centre of the weather-boarded village, is also a landmark for many miles. The oldest parts of the church, distinguished by rougher, smaller, irregular pieces of stone, date from the 12th century.

### Fact Pack

#### Attractions

Contact details and opening times can be found on pages 14 and 15.

#### Services

Tenterden – well known for its range of unusual shops, tearooms and restaurants.  
Rolvenden – village pub and shop.  
Small Hythe – tearoom at Tenterden Vineyard.

#### Public transport

Trains: Ashford station 13 miles (20km) Rye station 12 miles (19km)  
Bus: The 472 between Tenterden and Rye

**The Walk**

From Rock-a-Nore Road – the name is believed to come from the French, meaning rock to the north – take the East Cliff Railway or climb the Tamarisk Steps to Hastings Country Park. Following the cliff path, you have superb views of Hastings behind, and the dramatic cliffs in front. Now and then the route dips dramatically into cool and humid ancient woodland. Here you will find sandrock and the rare ferns, mosses and liverworts that it supports. These glens were regularly used by smugglers for running their goods inland.

As you reach Firehills – named, say some, because of the brilliant colour of gorse flowers that bloom here, others because of the number of gorse fires occurring in the summer – you turn inland towards Fairlight. Take time to admire the church, an impressive landmark, before following quiet rural paths back to your starting point.

**Local Products**

Once back in Hastings, consider taking home a local product. Freshly-caught fish is available from the wholesale market or from some of the renovated net shops on the beach.

**High Weald Heritage**

Lavender House, across the road behind the Mermaid Restaurant, is one of the few houses in Hastings with black-glazed mathematical tiles (see page 19). If you have time to spare or have cut short your walk, consider a visit to the Hastings Museum to find out more about the adventurous life of Grey Owl, the Hastings resident turned conservationist (see page 26).

# Discover Hastings

## Dramatic cliffs offer seaside panorama

**Hastings Old Town is a fascinating jumble of houses packed side-by-side in narrow twittens (passages) perched precariously on steep hillsides. These hillsides mark the end of one of the High Weald AONB's smaller sandstone ridges as it narrows and meets the sea at Fairlight. The walk takes you up and over the sandstone cliffs, offering superb views of Hastings and the coastline beyond.**



**Fact Pack**

**Distance and time**

Hastings Old Town to Fairlight via coast, 3.5 miles (6km).  
Fairlight to Hastings Old Town via inland route, 3.5 miles (6km).  
Allow approximately 3-4 hours for the circular walk.

**Terrain**

There are a couple of steep climbs.

**Waymarking**

Follow yellow Maritime Heritage Trail way-marking disc.

**Attractions**

Fishing Museum, Rock-a-Nore Road – admission free. 01424 431446.  
Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Bohemia Road – admission free. 01424 781155.  
Country Park Visitor Centre, Fairlight – admission free. 01424 813225.

**Start/Finish Point**

East Cliff Railway.

**Services**

A variety of options in Hastings Old Town.

**Public transport**

Trains: There are regular services to Hastings from Ashford, Tunbridge Wells and Eastbourne.  
Bus: The 344 operates between Hastings Old Town, Fairlight and Rye. Buses run approximately every 2 hours Mondays to Saturdays.



Picknickers (above) at Fairlight, Hastings Country Park

Fishing boats with sandrock cliffs behind



See map on centre pages for location of walk



**Further information**

[www.hastings.uk.net](http://www.hastings.uk.net)

The Rye Bay pack, which includes 4 circular Maritime Heritage Trails between Hastings & Rye, is available from the Rye Bay Office on 01797 226488. Please send a cheque for £1.50 made payable to East Sussex County Council.

### The Walk

**1.** On entering Wadhurst church the eye is drawn to over 30 iron graveslabs lining the floor. These were produced by carving a block of wood with a pattern, pressing it into a bed of sand to leave a mould and pouring in molten iron to form the slab. Since the makers were often illiterate, words may be wrongly-spelt, letters reversed or words split in half to fit the pattern.

**2.** Snape House was built by David Barham in the 16th century. The Barhams were the chief iron-master family of Wadhurst. No less than eight of the slabs in the church commemorate this family, many showing the bear motif that formed their coat of arms. It is appropriate, therefore, that the last attempt to revive the Wealden iron industry took place in Snape Wood. In 1857 an ironstone mine was established in the wood with the ore being sent to Staffordshire by rail. It was hopelessly uneconomic and closed within a year. The Miners Arms pub, now a private house, preserves the memory of this transient enterprise.

**3.** The Barham family also owned Scrag Oak, a tall house with an excellent chimney, on the north of the road. In the steep-sided valley to the south was one of the ironworks, which made the family fortune. Its date of construction is unknown but it was able to supply raw iron to as many as four local forges (also owned by the Barhams). It just survived the Civil War, being in working order in 1653, but ruined by 1664.

**4.** The Luck family of Stone Cross are commemorated by two double slabs in the church. These overlie, respectively, Mary and Elizabeth Luck, who both died in their early twenties in the early-18th century, and John and Ann, who died later in that century. Further monuments line the church porch and include the family arms of three chevrons.

**5.** Whiligh was formerly the home of the Courthope family. Most of the extensive estate straddling Wadhurst and Ticehurst parishes was used for timber production. In a remarkable feat of continuity, oaks from the estate were used, both to build the roof of the Hall of the Palace of Westminster in the 14th century and to rebuild it again after bombing raids during World War Two.

**6.** To the north of Whiligh is Foxholes, once home to the Dunmoil family. Their coat of arms is a strange one, showing a pelican deliberately wounding itself. In ecclesiastical terms this is taken to symbolise the Eucharist with the mother wounding herself to nourish her young with her blood. Why such a coat of arms should apply to the Dunmoil family remains unknown.

**7.** Across Bewl Water can be seen the white-topped, double oast houses of Little Butts Farm, once home to the Benge family. Ann Benge (died 1653) has her slab in the church. The oast houses were used to dry hops for beer making, the industry which superseded iron. Hop growing continues today and may be seen from the walk – look for the tall frames supporting the growing plants.

The house occupied by the Legas family of Little Pell still survives – a medieval house with a Tudor chimney. This is more than can be said for John Legas' coat of arms in the church, which has been carefully erased. Cannon from the Gloucester Furnace (Wadhurst) works of John Legas were used both by the British navy and also smuggled to the coast and sold to the French for use on the other side of the same battle. It appears that someone may have taken a hammer to his coat of arms in retaliation.

# Discover Wadhurst

## A grave state of affairs

This circular walk takes in many features that are lasting reminders of the High Weald's industrial heritage – in particular those linked to the iron industry which once flourished in the area. Iron was produced on a small scale well before Roman times, but by the 15th and 16th centuries, the scale of production had increased to the extent that the area had become an industrial heartland. The importance of the iron industry in shaping the early landscape of the area is reflected in the AONB's logo. The logo depicts an anvil, a tool used by blacksmiths to shape iron into a variety of tools and other products.



### Further Information

#### Wealden Walks

This walk is one of 20 walks which explore the heritage of the rich and diverse Wealden landscape. Guide available from Wealden District Council 01892 602461/602741 or local bookshops. Price £3.00 - £3.50.



### Local Products

Mount Farm sells organic pork and lamb and has a farm trail and tearoom. Located near Wadhurst station. Contact Stephanie Buckingham 01892 783152 for opening times. Along Wadhurst High Street, Wealden Wholefoods sells local products, Mon-Sat, 9-5.30, and has a cafe selling homemade food – [www.wealdenwholefoods.co.uk](http://www.wealdenwholefoods.co.uk). Meat and fish, smoked using local wood, can be purchased from the Sussex Smokers, 01892 783111.

The Linney Tea Room, Mount Farm, Wadhurst



### Fact Pack

#### Start/Finish

Wadhurst church (OS Explorer 136 – TQ 641318).

#### Distance

7 miles (11 km). Allow approximately 4 hours. The walk can be divided into two smaller walks each of 4 miles (6km) by using the pavement of the B2099.

#### Terrain

Typical country walk with some hills, stiles and muddy paths (depending on weather).

#### Waymarking

Waymarked with the Wealden Walks logo.

#### Services

Pubs, cafes and shops at Wadhurst; pub at Cousley Wood (1 mile off route).

#### Public transport

Bus: 254 hourly service Mon-Sat between Hastings and Tunbridge Wells via Wadhurst and Wadhurst station. Limited service on Sundays.

256 two hourly service between Tunbridge Wells and Wadhurst via Lamberhurst.

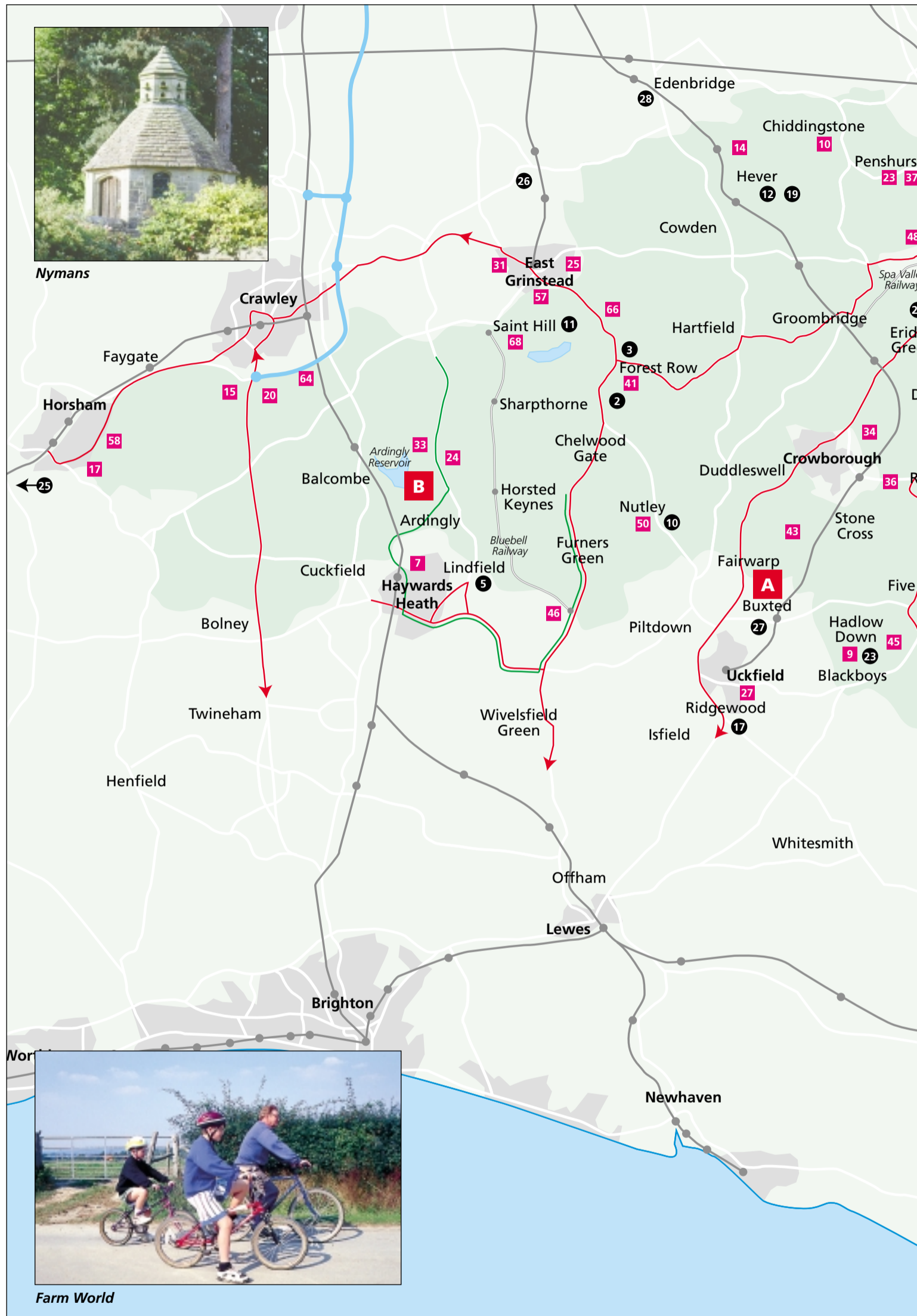
No service Sunday.

Train: Wadhurst station (1 mile).

**VISITOR  
ATTRACTIONS**  
**Houses, Gardens  
and Castles**

- 1. The Almonry**  
Battle, East Sussex  
01424 772727  
Open daily, except Sun, 1000-1630  
Closed 24-26, 31 Dec, 1 Jan
- 2. Batemans**  
Burwash, East Sussex  
01892 890651  
House open 31 Mar-4 Nov,  
Sat & Wed, 1100-1730  
Last admission 1630.  
Mill grinds corn most Sats,  
1400
- 3. Battle Abbey**  
Battle, East Sussex  
01424 773792  
Open daily, (check for times)  
Closed 24 - 26 Dec, 1 Jan
- 4. Bayham Abbey ‡**  
Lamberhurst, Kent  
01892 89081  
Open daily, (check for opening times)
- 5. Bedgebury Pinetum ‡**  
Goudhurst, Kent  
01580 211044  
Open daily, 1000-1900, or  
dusk if earlier  
Closed 25, 26 Dec, 1 Jan
- 6. Bodiam Castle**  
Bodiam, East Sussex  
01580 830436  
(check for opening times)  
Closed 24-26 Dec
- 7. Borde Hill Gardens \***  
Haywards Heath, West Sussex  
01444 450326  
Open daily, 1000-1800, or  
dusk if earlier
- 8. Brickwall House & Gardens**  
Northiam, East Sussex  
01797 223329  
Open Jul-Aug, Wed  
(check for opening times)
- 9. Cabbages and Kings Garden**  
Hadlow Down, Uckfield, East Sussex  
01825 830552  
Open 13 Apr-29 Oct, Mon,  
Thu-Sun, 1030-1730
- 10. Chiddingstone Castle**  
Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent  
01892 870347  
(check for opening times)
- 11. Finchcocks ‡**  
Goudhurst, Kent  
01580 211702  
Open Easter to end Sept  
(check for opening times)
- 12. Great Dixter**  
Northiam, East Sussex  
01797 252878  
Open Apr-Oct daily except  
Mon (open BH Mon)  
1400-1730. Gardens only  
open Sun & Mon of BH  
weekends
- 13. Great Maytham Hall**  
Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent  
01580 241346  
Open 1 May-30 Sept, Wed,  
Thur, 1400-1700
- 14. Hever Castle & Gardens**  
Hever, Edenbridge, Kent  
01732 865224  
Open all year, Mon-Fri, 0900-1700, Sat, Sun, 1000-1700.  
Closed 25, 26 Dec
- 15. High Beeches Gardens**  
Handcross, West Sussex  
01444 400589  
Open March-Oct  
(check for opening times)
- 16. Lamb House**  
Rye, East Sussex  
01892 890651  
Open all year, Mon, Wed, Fri,  
1400-1700  
Closed Bank Holidays

