

Pubs of the High Weald

The Rock Inn, Chiddingstone Hoath, Edenbridge, Kent

Serves beer from a local brewery – Larkin's of Edenbridge



An unspoilt pub with a brick floor and bar. Lots of old wood everywhere and a large hearth.

Sandstone is what makes the High Weald different from the Low Weald – which is composed only of Weald clay. Bands of sandstone and clay give the High Weald its rolling hills. The clay is soft and easily worn away: it forms the low valleys of the High Weald, with the harder sandstone forming the high ridges, running east-west. Streams have carved out distinctive, steep-sided ravines (called gills) in the sides of these ridges. Sandstone has also produced the sandy soils that favour the development of heathlands. Harder areas of sandstone have formed the famous sandrock outcrops of the High Weald and these shelter some extremely rare plants.

The Oak Inn, Ardingly, West Sussex

Serves Harvey's and a guest local real ale

The timber-framed building was first recorded as an inn in 1625. Many of the old timbers are still on view in the two bars.

The heavy clays of the High Weald grow one thing to perfection – oak trees. The oak woodlands of the High Weald were a source of timber and fuel but were also used by early farmers as a seasonal source of food for their livestock: during the early autumn months, they would drive their pigs from their settlements on the South Downs, North Downs and coastal plains into the woods to feed on acorns. This method of feeding pigs is known as pannage.

The annual acorn pilgrimage began the process of human colonization of the High



Weald. It also accounts for its distinctive, dispersed pattern of settlement – arising from the scattered woodland pastures or dens created by pannage. Furthermore, it explains why there are so many north-south routes in the High Weald.

The Two Sawyers, Pett, East Sussex

Serves beer from its own micro brewery: The Old Forge

This 14th Century Inn serves food prepared from local produce where available, including fresh fish from the trawlers of a family firm based in Hastings.

The High Weald boasts the greatest proportion of Ancient Woodland in the country. This woodland is of international importance to wildlife.

High Weald woodlands have been managed for centuries by skilled workers. Woodlands need to be worked: without management, they become derelict and wildlife species that depend upon working woodland as a habitat suffer. Coppice woodland, in particular, is an important



habitat because many British flowering plants, mammals and insects thrive under the rotational coppice management system – many of the rarer species now only being found in working coppice. (See page 17.)

The Old Vine, Cousley Wood, East Sussex

Serves Harvey's beer plus others

This 16th Century Inn with beamed ceilings and inglenook fireplace was voted Wealden's Best Village Pub in 2003. Food is prepared at The Old Vine using fresh local produce.

The climate of the High Weald seems to particularly suit the vine and this is reflect-



ed in the number of vineyards to be found in the area.

English winemaking is not a new phenomenon, but began when the Romans brought the vine to England around 2000 years ago. It reached its peak in early Tudor times when English vineyards produced almost 3 million bottles a year, but declined with the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. The revival in English wine production began about 40 years ago and is a growing industry.

Why not try a bottle of our local wine? You can find the details of High Weald wine producers and their outlets on our website at www.highweald.org, along with all our other producers.

The Bull Inn, Three Leg Cross, Ticehurst, East Sussex

Serves real ales including own brand



The Bull Inn was built between 1385 and 1425 and is reputed to be one of the oldest dwelling places in the country, but only became a pub towards the end of the 19th century. The Bull Inn shows its age: it has a wealth of old beams and low ceilings. Its sign depicts a Sussex bull.

From earliest times, grazing animals have had a hand – or hoof – in shaping the

landscape of the High Weald. Eight thousand years ago, the High Weald was an untamed wilderness: mainly wooded but with grassland and heathland clearings. These were kept open by large, wild grazing animals such as aurochs – the ancestor of modern cattle. By the 14th Century AD, the High Weald had been colonized and rearing domestic cattle and sheep had become one of the main uses of the land. This still holds true today.

The Sussex is ideally suited to the High Weald environment and was a famous plough breed on the heavy Wealden clays. Sussex cattle are also renowned for their unfussy grazing habits.

Grazing livestock also play a key role in conservation: the rare animals and plants of the High Weald's heathlands and flower-rich pastures rely on grazing to maintain their habitats.

Jack Fuller's, Oxley's Green, East Sussex

Free house

Named after a famous High Weald character, Squire John 'Mad Jack' Fuller of Brightling (1757–1834). The pub originally opened in 1834 as the Green Man. Today, it contains many details and memorabilia of Jack Fuller's life and times.

'Mad Jack' was a compulsive folly builder, decorating the landscape around Brightling with a cone known as the Sugar Loaf, a rotunda, an observatory, an obelisk known as the Brightling needle, a tower, and, lastly, his own pyramid tomb in Brightling churchyard – built 24 years before his death. These projects provided employment for his tenants at a time of great poverty in the countryside – indeed, that may have formed part of his reasoning. He also bought Bodiam Castle to save it from total destruction.



High Weald Anvil

2004

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



Local Products • Exploring • Heritage • Events • Wildlife • Attractions • Map



• Special 'Caring for the High Weald' Edition •



The High Weald AONB comes of age

The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation was confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment in October 1983. This means that the High Weald AONB will be 21 years old in 2004.

What was happening 21 years ago?

The Conservative party gained a landslide victory in the General Election, with Margaret Thatcher winning her second term in office. Demonstrators marched in cities across Europe in the biggest anti-nuclear protests in 20 years. Britain's biggest-selling car was the Metro. The first commercial mobile phone call was made and compact discs began to sell on the High Street. Culture Club's Karma Chameleon got to Number 1. Julie Walters starred in Educating Rita and Richard Attenborough's Gandhi won eight Oscars. Manchester United beat Brighton 4-0 in the FA Cup Final replay.

Welcome to the fifth edition of The High Weald Anvil



In 2004, with a brand new Management Plan under its belt to help guide activity over the next 21 years, the High Weald has truly come of age.

In the 21st Century, there are ever increasing pressures on the countryside and caring for the High Weald is not just a matter for Government: it is up to us all as individuals to make decisions which have a positive effect upon our environment in general – and the outstanding landscape of the High Weald in particular.

This issue of the Anvil is dedicated to Caring For The High Weald – A Charter for Residents and Visitors. In the charter, which you can see on page 4, we have laid out some of the practical ways in which you can help to care for the High Weald AONB.

There is only limited room in the Anvil each year to provide practical guidelines. For more information, visit our website and if you cannot find what you need, please contact the High Weald AONB Unit – the specialist team dedicated to advising on the care of the area.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith
President, High Weald AONB

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 and farming interests. The current chairman of the JAC is Councillor Paulina Stockell of Kent County Council.

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

Editor/writer Janina Holubecki (except where otherwise indicated).

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Landscape

Rudyard Kipling's High Weald



A typical High Weald sunken lane leading to Bateman's

When we conducted our public survey of High Weald AONB residents in 2002, we asked interviewees to name any famous people, historic events, buildings, books, etc. that came to mind when thinking of the High Weald. The most popular response was "Rudyard Kipling".

In a nationwide poll conducted by BBC Television's Bookworm to find the Nation's favourite poem, Rudyard Kipling's **If** was voted number one. He was also the original creator of jungle-dwellers Mowgli, Baloo, Shere Khan and Kaa. The connection between this best-selling author and the National Trust property Bateman's at Burwash is well known, but to what extent was Kipling inspired by the High Weald landscape around his home? We have been reading some of his works to find out...

After a life of much travel and living abroad, Rudyard Kipling returned to England from America with his wife and children in 1896. They settled first in Rottingdean, on the Downs.

Kipling's fondness for the landscapes of Sussex, the county he adopted as his own, is evident in the words of many of his stories and poems. He wrote enthusiastically about the Sussex Downs – even doing the unthink-

able in one poem, **The Run of The Downs**, by directly comparing the Weald to the Downs in a somewhat unfavourable way:

*The Weald is good, the Downs are best –
I'll give you the run of 'em, East to West.*

With such memorable works as **The Jungle Books** and **Just So Stories** under his belt, Kipling was a celebrity – regarded as the People's Laureate and the poet of Empire. But this meant that, living so close to Brighton, he became a tourist attraction and so, in 1902, he sought the seclusion of Bateman's near Burwash. It was here, in the High Weald, that he spent his remaining years.

While at Rottingdean, he had suggested that the Downs surpassed all in beauty: on moving to Burwash, he began to appreciate the intimacy of the High Weald landscape. In the 1902 poem *Sussex*, he makes the Downs seem (though majestic) bare and inhospitable, in comparison with the more benign and welcoming Weald:

*No tender-hearted garden crowns,
No bosomed woods adorn
Our blunt, bow-headed,
whale-backed Downs,*

*But gnarled and writhen thorn –
Bare slopes where chasing shadows skim,
And, through the gaps revealed,
Belt upon belt, the wooded, dim,
Blue goodness of the Weald."*

Kipling wrote of the discovery of Bateman's in his autobiography **Something of Myself**:

"...it was the heartbreaking Locomobile that brought us to the house called 'Bateman's'. We had seen an advertisement of her, and we reached her down an enlarged rabbit-hole of a lane. At very first sight the Committee of Ways and Means [Mrs Kipling and himself] said 'That's her! The only She! Make an honest woman of her – quick! We entered and felt her Spirit – her Feng Shui – to be good. We went through every room and found no shadow of ancient regrets, stifled miseries, nor any menace though the 'new' end of her was three hundred years old..."

The "enlarged rabbit hole" no doubt being a reference to one of the typical High Weald sunken lanes leading to Bateman's – in the leafy summer months giving a very good impression of a tunnel!

"England is a wonderful land," the well-travelled Kipling wrote, announcing his arrival at Bateman's. "It is the most marvellous of all foreign countries I have ever been in. It is made up of trees and green fields and mud and the gentry."

Puck of Pook's Hill, Kipling's children's book written in 1906, is based in the countryside of the Dudwell Valley around Bateman's, where the two central characters, Dan and Una, live. It mentions real places, such as Willingford Bridge, Bog Wood, Cherry Clack Windmill (Punnett's Town) and Dallington. ("Pook's Hill" is thought to be the hill that can be seen to the south-west from the lawn at Bateman's.) The sequel – **Rewards and Fairies** (1910) also mentions Kings' Hill Road, Brightling, Netherfield and Robertsbridge.

Puck introduces the children to several historic Sussex characters and, through the

of inspiration



The Dudwell Valley

evidence all around them, they learn about centuries of English history. In the first of the book's poems, scattered amongst the chapters, Puck proudly tells how the High Weald played its part – in particular by supplying wood, iron and water power.

From Puck's Song

*See you the ferry ride that steals
Into the oak-woods far?
O that was whence they heaved the keels
That rolled to Trafalgar.*

*And mark you where the ivy clings
To Bayham's mouldering walls?
O there we cast the stout railings
That stand around St. Paul's.*

*See you the dimpled track that runs
All hollow through the wheat?
O that was where they hauled the guns
That smote King Philip's fleet.*

*(Out of the Weald, the secret Weald,
Men sent in ancient years,
The horse-shoes red at Flodden Field,
The arrows at Poitiers!)*

*See you our little mill that clacks,
So busy by the brook?*

*She has ground her corn and paid her
Ever since Domesday Book.*

As an early motoring enthusiast, being driven around the countryside in the comfort of his Rolls Royce gave Kipling the opportunity to make direct comparisons between the contrasting landscapes of Sussex and identify for himself their individual characteristics.