- 17. Leonardslee Gardens**  
Lower Beeding, Horsham,  
West Sussex  
01403 891212  
Open Apr-Oct, daily  
(check for opening times)
- 18. Marle Place Gardens ‡**  
Brenchley, Kent  
01892 722304  
Open May-Sept  
(check for opening times)
- 19. Merrimants Garden**  
Hurst Green, East Sussex  
01580 860666  
Open 1 Apr-31 Oct, Mon-Sat,  
0930-1700  
Sun, 1030-1700
- 20. Nymans Gardens**  
Handcross, Haywards Heath,  
West Sussex  
01444 400321  
(check for opening times)  
Closed 29, 30 Dec
- 21. Owl House & Gardens**  
Mount Pleasant,  
Lamberhurst, Kent  
01892 890963  
Open all year, daily, 1100-1800  
Closed 25 Dec, 1 Jan
- 22. Pashley Manor Gardens**  
Ticehurst, Wadhurst, East Sussex  
01580 200102  
Open Apr-Sept (check for opening times)
- 23. Penshurst Place**  
Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent  
01892 870307  
(check for opening times)
- 24. Priest House**  
North Lane, West Hoathly,  
West Sussex  
01342 810479  
Open Mar-Oct, Mon-Sat,  
1100-1730, Sun, 1400-1730
- 25. Sackville College**  
East Grinstead, West Sussex  
01342 321930  
Open Jun-Aug, Wed-Sun,  
1400-1700
- 26. Scotney Castle ‡**  
Lamberhurst, Kent  
01892 891081  
Open Mar-Nov  
(check for opening times)
- 27. Sheffield Park Garden \***  
Uckfield, East Sussex  
01825 790231  
Open all year  
(check for opening times)
- 28. Sissinghurst Castle Gardens**  
Sissinghurst, nr Cranbrook,  
Kent  
01580 712850  
Open May-Oct  
(check for opening times)
- 29. Smallhythe Place**  
Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent  
01580 762334  
Open 31 Mar-31 Oct, Sat-  
Wed, 1330-1800  
Last admission 1700
- 30. Sprivers**  
The National Trust,  
Horsmonden, Kent  
01892 890651  
Open 26 May, 9, 16 Jun,  
1400-1800  
Last admission 1730
- 31. Standen House**  
Standen, East Grinstead,  
West Sussex  
01342 323029  
Open Mar-Dec  
(check for opening times)
- 32. The Gardens of Gaia**  
Cranbrook, Kent  
01580 715289  
Open May-Sept  
(check for opening times)
- 33. Wakehurst Place \***  
Ardingly, Haywards Heath,  
West Sussex  
Open daily. Closed 25 Dec,  
1 Jan  
(check for opening times)



**Vineyards**

- 34. Barnsgate Manor Vineyard**  
Herons Ghyll, Crowborough,  
East Sussex  
01825 713366  
Open all year, daily, 1000-1700, or dusk, if earlier
- 35. Carr Taylor Vineyards**  
Westfield, East Sussex  
01424 892826  
Open Mar-Dec, daily, 1000-1700.  
Closed 24-31 Dec, 1 Jan
- 36. Davenport Vineyards**  
Rotherfield, Crowborough,  
East Sussex  
01892 852380  
Open Apr-Sept,  
Mon, Fri, Sat  
(check for opening times)
- 37. Penshurst Vineyards**  
Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent  
01892 870255  
Closed 24 Dec - 1 Jan  
(check for opening times)
- 38. Sandhurst Vineyards**  
Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent  
01580 850296  
Open for self-guided tours all  
year, Mon-Fri, 1400-1730  
Sat, 1100-1730,  
Sun, 1200-1500
- 39. Sedlescombe Vineyard**  
Cripps Corner,  
Robertsbridge,  
East Sussex  
01580 830715  
Closed 24,25 Dec  
(check for opening times)
- 40. Tenterden Vineyard Park**  
Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent  
01580 763033  
Open all year, daily, 1000-1700  
Closed 24-31 Dec, 1,2 Jan
- 41. Ashdown Forest Llama Park**  
Wych Cross, Forest Row, East Sussex  
01825 712040  
Closed 25, 26 Dec  
(check for opening times)
- 42. Farm World**  
Beckley, East Sussex  
01797 260250  
Open 21 Mar-31 Oct,  
daily, except Sunday,  
1200-1730  
School hols, daily, 1030-1730
- 43. Heaven Farm**  
Furners Green,  
Danehill, Uckfield,  
East Sussex  
01825 790226  
Open Feb-Nov  
(check for opening times)

**Farms and woods  
open to the public**



**53. Buckleys Yesterday's World**  
 Battle, East Sussex  
 01424 775378  
 Open winter months, daily, 1000-1700, summer - daily, 0930-1800.  
 Closed 25-26 Dec

**54. C M Booth Collection of Historic Vehicles**  
 Rolvenden, Kent  
 01580 241234  
 Open all year, Closed 25, 26 Dec (check for opening times)

**55. Court Hall Museum**  
 Winchelsea, East Sussex  
 01797 226382  
 Open 1 May-30 Sept, Tues-Sat, Bank Holidays, 1030-1230  
 Sunday 1400-1700

**56. Cranbrook Museum**  
 Cranbrook, Kent  
 01580 712069  
 Open 3 Apr-27 Oct (check for opening times)

**57. East Grinstead Town Museum**  
 East Grinstead, West Sussex  
 01342 323636  
 Open all year, Wed, Sat, 1400-1600

**58. Horsham Museum**  
 Horsham, West Sussex  
 01403 254959  
 Open all year, daily except Sun, 1000-1700.  
 Closed Bank Holidays

**59. Rye Castle Museum**  
 Rye, East Sussex  
 01797 226728  
 Open all year. Closed Christmas period.  
 (check for opening times)

**60. Tenterden and District Museum**  
 Tenterden, Kent  
 01580 764310  
 Open all year.  
 (check for opening times)

**61. The Story of Rye**  
 Rye, East Sussex  
 01797 226696  
 Open all year. Closed 25, 26 Dec, 1 Jan  
 (check for opening times)

**62. Tunbridge Wells Museum**  
 Tunbridge Wells, Kent  
 01892 554171  
 Open all year, daily except Sun, 0930-1700

**Country Parks**

**63. Bewl Water ‡**  
 Lamberhurst, Kent  
 01892 890716

**64. Buchan CP**  
 Crawley, West Sussex  
 01293 542088

**65. Hastings CP**  
 Fairlight, East Sussex  
 01424 813225

**66. Forest Way CP**  
 East Grinstead, West Sussex  
 01273 482670

**Nature Reserves**

**67. Rye Harbour NR**  
 Rye, East Sussex  
 01797 223862

**68. Weirwood NR**  
 Saint Hill, West Sussex  
 01273 481654

**Regional public transport information**

**Kent Traveline**  
 0345 696996

**East Sussex**  
 01273 474747

**West Sussex**  
 0345 959099

Special bus services have been set up in the area to improve access to visitor attractions at weekends and Bank Holidays. Adult fare for all day unlimited travel is typically £2.50.

Attractions marked with \* can be accessed from Haywards Heath using the Heart of Sussex Link bus service.

Those marked with ‡ can be accessed using the Heritage Hopper bus service from Royal Tunbridge Wells. 01892 554177

**National travel information**

**National Rail enquiries**  
 0345 484950

**National Express (coach)**  
 0990 808080

**Journeycall (rail & coach)**  
 0906 550000

**Accommodation**

**South East England Tourist Board**  
 01892 540766 or local tourist information centres.

**Horsham TIC**  
 01403 211661

**East Grinstead TIC**  
 01342 410121

**Tunbridge Wells TIC**  
 01892 515675

**Cranbrook TIC**  
 01580 712538

**Tenterden TIC**  
 01580 763572

**Rye TIC**  
 01797 226696

**Banks**

In addition to main towns, banks with cashpoints can be found in the following villages:

- Wadhurst**
- Cranbrook**
- Forest Row**
- Hawkhurst**
- Battle**
- Heathfield**

**Websites**

- www.highweald.org
- www.southeastengland.uk.com
- www.sussex-country-tourism.co.uk
- www.1066country.co.uk
- www.sussexlive.com
- www.village-net.com

**44. Mount Farm**  
 Wadhurst, East Sussex  
 01892 783152  
 Open 4 Mar-31 Oct, Sat, Sun, daily during Sussex school hols  
 1000-1645

**45. Wilderness Wood**  
 Hadlow Down, Uckfield, East Sussex  
 01825 830509  
 Open all year, daily, 1000 till dusk, Closed 25, 26 Dec

**Steam Railways**

**46. Bluebell Railway \***  
 Sheffield Park Station, Uckfield, East Sussex  
 01825 723777  
 Open all year, Closed 25 Dec (check for opening times)

**47. Kent & East Sussex Railway**  
 Tenterden Station, Station Road, Tenterden, Kent  
 01580 765155  
 Open all year, daily, closed 25 Dec (check for opening times)

**48. Spa Valley Railway ‡**  
 West Station, Tunbridge Wells, Kent  
 01892 537715  
 Open Mar-Oct, Sat, Sun, Bank Hols, some weekdays during school hols  
 Please phone for exact train times

**Windmills**

**49. Cranbrook Union Windmill**  
 Little Bakers Cross, Cranbrook, Kent  
 01580 712256  
 Open 7 Apr-30 Sept (check for opening times)

**50. Nutley Windmill**  
 Nutley, Uckfield, East Sussex  
 01435 873367  
 Open Mar-Sept, last Sun of each month

**51. Stocks Mill**  
 Wittersham, Kent  
 01797 270295  
 6 May-30 Sept, Sun, Bank Hol Mons, 1430-1700

**Museums**

**52. Battle Museum of Local History**  
 Battle, East Sussex  
 01424 775955  
 Open Easter-30 Sept, Mon-Sat, 1030-1630, Sun 1400-1700

# Events in the High Weald 2001

The events below represent a selection of events happening across the High Weald AONB. The information is collected well in advance of the event taking place, so it is always advisable to check with the event organiser or venue before visiting.

For further information about events in the area, please call the South East England Tourist Board on 01892 540766 or email enquiries@seetb.org.uk

Other information on visiting the area is available from the Tourist Information Centres listed in this publication.



## MUSIC, DRAMA & DANCE

5 - 7 May  
**May Day Music and Dance**  
Traditional music and dance.

26 - 28 May  
**Merrie England Weekend**  
Longbow archery and foot combat demonstrations, medieval music, dance & stalls.

22 Jun - 26 Aug  
**2001 Summer Festival**  
A season of professional repertory theatre performed by the Kent Repertory Theatre. All above events at: Hever Lakeside Theatre, Hever Castle  
01732 866114  
www.hevercastle.co.uk

6 Jul  
**Open Air Concert: Pop in the Park**  
A spectacular open air concert. Artists to be confirmed.

7 Jul  
**Crawley Prom in the Park**  
An open air promenade concert finishing with a fireworks display.  
Tilgate Park, Crawley.  
01293 553636  
www.hawth.co.uk

6 - 8 Jul  
**Opera at Scotney**  
Scotney Castle Garden, Lamberhurst.  
01892 891001  
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex  
Performances of Tosca, Cinderella and an opera gala, all held in the walled garden. Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic and seating.

14 Jul  
**Bewl Water Firework and Laser Symphony Concert**  
Bewl Water  
01892 890661  
An outdoor event with the Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra playing popular classics, accompanied by a fireworks and laser display.

21 Jul  
**Pop Concert: Bodiam Castle**  
Bodiam Castle  
01892 891001  
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex  
An open air concert with The Searchers and The Tremeloes and finishing with a spectacular fireworks finale. Please bring a picnic and seating.

27 Jul  
**The 4th Annual Blues and Beer Festival**  
The Bluebell Railway, Sheffield Park Station  
01732 862353  
A blues and beer festival with 3 live bands, over 20 real ales, food and a funfair.

4 Aug  
**Classical Music: Last Night of the Proms**  
Enjoy superb classical music alongside Rudyard Kipling's home played by the English National Orchestra with a traditional 'Last Night of the Proms' finale with spectacular fireworks.

5 Aug  
**Pop Concert: 60s and 70s at Batemans**  
An open air pop concert featuring Voulez-Vous and The Counterfeit Stones with a fireworks finale. Please bring seating, a picnic.  
01892 891001  
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex

26 Aug  
**Drama: The Tempest**  
Penshurst Place and Gardens  
01732 770929  
The international, professional Theatre Set-Up company celebrates its 25th anniversary with a production of Shakespeare's The Tempest, costumed in Jacobean style with Carolan's music for the harp.

26 Aug - 7 Oct  
**Finchcocks Festival**  
01580 211702  
www.finchcocks.co.uk  
A festival of opera and chamber music on period instruments. There will be an 18thC gala with music and dancing in the garden, marquee and house.

1 - 16 Sep  
**Rye Festival**  
Various Venues, Rye,  
07976 331015  
www.rye-tourism.co.uk/festival  
A festival of music, literary and visual arts with concerts, exhibitions, masterclasses and workshops.  
22 - 23 Sep  
**Pestalozzi International Festival**  
Pestalozzi Childrens Village Trust  
01424 870444  
www.pestalozzi.org.uk  
A festival of international music, dance, exhibitions and craft stalls from Asia, Africa and England.

5 - 7 Oct  
**Tenterden Folk Festival**  
Various Venues, Tenterden  
01580 763572  
www.btinternet.com/~folkspots  
Over 40 events taking place around the town starting with a concert and a sing-a-round.

25 - 27 Oct  
**Horsham Town Centre Festival**  
Carfax  
01403 215358  
www.horsham.gov.uk  
A traditional funfair with free bandstand concerts including Battle of the Bands, Day of Dance and Festival of Street Entertainment.

27 - 30 Dec  
**Winter Street Festival 2001**  
Tunbridge Wells Town Centre  
01892 515675  
www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/tourism  
A wide variety of street theatre and entertainment from the United Kingdom and Europe.

## ANTIQUE, CRAFT & BOOK FAIRS

5 - 7 May  
**Weald of Kent Craft Fair**  
Penshurst Place and Gardens, Penshurst  
01425 272711  
www.ichf.co.uk  
Over 200 displays of traditional and modern crafts.

23 - 24 Jun  
**West Sussex Country Craft Fair**  
Leonardslee Gardens  
01403 891212  
www.leonardslee.com  
An annual craft fair with stalls and demonstrations, exhibitions and events in conjunction with the summer flowers at Leonardslee Gardens.

18 Jul, 19 Aug, 12 Sep, 21 & 31 Oct  
**Ardingly International Antiques and Collectors Fair**  
South of England Showground  
01636 702326  
www.dmgantiquefairs.com  
More than 1,500 stalls that offer everything from traditional antiques to collectables and memorabilia.

25 - 27 Aug  
**Craft Fayre over Bank Holiday Weekend**  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Wakehurst Place  
01444 894000  
01444 894066 for more information

25 - 27 Aug  
**Viking Themed Craft Fayre**  
Wakehurst Place Gardens  
01276 679419  
Over 150 crafts, refreshments, bar & Viking entertainment inc. living history displays, puppets, magic & musicians.

7 - 9 Sep  
**Weald of Kent Craft Fair**  
Penshurst Place and Gardens, Penshurst  
01425 272711  
www.ichf.co.uk  
Over 200 displays of traditional and modern crafts.

12 - 14 Oct  
**Finchcocks Fair**  
Finchcocks, Goudhurst  
01580 211702  
www.finchcocks.co.uk  
Crafts and gifts in the 18thC manor house.

## KIDS' ACTIVITIES

5 May  
**Useful Bluebells**  
Wilderness Wood  
01825 830509  
www.wildernesswood.co.uk  
Spring walk with a difference. Learn which plants were used as cottonwool, glue, string, charms against witches and more.

13 May  
**Kids' Animal Fair**  
Borde Hill Garden  
01444 450326  
www.bordehill.co.uk  
A wide variety of animals, ferret racing, a craft and gift marquee, children's entertainers, donkey & tractor rides, trout fishing & a children's adventure playground.

29 May, 6 & 20 Aug  
**Bug Hunt**  
Wilderness Wood, Tel: (01825) 830509  
www.wildernesswood.co.uk  
Hunt for creepy crawlies in the wood. Bring a bug box and identification book if possible. Please book.

29 and 30 May  
**Half-term holiday - fun activities**  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Wakehurst Place  
01444 894000  
01444 894066 for more information

6 Aug  
**Teddy Bears' Picnic**  
Sheffield Park Garden  
01892 891001  
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex  
Bring a picnic and teddy bears for a family afternoon in the beautiful landscaped garden.

13, 20 Aug  
**Teddy Bears' Picnics**  
Wilderness Wood  
01825 830509  
www.wildernesswood.co.uk  
An exploration for bears and their owners. Bring carrier bag and picnic tea. Please book

20 - 28 Oct  
**Half-term Events**  
Hever Castle and Gardens  
01732 865224  
www.hevercastle.co.uk  
Try brass rubbing and take home a waxed picture of a person from history. Clive Holland, the entertaining storyteller, will tell tales of 'What the Butler Saw' & the history of Hever Castle.

22 - 28 Oct  
**Half-term Fun**  
Penshurst Place and Gardens, Penshurst  
01892 870307, www.penshurstplace.com  
Activity trail and Halloween mask-making. Will include a special Halloween menu.

## FAMILY FUN, SPORTS & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

1 Apr - 30 Nov  
**Steam Back in Time to Bodiam Castle**  
Kent & East Sussex Railway  
01580 765155  
www.kesr.org.uk  
Park at Tenterden and ride to the National Trust's famous medieval castle at Bodiam. Special joint tickets available.

12 - 13 May  
**Tenterden Country Fair**  
Tenterden Vineyard Park  
01580 763033  
www.chapeldownwines.co.uk  
A collection of vintage vehicles and machinery. Children's fun rides, birds of prey display and craft stalls.

18 May, 5 Oct  
**An Evening of Murder and Mystery on the Golden Arrow**  
The Bluebell Railway, Sheffield Park Station  
01732 862353  
An evening of murder, mystery and mayhem aboard the Golden Arrow, Pullman dining train. Enjoy a superb 3-course meal as you steam your way through the Sussex countryside trying to solve the most dastardly of crimes.

20 May  
**BIG Weald Bike Ride**  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Wakehurst Place  
01444 894000  
01444 894066 for more information

26 May  
**Heathfield and District Agricultural Show**  
Little Tottlingworth Farm, Broad Oak  
01435 830977  
An agricultural show with cattle, sheep & horses. There will also be ring displays, trade stands, food tents, demonstrations and a flower show.

27 - 28 May  
**Penshurst Place Classic Motor Show**  
Penshurst Place and Gardens, Penshurst  
01296 631181  
www.greenwood.co.uk  
Hundreds of classic vehicles on display together with an autojumble, club displays and trade stands.

27 - 28 May  
**Battle Medieval Fair**  
Battle  
01424 774447  
A medieval fair with participants in period costume, maypole dancing, May Queen crowning and entertainment throughout the day.



17 Jun  
**Bewl Vintage Car Rally**  
Bewl Water  
01892 890661  
A car rally with over 200 exhibits of cars and motorcycles. There will be a period dress competition, games and stalls.

17 Jun  
**Father's Day Lunch and Tea**  
Kent & East Sussex Railway  
01580 765155, www.kesr.org.uk  
Give dad a great day out and enjoy a magnificent 4-course lunch aboard the Wealden Belle.

17 Jun  
**Medieval Mischief**  
Wilderness Wood  
01825 830509  
www.wildernesswood.co.uk  
The Lords of the Rings return for more medieval mayhem. Visitors are invited to try on armour and watch hand-to-hand combat.

22 Jun - 1 Jul  
**Battle Festival**  
Battle  
01424 773721  
The 41st Battle Festival has the theme 'Words and Music' and features poets and composers.

30 Jun - 1 Jul  
**Smallholders Show**  
South of England Showground  
01306 741302  
A country and agricultural show with 250 stands, arena displays, livestock shows and a fun dog show.

30 Jun - 1 Jul  
**BHTA Horse Trials**  
Borde Hill Garden  
01444 450326  
www.bordehill.co.uk  
The 9th Borde Hill Horse Trials inc. cross-country, showjumping and dressage from local and international riders including Olympic medalists.

1 Jul  
**Mega Family Fun Day**  
Horsham Park  
01403 215358  
www.horsham.gov.uk  
An afternoon of family enjoyment, including a funfair, live music, dance.

1 Jul  
**Eridge Summer Fair**  
Eridge Park  
01892 864620  
The event includes stalls and side shows, pony rides, rural crafts, teas and professional entertainers to raise funds for the church, village hall and Hospice in the Weald.

7 Jul  
**Cycle Event: Le Nat West Tour de Heathfield**  
Heathfield  
01435 813322  
A cycle event with 4 routes - 30 miles, 15 miles and 2 short family routes of 5 and 10 off-road miles, taking in some of the most beautiful parts of Wealden Sussex Country.

7 - 8 Jul  
**Ardingly Vintage Vehicle Show**  
South of England Showground  
01273 306817  
Displays of vintage vehicles including steam and stationary engines, cars, commercial vehicles and tractors, plus models and bygones, a vintage fair, trade, craft and automobile stalls.

14 - 15 Jul  
**Horsham Carnival and Festival**  
Horsham Park  
01403 255060  
Carnival and weekend entertainment in the park inc. live music on Saturday evening. Displays include parachute jumps, stalls and fireworks.

14 - 15 Jul  
**Model Boat Regatta**  
Leonardslee Gardens  
01403 891212  
www.leonardslee.com  
Visitors are invited to enjoy the spectacle of model boats from local clubs sailing on the lakes at Leonardslee Gardens.

21 - 22 Jul  
**Steam and Country Fair**  
Kent & East Sussex Railway  
01580 765155  
www.kesr.org.uk  
Historic cars, lorries, buses, tractors, traction engines and steam rollers will visit the railway for this transport festival.

21 & 28 Jul, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 & 25 Aug, 1 Sep  
**Jousting Tournament**  
 Hever Castle and Gardens  
 01732 865224  
[www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk)  
 King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn will watch the Knights of Royal England compete for the hand of a fair maiden including full gallop jousts at the tilt, riding the quintain and spear- ing rings and heads.

21 Jul  
**Children: Frolics on the Common**  
 The Lower Cricket Ground  
 Royal Tunbridge Wells Common  
 01892 526121 x3251  
 An afternoon including many children's events, races, donkey rides and a funfair.

22 Jul  
**Battle Abbey Classic Car Show and Country Fayre**  
 Battle Abbey and Battlefield  
 01424 773721  
 Historic and classic cars will be on display and a country craft fair.

22 & 29 Jul, 26-27 Aug, 2 Sep  
**Medieval Archery**  
 Hever Castle and Gardens  
 01732 865224  
[www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk)  
 The bowmen of the 'Company of 1415' will be called to arms to demonstrate the effectiveness of the longbow as a military weapon, and will defend themselves against attack by a band of heavily armed foot soldiers.

25 - 29 Jul  
**Themed Festival: Scandals at the Spa**  
 The Pantiles, Royal Tunbridge Wells  
 01892 515675  
[www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/tourism)  
 Five days of festivities recreating Georgian life in Tunbridge Wells. There will be music, dancing, merrymaking and special evening events brought to life by costumed Georgian characters.

11 Aug  
**Fordcombe Fete and Flower Show**  
 Cricket Field and Village Hall, Fordcombe  
 01892 740616  
 Fordcombe Fete and Flower Show features flower displays, craft stalls, sideshows, produce stalls, children's corner, refreshments, arena displays and grand draw.

11 - 12 Aug  
**Crawley Circus Festival**  
 Crawley  
 01293 553636 (Bookings)  
[www.hawth.co.uk](http://www.hawth.co.uk)  
 A weekend of workshops, demonstrations, shows and incorporating the Crawley Juggling Convention.

27 Aug  
**Treasure Trail**  
 Wilderness Wood, Tel: (01825) 830509  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)  
 A family treasure hunt designed to exercise your legs, brainpower and map-reading skills. Win a £10.00 voucher, small prizes for all.

27 Aug  
**Le Marche 2001**  
 Heathfield  
 01435 866400  
 An Anglo-French street market with food, craft stalls and street entertainment including jazz and silver bands, street theatre, circus skills and a petanque challenge.

27 Aug  
**Sedan Chair Race**  
 The Pantiles, Royal Tunbridge Wells  
 01892 515675  
[www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/tourism)  
 Teams of 5 compete around an obstacle course in the Pantiles using the traditional Georgian method of transport, the sedan chair, for a trophy. Also music and family entertainment.

27 Aug  
**Demonstration: Woodturners Return**  
 Wilderness Wood  
 01825 830509  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)  
 The woodturners return to show their skills. Have-a-go on a pole lathe.

15 - 16 Sep  
**Kent and East Sussex Railway: Delivering the Goods and Hoppers Weekend**  
 Kent & East Sussex Railway  
 01580 765155  
[www.kesr.org.uk](http://www.kesr.org.uk)  
 Demonstration goods trains will run alongside the line's usual passenger and distinctive 'mixed' trains of passenger coaches and goods trucks will be in action with a gathering of historic lorries and vans to complete the vintage atmosphere.

29 - 30 Sep  
**Hot Air Balloon Meet at Peshurst Place**  
 Peshurst Place and Gardens, Peshurst  
 01892 870307  
[www.peshurstplace.com](http://www.peshurstplace.com)  
 Hot air balloons take to the skies over Peshurst Place at 0800 and 1630, weather conditions permitting.

13 - 14 Oct  
**Battle Re-enactment: Invasion 1066!**  
 Battle Abbey and Battlefield  
 01424 773792  
 Eleventh-century warriors and mounted knights skirmish and fight a ferocious battle. Other attractions include a living encampment, music and falconry.

13 - 14 Oct  
**Austin Counties Car Rally**  
 Kent & East Sussex Railway  
 01580 765155, [www.kesr.org.uk](http://www.kesr.org.uk)  
 Distinctive Austin Counties cars from the 1940s and 1950s.

14 Oct  
**Harvest Celebration**  
 Tenterden Vineyard Park  
 01580 763033  
[www.chapeldownwines.co.uk](http://www.chapeldownwines.co.uk)  
 A harvest celebration with an owl display, bouncy castle, and tractor rides.

28 Oct  
**Hallowe'en Stories**  
 Peshurst Place and Gardens, Peshurst  
 01892 870307  
[www.peshurstplace.com](http://www.peshurstplace.com)  
 Mildly spooky tales with audience participation with Mrs Humphrey's Productions.

**Foot and Mouth Restrictions**

At the time of going to press, access to certain footpaths is restricted due to foot and mouth disease precautions. Although most attractions are open as usual, we recommend you contact the relevant organisers to check details when planning to take part in any of the events listed here.

31 Oct  
**Hallowe'en Creations**  
 Wilderness Wood  
 01825 830509  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)  
 Come into the deep dark woods and make spooky Hallowe'en decorations! Please book

2 - 24 Dec  
**Santa Special Steam Trains**  
 Kent & East Sussex Railway  
 01580 765155  
[www.kesr.org.uk](http://www.kesr.org.uk)  
 Father Christmas on a steam train with presents for children, mince pies & sherry for grown-ups.

21, 22 Dec  
**Christmas Creations**  
 Wilderness Wood  
 01825 830509  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)  
 Come and make Christmas decorations from material gathered in the wood. Please book

**WILDLIFE & GARDENING**

1 Apr - 31 May  
**Sculpture Trail**  
 Borde Hill Garden  
 01444 450326  
[www.bordehill.co.uk](http://www.bordehill.co.uk)  
 Discover at each turn, sculptures set within this romantic garden, ranging from figurative to abstract and from bronze to wood.

5 - 7 May  
**Bonsai Weekend at Leonardslee Gardens**  
 Leonardslee Gardens  
 01403 891212  
[www.leonardslee.com](http://www.leonardslee.com)  
 Demonstrations and advice on the art of growing and styling bonsai.

5 - 28 May  
**Rhododendron and Azalea Time**  
 Leonardslee Gardens  
 01403 891212  
[www.leonardslee.com](http://www.leonardslee.com)  
 In mid-May the flowers of the rhododendrons and azaleas reach their peak along paths fringed with bluebells.

7 May  
**Bluebell Time**  
 High Beeches Gardens  
 01444 400589  
[www.highbeeches.com](http://www.highbeeches.com)  
 The woodland areas will be carpeted in blue. Also plants & advice from specialist growers & a WI handicraft stall.



12 - 13 May  
**Spring and Bluebell Weekend**  
 Royal Botanic Gardens, Wakehurst Place  
 01444 894000  
 01444 894066 for more information

12 May  
**Early Birds**  
 Wilderness Wood  
 01825 830509  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)  
 Early morning walk to identify springtime bird-song. Bring binoculars, if possible. Please book

20 May  
**Spring Plant Fair**  
 Pashley Manor Gardens, Ticehurst  
 01892 870692  
[www.pashleymanorgardens.com](http://www.pashleymanorgardens.com)  
 Thirty specialist nursery stalls set in beautiful gardens.

27 - 28 May  
**Spring Garden Fair**  
 Finchcocks, Goudhurst  
 01580 211702  
[www.finchcocks.co.uk](http://www.finchcocks.co.uk)  
 A fair with the emphasis on gardens and crafts. There will also be music in the house.

28 May  
**Azalea Time**  
 High Beeches Gardens  
 01444 400589  
[www.highbeeches.com](http://www.highbeeches.com)  
 The azaleas and rhododendrons will be at their most colourful in the gardens with plants for sale and a WI handicraft stall.