It seems, from the last poem of **Puck of Pook's Hill**, that Kipling came to see the Sussex High Weald as being equal to the Downs and Marshlands. He couldn't decide which of the three Sussex landscapes he most liked: to him, they were all special.

From A Three-Part Song

*I'm just in love with all these three,
The Weald an' the Marsh an' the
Down country;
Nor I don't know which I love the most,
The Weald or the Marsh or the white
chalk coast!
I've buried my heart in a ferry hill,
Twix' a liddle low shaw an' a great high gill.
Oh, hop-bine yaller an' wood-smoke blue,
I reckon you'll keep her middling true!*

In many ways, Bateman's and the land-

scape of the Dudwell Valley came to shape the second half of Kipling's life's work. "Kipling knew something of the things which are underneath" T.S. Eliot said of him. It was the Dudwell Valley that introduced Kipling to these things. Writing at almost the end of his life, Kipling expressed his gratitude this way:

"The Old Things of our valley glided into every aspect of our outdoor works. Earth, Air, Water and People had been – I saw it at last – in full conspiracy to give me ten times as much as I could compass, even if I wrote a complete history of England, as much as that might have touched or reached our valley."

Glossary

Gills are wooded, steep-sided ravines formed by streams carving their way through the soft clay and sandstone hillsides of the High Weald.

Shaws are strips of woodland.

Websites

The Kipling Society
www.kipling.org.uk/

The National Trust
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/



In Puck of Pook's Hill, Kipling describes the special conditions to be found in a High Weald gill stream.

They were fishing, a few days later, in the bed of the brook that for centuries had cut deep into the soft valley soil. The trees closing overhead made long tunnels through which the sunshine worked in blobs and patches. Down in the tunnels were bars of sand and gravel, old roots and trunks covered with moss or painted red by the irony water; foxgloves growing lean and pale towards the light; clumps of fern and thirsty shy flowers who could not live away from moisture and shade.

THE NATIONAL TRUST

BATEMAN'S

Burwash, East Sussex TN19 7DS



- Beautiful Jacobean house, built in 1634 and set in 10 acres of garden
- Home of Rudyard Kipling from 1902 – 36
- Oriental rugs and artefacts featured throughout the house
- Working water-mill producing wholemeal flour
- Kipling's 1928 Rolls Royce Phantom 1 on display
- Groups welcome – special rates available.

For further information please contact the Administration Office on 01435 882302

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Children from Colliers Green school find inspiration in the High Weald landscape

I woke up in the morning and saw
The clear, fiery sun.
A beautiful red robin flew across the sky.
It landed on my windowsill
Like a butterfly.
His chest was a bright red ruby
Shining in the sharp knife sky.

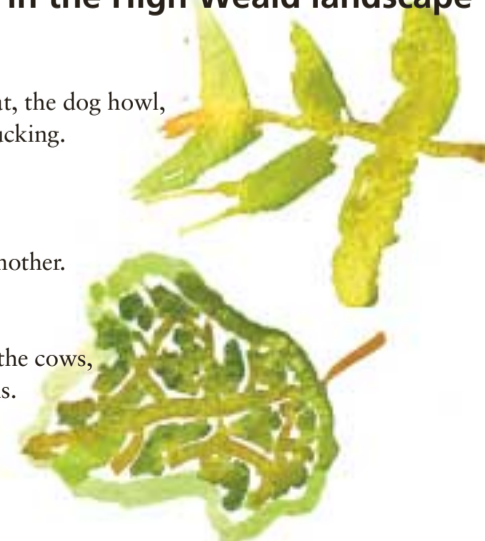


When I walk through the countryside
I listen to the birds sing, the lamb bleat, the dog howl,
The cattle lowing and the chickens clucking.

When I walk through the countryside
I watch the bird feed its chicks,
I watch the calf drink milk from her mother.

When I walk down the countryside
I feed the birds, I feed the pigs, I feed the cows,
I feed the sheep and I feed the chickens.

When I walk down the countryside
I go fishing and feed the ducks.
I look for frogs – but no sign so far.



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Caring for the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

A charter for residents & visitors

The following are actions that all residents, visitors and businesses can take to help care for this nationally important landscape.

1 Purchase local products and services sold by land managers who actively manage their land to benefit the environment

Rationale: The landscape and wildlife value of the area's woodlands, hedges, meadows, heathlands and field margins are dependent on traditional management. Money invested in products and services that help support this management is money invested in conserving the AONB and its local economy.

2 Manage your land for wildlife and maintain the rural nature of your property

Rationale: Fields, woodland, paddocks and gardens support valuable and threatened wildlife. Inappropriate materials and features, often associated with urban areas, are leading to the gradual loss of the AONB's valued rural feel.

3 Help prevent the spread of invasive and harmful plant and animal species

Rationale: Introduced plant, animal and fish species spread rapidly in the High Weald countryside, competing with our native wildlife and leading to its loss.

4 Use less water

Rationale: Demands for water lead to high levels of water extraction, damaging the wildlife of the AONB's streams, rivers and wet grasslands. Increased demand in future will create pressure for new reservoirs within the AONB.

5 Reduce, reuse and recycle, and dispose of all litter responsibly

Rationale: Litter spoils enjoyment of the countryside for the majority of residents. Less rubbish means less pressure for landfill sites and incinerators in the AONB. --

6 Respect other users – follow the Countryside Code

Rationale: Through responsible behaviour we can all use and enjoy the countryside without damaging the enjoyment or livelihoods of others.

7 Slow down for people, horses and wildlife and avoid using the car where possible

Rationale: Traffic spoils enjoyment of the High Weald for 80% of its residents. Speeding cars kill people, horses, badgers, deer and foxes, and ancient routeways and their rare plants are damaged by inconsiderate driving and parking. Car emissions contribute to climate change, which may eventually lead to the loss of valued wildlife such as bluebells.

8 Take pride in the High Weald – promote its special features and places to family, friends and visitors

Rationale: Promoting what you find special about the High Weald is the best way of encouraging commitment and action by others to the area.

9 Have a say

Rationale: Your views can influence care of the area – use consultation processes operating at parish, district, county and AONB level to steer policy and action that affects the area.

10 Get involved – support local conservation organisations

Rationale: With your financial and practical support, local conservation organisations can take action to care for the area such as monitoring threatened wildlife, undertaking practical conservation tasks and lobbying government.

Caring for the High Weald

We now have a new Management Plan for the High Weald AONB, but who will deliver the plan? The answer is that everyone with an interest in the AONB has a role to play in its future management.

The High Weald AONB partnership (page 2) – the Joint Advisory Committee and its dedicated staff Unit – will have key responsibility for promoting and encouraging co-ordinated action in support of the plan; for seeking resources to assist implementation of action programmes and for monitoring the Plan's impact.

Government departments, such as the Countryside Agency, support AONB management plans as statements of public policy relating to the care of these nationally protected areas – and through accords are committing themselves to the delivery of

AONB objectives.

Local planning authorities can produce planning policy that supports AONB designation and can also take a proactive approach in supporting community services such as countryside management projects; procuring local products and supporting pilot initiatives such as wood fuel.

Land owners and managers play a crucial role in the long term conservation and management of the AONB and will be vital partners in action targeted particularly at key features or important habitats. Their response to CAP reform and changes in rural development policy will be critical.

Parish Councils, amenity organisations and community groups will be important partners in driving community initiatives to identify, protect and promote features of local distinctiveness.

But now, over to you!

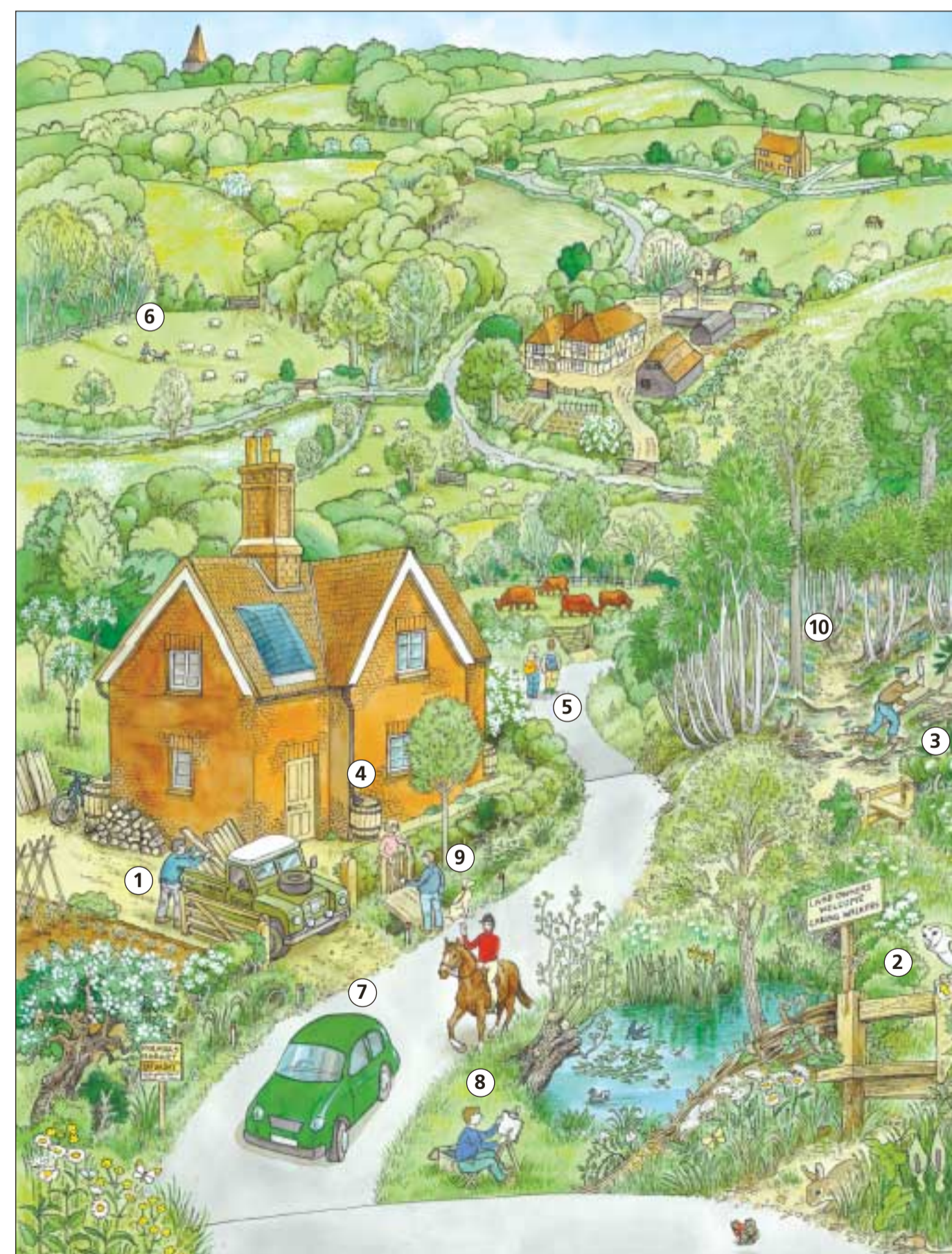
Policy makers can only do so much. Through individual actions residents, visitors and businesses can contribute significantly to the care of the High Weald AONB and the achievement of management objectives.

Caring for the High Weald is a charter for residents, visitors and businesses to inform and encourage everyone to take actions – both large and small – to help care for this outstanding, nationally valued landscape.

Stockell

Councillor Paulina Stockell, Chair, High Weald Joint Advisory Committee

Get even more involved in looking after the High Weald – Become a Friend! See page 19 for details.