30 May, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Aug, 30 Oct  
**Castaway**  
 An expedition deep in Wilderness Woods, building shelters and cooking dampers over a camp fire. Bring sausages and a picnic lunch. Please book.

31 May, 7, 14, 21, 28 Aug, 1 Nov  
**Survive in the Wild**  
 Discover how to stay alive in the woods: activities to learn and test survival skills! Please book  
 All at: Wilderness Wood  
 01825 830509, [www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)

2 - 3 Jun  
**Garden Show**  
 Bewl Water, Tel: (01892) 890661  
 A show especially for exhibiting and selling all kinds of plants, garden ornaments, outdoor furniture and all garden related products.

14 - 17 Jun  
**Summer Flower Festival 2001**  
 Pashley Manor Gardens, Ticehurst  
 Tel: (01580) 200692  
[www.pashleymanorgardens.com](http://www.pashleymanorgardens.com)  
 Flower arrangements by the NAFAS. Local nurseries will be exhibiting over the 4 days.

17 Jun  
**Fletching Garden Trail**  
 Fletching School, Fletching,  
 Tel: (01825) 723275  
 Up to 18 gardens open to visitors throughout the village.

22 - 28 Jun  
**Rose Week**  
 Hever Castle and Gardens  
 Tel: (01732) 865224, [www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk)  
 A rose festival featuring the castle decked in roses, tours of the gardens, talks and demonstrations on roses and other gardening topics.

23 Jun  
**Annual Pelargonium Show**  
 Brede Village Hall, Tel: (01580) 880467  
 A show featuring displays of pelargoniums.

23 - 24 Jun  
**The Sussex Garden Show**  
 Borde Hill Garden, Tel: (01795) 474660  
[www.kentgardenshows.com/sussex](http://www.kentgardenshows.com/sussex)  
 Spectacular floral displays and plenty of gardening bargains.

13 - 15 Jul  
**Art of Living Summer Fair**  
 Cabbages and Kings Garden  
 Hadlow Down, Tel: (01497) 820831  
[www.clyro.co.uk](http://www.clyro.co.uk)  
 A decorative arts fair for the home and garden including painting, sculpture, furniture, garden features, plants, glass and ceramics.

1, 8, 15, 22 Aug  
**Wild at Art**  
 Wilderness Wood, Tel: (01825) 830509  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)  
 Make your own creations from wood and other materials. With local artist/teacher Lyn Merrick. Please book

4 Aug  
**Summer Flower Show**  
 Town Croft, Hartfield, Tel: (01342) 822372  
 An event with flowers, vegetables, cooking and children's exhibits inc outside sideshows, raffles, a tombola and plants.

4 Aug  
**Annual Fuchsia Show**  
 Brede Village Hall, Tel: (01580) 880467  
 A show featuring displays of fuchsias.

5 Aug  
**Fuchsia Show**  
 Borde Hill Garden, Tel: (01444) 450326  
[www.bordehill.co.uk](http://www.bordehill.co.uk)  
 Fuchsia displays and sales from specialist nurseries, together with information and talks on growing and how to care for fuchsias.

19 Aug  
**Summer Plant Fair 2001**  
 Pashley Manor Gardens, Ticehurst  
 Tel: (01580) 200692  
[www.pashleymanorgardens.com](http://www.pashleymanorgardens.com)  
 Many different nurseries selling plants and garden ephemera.

19 Aug  
**Gentian Time**  
 High Beeches Gardens  
 Tel: (01444) 400589, [www.highbeeches.com](http://www.highbeeches.com)  
 Shire horses will be working on 4 acres of natural wildflower meadow and the valleys will be full of Willow Gentians.

29 Sept, 14, 20, 29 Oct  
**Woodland Fungi – Death or Dinner?**  
 Fungus hunts with Anne Yarrow, discovering Wilderness Woodland toadstools. Please book.

30 Sept  
**Follow-up Fungus Hunt**  
 For those who have been on one of Anne's courses or know the basics. Please book.  
 All at: Wilderness Wood  
 Tel: (01825) 830509,  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)

6 Oct  
**Autumn Flower Show**  
 Village Hall, Hartfield, Tel: (01342) 822372  
 Flower and vegetable show, domestic and handicraft, refreshments, raffle, tombola, plants for sale.

6 Oct  
**Fungal Fry-up**  
 Wilderness Wood, Tel: (01825) 830509  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)  
 Hunting, identifying and cooking our woodland fungal harvest. Please book

8 Oct  
**Guided Walk: Fungi**  
 Sheffield Park Garden, Tel: (01892) 891001  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex)  
 Fungi workshop and guided walk. Visitors are asked to bring a packed lunch.

8 - 14 Oct  
**Autumn Colour Week**  
 Hever Castle and Gardens  
 Tel: (01732) 865224, [www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk)  
 Hever Castle gardeners will show visitors the main areas of autumn colour in the gardens and discuss autumn gardening topics.

13 Oct  
**Fungi for Starters**  
 Wilderness Wood, Tel: (01825) 830509  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)  
 A day getting to grips with mushrooms and toadstools. Bring a packed lunch. Please book

14 Oct  
**Autumn Splendour Day**  
 High Beeches Gardens  
 Tel: (01444) 400589, [www.highbeeches.com](http://www.highbeeches.com)  
 The autumn colours will be at their best and visitors will be able to see these dramatic colours, as nature intended.

15 Oct  
**Guided Walk: Autumn Colour**  
 Sheffield Park Garden, Tel: (01892) 891001  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex)  
 A guided tour of the 100-acre Sheffield Park Garden taking in the splendid autumn colours.

23 Oct  
**Guided Walk: Scotney Castle Garden**  
 Scotney Castle Garden, Lamberhurst  
 Tel: (01892) 891001  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/regions/kentesussex)  
 A guided tour of Scotney Castle Garden taking in the wonderful autumn colours.

**DISPLAYS, EXHIBITIONS & TALKS**

18 May - 2 Jun  
**Tenterden Country Fair**  
 Exhibition: Meeting Places  
 An exhibition of art and artefacts on the theme of Museums and Galleries Month 2001.

7 - 25 Jun  
**Exhibition: Pupils, Patrons and Pedagogues**  
 An exhibition of art and artefacts on the theme of schools.

28 Jun - 16 Jul  
**Exhibition: Doublethink**  
 An exhibition of modern paintings, etchings, 3-dimensional and mixed media works by Robert Lewis and Sarah Chater.  
 All at: Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery  
 Tel: (01892) 554171  
[www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/museum](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/museum)

14 - 16 Sep  
**10th Annual Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition**  
 Hever Castle and Gardens, Hever  
 Tel: (01732) 865224, [www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk)  
 The 10th anniversary of this display of patchwork quilts and wall hangings together with demonstrations and stalls.



Please check with venues or organizers before visit.

## Local suppliers of handmade bricks, tiles, mortars, and riven battens

### Handmade bricks

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Sussex Brick Ltd     | Chiddingstone Brickworks Ltd |
| Fourteen Acre Lane   | Bore Place                   |
| Three Oaks           | Chiddingstone                |
| Hastings             | Edenbridge                   |
| East Sussex TN35 4BN | Kent TN8 7AR                 |
| Tel 01424 814344     | Tel 01732 463712             |

### Handmade roof and mathematical tiles

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Aldershaw Handmade Tiles | Keymer Tiles Ltd     |
| Pokehold Wood            | Nye Road             |
| Kent Street              | Burgess Hill         |
| Sedlescombe              | West Sussex RH15 0LZ |
| 01424 756777             | Tel 01444 232931     |

Babylon Tile Works  
Babylon Lane  
Hawkenbury  
Nr Staplehurst  
Kent TN12 0EG  
Tel 01622 843018

### Lime mortar

Chalk Down Lime Ltd  
102 Fairlight Road  
Hastings  
East Sussex TN35 5EL  
Tel 01424 44301

### Riven tile battens

G & N Marsham  
1 Nell Ball  
Plaistow, Billingshurst  
West Sussex RH14 0QB  
Tel 01798 342427

### Further information

#### Books:

M Beswick, *Brickmaking in Sussex: A History and Gazetteer* (1993)  
R W Brunskill, *Brick Building in Britain* (1990)

#### Contacts:

The British Brick Society, c/o Dr Ronald Firman,  
12 Elm Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1BU  
[www.britishbricksoc.free-online.co.uk](http://www.britishbricksoc.free-online.co.uk)  
The Brick Information Service, Brick Development  
Association, Woodside House, Winkfield, Windsor,  
Berkshire, SL4 2DX  
[www.brick.org.uk](http://www.brick.org.uk)

#### Permanent exhibition, courses, and events:

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, West  
Sussex Tel 01243 811348  
[www.wealddown.co.uk](http://www.wealddown.co.uk)

## S. Siggs & Sons Est. 1922

Fences, gates, sheds, pergolas, gazebos,  
garden furniture, landscaping and any wooden  
construction built to your requirements

Free advice and estimates given

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20 Lewes Road  
Ridgewood, Uckfield  
East Sussex, TN22 5SN

All products made from locally grown timber

# Railway bridge t

With little good quality stone in the High Weald and poor transport links until the railways reached the area, other local building materials were needed. Just as the wooded landscape encouraged timber-framed buildings, so the area's abundance of clays and sands prompted brick and tile-making. Dr Roland Harris explains...

The mass of older brick buildings and the proliferation of tiles to the degree that they were used for covering walls, as well as roofs, is ample evidence that the brick earths were heavily utilised between the 15th and 19th centuries. Only when brick-making boomed in the East Midlands of England just over 100 years ago, did the local industry begin to decline.

### How and where were bricks and tiles made?

Bricks are mostly made of sandy material, with a smaller proportion of clay: sand gives the strength, and clay gives plasticity. Tiles are thinner and more akin to pottery and, likewise, use finer material with a higher clay content. Traditionally, bricks and tiles were made locally clay dug from small pits, many of which survive as ponds in the High Weald.

The clay was tempered by foot or in a pug mill, giving a finer and better-mixed material. This was then moulded by hand, dried, and fired. The simplest means of firing bricks was, and remains, the clamp, in which the green (unfired) bricks were stacked in the open on a bed of fuel.

Kilns were used from the medieval period for tiles and, increasingly, for bricks, giving a more reliable means of production. Kilns did not mean centralisation of the industry, and documentary records show that many of the High Weald parishes were home to several kilns in the 18th and 19th centuries. Place-names also help us locate these sites. The name 'brickfield' is numerous on 19th-century tithe maps, and in some cases survives today: it indicates clamp-firing of bricks.

### When and for what were bricks and tiles used?

Although bricks and tiles were popular in the High Weald, their use was neither particularly early nor sophisticated. On the fringes of the High Weald, Herstmonceux Castle gave an early boost to brick-making in the area. This was built almost entirely of brick in the 1440s, precisely at the time when brick became fashionable across England.

Smallhythe church was rebuilt in 1516-17 in brickwork that included the tracery windows. On the grand scale, the development of brickwork can be mapped by such monuments as



Tile hanging on a timber-framed house



Oast houses



Brickwork, St John the Baptist's church, Small Hythe, Kent. Rebuilt in brick 1516-17.

# ...a proud history

# o stately home...



Balcombe Viaduct – built with 11 million bricks

Cuckfield Park (c.1580), Groombridge Place (1652-74), and Matfield House (1728). But bricks also dominate the post-medieval vernacular, or more modest architecture of the area: by 1700, brick and tile had replaced timber and thatch as the dominant building materials in the High Weald.

With the arrival of railways, came the scope for major building projects such as the 1,475ft long Balcombe Viaduct (1839-41), for which temporary brick-fields were established at the site. Better transport also marked the advent of non-Wealden bricks and Welsh slates, as well as the diversity of building materials that typify later 19th and 20th-century architecture.

### Why are bricks and tiles different colours?

Modern bricks and tiles produced by mass-production techniques have as much variety in colour as ever, but uniformity is the norm within any single brick type or batch. It is the chemical composition of the raw material that determines the colour of such bricks: iron oxide, so prevalent in the High Weald, for red; magnesium oxide for yellow; and lime, or chalk, for white. These chemicals are found in varying amounts in different sources of brick clays, and have been artificially added since the 19th century.

Firing the bricks and tiles in kilns also adds to the colour: length of firing, tem-

perature, the amount of oxygen available, smokiness, and the presence of fly ash all have their effect. These factors can be controlled in more sophisticated kilns, but traditional clamp-burning is cruder. It is clamp-burning that gives us much of the subtle and much-loved accidental variations in colour found in both historic and modern hand-made bricks.

### Are bricks and tiles still made in the area?

Large-scale brick making developed around Peterborough and Bedford in the East Midlands of England in the late

19th century. This reduced prices and the viability of many small-scale producers in the High Weald. Two world wars and increasing mechanisation reduced further the numbers of small brickworks in the area in the 20th century.

Total collapse of traditional brick and tile-making in the area has been avoided, however, due to the need to supply the demands of conservation and, increasingly, as new buildings imitate old.

Some manufacturers of hand-made bricks and tiles of local materials can be found on the opposite page (18).

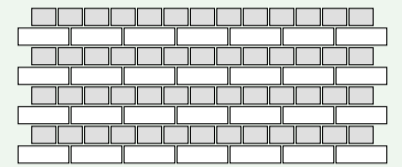
### Hand-moulding bricks



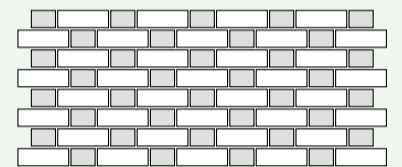
## Understanding bricks and tiles

**Bonding** is the pattern in which bricks are laid for strength and decorative effect. There are numerous ways of combining bricks – lengthways (stretchers) and end-on (headers) – and only three of the most popular are illustrated here. (Stretcher bond, English bond, Flemish bond).

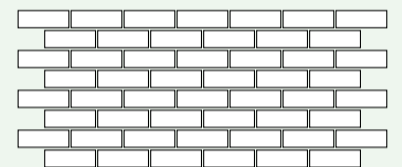
English bond



Flemish bond



Stretcher bond



**Tile hanging** is distinctive in the Weald, often used to clad the exterior of timber-framed buildings. Rainwater runs quickly off vertical tiles, meaning that mosses rarely develop on tile-hanging as on roof-tiles. See top photo on opposite page.

**Mathematical tiles** (pictured below) are a variation on normal tile-hanging, in which the tiles are moulded to present a brick-like elevation that is pointed with mortar. They were used to face masonry buildings, but, by virtue of their lightness, were especially suited to modernising facades of timber-framed houses. Their use extended from the early 18th century to the mid-19th century, and was concentrated in towns.



**Oast houses** are kilns for drying hops and are a distinctive, if sadly redundant, feature of the eastern High Weald. From the early 19th century, they commonly adopted a circular form that demanded special curved bricks and tapered roof-tiles. See middle photo on opposite page.

# of brick and tile

## Coppiced wood – a truly renewable resource



Coppiced wood with coppice stool in background

Most of our local hardwoods have traditionally been coppiced i.e. the trees cut down and the stump (or stool) allowed to re-grow. When the new shoots reach a usable size, they are harvested and the cycle begins again. In the past, the demand for coppice wood was so high that Sweet Chestnut was widely planted to provide an on-going supply of chestnut poles. Coppicing means the tree does not die but lives to produce useful timber and timber over and over again – a truly renewable resource.

### Woodland facts & figures

- 25% of the land cover in the High Weald is woodland
- The predominant woodland species are Oak, Ash, Hawthorn, Hornbeam, Hazel and Sweet Chestnut
- 11 protected/scheduled species, including Bluebell, occur in High Weald woodlands

**We make attractive garden furniture from local oak and chestnut**

**Rose arches, trellises, garden constructions**

**Chestnut poles, hurdles, fencing, mulch**

Also gift shop, refreshments, woodland walks, bluebells, picnic and play areas.

*Wilderness Wood*

Open daily 10-5  
on A272 in Hadlow Down, near Uckfield

Phone 01825 830509  
for a catalogue, or visit  
[www.wildernesswood.co.uk](http://www.wildernesswood.co.uk)

# Save rare tropical forests – buy local wood products

The High Weald is among the most wooded areas in England, with over 25% of tree cover compared to a national average of just 8%. But, while irreplaceable tropical forests are being ransacked across the globe to provide us with garden furniture and toilet seats, this renewable woodland resource on our doorstep stands idle...



Woodlands have, for generations, provided us with supplies of durable and attractive hardwoods such as Oak, Sweet Chestnut and Ash. Throughout history people have been at work in the woodlands of the High Weald. Swineherds brought pigs to feed on the beechmast, charcoal burners set up their camps to provide fuel for the iron smelting furnaces, and woodcutters sought timber for ship-building.

In the past, a single woodland would

have provided a whole range of products – large diameter timber for building houses and ships, small diameter timber for fencing, charcoal and firewood, thin poles for pea sticks, and bark for tanning. Almost all parts of the tree were used.

Today there are still people working in the woods but not in anything like the numbers of a century ago. All too often today there is, instead, an eerie silence in winter, traditionally the busiest time of year in the woods. The shrill skirring of chainsaws and the thuds of axes are now

rarely heard. Among the signs that indicate that a wood is being worked are the blue tarpaulin shelters of the coppice cutters, with their stacks of split timber and plumes of smoke that drift up through the trees.

Most woodland needs to be worked to keep the rare wildlife that has developed over generations within it. With such a valuable resource so close to home, and increased consumer interest in natural and local products, the industry is long overdue for revival.

Woodland worker hanging stripped bark



Shelters indicate a woodland is being worked





A modern charcoal burning kiln and (below) traditional charcoal burning



# From wood to charcoal

Charcoal burning is one of the world's oldest crafts dating back to pre-Roman times. It has a long history in the High Weald, being used in the production of iron from the time of the Roman occupation.

Low value, coppiced or 'waste' wood is normally used for charcoal production. Ideally the wood needs to have been seasoned for a couple of months as the drier the wood the faster the burning

process. Burning therefore usually takes place once the wood cutting season is over – between March and October.

The production process has changed very little over the centuries. Most burning takes place on the site where the wood has been felled. In the past the wood was carefully stacked in a dome and covered with litter and then wet sand and turf. Nowadays the wood is stacked in portable steel kilns, which are

sealed with a metal lid and sand.

Stacking the wood is a skilled process. It has to be carefully placed in a strict rotary pattern that maximises the amount of charcoal produced but allows just enough air to maintain the fire. In the past the stack would have been lit through a chimney in its middle, now the wood is lit through the kiln's air inlets. The inlets also control the flow of air – which must be slow so the wood is charred not incinerated.

Once lit, the smoke appears white as the water vapour is burnt off, turning to yellow as the tar is burnt and eventually a thin blue, as the wood starts to convert to charcoal. The length of the burn varies but roughly takes about 24 hours.

In the past the charcoal would have been used as a domestic and industrial fuel as well as a range of other uses – gunpowder, shoe-blackening and hop-drying. Now most locally produced charcoal is graded and packaged into three or five kilo paper bags to supply the BBQ market, either through local outlets such as village shops, supplied by individual charcoal burners, or through larger, national outlets such as B&Q, Somerfield and Shell, supplied by charcoal burners working together co-operatively.



## Barbecue charcoal – British is best

Charcoal made from British hardwoods is an excellent choice for BBQs for two reasons. Firstly it is less dense than the imported product and lights more easily – there is no need for firelighters or fluids, some scrunched-up newspaper will do. Secondly it is also almost pure carbon – more than 90% dry weight compared with 65% to 80% in imported charcoal. This means it reaches cooking temperature more quickly – it is hot enough to cook on within 10 minutes – and doesn't smoke.

Imported charcoal – 90% of which comes from the developing world where it has been produced to the detriment of tropical and mangrove forests – still dominates petrol station forecourts and DIY store shelves. However, charcoal made from British hardwoods is occasionally available and within the Weald a number of smaller outlets – shops, garden centres and visitor attractions – are endeavouring to offer consumers a choice. See pages 22 and 23 for suppliers.



## Burning wood

Years ago, when the only source of warmth and cooking was an open fire, almost all the woods around us would have been managed to produce firewood.

Using wood for fuel is still a good way of keeping warm without contributing to global warming. Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), so providing you burn timber that has been coppiced or replanted and allowed to re-grow, the net effect on greenhouse gases will be zero.

Dry wood burns best as no energy is wasted driving off steam. Newly cut wood therefore needs to be stacked outside, under cover, for at least year.

Woodburning stoves are more efficient than open fires and can also heat water and run heating systems – but they require large quantities of wood.

You can buy firewood by the bag or trailer-load as rough cut logs or already split. Usually the wood is a mixture of Oak, Ash and Chestnut. Just telephone your local supplier (some are listed overleaf), specify what you need, and they will deliver to the door.

**Woodburning stoves are fuel efficient**



## Logs for Burning

*Oak logs will warm you well*

*If they're old and dry;*

*Larch logs of pinewood smell,*

*But the sparks will fly.*

*Beech logs for Christmas time;*

*Yew logs heat well;*

*Scotch logs it is a crime*

*For anyone to sell.*

*Birch logs will burn too fast,*

*Chestnut scarce at all.*

*Hawthorn logs are good to last*

*If cut in the Fall.*

*Holly logs will burn like wax;*

*You should burn them green.*

*Elm logs like smouldering flax,*

*No flame to be seen.*

*Pear logs and apple logs*

*They will scent your room.*

*Cherry logs across the dogs*

*Smell like flowers in bloom.*

*But ash logs, all smooth and grey,*

*Burn them green or old,*

*Buy up all that come your way;*

*They're worth their weight in gold.*

**Weald woodlands produce enough timber each and every year to heat 17,000 homes for ever, yet only a fraction of this is actually used.**

Source: Forestry Commission

# Producers of woodland products



*Furniture*



*Wood fired kilns*



*Fencing*



*Fuel*



*Timber buildings*

**1. A Groombridge**  
Yew Tree Cottage  
Five Ashes  
Mayfield  
East Sussex TN20 6JE  
Andy Groombridge  
Tel No: 01825 830756 \*  
**Fencing and logs**

**2. Ashdown Forest Conservators**  
Ashdown Forest Centre  
Wych Cross  
Forest Row  
East Sussex RH18 5JP  
Forest Superintendent  
Tel No: 01342 823583  
**Scots Pine, Christmas trees, Bracken mulch.**  
All year Mon-Fri 9-1 & 2-5 Sat-Sun 11-5  
Please phone to check availability of products.

**3. Ashdown Forestry**  
14 Ashdown Close  
Forest Row  
East Sussex RH18 5DF  
Dennis Billings  
Tel No: 01342 824498  
**Woodland management, kindling wood, charcoal and firewood**

**4. Barry M Jones**  
Rustic Crafts Workshop  
Bixley Lane  
Beckley  
Rye  
East Sussex TN31 6TH  
Barry Jones  
Tel No: 01797 260522 \*  
**Bespoke furniture, traditional and contemporary. For house and garden: music stands, jewellery boxes etc**  
All year Daily 9-5

**5. Burstye Soays**  
Burstye Farm  
Lindfield  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex RH16 2QY  
Thomas & Ann Knowles  
Tel No: 01444 483376  
Email: ann@burstye.fsnet.co.uk  
**Soay lamb, a gourmet rare breed lamb, totally additive free. Coppiced timber**  
Phone to check availability

**6. C A Forward & Sons**  
Crayford  
Petteridge  
Matfield  
Tonbridge  
Kent TN12 7LP  
Mr C Forward  
Tel No: 01892 722408 \*  
**Chestnut posts, fencing and tree stakes**

**7. Chad Coleman**  
3 Rye View  
Harbour Road  
Rye  
East Sussex TN31 7TQ  
Chad Coleman  
Tel No: 01797 226257 \*  
**Wood carving, turning, letter cutting, house signs, longbows and arrows**

**8. Charles Thomson**  
Almond Barn  
Five Ashes  
Mayfield  
East Sussex TN20 6HX  
Charles Thomson  
Tel No: 01825 830691  
Email: Almondbarn@hotmail.com  
Website: www.axisartists.org.uk  
**Cluster leg furniture, ceramics with wood ash glazes**  
All year Mon-Sat 9-6 By appointment

**9. Copford Farm Sawmill**  
Dern Lane  
Horam, Heathfield  
East Sussex TN21 0PN  
Alex Gingell  
Tel No: 01435 813472 \*  
**Sawn Oak**

**10. D J Penfold & Son**  
Rose Bungalow  
Dodds Bank  
Nutley, Uckfield  
East Sussex TN22 3LR  
D Penfold  
Tel No: 01825 712702 \*  
**Chestnut fencing stakes, post and rail fencing, charcoal and panels**  
Phone for details of charcoal outlets

**11. Deers Leap Park**  
Saint Hill Green  
East Grinstead  
West Sussex RH19 4NG  
Chris Saunders  
Tel No: 01342 325858  
Fax No : 01342 410560  
Email: enquiries@deersleappark.co.uk  
Website: www.deersleappark.co.uk  
**Wheat, Barley, Linseed and Beef, Charcoal**  
9-5 Daily

**12. English Oak Direct Ltd**  
The Woodlands Industries Centre  
Hever  
Edenbridge  
Kent TN8 7LX  
James Andrews  
Tel No: 01342 850555  
Fax No : 01342 850555  
**English Oak kiln dried. Oak flooring, decking & hardwood chairs & solid oak bespoke furniture.**  
All year Mon - Fri 8-5.30pm Sat 8-12noon

**13. The Furniture Works**  
Pullens Farm  
Lamberhurst Road  
Horsmonden, Tonbridge  
Kent TN12 8ED  
Nicola/Hamish Adamson/Low  
Tel No: 01892 723474 \*  
Email: nicolaandhamish@the-furnitureworks.freeserve.co.uk  
**Bespoke furniture made from local wood**

**14. R Harris**  
Forest Lodge  
Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells  
East Sussex TN3 9AX  
Roy Harris  
Tel No: 01892 891365 \*  
Fax No : 01892 891085  
**Post & rail & chestnut pale fencing, garden trellis, pergolas, sheep hurdles, fencing stakes**  
All Year Mon-Sat 8-6

**15. Kent Wildlife Trust**  
Tyland Barn  
Sandling, Maidstone  
Kent ME14 3BD  
Joan Cox  
Tel No: 01622 662012  
Fax No : 01622 671390  
**Charcoal, bird boxes, honey and fruit juices, local made crafts, local artists**  
All year Daily 10-5, closed 23 Dec to 23 Jan

**16. Pete Marden**  
2a Garfield Road  
Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2BB  
Pete Marden  
Tel No: 01323 846658 \*  
**Sussex Trugs made using traditional tools, methods & materials.**

**17. S Siggs & Sons**  
20 Lewes Road  
Ridgewood, Uckfield  
East Sussex TN22 5SN  
P C Siggs  
Tel No: 01825 762714  
Fax No : 01825 762714  
**Fencing, gates, garden furniture, timber, buildings, firewood, sheds**  
Mon-Fri 8-5 Sat 8-12, Closed Bank Hols.

**18. Thomas Smith's Trug Shop**  
Trug Shop  
Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux  
Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 4LH  
Robin Tuppen  
Tel No: 01323 832137  
Fax No : 01323 832137  
Email: info@sussextrugs.com  
Website: www.sussextrugs.com  
**Trugs, hurdles, fencing**  
All year Mon-Fri 8-5 Sat 9-4

**19. AJ & PM Scott**  
Pole Brook Farm  
Hever, Edenbridge  
Kent TN8 7NJ  
John Scott  
Tel No: 01732 864729\*  
**Oak boards and beams**

**20. Stocklands Farm**  
Ellenwhorne Lane, Staplecross,  
Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5RT  
Paul Martin  
Tel No: 01580 830267 \*  
**Planks and beams – ash, oak, apple and pine**

## Sussex High Weald Dairy Products

Putlands Farm, Duddleswell, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 3BJ  
Tel: 01825 712647 Fax: 01825 712474

Producers of high quality speciality dairy products  
from sheep milk and organic cows milk



Photograph by Mr Relf, winner of the High Weald photography competition 2000

#### 21. The Furniture Workshop

Little London Road  
Horam, Heathfield  
East Sussex TN21 0BL  
Martin Patterson  
Tel No: 01435 813144 \*  
Fax No : 01435 813144

**Bespoke indoor & outdoor furniture, wood machining for the trade, specialist joinery**

#### 22. The Truggerly

Coopers Croft  
Herstmonceux, Hailsham  
East Sussex BN27 1QL  
Sarah Page  
Tel No: 01323 832314  
Fax No : 01323 832314

**Sussex Trugs made from chestnut and willow**

Tue-Sat 10-5 Ring in winter to check availability

#### 23. Wilderness Wood

Wilderness Wood  
Hadlow Down, Uckfield  
East Sussex TN22 4HJ  
C Yarrow  
Tel No: 01825 830509  
Fax No : 01825 830977  
Email: enquiries@wildernesswood.co.uk  
Website: www.wildernesswood.co.uk

**Garden furniture, rosearches, trellises, chestnut poles, fencing, xmas trees etc**  
All Year Daily 10am-5pm

#### 24. Woodwise Forestry Services

No 1 Victoria Cottages  
Fir Grove Road  
Cross in Hand, Heathfield  
East Sussex TN21 0SU  
Nick and Sue Hilton  
Tel No: 01435 864397 \*  
Email: nickhilton@woodwiseforestry.co.uk  
Website: www.woodwiseforestry.co.uk  
**Timber, planks, posts, logs, cut to order, mobile sawmill, comprehensive forestry contracting service**

#### 25. The Coppice Trading Post

56 Finians Field  
Barns Green, Horsham  
West Sussex RH13 7NQ  
Richard Hobbs  
Tel No: 01403 732171 \*  
Fax No : 01403 732171  
Email: coppicetradingpost@tinyworld.co.uk  
**Bentwood furniture, rose arches, trellises, pergolas, planters, charcoal**