Local product profiles

Caring For The High Weald encourages us to buy local products, but what exactly does the area produce? Sharon Hall explains

The High Weald is a productive landscape. It has yielded raw materials for the iron, brickmaking and forestry industries. In some parts of the AONB, the soils and climate are ideal for growing hops and fruit – including grapes for wine. Many centuries ago, acorns from its woodlands were used to fatten pigs and today the rearing of livestock is still one of the main uses of the land. Here, we take a behind-the-scenes look at local products of the High Weald.

Fruit, fruit juice and cider

Orchards are scattered across the whole of the AONB, but are concentrated in the Kent High Weald. Some of the fruit you will see growing in orchards includes cherries, plums, pears and apples. Black, red and white currants, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries and other fruit can also be found growing in the area. Apart from buying at markets and farm shops, many producers offer the opportunity to pick your own fruit from the farm.

Local suppliers press apples and pears into juices, often using single varieties such as Jonagold, Cox, Russett, Worcester and Comice. Apples are also used to make cider where the juice is fermented in casks, using the natural yeasts in the apples. Perry is made in a similar way using pears. A range of fruit based wines is also available and you will also find local fruit being used in a wide variety of products including jams and chutneys and to flavour other local products such as yoghurt.

From the vine

English made grape-based wines are more widely available than ever and the High Weald is home to a number of vineyards producing red, white and rose still and sparkling wines.

Vines need a well-drained sunny site, ideally on a south-facing slope. They are planted in spaced rows usually supported by trellises and wires and have to be pruned each year to encourage new growth. Different grape varieties are grown to suit the climate, the soil and the type of wine required in terms of colour, flavour and sugar content. Three widely grown white grape varieties in England are Muller Thurgau, Syval Blanc and Madeleine Angevine. English sparkling wines are made by the same method as is used by the French in the Champagne region, undergoing a double fermentation process either in the bottle or in a tank.

Some producers in the High Weald offer visitors a chance to see how the vines are grown and processed by providing vineyard tours and trails as well as having a shop on site.

Hops make beer

The High Weald remains one of the areas traditionally associated with the growing of hops for beer making. Hop varieties such as Amos' Early Bird, Cobbs, Golding and Fuggle all have their own characteristics and each add different aromas and flavours to the beer.

Hop plants or bines grow up strings attached to hop poles. The hops are harvested



Photos 1-4 © Countryside Agency/Peter Greenhalf

Photos, clockwise from above: charcoal making; trug making; farmers' market stall; Sussex cattle; hop drying



in September and dried in a special kiln called an oast. Bales of dried hops are then sent to breweries where they are added to malted barley, yeast and water as part of the process of fermentation – which produces alcohol from the sugars in the barley. In traditional ale, hops and other ingredients are also added at the end of the process before the beer is filtered and then put into casks or bottles.

Hops grown in the High Weald are used in breweries throughout the UK as well as in local breweries and play an important part in the production a range of distinctive ales, beers and lagers. Many pubs across the High Weald sell real ales produced by local breweries: Harveys, Shepherd Neame, King and Barnes, Larkins and Old Forge. (See page 20.)



From the fields

Farming in the High Weald has primarily been based around grazing animals: distinctive conker-coloured Sussex beef cattle and tough Romney Marsh Sheep form a traditional part of the landscape. Although livestock has declined throughout the High Weald within the last ten years, there is still a widespread industry based on beef, lamb and – to a lesser extent – pork, which is often reared as free-range.

Apart from cuts of meat, there is a range of locally produced specialist products such as cured and smoked hams, sausages and bacon, often available directly from the farm. Organically reared meat is becoming more widely available. Free-range poultry and game and more specialist foods such as venison and

ostrich are also available from local farmers and suppliers.

From the dairy

There are many local products based on sheep, goat or cows' milk available from the High Weald, including fresh milk, cream, hard and soft cheeses, yoghurts, ice cream and flavoured milk drinks.

In particular, there is a wide range of locally and traditionally made cheeses to choose from. Cheese making is based on warm milk to which acid-producing bacterial cultures and a coagulant (rennet or lactic acid), has been added. This turns the milk into two components – a watery fluid called whey and a more solid curd. The curd is pressed and eventually matured into the finished cheese – the duration and storage conditions varying according to the variety being produced.

Coppice wood counts

Coppice is woodland where the trees are cut periodically and are left to re-grow from the cut stumps or stools, often producing multiple stems or poles. It is a highly sustainable method of producing rapidly growing, useful wood without the need to replant. Although most native hardwood trees in Britain such as oak, ash, willow and birch will coppice freely, those mainly coppiced in the High Weald are Hornbeam, Hazel and Sweet Chestnut.

The poles cut from coppice wood are used for many different purposes – ranging from firewood to fence panels, depending on the species and the age at which the poles are cut.

Some local producers and craftsmen based in and around the High Weald still use the abundant Sweet Chestnut for items such as hurdles, bird boxes, fencing materials, stakes, walking sticks, trugs, rustic furniture and charcoal.

Wood to charcoal

Charcoal is made by heating wood out of contact with air. 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 and is ideally seasoned or dried to speed up the burning process. 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, but nowadays the wood is stacked in portable steel kilns, sealed with sand (at the bottom) and a metal lid. The length of the burn varies but roughly takes about 24 hours.

Charcoal was used as a domestic and industrial fuel and had a range of other uses but now most locally produced charcoal is graded to supply the barbecue market, either through local outlets or via co-operative producer schemes to supply national outlets such as DIY chains and petrol stations.

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News in brief

Right to moan?

You may have heard that the new 'Right To Roam' legislation – courtesy of the new Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act – will open up great swathes of the British countryside to walkers, starting with the South East in summer 2004. How will the High Weald AONB be affected?

Right To Roam sounds sweeping. The Act will certainly open up some 1.2 to 1.8 million hectares for recreation, but in reality this only accounts for 12% of England and Wales. And it really only applies to mountain, moorland, downland and heath. In the High Weald, our largest area of heath – Ashdown Forest – is already 'Open Access'.

Here are some types of land that will NOT be subject to the new access rights:

- Private courtyards, parks and gardens
- Land within 20 metres of a dwelling
- Quarries and other mineral workings
- Agriculturally improved or semi-improved grassland
- Cultivated land i.e. ploughed or drilled in the past year for crops or trees
- Land in use for temporary livestock pens
- Land within 20 metres of a building used for housing livestock

So Right To Roam certainly won't be opening the floodgates for walkers to swarm all over the mostly agricultural land of the High Weald AONB!

When the Countryside Agency has finished the task of mapping, the new access areas will be marked on official maps and should eventually feature on Ordnance Survey maps such as the useful 'Explorer' 1:25,000 scale series.

Further information from:
www.countryside.gov.uk/access/

Help! I need somebody...

For up-to-date information on local advisors

www.highweald.org

Advisor profiles

High Weald AONB Unit

The specialist team dedicated to advising on the care of the area, providing general information about the High Weald AONB. If we can't help then we may know someone who can!

www.highweald.org
01580 879500
Email info@highweald.org

Weald Meadows Initiative (WMI)

Attached to the AONB Unit, the Weald Meadows Initiative provides farmers, landowners and other clients with site-specific and practical support to enable the management, creation and enhancement of wildflower grassland. The project operates across the Weald, which covers parts of the counties of Kent, East and West Sussex and Surrey.

www.highweald.org

Dawn Brickwood, 01580 879957
Email meadows@highweald.org

Weald Heathland Initiative (WHI)

Attached to the AONB Unit, the Weald Heathland Initiative is a £1.3 million, five-year programme which aims to re-introduce management to heathlands, restoring them for the benefit of wildlife and people. Restoration work on 1500 hectares of Weald heathland will include scrub clearance, bracken control, woodland ride widening, heather cutting and seeding, fencing and introducing grazing to some sites.

Two Heathland Project Officers offer expert advice, training and grants to heathland owners, managers and community groups.

www.highweald.org

Caroline Fitzgerald 01580 879958

Email c.fitzgerald@highweald.org

Richard Allum 01293 544118

Email r.allum@highweald.org

Weald Grazing Network

The Weald Grazing Network is being set up to help support the owners of important sites. The

Countryside help and advice

Are you an individual, community group or business with responsibility for a piece of land (large or small) in the High Weald? Want to enhance the landscape, wildlife and/or access value of that land, but don't know where to start? There are many organisations out there whose job it is to help you! Here, we profile some countryside advisors and find out how their advice has helped two landowners in the High Weald.

network is underpinning both the Weald Meadows Initiative and the Weald Heathland Initiative by providing a mechanism for the long term sustainable management of these sites.

Caroline Fitzgerald 01580 879958
Email c.fitzgerald@highweald.org

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

A national charity, FWAG provides farmers and landowners with practical advice on making adjustments to farm operations and enhancing farm features – in order to support wildlife, landscape, archaeology, access and other conservation issues. The organisation also provides assistance with drawing up management plans and grant applications. FWAG Advice is based on:

- a whole farm approach since all parts of the farm are important for conservation
- tailor-made conservation plans designed to suit the farm type and location – and the farmer's resources
- the understanding that conservation need not compromise the farm's commercial objectives

www.fwag.org.uk

West Sussex & East Sussex Downs

Paul Holmes-Ling/Chris Harvey

01273 891190

Email sussex@fwag.org.uk

Kent & East Sussex Weald

Rebecca Harvey/Stephen Podd

01580 879399

Email highweald@fwag.org.uk

Kent

Paul Cobb/Alex Long 01233 813186

Email kent@fwag.org.uk

Surrey

Ben Underwood 01483 404255

Email surrey@fwag.org.uk

Kent High Weald Project (KHWP)

A countryside management project operating within the Borough of Tunbridge Wells, most of which lies within the High Weald AONB. The Project's aim is to link the local community and the countryside by raising awareness and encouraging action.

www.kenthighwealdproject.org

Will Farmer 01580 715918

Email www.kenthighwealdproject.org

Environment Agency (EA)

As the leading public body for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales, it is the Environment Agency's job to make sure that air, land and water are looked after by everyone in today's society – so that tomorrow's generations inherit a cleaner, healthier world. The Agency is working towards an enhanced environment for wildlife. This will involve restoring damaged habitats and helping to boost populations of threatened species.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

EA General Enquiry Line

0845 9333111



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Case study

When Caroline and Bernhard Tute moved into a converted oast at Bentham Oast Farm, Southborough, they found that the land included with the property was suffering from the effects of several years of neglect and under-management.

The property came with 40 acres (of which 10 are woodland). Neglected or not, the fields held great potential for wildlife: they were all quite "unimproved" – in other words they had escaped being ploughed up and fertilised to a great extent and are therefore particularly good for wildflowers. In fact, some of the fields are designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI).

Caroline and Bernhard knew that they wanted to enhance the wildflowers and other wildlife on their farm. They also knew that, in order to achieve this, the land needed management – but they had no idea how to go about it. Before the move, they had a large 1-acre garden and to some extent this prepared them for what was to come. Caroline can now see some similarities between managing a garden and farming: "Cutting hedges, managing the grass and removing undesirable weeds all still have to be done".

Caroline says that one of the main problems with having no farming background was having absolutely no farming contacts. For example, they were unused to dealing with agricultural contractors. Seeking sources of help on the Internet, they found the High Weald AONB website and, through this, made contact with advisors from the Weald Meadows Initiative (WMI) and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG).

"The advice given by WMI and FWAG Officers helped us get on our feet with the project, made sure we were on the right track, provided us with a management plan and gave us contacts in the agricultural world", Caroline enthuses. She thinks that they probably would have got there eventually, but the advice helped them up a very steep learning curve.