#### 26. TreESPanner Timber

East Cottage, Dry Hill Farm  
Moons Lane, Dormansland  
Surrey RH7 6PD  
Charles Willment  
Tel No: 01342 871529 \*  
Email: charles.willment@virgin.net  
Website: www.treespanner.co.uk  
**Oak beams, planks, posts, flooring, doors, skirtings, mouldings & timber from other native hardwoods**

#### 27. Kim Sheard Design

Foxhole Workshop  
Howbourne Lane  
Buxted, East Sussex TN22 4QD  
Kim Sheard  
Tel No: 01825 733101\*  
Mob 07050 193450  
Fax No : 01825 733101  
Email: kimsheard@globalnet.co.uk  
Website: www.kimshearddesign.com  
**Design and manufacture of quality contemporary furniture and joinery and timber supply**

#### 28. Mannswood Coppice Products

The Platt  
45 The Platt  
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5BL  
T & A Mann  
Tel No: 01732 867110 \*  
Mobile 0771 3202298  
**Charcoal, bean poles, walking sticks, rustic garden accessories**

#### 29. John Waller

2 Redgate Mill Cottages  
Sandhill Lane  
Eridge, Tunbridge Wells  
Kent TN3 9LR  
John Waller  
Tel No: 01892 660165 \*  
Mobile: 07788 748618  
**Hurdles, pole lathe furniture, willow baskets, hedgelaying, courses in green woodwork & coppice skills**

#### 30. Hugo Williams

Hayden Lodge  
Goudhurst Road  
Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells  
Kent TN3 8AH  
Hugo Williams  
Tel No: 01892 890541\*  
Mobile 0973400724  
**Hedgelaying materials, rustic garden furniture & structures, fencing materials, logs, timber**

#### 31. British Gates & Timber Ltd

Biddenden  
Ashford  
Kent TN27 8DN  
Tel No: 01580 291555  
Fax No : 01580 292011  
Email: britishgates@supanet.com  
Website: www.britishgates.co.uk  
**Gates, fencing, craft products, tools, woodworking machinery. Hardware, DIY products etc.**  
8am - 5pm Mon - Sat

#### 32. Higham Farm

Higham Farm  
Bells Yew Green  
Tunbridge Wells  
Kent TN3 9AU  
J H W and Sue Hodson  
Tel No: 01892 750363\*  
Fax No : 01892 750363  
**Beef, lamb, woodland products**

### Farmers' Markets 2001

#### TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Second Saturday from Jan-Aug and Oct-Dec (plus 28 July, 25 Aug, 22 Dec and Sept 18, 9 am – 2 pm  
Civic Way, outside the Town Hall  
Contact: Lou Blackmore 01892 554177

#### HASTINGS

Every Saturday , 8 am – 4.30 pm  
Robertson Street, Hastings Town Centre  
Contact: Monica Adams-Acton 01424 781860

#### HEATHFIELD

3rd Saturday in the month, 9 am – 1 pm  
Car Park, Station Road West  
Contact: Robert Strange 01435 866382

#### HORSHAM

Every Saturday, 9 am – 5 pm  
Carfax, centre of Horsham  
Contact: Nick Shields 01403 733144

#### HAYWARDS HEATH

Hazle Grove Road car park  
Contact: Steve Tilbury, Mid Sussex District Council 01444 477324

#### CROWBOROUGH

Fourth Saturday, 9am – 1pm  
New Road or Croft Road car park  
Contact: Roger Hoggins 01892 664064.

#### BATTLE

Third Saturday, 9am – 1pm  
Battle Abbey Green  
Contact: Battle TIC 01424 773436.

#### BREDE

Every Friday, 10am – 12noon  
Brede Village Hall  
Contact: Mrs Liz Stephens 01424 882836

#### ROLVENDEN

Every Thursday, 10am – 12noon  
Village Hall  
Contact: 01580 240763

#### TENTERDEN

East Green Gardens  
Contact: 01580 240763

## Where to buy other local products

Many small, local producers of food and other products are working together to make it easier for local people to buy their goods. At the moment, however, you will need to seek out local products, particularly those that benefit the environment, from a variety of dispersed sources.

### Village shops

Village shops are increasingly developing specialist markets and a strong customer focus to counter the pull of the large supermarkets. Local products often feature strongly, and many shopkeepers will welcome enquiries about the origin of their products and their impact on the local countryside and economy.

### WI markets

The WI is best known for high-quality preserves and home baking, but at WI markets you can also find honey, cheese, eggs and crafts. Markets are held regularly in villages across the Weald. Contact the WI for local details.

### Events and shows

Many new events are being organised across the area to promote local producers. These can be good opportunities to talk to producers, try their products and see something of the industry. Contact the Environment Co-ordinator at your local council for details.

### Farmers' markets

In the last few years, farmers' markets have appeared all over Britain and are well worth a visit for a range of locally produced, fresh food and vegetables. At the moment, most are held on a Saturday, but not necessarily every Saturday. Contact the Environmental Co-ordinator at your local council for details.

### Internet shopping

The value of the internet in locating specialist producers is likely to increase considerably in the future. Currently you can join an organic box scheme on the internet or order a range of local Kentish Fare products and have them delivered to your door.

### Vegetable boxes

Vegetable box schemes, usually run by small, high-quality organic producers, are a good way to enjoy a regular supply of fresh, seasonal vegetables and get to know where your food has come from and how it was grown. Most producers sell a range of box sizes at around £6-£12 per box and may deliver direct to your door or to a local contact point. A typical box will contain a range of root and leaf vegetables and will vary as the season progresses. The Soil Association has a directory of local food schemes such as organic boxes and farm shops.

### Supermarkets

Many supermarkets now offer a good range of organic and fairly-traded food and are increasingly looking at stocking some regional products. At present, however, you are unlikely to find much from your local countryside on the supermarket shelves.

## Points to remember when shopping locally:

- Telephone ahead to check opening times, particularly when visiting outlets marked with a \* in the listings.
- Take cash if you can. Many small producers do not have credit card facilities.
- Try to take a re-usable basket or shopping bag with you.

**The listings on these pages have been extracted from Made in the High Weald – a free guide to countryside products in the area. Copies available from the High Weald AONB Unit – 01580 879500.**

# More to unique sandrocks...

Sandrocks have great cultural value – hunter-gatherer's shelter, medieval building material, Victorian visitor attraction, modern-day climbing wall. They are also home to internationally rare wildlife.

Scattered across the High Weald, sandrock is one of our most versatile, locally distinctive features, valued by present and past inhabitants.

Mesolithic hunters and gatherers who once roamed the Wealden Forests were the first to appreciate the rocks, often choosing to camp underneath the sandstone cliffs. Archaeological evidence of their use includes thousands of the tiny flint tools, as well as fragments of charcoal from their campfires.



Valerie Alford ESCC Landscape Group

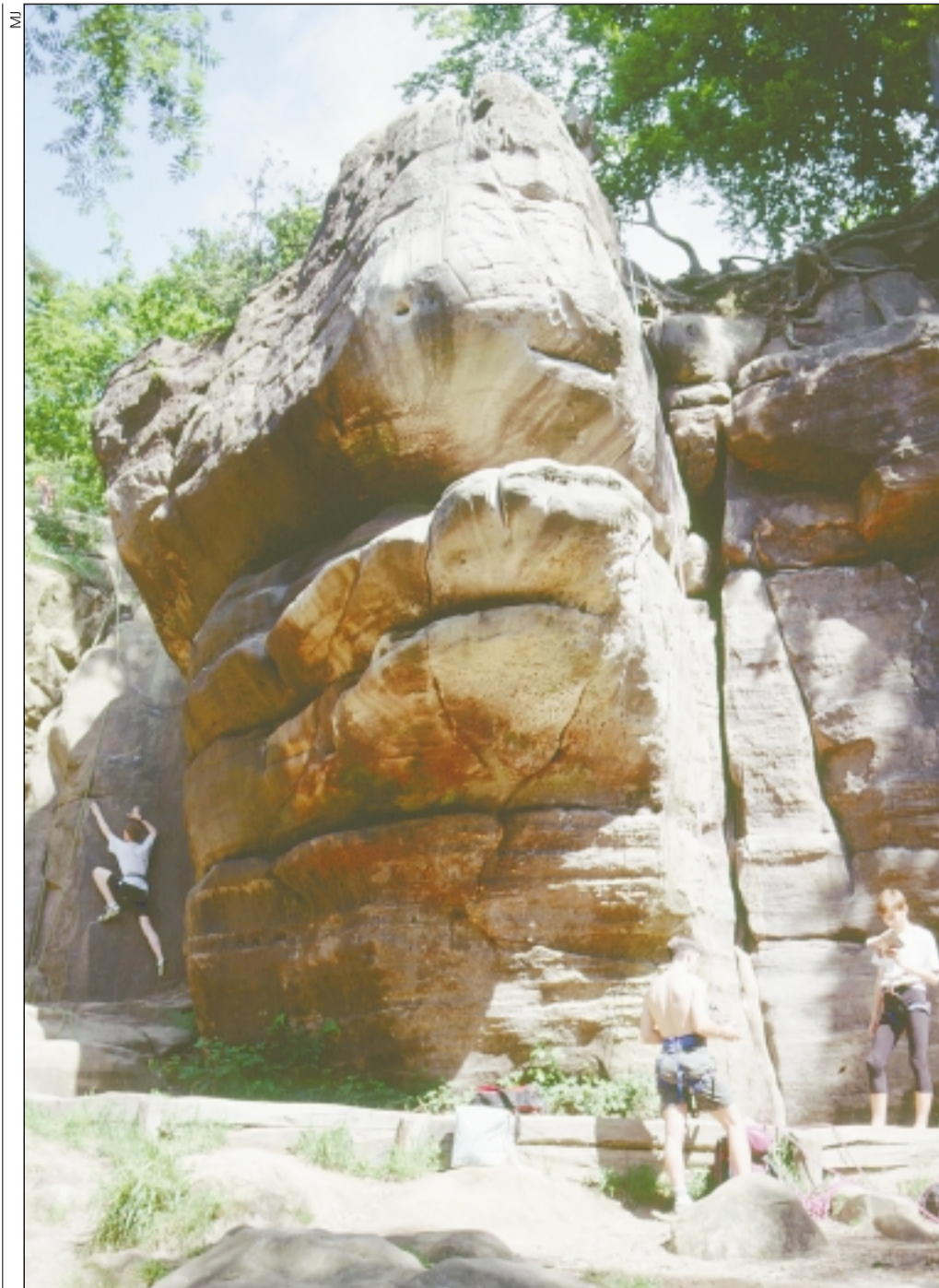
Sandrock was later valued as building stone. Many of our best-known grand houses – Battle Abbey, Bodiam Castle, Wakehurst Place, and Batemans (the house of Rudyard Kipling at Burwash) – are built of Wealden sandstone.

In Victorian times, the rocks were often popular visitor attractions in and around Royal Tunbridge Wells, and tearooms could be found nestling in the cliffs. Many of the rocks were given names, some on the basis of their resemblance to other objects – Toad Rock, Loaf Rock, Pulpit Rock and Lion Rock – others on the basis of their proximity to nearby landmarks – Wellington Rocks was named after the nearby hotel, and Bell Rock was so-called because it yielded a metallic ring when struck.

Up until the 15th century, the rocks would have been surrounded by woodland but, with the clearance of the forests for iron and other industries, many of the rocks became more exposed. Eighteenth-century drawings show that many of the cliffs had, by this stage, only a light or patchy tree cover.

## Facts & Figures

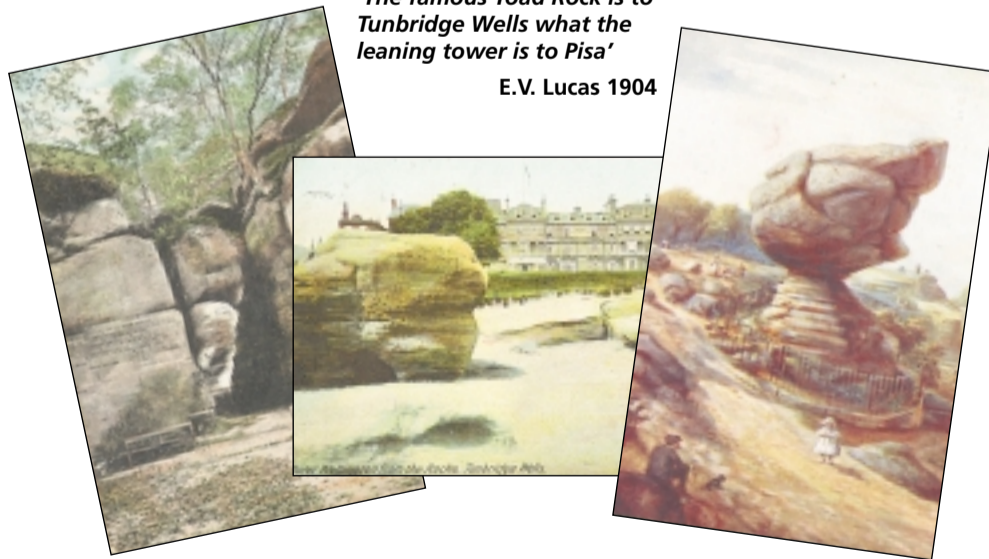
- There are over 75 significant sites of natural sandrock outcrops recorded in the Weald.
- Most of the extensive sandrock outcrops are sites of Special Scientific Interest and also regionally important geological sites.
- There are only four areas of soft sandstone in lowland Europe: in the Weald, the Forêt de Fontainbleau, France, the Petite Suisse in Luxembourg and the Elbsandsteingeberge on the Czech/German border, extending into the Czech Republic and Poland.



Climbers on Harrisons Rocks. Bodiam Castle (above right) is built of sandstone.

*'The famous Toad Rock is to Tunbridge Wells what the leaning tower is to Pisa'*

E.V. Lucas 1904



Edwardian postcards: Bell Rock; Wellington Rocks; Toad Rock

From the late-Victorian period onwards, however, the cliffs became increasingly hidden from view because of the growth of trees and shrubs, especially rhododendrons. Some of the rare plants on the cliffs became extinct, apparently as a result of excess shading.

This situation still pervades in many areas. At the Sussex Wildlife Trust Reserve at Eridge, however, large-scale clearance has once again exposed the rocks, with anticipated benefits to the rare mosses, liverworts and lichens which live on the rocks.

It was in the 1920s that the value of the rocks for climbing was discovered. As the only climbable rock in South East England, some of the cliffs have now become the most heavily used in the country.



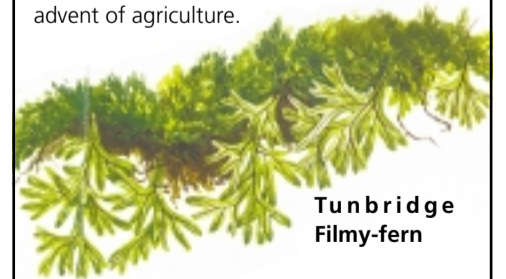
Small sandrock outcrops are often visible at the edges of the lanes which cross the High Weald area, larger outcrops are often hidden away in remote valleys. However, some are easily viewed – outcrops remain a prominent feature of the commons at the heart of Royal Tunbridge Wells and Eridge Rocks and nearby Harrison's Rocks can both be reached along local footpaths. In the western High Weald, there are outcrops at Nymans Garden and Wakehurst Place and, in the east, near Hastings, sandrock can be viewed at Ecclesbourne and Fairlight Glens. An autumn or winter visit is advised to see the rocks and their rare plants at their best.

## Further information

Sandrock in the Weald – a free leaflet available from the High Weald AONB Unit.

## Sandrock biodiversity

The rocks are home to a variety of nationally rare ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens. Many are a living legacy from the climate that most of Britain experienced around 4,000 BC, before the first farmers started to clear the 'wildwood' to make way for the advent of agriculture.



Tunbridge Filmy-fern

# ...than meets the eye

# So what do place-names mean?

Place-names attract curiosity, but so often seem indecipherable. Indeed, much of our understanding relies on the painstaking analysis of surviving medieval documents that track the changes in names over time, back to a point where the meaning is clear. Dr Roland Harris, the High Weald AONB Unit's rural character adviser, explains...

| Elements                                | Old English  | Example        | Old English                  | Meaning                                     |
|---|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|---|
| combe [valley]                          | <i>cumb</i>  | Balcombe       | <i>bealu cumb</i>            | the evil valley                             |
| den [woodland pasture]                  | <i>denn</i>  | Tenterden      | <i>Tenet-wara-den</i>        | the pasture of the men of Thanet            |
| field [open land, here within woodland] | <i>Feld</i>  | Hartfield      | <i>heorot feld</i>           | open land roamed by harts (young male deer) |
| ham [settlement]                        | <i>hām</i>   | Ashburnham     | <i>æsc burna hām</i>         | settlement on the river shaded by ashes     |
| ham [watermeadow]                       | <i>hamm</i>  | Slaugham       | <i>slāh hamm</i>             | sloe meadow                                 |
| heath [heathland]                       | <i>hæð</i>   | West Hoathly   | <i>hæð lēh-</i>              | clearing on heathland                       |
| hurst [wooded hill, wood]               | <i>Hyrst</i> | Sissinghurst   | <i>in 1206 Saxingeherste</i> | the wood of the Seaxingas people            |
| ing [people of, people associated with] | <i>Inga</i>  | Hastings       | <i>Hastingas-</i>            | belonging to Hæsta's people                 |
| ley/ly [woodland clearing]              | <i>Lēah</i>  | Ardingly       | <i>in 1107 Erdingelega</i>   | the clearing of the Eardingas people        |
| stede/stead [place]                     | <i>Stede</i> | East Grinstead | <i>In 1271 Estgrenested</i>  | east green place                            |
| ton/tun [enclosure, farmstead]          | <i>Tūn</i>   | Dallington     | <i>Dealling tūn</i>          | the farmstead of Dealla                     |



A typical example in the High Weald of a name evolving over time is the clifftop village of Fairlight – the original name had nothing to do with either fairs or lights. The Saxon form was ‘fearn leah’, meaning fern- or bracken-shaded clearing. This had become Farnlege by the late 12th century, then Farleghe and Fairlegh. The change from ‘ley’ to the similar sounding ‘light’ seems to have

resulted from the presence of a beacon. By the 1540s it had become Ferligght and Farleght, and by 1673 the name was spelled almost as it is today – Fairelight. Fortunately, many of the place-names in the High Weald use common elements that we can recognize and understand today. Above are listed some of the commonest elements in their modern forms and in Old English (OE).

**Sources and further reading**

J Glover, **The Place-names of Sussex** (1997)  
 J Glover, **The Place-names of Kent** (1982)  
 A Mawer and F M Stenton, **The Place-names of Sussex** (1929-30)  
 J K Wallenberg, **The Place-names of Kent** (1934)

## Have your say on the Anvil

Your views are important in deciding whether another copy of the High Weald Anvil is produced. If you are able to find time to fill in and return this questionnaire, using the freepost address at the bottom of the form, we would be grateful. All respondents will be sent an AONB coaster made from local wood.

**1. Where did you get your copy of this guide?**

- Library
- Visitor Attraction
- Village Shop
- Doctor/Dentist Surgery
- Bus/Rail Station
- Council Offices
- Tourist Information Centre
- Direct Mail
- Other (please state)

**2. What do you like about the guide?**

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**3. Is there anything you dislike about the guide?**

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**4. Which aspects of the guide do you find most interesting/useful, least interesting/useful?**

(1 = least interesting/useful and 5 = most interesting/useful)

- Raw Nature
- Wildlife
- The Weald at Work
- Exploring the High Weald
- AONB Map & Visitor Attractions
- Homes and Gardens
- Made in the High Weald
- Now and Then
- Kids' Stuff
- People and Places
- Contact lists
- South East AONBs
- Other (please state)

**5. Is there any subject you would like covered in the next issue?**

.....  
 .....

**6. Does the guide encourage you to do any of the following?**

- Purchase local products
- Go for a walk or cycle ride
- Visit an attraction or event
- Approach any of the contacts listed
- Manage your garden/land for wildlife
- Other (please state)

**7. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the guide?**

.....  
 .....

**8. Had you heard of the High Weald AONB before receiving this guide?**

**9. Are you a member of any of the following organisations?**

- RSPB
- National Trust
- Ramblers Association
- Kent or Sussex Wildlife Trust
- CPRE
- Weald of Kent Preservation Society
- Friends of the Earth and/or Greenpeace

**10. Please name the village or town where you live.**

.....

**11. What is your age category?**

- 0-9
- 10-15
- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 & over

**Thank you for your help**

**If you would like a free AONB coaster please fill in the following information:**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

- Tick the box if you do not wish to receive information about the High Weald AONB in future.

Please return this form to:  
**Transport and Environment (GS),  
 FREEPOST LW43, Lewes, BN7 1BR**

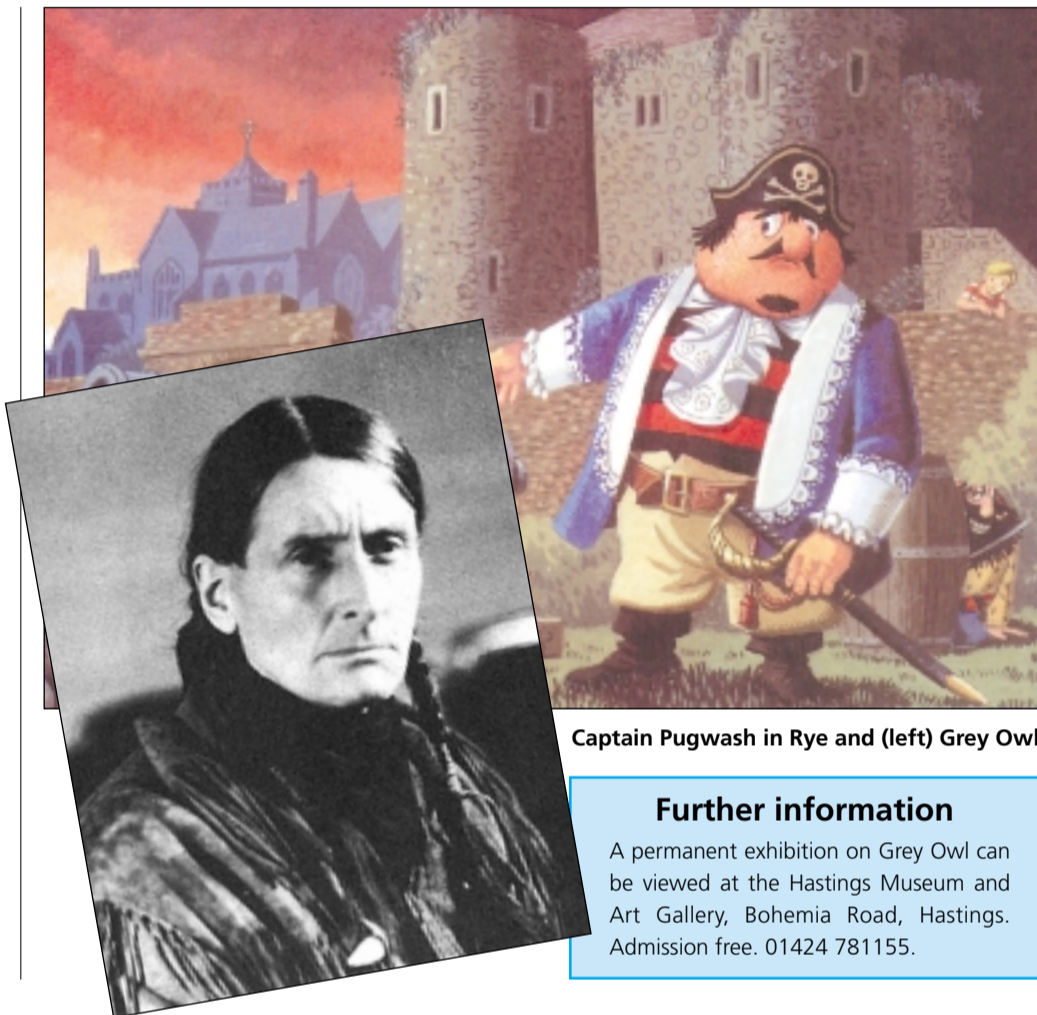
# Local authors created characters of TV and film

Cult TV pirate Captain Pugwash and 'native' indian Grey Owl were the creations of two authors with strong links with Hastings and Rye on the edge of the High Weald. Brigid Chapman explains the connections...

Writer and artist, John Ryan, creator of one of the most enduring of children's characters, lives in Rye. He came up with the idea of the bossy, vain, incompetent cowardly pirate, Captain Pugwash, while in the army in the Second World War, and started making initial sketches during a lull in the action in the Burma campaign.

After the war he studied art at London's Regent Street Polytechnic and went on to teach the subject at Harrow. Captain Pugwash appeared in the first edition of the Eagle comic in 1950, together with Harris Tweed, 'a bone headed detective' and Lettice Leafe, 'a green sort of girl', but his real debut was several years later on BBC TV. It was after his move to Rye that John began to set his books in the town. He drew from its rich smuggling history to write *Captain Pugwash and the Huge Reward* which gives a lively account of town life, complete with corrupt mayor and officials, a secret passage and bawdy inns. The cowardly pirate made a triumphant return to the small screen in 1998 in *The Adventures of Captain Pugwash*, produced by the Britt Allcroft Company.

Archie Belaney (1888-1938) was a son of Sussex who kept his connection with the county – and his country –



Captain Pugwash in Rye and (left) Grey Owl

**Further information**  
A permanent exhibition on Grey Owl can be viewed at the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Bohemia Road, Hastings. Admission free. 01424 781155.

very quiet. He was born at 32 St James Road, Hastings, and during his schooldays at Hastings Grammar School, showed an avid interest in North American Indians.

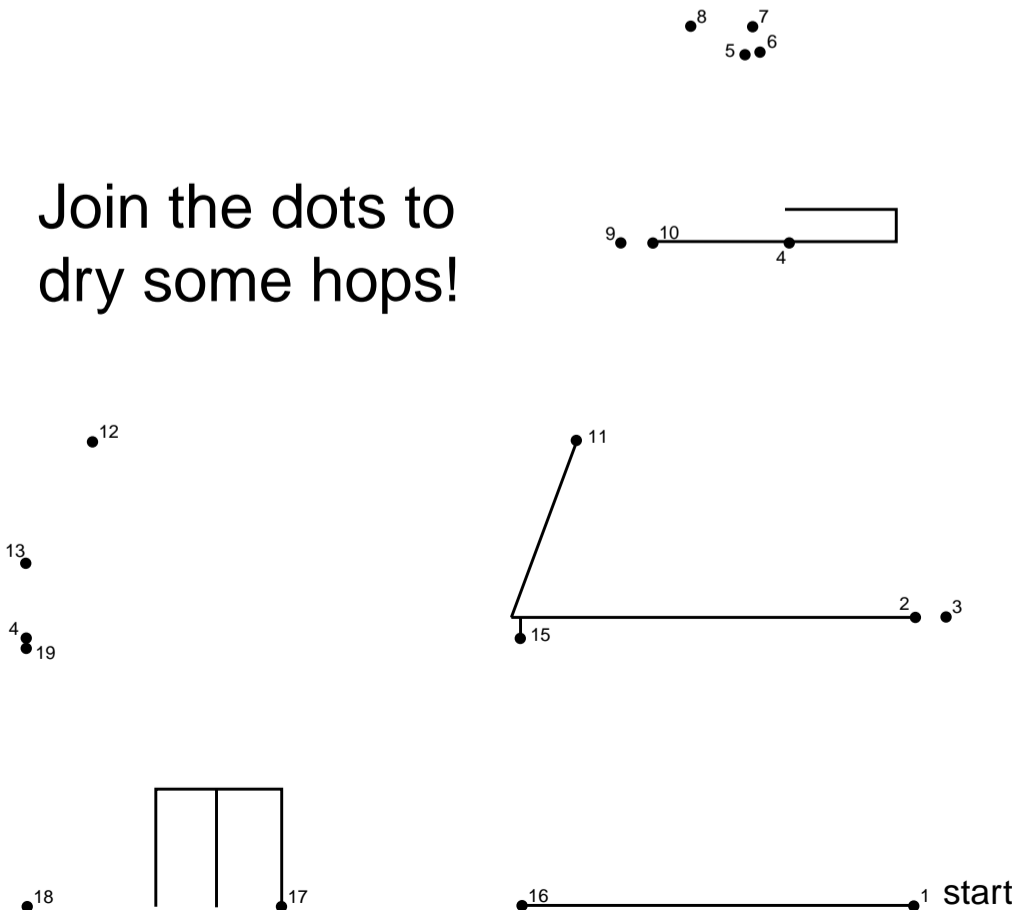
He emigrated to Canada in 1906 where he earned a living trapping and selling furs. He dyed his skin, grew his hair and adopted the dress and style of an Ojibway Indian, taking the name Grey Owl. It was his third wife, Anahareo, who changed him from a trapper of furry animals to a protector of all forms of wildlife, particularly the beaver.

His first book, *Men of the Last Frontier*, was published in 1931, his publishers firmly believing the author was of Indian blood. As a result of its success, he was given a job as warden of one of Canada's National Parks and lived by Lake Ajawaan with his wife and the beavers. As a result of two extensive and successful lecture tours of the UK – culminating in an invitation from King George VI to give a talk in the throne room of Buckingham Palace – Grey Owl became a cult figure.

It was not until he died in hospital in Canada at the age of 49 that questions began to be asked and his true identity revealed. Grey Owl, a film of Archie Belaney's life, with Pierce Brosnan, the latest James Bond, in the title role, and directed by Sir Richard Attenborough, was released in 2000.