They decided to look at what the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS)

entailed. When they decided to apply, FWAG prepared the application and WMI supported it with a species survey.

They now have a 10-year work programme of capital projects. So far, they have done work on fencing, hedge restoration and coppicing in the woodland. Two fields next to Southborough Common contained so much bramble and bracken that they needed felling.

They are hoping the project will eventually break even, but the CSS is helping to pay for improvements such as 13 new gates – vital for controlling the movement of grazing stock, brought in to provide their fields with the correct management.

Several of their fields are so rich in wildflowers that WMI have been able to harvest Weald Native Origin Seed from them to be sold for wildflower enhancement schemes on other land holdings. This activity provides a small amount of extra income, but for Caroline the most important thing is to support the principle of wildflower meadow enhancement and creation – with the money coming as a welcome side effect. She finds the idea that her fields produce something useful that can be used by others elsewhere very satisfying.

They have received an enhancement grant to put wildflowers back into one of the more "improved" (i.e. agriculturally intensified) fields. To keep costs down, they will be using their own harvested seed. With any luck, if conditions are suitable, it can be spread immediately after harvesting. Being seed from the same holding (same soil and climate etc.) it should do very well, Caroline thinks.

The public have access to some of Caroline's fields – both rich and not so rich in wildflowers – since they are crossed by footpaths. She likes the fact that others can benefit from the wildlife enhancements they are making. But how many walkers will stop to wonder why one field has more flowers than the other? Will anyone notice that, over the years, the wildflowers are gradually returning? Caroline hopes so.

More useful contacts

ADVICE AND HELP WITH WILDLIFE, LANDSCAPE AND ACCESS PROJECTS

West Sussex County Council

A countryside management service dedicated to the conservation of the High Weald AONB and surrounding area within West Sussex.
www.westsussex.gov.uk
Jackie Lewis (p/t) 01293 542088
Email jackie.lewis@westsussex.gov.uk

East Sussex County Council – Rye Bay Office

Dedicated to the conservation of the Rye Bay and Rother area of the High Weald.
www.ryebay.demon.co.uk
Simon Fathers 01797 226488
Email simon@ryebay.demon.co.uk

Surrey County Council

www.countryside-management.org.uk
Nick Baxter, Head of Countryside Management 01483 517594

South of England Hedge-Laying Society

The Society can provide details of professional hedge layers
John Blake, Coppicing Officer 01444 483999

The Small Farm Training Group

Training and Support for smallholders.
www.sftg.co.uk

VOLUNTEERING

British Trust For Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)

A national charity that involves volunteers in practical conservation work. It provides train-

ing, insurance and other support for members of the public wishing to set up local conservation groups and can also organize small teams of volunteers to assist landowners with conservation work at a modest cost.
www.btcv.org

West Sussex Jason Gaskell
01243 814481 West-Sussex@btcv.org.uk
Kent Mike Cook
01233 812033 Kent@btcv.org.uk
East Sussex Dean Morrison
01424 446395 East-Sussex@btcv.org.uk
Surrey Surrey@btcv.org.uk

PRESSURE GROUPS

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

Sussex Wildlife Trust

www.sussexwt.org.uk
01273 492630
Email enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk

Kent Wildlife Trust

www.kentwildlife.org.uk
01622 662012
Email kentwildlife@kix.co.uk

Campaign To Protect Rural England (CPRE)

www.cpre.org.uk
01825 890975
Email Cpresussex@aol.com

Kent branch

www.cprekent.org.uk
01233 813172
Email info@cprekent.org.uk

Weald of Kent Preservation Society
Freepost, Hawkenbury, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 0BR

Ramblers Association

www.ramblers.org.uk
For details of local groups 020 7339 8500
Email ramblers@london.ramblers.org.uk

SPECIALIST GROUPS

The following local and national groups offer specialist advice.

WILDLIFE

For general information on wildlife:
Sussex Conservation Careline 01273 494777

Butterfly Conservation Society

Sussex Branch
www.butterfly-conservation.org
01273 492279

Butterfly Conservation Society

Kent Branch
www.butterfly-conservation.org
01322 526888

Sussex Reptile & Amphibian Group

www.froglife.org
01986 873733

Sussex Botanical Recording Society

Email rheimsley@53hd.freeserve.co.uk

Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre

www.kmbrc.org.uk
01622 685646

Sussex Biological Records Centre

www.sbrcc.org.uk
01273 497553

East Sussex Herpetological Society
01424 730433

Ashdown Forest Conservators

www.ashdownforest.org
01342 823583
Email conservators@ashdownforest.fsnet.org.uk

Sussex Ornithological Society

www.susos.org.uk
01424 813722

Kent Ornithological Society

www.kentos.org.uk
Membership: 61 Alpha Road, Birchington, Kent, CT1 9ED

RSPCA Headquarters

www.rspca.org.uk
0870 5555 999

Sussex Moth Group

www.sussexmoths.org.uk

The Sussex Mammal Group

01243 554018
Email smxmg@hotmail.com

The Kent Mammal Group

Helen Rigley 01795 890285

Sussex Bat Group

www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk
01903 810119

Kent Bat Group

www.kentbatgroup.org.uk
01277 275439
Email info@kentbatgroup.org.uk

The above is not a comprehensive list. For more information...
www.highweald.org



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History behind hedges

Many hedges are of considerable antiquity in the High Weald, planted or created when fields were created out of the woodlands and common wood pasture in the Saxon and medieval periods. Hedges surrounding the 14th century farmhouse may be as old or if not older than the farmstead. These hedges contain many different flower and shrub species, some of which are indicative of a woodland origin, such as hazel, dogwood, wild service, hornbeam and field maple. There may also be crab apples or damsons, highly sought after for jam and jelly making. The shrub component is often growing on large rounded or asymmetrical banks associated with ditches, which may now have become silted. The hedgerows were managed not only as stock proof barriers and shelters but also for the underwood and food that could be harvested from them.

Nicola Bannister



Hedges can provide colour plus food for birds

Further information

For more guidance on how to plant a native hedge visit www.highweald.org/ Where property changes require planning permission planning officers are able to advise on suitable materials and styles. Details of local timber and fence suppliers can be found at www.highweald.org

Websites

Campaign To Protect Rural England
www.cpre.org.uk/

The National Hedgelaying Society
www.hedgelaying.org.uk/

Useful hedging information
www.hedgelayers.freeserve.co.uk/

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Crowhurst, Battle
East Sussex TN33 9AB

Tel/fax 01424 830360

architects@mnroliver.fsbusiness.co.uk

Out of bounds!

The rural feel of the High Weald countryside is one of the things that make it special to those of us who live in and visit the area – its billowing hedges, sinuous woodlands and restful views. However as one of the country's most densely populated AONBs, with 120,000 residents living in 51,000 properties, its rural feel is very much at threat – as we unwittingly introduce inappropriate features through adapting our homes for modern lifestyles. Although the changes are small scale their cumulative affect is to 'urbanise' our countryside. Gerry Sherwin of the High Weald AONB Unit looks at some of the worst culprits and highlights the options ...

Boundary features

The boundary features of the modest farms, cottages and barns which characterize the agricultural landscape of the High Weald are simple gateways, gates and well-managed hedges. Even entrances to the area's larger properties – small manor houses and other historic buildings – tend to be discreet, featuring the careful and creative use of local materials, particularly timber and sandstone. Large, ornate gateways and gates, concrete kerbstones, coloured pavos and tarmac are only a recent introduction and do not blend with the area's rural homes and settings.



In keeping local sandstone, timber gates



Less appropriate wide entrance kerbstones, pavos, oversize gates, non-native trees

Boundaries

Hedges of native trees and shrubs and narrow, linear strips of woodland are the natural boundaries of the High Weald. These boundaries are often ancient and wildlife rich (see insert top left) and are therefore protected by law - with their removal subject to planning permission. In the past, new boundary features have been created using local materials such as sandrock for walls (often around estates) and timber for post and rail fencing or paling. New introductions to the landscape, including non-native trees, larch lap fencing or red brick walls which are uniform in colour and shape contrast sharply and incongruously with the varied colour and shape of countryside hedges and local materials. As land is divided for a variety of non-farming purposes, a plethora of new boundary demarcations changes the traditional field pattern that is part of the High Weald's local distinctiveness.



In keeping a well managed native hedge



Less appropriate non-native trees

Ponds

Ponds are an important feature of the AONB, many being remnants of the area's industrial past and therefore part of our cultural heritage. They are a real asset to any property but should be treated sensitively. Over-deepening, over-management and the introduction of fish, wildfowl and non-native plant species can destroy the natural pond habitat and lead to the loss of rare species both within the pond and surrounding waterways.



In keeping pond with good vegetation in and around



Less appropriate manicured duck pond

Avoiding the suburbanisation of the countryside does not mean sticking to a rigid set of rules. There is lots of scope to experiment with locally available materials and to develop management approaches that maintain the rural feel of the countryside that we value.



Compromise a larchlap or close-boarded fence with native hedge planted in front to soften the impact – once the hedge has grown, the fence can be removed, since it will be unnecessary and probably in need of repair.



Old hedges can be restored through coppicing and planting native shrub species in any gaps

Are you changing your property?

If so, ask yourself

- Are the changes in keeping with my home and surrounding properties?
- Can I create a natural boundary or habitat feature or restore an existing one?
- Can I use local materials and styles?
- Can I soften the impact of property changes by combining natural features with the more urban features that are being introduced?

Exploring the High Weald

Using the countryside responsibly

Through responsible behaviour we can all use and enjoy the countryside without damaging the enjoyment or livelihoods of others. The following are actions that we can take to help care for the nationally valued landscape of the High Weald AONB whilst out and about.

- Dispose of all litter responsibly: if there is no bin nearby, please take your litter home with you and recycle it if possible.
- Drive considerately: slow down for wildlife, horses and people and avoid damaging the High Weald's wildlife rich roadside verges by driving or parking on them. Avoid using the car where possible.
- Why not take some local produce home as a reminder of your day out?
- Promote the High Weald's special features and places to family, friends and visitors. If you are visiting and have enjoyed your visit, please tell others about the High Weald and take a copy of The Anvil home for your friends.



David Anstey

Walks for hearts and minds

Common sense would tell you that a brisk walk out in the fresh air – exploring the outstanding High Weald landscape – is going to be good for you. But you may not realise just how good.

Did you know that...?

- Only 20% of people in the UK get enough exercise to maintain a healthy lifestyle and satisfactory fitness level.
- Health problems due to lack of exercise are now one of the ten leading global causes of death and serious illness, responsible for more than two million deaths worldwide each year.
- Lack of exercise is most likely an even more important factor than bad diet in the dramatic rise in obesity.
- Lack of exercise causes more illness than smoking in European Union countries.

You might guess that walking, as a form of exercise, would deliver dramatic health benefits for your heart, circulation and blood pressure. But... did you know it benefits your bones? And did you know it can also help to prevent diabetes, stress, depression and even cancer?

Regular walking will:

- Improve your heart and circulation
- Lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels
- Promote weight loss
- Improve flexibility of joints and muscles
- Build strength in muscles and bones

- Boost your immune system
- Help you breathe more efficiently
- Aid restful sleep
- Help maintain a balanced body chemistry
- Build confidence and mental well-being

Regular walking can reduce the risk of a number of health problems including:

- Coronary heart disease – regular walking can halve your risk of a heart attack
- Strokes
- Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- Bowel and breast cancer
- Alzheimer's disease
- Osteoporosis
- Arthritis
- Anxiety, stress and depression

What kind of walking is beneficial and why?