Created by Sue Nicholas & Matthew Pitts of the

Join the dots to dry some hops!



Search for landscapes, wildlife, buildings and other features associated with the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | R | I | M | S | T | O | N | E | Q | Y | E | S | P | O | C |
| U | H | D | E | R | J | R | J | U | F | D | W | E | R | T | Y |
| T | S | F | A | G | H | C | H | A | R | C | O | A | L | T | D |
| T | I | G | D | M | K | H | R | F | S | W | J | K | M | B | R |
| E | R | E | O | H | P | A | W | O | R | E | G | D | E | H | A |
| R | O | S | W | O | L | R | G | J | K | U | T | B | V | C | Z |
| F | N | K | S | P | W | D | O | R | M | O | U | S | E | L | I |
| L | S | L | G | S | D | T | F | D | Z | W | I | L | D | M | L |
| Y | S | J | G | E | J | D | N | I | G | H | T | J | A | R | W |
| S | D | N | Y | S | A | A | P | P | L | E | S | O | F | I | I |
| A | Q | A | G | I | L | M | H | E | E | K | M | E | W | V | N |
| C | L | Z | I | H | I | X | E | G | E | G | A | D | Y | M | D |
| C | P | K | T | L | O | P | R | D | D | Y | M | N | O | H | M |
| T | J | A | O | M | R | O | W | W | O | L | S | Y | V | W | I |
| S | E | A | J | Z | F | Y | Z | X | R | D | B | I | K | I | L |
| H | D | O | A | S | T | H | O | U | S | E | G | K | Q | X | L |

The following words are hidden in the wordsearch, either forwards, backwards, diagonally, vertically or horizontally!  
ANVIL, APPLES, BRIMSTONE, BUTTERFLY, CHARCOAL, CLAY, COPSE, DORMOUSE, FORGE, HEATHLAND, HEDGEROW, HOPS, IRON, LIZARD, MEADOW, NIGHTJAR, OAST HOUSE, ORCHARD, SLOW WORM, WINDMILL.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE HIGH WEALD AONB

### High Weald AONB Unit

Information packs on the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.  
Contact: Kerry Baldwin  
01580 879500  
email [info@highweald.org](mailto:info@highweald.org)  
[www.highweald.org](http://www.highweald.org)

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON WILDLIFE

### Sussex Conservation Careline

01273 494777

### ADVICE AND HELP WITH WILDLIFE, LANDSCAPE AND ACCESS PROJECTS

*The following are the first point of contact for individuals and community groups who are seeking assistance with landscape, wildlife and access projects.*

### Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

A national charity which provides practical and confidential advice to farmers and landowners on activities which can be undertaken to enhance land holdings over 10 acres for wildlife. The organisation also provides assistance with drawing up management plans and grant applications.  
[www.fwag.org.uk](http://www.fwag.org.uk)

### West Sussex & East Sussex Downs

Colin Hedley/Paul Ling  
01273 891190  
email: [colin.hedley@fwag.org.uk](mailto:colin.hedley@fwag.org.uk)  
[paul.ling@fwag.org.uk](mailto:paul.ling@fwag.org.uk)

### Kent & East Sussex Weald

Ralph Hobbs  
01580 879399  
email: [ralph.hobbs@fwag.org.uk](mailto:ralph.hobbs@fwag.org.uk)

### Kent

Paul Cobb 01233 813186  
email [paul.cobb@fwag.org.uk](mailto:paul.cobb@fwag.org.uk)

### Surrey

Jane Lewis  
01483 404255  
email: [jane.lewis@fwag.org.uk](mailto:jane.lewis@fwag.org.uk)

### Kent High Weald Project

A countryside management project operating within the Borough of Tunbridge Wells, most of which lies within the High Weald AONB.  
Contact: Laurence Tricker  
01580 715918  
email: [kenthighwealdproject@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kenthighwealdproject@kent.gov.uk)  
[www.kenthighwealdproject.org.uk](http://www.kenthighwealdproject.org.uk)

### West Sussex County Council

A countryside management service dedicated to the conservation of the High Weald AONB and surrounding area within West Sussex.  
Contact: Jackie Lewis  
01243 756888  
email: [jackie.lewis@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.lewis@westsussex.gov.uk)  
[www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)

### East Sussex County Council

A countryside management service responsible for the management of Weirwood Reservoir, Chailey Common and Forest the Way.  
Contact: Sandra Williamson  
01273 482670  
email: [sandra.williamson@eastsussexcc.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.williamson@eastsussexcc.gov.uk)  
[www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk)

### Rye Bay Office

A satellite of ESCC the office is dedicated to the conservation of the Rye Bay and Rother area of the High Weald.  
Contact: Julia Scaines  
01797 226488  
email: [julia@ryebay.demon.co.uk](mailto:julia@ryebay.demon.co.uk)  
[www.ryebay.demon.co.uk](http://www.ryebay.demon.co.uk)

### Surrey County Council

Contact: David Sayce  
01483 517592  
[david.sayce@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:david.sayce@surreycc.gov.uk) [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

### Weald Meadows Initiative

The Initiative provides advice on the management and creation of traditional meadows.  
Contact: Dawn Brickwood  
01580 879500  
email: [meadows@highweald.org](mailto:meadows@highweald.org)

### Weald Heathlands Initiative

The Initiative provides advice on the restoration and management of heathlands.  
Contact: Caroline Fitzgerald  
01580 720851 or  
Richard Allum 01293 544118  
email: [r.allum@highweald.org](mailto:r.allum@highweald.org)  
[c.fitzgerald@highweald.org](mailto:c.fitzgerald@highweald.org)

### South of England Hedge-Laying Society

The society is the regional expert on hedge-laying. The Society can provide details of professional hedge layers willing to assist with land management.  
Contact: John Blake,  
Coppicing Officer 01444 483999

### Environment Agency

Guidance on wetland management and creation.  
Contact: Conservation team  
01903 215835

## VOLUNTEERING

### British Trust For Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)

BTCV is a national charity which involves volunteers in practical conservation work. It is the first point of contact if you wish to find out about local conservation groups in your area. The charity provides training, insurance and other support for members of the public wishing to set up local conservation groups. They can also organise for small teams of volunteers to provide assistance to landowners with conservation work at a modest cost.  
[www.btcv.org](http://www.btcv.org)

### West Sussex

Dee Christensen 01243 756861  
email [West-Sussex@btcv.org.uk](mailto:West-Sussex@btcv.org.uk)

### Kent

Peter Waite 01233 812033  
email [Kent@btcv.org.uk](mailto:Kent@btcv.org.uk)

### East Sussex

Mike Cook 01424 446395  
email [East-Sussex@btcv.org.uk](mailto:East-Sussex@btcv.org.uk)

### Surrey

Alan Osborn 0181 541 7157  
email [Surrey@btcv.org.uk](mailto:Surrey@btcv.org.uk)

## PRESSURE GROUPS

*The following county-based groups are involved with lobbying for the conservation of the High Weald.*

[sussexwt@cix.compulink.co.uk](mailto:sussexwt@cix.compulink.co.uk)

### Sussex Wildlife Trust

01273 492630  
[enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk)  
[www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk)

### Kent Wildlife Trust

01622 662012  
[kentwildlife@cix.compulink.co.uk](mailto:kentwildlife@cix.compulink.co.uk)  
[www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk)

### CPRE (Sussex branch)

01825 890975  
[www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

### CPRE (Kent branch)

01233 813172 [info@cprekent.org.uk](mailto:info@cprekent.org.uk)  
[www.cprekent.org.uk](http://www.cprekent.org.uk)

### Weald of Kent Preservation Society

Freepost, Hawkenbury, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 0BR

## SPECIALIST GROUPS

*The following local and national groups offer specialist advice.*

## WILDLIFE

### Butterfly Conservation Society – Sussex Branch

01273 492279

### Butterfly Conservation Society – Kent Branch

57 Westfield Rd, Barnhurst, Kent, DA7 6LR

### Sussex Reptile & Amphibian Group

01273 833097

### Sussex Botanical Recording Society

01273 880258

### Young Herpetologist Club

01202 692378

### East Sussex Herpetological Society

01424 730433

### Ashdown Forest Conservators

01342 823583

### Sussex Ornithological Society

01273 494723

[www.susos.org.uk](http://www.susos.org.uk)

### Kent Ornithological Society

Membership secretary 10 Apex Close, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 5TU  
[www.kentos.org.uk](http://www.kentos.org.uk)

### RSPCA Headquarters

0870 5555 999  
[www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)

### Sussex Moth Group

01273 551216

### The Sussex Mammal Group

01273 551216

### The Kent Mammal Group

01795 890285

### Sussex Badger Society

01243 265905

### Sussex Bat Group

01273 464440

### Kent Bat Group

01474 833164

### West Sussex Deer Management Society

01730 825241

### East Grinstead Natural History Society

01342 321294

### Horsham Natural History Society

01403 864414

### RSPB South East England Office

01273 775333  
[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

### RSPB Youth

01767 680551

### British Dragonfly Society

01243 552030

### RAMSAK Ltd

01580 241349  
[www.ramsak.farming.co.uk](http://www.ramsak.farming.co.uk)  
Contracting and hire of agricultural machinery in East Sussex and Kent

## LEISURE

### Ramblers Association

For details of local groups  
020 7339 8500  
[www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)  
[ramblers@london.ramblers.org.uk](mailto:ramblers@london.ramblers.org.uk)

### Sussex Gardens Trust/Kent Gardens Trust

Information on gardens open on an occasional basis for charity  
01483 211535  
[www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL

### Wealden Iron Research Group

01293 886278

### Sussex Archaeological Society

01273 486260  
[www.sussexpast.co.uk](http://www.sussexpast.co.uk)

### Field Archaeology Unit

01273 845497

## BUILDINGS

### English Heritage

020 7973 3000

### Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

01243 811348  
[www.wealddown.co.uk](http://www.wealddown.co.uk)

### Royal Institute of British Architects

South East Region  
01892 515878

### The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)

020 7377 1644

### The Georgian Group

020 7387 1720

### The Victorian Society

020 8994 1019

### The Churches Conservation Trust

020 7973 3615

*The above is not a comprehensive list. We will gladly receive suggestions for other groups which could be included in the next edition of the High Weald Anvil.*

## Biddenden Vineyard and Cider Works

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Visit Kent's oldest commercial vineyard and taste our award winning wines, strong Kentish ciders and pure apple juice.

Specialist preserves, chocolates etc. available in our shop.

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Sunday and Bank Holidays 11.00am – 5.00pm

FREE ADMISSION AND TASTINGS

LITTLE WHATMANS, BIDDENDEN  
ASHFORD, KENT TN27 8DH

Tel: 01580 291726 Fax: 01580 291933

## High Weald publications list

### The High Weald Area of Outstanding

Natural Beauty Free leaflet

### Wildflower Grasslands in the Weald

Free leaflet

### Ponds in the Weald

Free leaflet

### Hedgerows in the Weald

Free leaflet

### Heathlands in the Weald

Free leaflet

### Sandrock in the Weald

Free leaflet

**Made in the High Weald** – a guide to countryside products and producers

Free guide

### High Weald AONB Management Plan

£3.50 inc p&p

### The High Weald – Exploring the Landscape of the AONB

£8.00 inc p&p

Please send the items ticked above to

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to

**East Sussex County Council**

Return form to:

**The High Weald AONB Unit  
Corner Farm, Hastings Road  
Flimwell, East Sussex TN5 7PR**

or email request for free publications to:  
**[info@highweald.org](mailto:info@highweald.org)**

## Answers to High Weald Quiz (page 28)

1. Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex and Kent 2. Pasture 3. Wood 4. 65% 5. Heathland 6. Rother, Medway, Ouse and Cuckmere 7. Small and red 8. Ardingly 9. Wealdway, High Weald Landscape Trail, and 1066 Walk 10. The Lodgers



# High Weald Quiz

1. The High Weald AONB designation covers parts of 4 counties. Which are they?
2. What is the main land use within the High Weald?
3. What building material is the Weald famous for?
4. What percentage of farms in the High Weald are part-time?
5. What internationally rare habitat lies at the heart of the High Weald?
6. Which four well-known rivers rise in the High Weald?
7. What are the two features of the local Sussex Cattle?
8. Which village can boast a public school, a reservoir and a showground?
9. Which long-distance walking routes in the South East Walk Network cross the AONB?
10. Which family created the notable High Weald Gardens at Leonardslee, High Beeches and Wakehurst Place?

Answers on page 27.

## A tour of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the South East

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are created under legislation introduced by the Government in 1949 to protect areas of the English and Welsh countryside which are considered outstandingly beautiful. Over the last 50 years 41 AONBs have been designated in England and Wales. The High Weald is the largest of six AONBs in the South East of England.



**High Weald (1457 sq km) Designated 1983**  
At the heart of the South East, and once the centre of the iron industry, the High Weald is a historic countryside of small fields and scattered farmsteads among wooded, rolling hills and river valleys. In contrast, open areas of the AONB include the Ashdown Forest, the largest area of heathland in the South East, and the river valleys of the Rother, Brede and Tillingham.

**Surrey Hills (419 sq km) Designated 1958**  
Spanning Surrey from east to west, the AONB is in the 'front line' of commuter sprawl from London. Its well-known beauty spots – Box Hill, Leith Hill, Devils Punch Bowl and the Hogs Back - have made it a traditional daytrip

destination for South London. To the north it is characterised by a landscape of chalk hills, to the south by the undulating wooded Greensand Ridge.

**Kent Downs (878 sq km) Designated 1968**  
Travelling east, the chalk and greensand outcrops of the Surrey Hills continue into Kent to meet the sea at the cliffs of Dover. Designated as the Kent Downs AONB, the hills are traversed by the river valleys of the Darent, Medway and Stour. Historic parklands – the best-known being Knole and Chartwell – are one of the area's most distinctive features.

**Sussex Downs (983 sq km) Designated 1966**  
The prominent north-facing scarp slope of the

Downs is instantly recognisable from the north. To the south, gentle slopes fall away to coastal conurbations and the sea. Prehistoric field patterns and remains, ancient hill-forts and barrows, are an integral part of the landscape. Famous beauty spots include Seven Sisters, Beachy Head, Devil's Dyke and Ditchling Beacon.

**East Hampshire (383 sq km) Designated 1962**  
The open chalk downland of the Sussex Downs extends into the East Hampshire AONB, and is also characterised by heavily wooded scarp slopes in the north. The area has three national nature reserves. The Meon and Rother river valleys are famous fishing country.

**Chichester Harbour (74 sq km) Designated 1964**  
The smallest AONB in the region, the harbour is one of the South Coast's most popular sailing waters. The harbour is made up of a series of tidal inlets that punctuate areas of fertile landscape, giving way to saltmarsh and intertidal mud-lands.

### Further information

Countryside Agency 01242 521381  
www.countryside.gov.uk