Routine and regular moderate activity may actually be more beneficial than short bursts of intense activity. The British Heart Foundation recommends brisk walking for 30 minutes, five times a week, as an ideal exercise programme. At a brisk pace, your heart beats faster, you become warmer and your breathing becomes heavier – though you should still be able to talk.

Brisk walking is an aerobic activity – a repetitive, rhythmic exercise involving

large muscle groups such as your legs. Aerobic activity increases your body's demand for oxygen and adds to the workload of your heart and lungs. This endurance-type activity strengthens your heart, improves your circulation, burns calories and helps with weight control. (A brisk one-mile walk in 20 minutes burns around 100 calories – as much as swimming for 10 minutes, playing football for 12 minutes or doing aerobics for 16 minutes.)

Brisk walking, being a weight-bearing activity (as opposed to swimming) can increase leg bone density and thus protect you against osteoporosis.

Walking uphill will strengthen your muscles – creating good balance and posture. (Stronger, larger muscles also use up more energy, helping you to burn yet more calories.) Walking up hills burns at least a third more calories than walking on the level – and soft surfaces like grass, mud and sand use more energy than hard, paved surfaces. So the hilly (and often muddy) High Weald landscape is very good for you indeed!

Websites

Walking The Way To Health Initiative
www.whi.org.uk/

The Ramblers' Association
www.ramblers.org.uk/

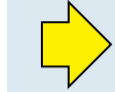
Planning your visit

Travelling around the High Weald AONB

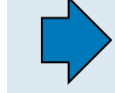
Wherever possible, use public transport. Information on the frequency of the services is provided but, for exact times, please call Traveline 0870 6082608 www.traveline.org.uk If you do choose to travel by car, please use car parks or if spaces are not available, park in a sensible location that will not cause obstruction. Leave your car securely locked with any valuables out of sight.

Rights of way

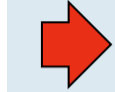
Most landowners welcome people on their land, provided that they do not stray from the rights of way and that they abide by the visitors' code.



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 arrows

Where rights of way leave the road, metal or wooden finger posts, or a stone plinth indicate the way. At other points, such as field boundaries or path junctions, footpaths are marked with short posts 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 carved 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 finger post. Where a right of way is a promoted path, the arrows are used in conjunction with the route's own symbol.

High Weald paths can be muddy at all times of year so waterproof boots are recommended.

Mapping information: www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

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 County Council – 01243 777620

East Sussex County Council – 01273 482250

Kent County Council – 0845 3450210

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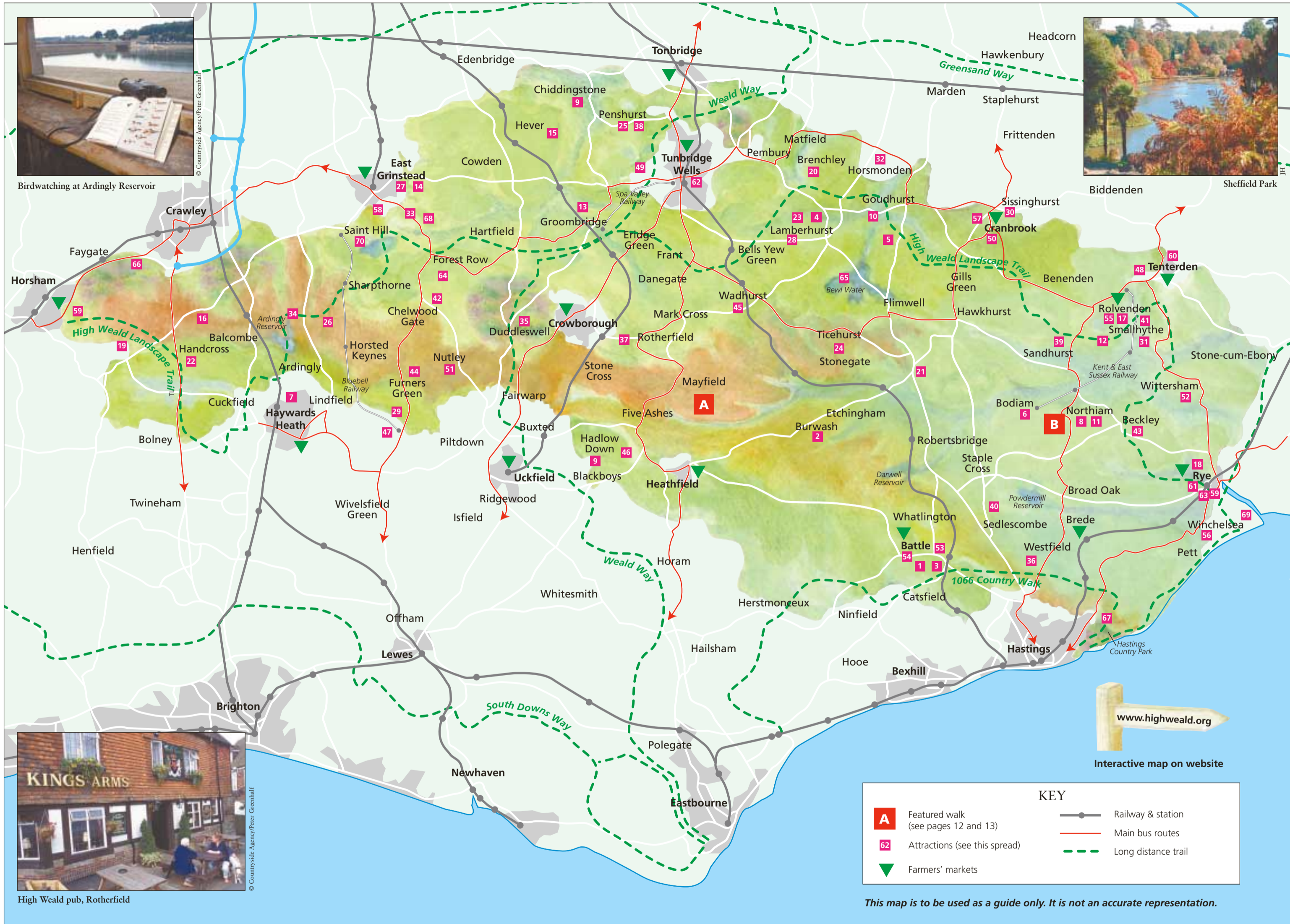
Newick, East Sussex
01825 722287

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VISITOR ATTRACTIONS Houses, gardens and castles

- 1. The Almonry Battle, East Sussex
2. Bateman's The National Trust, Burwash, East Sussex
3. Battle Abbey Battle, East Sussex
4. Bayham Abbey Lamberhurst, Kent
5. Bedgebury Pinetum Goudhurst, Kent
6. Bodiam Castle Bodiam, East Sussex
7. Borde Hill Gardens Haywards Heath, West Sussex
8. Brickwall House and Gardens Northiam, East Sussex
9. Chiddingstone Castle Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent
10. Finchcocks Goudhurst, Kent
11. Great Dixter Northiam, East Sussex
12. Great Maytham Hall Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent
13. Groombridge Place Gardens & the Enchanted Forest Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, East Sussex
14. Hammerwood Park East Grinstead, East Sussex
15. Hever Castle & Gardens Hever, Edenbridge, Kent
16. High Beeches Gardens Handcross, West Sussex
17. Hole Park Gardens Rolvenden, Kent
18. Lamb House Rye, East Sussex
19. Leonardslee Gardens Lower Beeding, Horsham, West Sussex
20. Marle Place Gardens Marle Place Road, Brenchley, Kent
21. Merriments Garden Hurst Green, East Sussex
22. Nymans Garden Handcross, Haywards Heath, West Sussex
23. Owl House & Gardens Mount Pleasant, Lamberhurst, Kent
24. Pashley Manor Gardens Ticehurst, Wadhurst, East Sussex
25. Penshurst Place Penshurst, Tunbridge, Kent
26. Priest House North Lane, West Hoathly, West Sussex
27. Sackville College East Grinstead, West Sussex
28. Scotney Castle Garden Lamberhurst, Kent
29. Sheffield Park Garden Uckfield, East Sussex
30. Sissinghurst Castle Garden Sissinghurst, nr Cranbrook, Kent
31. Smallhythe Place Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent



www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Open 23 Mar-3 Nov, Sat-Wed, 1100-1700
Last admission 1630

Open 27 March - 31 October
(Weds - Sun + BH Mon), House -
1100-1600 hours Shop and
Restaurant - 1100-1700 hours.
Garden - 1100-1800 hours. 5
November - 19 December (Fri,
Sat and Sun only), Garden, Shop
and Restaurant - 1100 - 1500
hours.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Open 25 May, 8, 16 Jun, 1400-
1800. Last admission 1730

www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Open 2 Apr-31 Oct, Mon-Sat,
1030-1800 hours. 2 Nov - 23
Dec, Tues to Sun (plus BH
Mondays) 1030-1600 hours

www.nationaltrust.org.uk
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Public transport information
Traveline
0870 608 2608
National Rail enquiries
08457 48 49 50
National Express (coach)
08705 80 80 80

Accommodation
Tourism South East
01892 540766 or local
tourist information centres.
Battle TIC
01424 773721
Burgess Hill
01444 238202
Cranbrook TIC
01580 712538
Crawley TIC
01293 846968
East Grinstead TIC
01342 410121
Edenbridge TIC
01732 868110
Hastings (Old Town) TIC
01424 781111
Hastings (Queens
Square) TIC
01424 781111
Horsham TIC
01403 211661
Rye TIC
01797 226696
Sevenoaks TIC
01732 450305
Sussex Country (South) TIC
01323 442667
Sussex Country (North) TIC
01825 713862
Tenterden TIC
01580 763572
Tonbridge TIC
01732 770929
Tunbridge Wells TIC
01892 515675

Banks
In addition to main towns,
banks with cashpoints can
be found in the following
villages:
Wadhurst
Cranbrook
Forest Row
Hawkhurst
Battle
Heathfield
Mayfield

Websites
www.highweald.org
www.southernengland.
uk.com
www.visitbritain.com
www.sussexcountry.co.uk
www.sussexlive.com
www.village-net.com

Country parks/sites
64. Ashdown Forest Visitor
Centre
Wych Cross, Forest Row
01342 823583
conservators@
ashdownforest.fsnet.co.uk
65. Bewl Water
Lamberhurst, Kent
01892 890661
www.bewl.co.uk
Open all year, daily, 0900-1500.
Closed Christmas period.

66. Buchan CP
Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
67. Hastings CP
Fairlight, East Sussex
01424 813225
68. Forest Way CP
East Grinstead, West Sussex
01273 482670

Nature reserves
69. Rye Harbour NR
Rye, East Sussex
01797 223862
70. Weirwood NR
Saint Hill, West Sussex
01273 482670

62. Tenterden and District
Museum
Tenterden, Kent
01580 764310
www.ukpages.net/kent/
museum.htm
Open Apr-Jun, daily, 1400-1630;
Jul-Sep, daily, 1030-1630;
1-31 Oct, daily, 1400-1630

63. Ypres Tower and Rye
Museum
Rye, East Sussex
01797 226728
Open 1 Apr-31 Oct, Mon, Thu,
Sun, 1030-1300, 1400-1700;
1 Nov-31 Dec, Sat, Sun, 1030-
1530. Closed Christmas period.

61. The Story of Rye
Rye, East Sussex
01797 226696
www.rye.org.uk/heritage
Open Mar-Oct, daily, 0900-1730;
Nov, Dec, daily, 1000-1600.
Closed 25, 26 Dec, 1 Jan
(check for opening times)

60. Tunbridge Wells Museum
Tunbridge Wells, Kent
01892 554171
www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/
museum
Open all year, daily 0930-1700,
Sundays 1000-1600, Closed Bank
Holidays

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

58. East Grinstead Town
Museum
East Grinstead, West Sussex
01342 326636
Open all year, Wed, Sat, 1400-
1600 hours

57. Cranbrook Museum
Cranbrook, Kent
01580 712069
Open 1 Apr-31 Oct, Tues-Sat
1400-1630, plus Bank Hols

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

55. C M Booth Collection of
Historic Vehicles
Rolvenden, Kent
01580 241234
Open all year, Mon-Sat, 1000-
1800. Closed 25, 26 Dec

54. Buckleys Yesterday's World
Battle, East Sussex
www.yesterdaysworld.co.uk
Open all year, daily, 0930-1800.
(1700 in winter) Closed 25,26 Dec

53. Battle Museum of Local
History
Battle, East Sussex
01424 775955
Open 1st April to 31st October,
Monday to Saturday 10.30am to
4.30pm, Sunday 2pm to 5pm

52. Stocks Mill
Rye Road, Wittersham,
Kent
01797 270295
6 May-30 Sept, Sun, Bank Hols
Mons, 1430-1700

This map is to be used as a guide only. It is not an accurate representation.

www.highweald.org
Interactive map on website

KEY
A Featured walk (see pages 12 and 13)
62 Attractions (see this spread)
Farmers' markets
Railway & station
Main bus routes
Long distance trail

Farms and woods open to the public

42. Ashdown Forest Llama Park
Wych Cross, Forest Row, East
Sussex
01825 790226
www.heavenfarm.co.uk
Open 1 Mar-31 Oct, daily, 1000-
1730, 1-30 Nov, Sun, 1030-1700

44. Heaven Farm
Furners Green, Danehill, Uckfield,
East Sussex
01825 790226
www.heavenfarm.co.uk
Open 1 Mar-31 Oct, daily, 1000-
1730, 1-30 Nov, Sun, 1030-1700

47. Bluebell Railway
Sheffield Park Station,
Uckfield,
East Sussex
01825 722370
www.bluebell-railway.co.uk
Open all year, Phone for exact
train times.
Closed 25 Dec

48. Kent & East Sussex
Railway
Tenterden Station, Station Road,
Tenterden, Kent
01580 765155
www.ksr.org.uk
Please phone for opening times
and exact train times

49. Spa Valley Railway
West Station, Tunbridge Wells,
Kent
01892 537715
www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk
Open Mar-Oct, Sat, Sun, Bank
Hols, some weekdays during
school hols. Please phone for
exact train times

50. Cranbrook Union Windmill
The Hill, Cranbrook, Kent
01580 712256
www.argonet.co.uk/users/
tonysing/union
Open summer 2.30-5.00pm.
Saturdays 1 April to end of Sept,
Sundays: 2nd weekend in May
('National Mills Day'), mid-July
to end of August, BH Mondays

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

37. Davenport Vineyards
Rotherfield, Crowborough,
East Sussex
01892 852380
www.davenportvineyards.co.uk
Open 1 Apr-30 Sept, Mon, Fri,
Sat. Please phone for exact times.

40. Sedlescombe Vineyard
Cripps Corner, Robertsbridge,
East Sussex
01580 830715
www.englishorganicwine.co.uk
Open 1 Apr-31 Dec, daily, 1000-
1800. Closed 24,25 Dec

41. Tenterden Vineyard Park
Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent
01580 763033
www.chapeldownwines.co.uk/
tenterdenvineyardpark
Open all year, daily, 1000-1700
Closed 24-31 Dec, 1, 2 Jan

43. Farm World
Great Kneble, Beckley, East Sussex
01797 260250
Open from 5 April, 1100-1730
hours, Tuesday to Saturday and
Sundays through school holidays.

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

46. Wilderness Wood
Hadlow Down, Uckfield,
East Sussex
01825 830509
www.wildernesswood.co.uk
Open all year, daily 1000-1730
(summer) 1000-dusk (winter).
Closed 25, 26 Dec

48. Kent & East Sussex
Railway
Tenterden Station, Station Road,
Tenterden, Kent
01580 765155
www.ksr.org.uk
Please phone for opening times
and exact train times

49. Spa Valley Railway
West Station, Tunbridge Wells,
Kent
01892 537715
www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk
Open Mar-Oct, Sat, Sun, Bank
Hols, some weekdays during
school hols. Please phone for
exact train times

50. Cranbrook Union Windmill
The Hill, Cranbrook, Kent
01580 712256
www.argonet.co.uk/users/
tonysing/union
Open summer 2.30-5.00pm.
Saturdays 1 April to end of Sept,
Sundays: 2nd weekend in May
('National Mills Day'), mid-July
to end of August, BH Mondays

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

Vineyards

35. Barnsgate Manor Vineyard
Herons Ghyll,
Crowborough,
East Sussex
01825 713366
www.barnsgate.co.uk
Open all year, daily, 1000-1700,
or dusk, if earlier

38. Penshurst Vineyards
Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent
01892 870235
www.penshurst.co.uk
1 Mar-23 Dec, daily, 1000-1700.
Closed 24 Dec - 1 Jan

39. Sandhurst Vineyards
Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent
01580 850296
Open for self-guided tours all
year, Mon-Fri, 1400-1730
Sat, 1100-1730, Sun, 1200-1500

36. Carr Taylor Vineyards
Westfield, Hastings, East Sussex
01424 752501
www.carr-taylor.com
Open daily 1000-1700 January to
December. Closed 25 Dec-1 Jan.

34. Wakehurst Place
Ardingly,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex
01444 894066
www.kew.org
Open daily throughout the year
from 1000 hours. Closed 24 and
25 Dec.

33. Standen
Standen,
East Grinstead, West Sussex
01342 323029
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/standen

32. Sprivers Garden
The National Trust,
Horsham, Kent
01892 890651
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Open 25 May, 8, 16 Jun, 1400-
1800. Last admission 1730

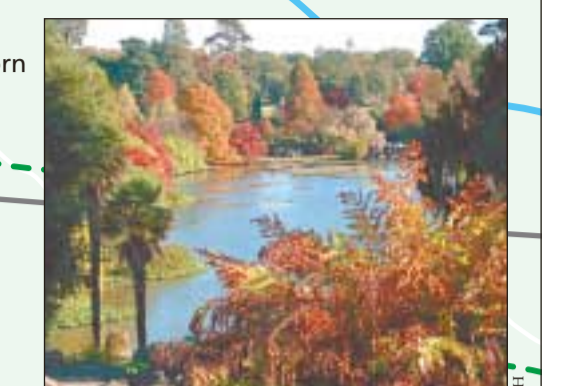
31. Smallhythe Place
Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent
01580 762334



High Weald pub, Rotherfield



Birdwatching at Ardingly Reservoir



Headcorn

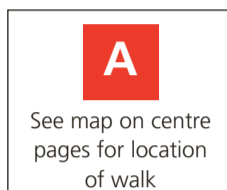


© Countryside Agency/Were Greenhall

Mayfield circular walk

A circular walk through a landscape of contrasts – a mosaic of fields, hedges and woodlands which are the product of a unique history.

Start/finish points: Mayfield village (TQ580267)
Distance and time: 3 miles, (4.8km), 2 hours
Waymarking: Mayfield Circular Walk discs
OS Maps: Explorer 135 Ashdown Forest
Guide: Mayfield Circular Walk leaflet. Available from East Sussex County Council, on 01273 481654



See map on centre pages for location of walk



News in brief

New Countryside Code

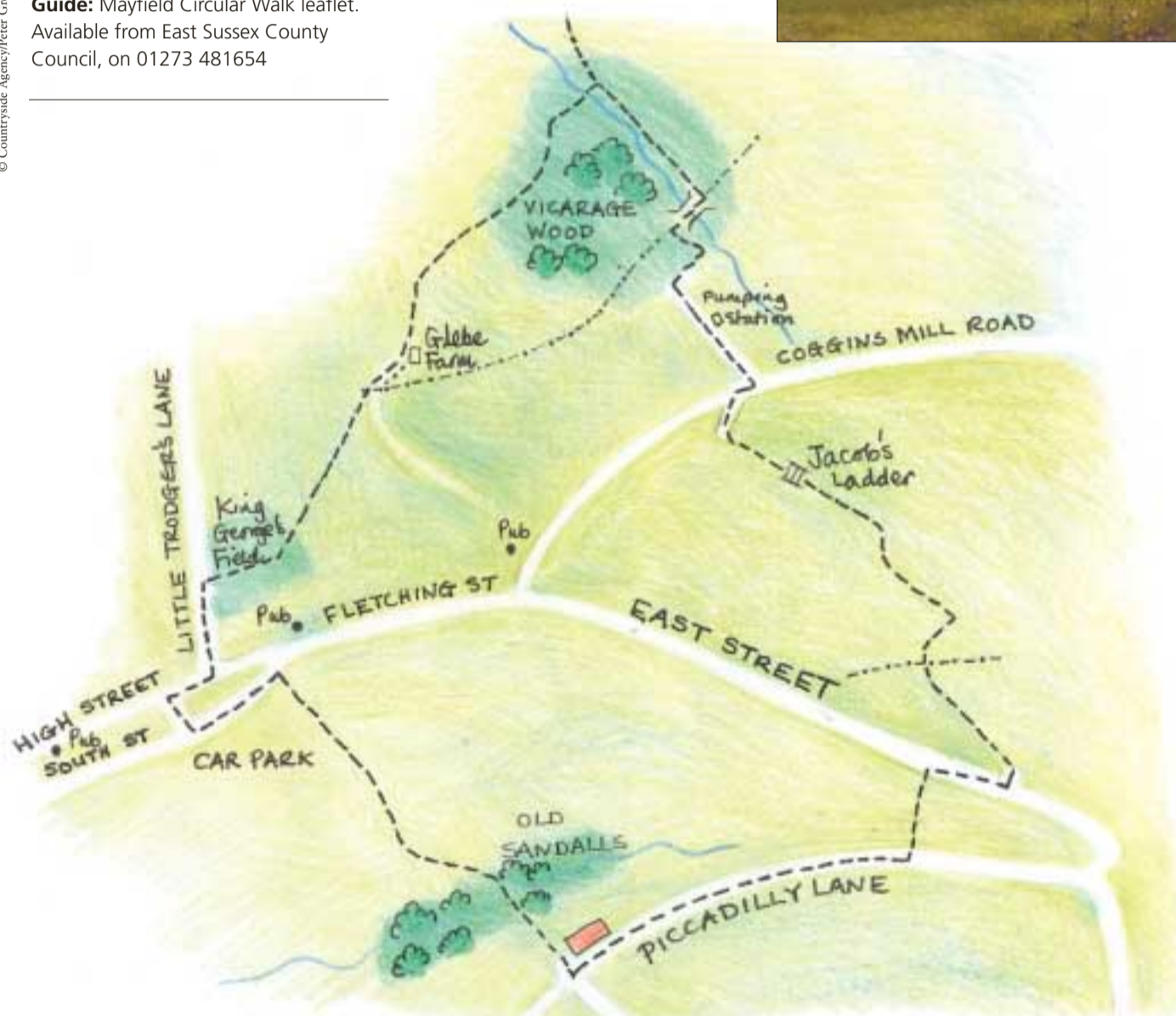
The old 'Country Code' has been the code of conduct for countryside visitors for more than 50 years and has not been revised since 1981.

As part of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 – which includes the new 'Right To Roam' legislation – the Countryside Agency is required to produce and promote a code of conduct for the users of new access land, and for those who manage it.

So, the Country Code has been re-worded and will be re-launched in July 2004. There will be a high profile campaign and education programme that will aim to:

- a) raise awareness of the new Countryside Code,
- b) encourage interest in visiting the countryside
- c) effectively communicate the key messages of the Code for visitors and land managers.

Look out for the new Code – appearing at a cinema screen near you – and also on TV! (High Weald viewers may spot the resemblance between the Code and our own 'Charter For Residents and Visitors'. This is not purely coincidental.)



Directions:

Follow the Mayfield Circular Walk disks from the South Street car park accessed from the High Street. (see map). The Mayfield circular walk is a 3 mile walk through a landscape of contrasts, a mosaic of fields, hedges and woodlands which are the product of a unique history. It is difficult to imagine that 500 years ago this was an industrial area alive to the smoke and noise of England's iron history.

The sandstones of this area provided iron ore for the process and the woodland was coppiced for small timber products and charcoal to fire the iron furnaces. Many of the large houses in ridge-top settlements like Mayfield were owned by the iron masters. Arable agriculture is now the dominant activity of this area and the coppice woodland is restricted to slopes too steep to have gone under the plough.

Fact Pack

Local producers based in the Mayfield area
 A Groombridge, 01825 830756
 Fencing & Logs

Brook Farm, 01435 873269
 Hay & Straw

Charles Thomson, 01825 830691
 Furniture & Ceramics

Hen on the Gate, 01435 873422
 Tea room, organic eggs, beef, lamb & sunflowers

Neil Walter, 01435 862997
 Rustic garden furniture

Services

Mayfield – The Carpenter Arms, Fletching Street, Rose & Crown, Fletching Street, The Middle House, High Street. There are also village shops, two tea rooms and a car park with toilets.

Public transport

Bus: 252/752, Eastbourne – Tunbridge Wells via Mayfield, hourly service, Mon-Sat. 252/218 Eastbourne – Tunbridge Wells via Mayfield, Sunday Service, 4 buses. **Traveline** 0870 6082608 www.traveline.org.uk

Accommodation

Middle House, 01435 872146
 Rose & Crown 01435 872200

KENT Walking FESTIVAL '04

Step into the GARDEN of England

4-12 Sept 2004

Join in our festival of walks

There will be over 45 walks to choose from to cater for all ages, abilities and interests

To register your interest or find out more contact us at:
 Kent Walking Festival, Environment & Economy, 2nd Floor, Inischa House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX
 Tel: 01622 696833
 E: walkingfestival@kent.gov.uk

www.kentwalkingfestival.co.uk

Walk round easily in Northiam

The Northiam circular walks cross arable and pasture land in the vicinity of the centre of Northiam Village. They are simple to follow and easy to walk and are accessible all year round.

Start/finish points: Car park Northiam (TQ829245)
Distance & time: Total 2 miles (3.2km), 2 hours
Terrain: Pasture
Waymarking: Wren waymarks
OS Maps: Explorer 125 Romney Marsh
Guide: Wren Walks leaflets – Walk, Relax and Enjoy Nature, Strolls for healthy exercise. Available from East Sussex County Council, on 01273 481654

Directions:

Route 1

Leave the Village car park by the main entrance and turn right into Fullers Lane. After a short distance go through the gate on the left signposted to Goddens Gill. Keep to the right hand side of the meadow until you reach the gate in the hedgerow. From here you have a good view over the fields.

Cross the field, which narrows as you reach the paddock area. Go through the gate – the all weather paddock is on the right. Upon reaching the gate at the end of the paddock you emerge onto the road (Beales Lane) In front of you is a beautifully renovated thatched barn (Wildings Farm).

If you would like to visit Goddens Gill, cross the lane and follow the footpath opposite, descending between horse fencing. The going is not as level as previously, but you will be rewarded with a typical High Weald gill stream enclosed in its steep-sided little valley and surrounded by wildlife-rich ancient woodland. Return the same way to rejoin the walk.

Turn left and proceed down Beales Lane passing by a metal gate on the right. It is worth stopping here to look at the views – the Kent countryside can be seen through the trees to your right and the village of Northiam to your left. Continue down the lane where you will see many wild flowers that grow in the grass verges and hedgerows and pass numerous natural ponds on your right. As you approach the end of the lane the recently renovated Clench Green Barn can be seen. It was shown on maps as far back as 1729.

At the end of Beales Lane turn left into Main Street, as you proceed up the road you will pass the Library with its wrought iron sign. Continue down Main Street where you pass a number of weather boarded properties, some of which date back to the 18th Century. Carry on in the same direction until you reach the car park.

Route 2

Leave the village car park by the main entrance and turn left then immediately right, cross over the road and proceed down the road toward the centre of the village until you reach the Recreation Ground on your left. When you reach the Recreation Ground it is worth pausing to look at the Churchill Gates. These gates were erected to commemorate the visit of the Four Prime Ministers on 12 May

1944 – these being Rt Hon Winston Churchill, Great Britain; Rt Hon Mackenzie King, Canada; Rt Hon Field Marshall Jan Christian Smuts, South Africa and Hon Sir Godfrey M Huggins, Southern Rhodesia.

Walk a short way past these gates to the footpath signposted to Mill Corner and Ewhurst. Proceed down this path onto the Recreation Ground passing the Bowls Club and Northiam cemetery on your right. Follow the hedgerow until you reach the end of the Recreation Ground. Go through the gap and follow the defined path until you reach a Wren Marker post. Pause here to look at the Oast house at Strawberry Hole that can be seen straight ahead and the views over the High Weald.

Turn left at the marker post and head towards the small copse at the end of this path. The tall spire of St Mary's Church, Northiam can be seen from this path. At the end of the path go down the slope to a bridge and up the other side to emerge into a field. Keeping to the right follow the path alongside a newly renovated Georgian House – Westwell House. Follow the footpath back to the car park.



Wren waymark

Fact Pack

Attractions

Great Dixter – 01797 252878
 Kent & East Sussex Steam Railway – 01580 765654

Services

Northiam – Crown & Thistle pub, two local convenience shops, fish & chips, post office and tea rooms. There are no public toilets in Northiam. Village car park.

Public transport

Bus: 300, Hastings – Northiam, hourly service, Mon-Sat. 400, Hastings – Canterbury via Northiam, hourly service, Mon-Sat. No Sunday Service. **Traveline** 0870 6082608 www.traveline.org.uk



Wildings Farm



See map on centre pages for location of walk



- Waymarks
- Car park/start
- Viewpoint
- Beware of traffic
- Footbridge
- Kissing gate

Do you like these pages? Send us your views by post or email: info@highweald.org

Wilderness Wood

"A hidden treat" – a unique family-run working Wealden woodland, eye-opening for adults and excellent fun for children.

- Woodland trails and bluebell walk, play area, picnic places and BBQs, tearoom and tea garden with local produce, gift shop.
- Wood products and garden furniture direct from the grower/maker.
- Many special events and children's activities.

Open daily 10am – 5.30pm/dusk if earlier
On A272 in Hadlow Down, N.E. of Uckfield

Tel: 01825 830509
www.wildernesswood.co.uk



ORGANIC VEGETABLES

supplied weekly in small, medium or large boxes

Herons Folly Garden Mayfield



Herons Folly Garden has been producing vegetables organically for over 25 years. The box scheme was started in order to supply people with local organic vegetables. Boxes normally contain potatoes, carrots, onions, a salad and 3 or 4 other seasonal vegetables. Customers can collect their box direct from Herons Folly Garden in Mayfield or have it delivered to their home.

Telephone 07944 815357

ASHDOWN FOREST LLAMA PARK



Open daily 10.00am-5.00pm
Llamas • Alpacas
Museum • Farm Trail • Coffee Shop
Picnic Area • Adventure Play Area
Alpaca Knitwear & South American Craft Shop

WYCH CROSS, FOREST ROW
(on A22, four miles south of East Grinstead)
Tel: 01825 712040
Web: www.llamapark.co.uk

Events



- Antique Craft & Book Fairs
 - Displays, Exhibitions and Talks
 - Family Fun, Sports & Outdoor Activities
 - Guided Walks
 - Kids Activities
 - Music, Drama & Dance
 - Wildlife & Gardening
- 29 May
Heathfield and District Agricultural Show
www.heathfieldshow.org
Little Tottingworth Farm, Broad Oak, Heathfield, East Sussex
The premier one day agricultural show in the south east with animals, parades, displays and many trade stands. The High Weald AONB Unit will be at the show to launch the new group, The Friends of the High Weald.
 - 2 – 4 June
Wake up to birds
Buchan Country Park, Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
Email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk
1100-1300 hours
Activities include birdwatching for beginners, nest-building, making bird music and hunting for bird food. Suitable for children aged 4+. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Entrance Fee: £2.50 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking essential.
 - 3 June and 12 August
Dens and Drovers
Cinderhill Woods, Matfield, Kent
Organised by: Kent High Weald Project, 01580 715918
www.kenthighwealdproject.org
1030-1530 hours
Come and learn how to survive in the Wild Weald, as people did a thousand years ago. Suitable for children aged 11 and over. Booking essential.
 - 4 June
Castaway
Wilderness Wood, Hadlow Down, East Sussex
01825 830509
For more children's activities at Wilderness visit: www.wildernesswood.co.uk
1130-1430 hours
Join an expedition deep into the wood; have fun building shelters and cooking dampers over a camp fire. Bring sausages and a picnic lunch. Entrance Fee: Child (6-11) £8.50. Please book. Adults welcome to accompany/help.
 - 5 – 15 June
Giant Scarecrows: Guardians of the Gardens
High Beeches Gardens, Handcross, West Sussex
01444 400589
1100-1700 hours
For details of other events throughout the year visit: www.highbeeches.com
A 2 week exhibition of sculpture by local children using recycled materials – part of 'Arts Giantic' the Mid Sussex Community Arts Festival. Please phone for details of prices.
 - 6 June
Family Wildlife Event
Plovers Meadow estate on the B2102 between Blackboys and Cross-in-Hand near Heathfield
01892 852470
1100-1600 hours
A day out for the family with live wildlife displays, children's activities, conservation and environmental groups, woodland walk (not suitable for buggies etc.) and refreshments. Weald Meadows Initiative will be in attendance. Entrance Fee: £2.50 adults, children free.
 - 6 June
Summer Stroll
Standen, East Grinstead, West Sussex
01342 323029
Start Time: 0900 hours
For more guided walks at Standen visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/standen
Guided nature walk around the Standen estate. Entrance Fee: £2 adults, children free. Booking essential.

- 12 – 27 June
Midsummer Garden Celebration
Groombridge Place Gardens, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
01892 863999
Email: office@groombridge.co.uk
For more events throughout the year visit: www.groombridge.co.uk
Blazing June borders and the formal gardens at their best: guided historical tours, garden workshops, 'meet-the-gardener' sessions and more. Entrance Fee: £8.50 adults, £7 children.
- 17 – 20 June
Summer Flower Festival 2004
Pashley Manor Gardens, Ticehurst, East Sussex
01580 200888
1100-1700 hours
For more events throughout the year visit: www.pashleymanorgardens.com
Flower arrangements by the Wadhurst and District NAFAS. Local nurseries will be exhibiting over the four days. Garden walks by a representative of the rose growers Peter Beales Roses.
- 18 – 24 June
Rose Week
Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent
01732 865224
For more events throughout the year visit: www.hevercastle.co.uk
1000-1800 hours
The castle will be decked with roses, with tours of the gardens plus talks and demonstrations relating to roses and gardening topics.
- 19 June
Annual Pelargonium Show
Brede Village Hall, Brede, Rye, East Sussex
01424 853673
Displays of pelargoniums together with other attractions and refreshments. Please phone for details of prices. Times to be confirmed.
- 19 June
Dormouse Awareness
Bedgebury Pinetum, near Goudhurst, Kent
01580 211781
www.bedgeburypinetum.org.uk
1000-1130 hours
Join Wildlife Ranger Steve Peters on the monthly walk checking nesting boxes for Dormice. Free event but donations welcome. Essential booking. Meet in office car park.
- 19 June
Harvey Hike – Rocks, Hops & The Medway
Groombridge
01273 481654
Start time: 0915 hours
Join Andrew Whitnall from East Sussex County Council Countryside Management for a 12 mile (6.5 hours) walk passing Harrison's Rocks and hop gardens. Pub lunch stop. Walk may include some hills, stiles and muddy paths. Free but donations welcome. Meet at The Junction pub, Station Road, Groombridge.
- 19 – 20 June
Holmbush Farm Annual Sheep Shearing
Holmbush Farm World, Faygate, Horsham, West Sussex
01293 851110
Email: info@holmbushfarm.co.uk
For more events visit: www.holmbushfarm.co.uk
- 26 – 27 June
West Sussex Country Craft Fair
Leonardslee lakes & gardens, Lower Beeding, Horsham, West Sussex
01403 891212
Email: gardens@leonardslee.com
For more events throughout the year visit: www.leonardslee.com
0930-1800 hours
Ever popular craft fair in 14th year, with a wide variety of stalls, craft demonstrations and entertainment. Entrance Fee: £6 adults, £4 children.
- 2 – 3 July
Crepuscular Creep
Buchan Country Park, Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
Email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk
2030-2230 hours
Experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the wild Buchan Country Park as it enters the twilight zone. Fun for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Entrance Fee: £2 per adult, £1 per child. Booking essential.
- 3 July, 7 August, 4 September, 2 October
Walk with Pembury Walkers
Pembury, Kent
Organised by: Neil and Kathryn Franklin, 01892 823212
Start Time: 1415 hours
A 4-5 mile walk from Pembury. Meet at Stonecourt Lane bus stop, Pembury.
- 3 – 4 July
Steam Gala
Spa Valley Railway, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
01892 537715 www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk
1000-1700 hours
Trains depart from Tunbridge Wells West from 10am until approx 5pm. An intensive timetable of Steam Hauled services operated by a fleet of Steam Locomotives. Entrance Fee: £4 adults, £3 child/OAP. Day Rover Tickets available.
- 4 July
Hole Park Gardens special opening day
Hole Park Gardens, Rolvenden, Kent
01580 241344
For other events visit: www.holepark.com
1400-1800 hours
HPS Plant Fair. Entrance Fee: £3.50 adults, 50p child.
- 7 July
Art in the Garden
Marle Place, Brenchley, Kent
01892 527317
For more events throughout the year visit: www.marleplace.co.uk
Painting and drawing tutored by Lindel Williams for Tunbridge Wells Adult Education. Booking required.
- 10 July
Fireworks & Proms concert
Bewl Water, nr. Lamberhurst, East Sussex
Now in its thirteenth year, this established concert is a firm favourite. For full details and advance booking telephone 01892 890661.
Bewl Water have other events throughout the year which can be found at www.highweald.org
- 11 July
Breezing Around Brambletye
Weirwood Reservoir
01273 481654
Start time: 1000 hours
Ken McManamon from East Sussex Countryside Management leads a walk around the reservoir and Brambletye Manor. Approx. 5 miles (2.5 hours). Meet at the top end of the reservoir car park by the sailing club. Free, but donations welcome. Walk may include some hills, stiles and muddy paths.
- 11 July
Concert: Candlelight Opera
Penshurst Place and Gardens, Penshurst, Kent
01892 870307
1900-2200 hours
Programme and date to be confirmed. Check on www.penshurstplace.com
- 12 July
Walk with our warden
Sissinghurst Castle, Sissinghurst, Kent
01580 710700
Start Time: 1400 hours
Join the warden on this gentle 2.5 mile guided walk, taking particular interest in the dragonflies and butterflies. Entrance Fee: £4 per ticket. Starts in the car park.. No dogs.
- 16 – 18 July
The Siege of Rye
Rye, East Sussex
01797 226696 Email: ryetic@rother.gov.uk
www.rye-tourism.co.uk
The Order of Rye Longbowmen Medieval Battle.

- 17 July
Society of the Friends of Ashdown Forest
Ashdown Forest
01342 823583
1000 hours
An ecological ramble on Ashdown Forest led by David Streeter from the University of Sussex and chairman of the Friends. Meet at the Friends car park Stonehill Road. Grid ref. TQ456289. You can join and become a Friend on the day! www.ashdownforest.org
- 24 July
Open Air Theatre: As you like it
Borde Hill Garden, Haywards Heath, West Sussex
01444 450326 Email: info@bordehill.co.uk
For more events throughout the year visit: www.bordehill.co.uk
Start time: 1930 hours
The nationally acclaimed Groundlings Theatre Company performs Shakespeare's 'As you like it'. Entrance Fee: £9.50 Adults, £7.50 Concessions.
- 24 July
Bygone Byways
Rotherfield.
01273 481654
Start time: 0930 hours
Walk around the rights of way network in Rotherfield, including green lanes. Led by David Munn from East Sussex County Council Rights of Way. Approx 11 miles (6.5 hours) and includes some steep hills, muddy paths and stiles. Pub lunch stop.
- 25 July
Family Treasure Hunt
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, Rye Harbour, East Sussex
01797 227784
For more events throughout the year visit: www.naturereserve.ryeharbour.org
Follow a map with clues to test your brain-power around Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (2 miles). Meet at Rye Harbour Car Park to collect a map (£2.00 per team). Prizes for all. Wheelchair access to parts of reserve. Entrance Fee: £2 per team.
- 25 July
Pembury Circular Walk
Pembury, Kent
Organised by: Kent High Weald Project, 01580 715918
www.kenthighwealdproject.org
Start Time: 1400 hours
This 5 mile walk starts from Pembury villa green. Entrance Fee: £2 to be donated to charity. Grid Reference: TQ625407. Booking essential.
- 31 July
The Landscape Trail in East Sussex
High Weald Landscape Trail, Groombridge and the Medway Valley
Start time: 0930 hours
01273 481654
Vicky Pannell from East Sussex County Council Countryside Management leads an 11 mile (7 hours) linear walk along the Trail including Hartfield, Buckhurst Park and Penns in The Rocks. With pub lunch stop and returning by bus. Meet at Forest Row car park, Station Row. A donation of £1 welcome. Includes some steep hills, muddy paths and stiles.
- 7 August
Surrey Yeomanry
Standen, East Grinstead, West Sussex
01342 323029
For more events throughout the year visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/standen
Start time: 1930 hours
Enjoy the music of the Surrey Yeomanry on this summer evening at Standen. Bring a seat and warm clothing. Gates open at 6.30pm for picnics on the lawn. Tickets £10 Adult, £5 Child, £25 Family (2 adults & 14 children). Booking essential.
- 8 August
Castle Water Bug Hunt and Picnic
Castle Water Nature Reserve, Rye, East Sussex
01797 227784
www.naturereserve.ryeharbour.org
1200-1500 hours
A family picnic in Camber Castle will precede a hunt for several species of bugs, plus frogs, leeches and creepy crawlies in Castle Water. Meet at Brede Lock car park. Donations welcome. Grid Reference: TQ919198

- 10 – 26 August
Summer Buccaneers go on safari
Buchan Country Park, Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
Email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk
1100-1230 hours
10-12, 17-19, and 24-26 August. Come on safari to the wild parts of Buchan and hunt for the tracks and signs of wild animals, enjoy stories, games and other activities on route. Suitable for children aged 4+. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Entrance Fee: £2.50 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking essential.
- 22 August
Like the Clappers Around Horam?
Horam
01273 481654
Join Andy Mitchell from East Sussex County Council Countryside Management for a 5 mile (4 hours) walk along parts of the Cuckoo Trail and footpaths through woods in Vines Cross and Heathfield. Free but donations welcome. Meet at the car park, Hillside Drive, Horam May include some steep hills, muddy paths and stiles. Pub lunch or refreshments available.
- 28 – 30 August and 27 – 28 November
Craft Fair
Ashdown Forest Llama Park, Wych Cross, Forest Row, East Sussex
01825 712040 Email: info@llamapark.co.uk
For other exhibitions and shows visit www.llamapark.co.uk
1000-1700 hours
Craft Fair organised by a local Sussex hand-crafts group.
- 29 August
Woodcraft Day
Wilderness Wood, Hadlow Down, East Sussex
01825 830509
For more events throughout the year visit: www.wildernesswood.co.uk
1100-1600 hours
The Sussex Woodcraft Society will be joining our resident bodger to show their skills at woodturning and carving. Tach Pollard, creator of many of the sculptures in the wood and in the barn will also be demonstrating. Usual admission prices.
- 5 September
Lets Make Hay
Buchan Country Park, Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
Email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk
1300-1600 hours
Come and enter the traditional world of meadows and haymaking. Enjoy the sights and smells, as we enjoy the activities and games of Victorian Buchan. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free.
- 9 September
Go Batty in Cranbrook
Cranbrook, Kent
Organised by: Kent High Weald Project, 01580 715918
www.kenthighwealdproject.org
Evening walk in and around the Crane Valley with Val Sutton of the Kent Bat Group. Donations to the Kent Bat Group welcome. Booking essential.
- 18 September
Autumn Bike Ride
Bedgebury Forest, Kent
Organised by: Kent High Weald Project, 01580 715918
www.kenthighwealdproject.org
Start time: 1100 hours
Join our resident cyclist, Matt, for an 8 mile cycle ride around Bedgebury Forest. Route requires a mountain bike. Booking essential.
- 9 October
Cinderhill Wood Fungus Foray
Cinderhill Wood, Matfield, Kent
Organised by: Kent High Weald Project, 01580 715918
www.kenthighwealdproject.org
Start time: 1400 hours
Join Bryan Bullen for a walk around the Cinderhill Wood, Matfield and learn about the many types of fungi that grow there. Meet at the woodland car park off Chestnut Lane, Matfield. Booking essential.

- 18 – 29 October
Hedgerow Harvests
Buchan Country Park, Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
Email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk
1100-1300 hours
Celebrate the autumn festival by decorating and carving apples, making masks, autumnal collages, and playing seasonal games, including apple bobbing. Suitable for children aged 4+. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Entrance Fee: £2.50 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking essential.
- 23 – 31 October
Spooky Halloween Hunt
Buckleys Yesterday's World, High Street, Battle, East Sussex
01424 774269
Email: info@yesterdaysworld.co.uk
www.yesterdaysworld.co.uk
1000-1600 hours
Creep through the cobwebs on a time travel adventure to hunt down the ghosts haunting the museum. The top 3 ghost busters will each receive a wicked goody bag of tricks and treats. But beware things really do go 'bump' in the dark!
- 26 October
Survive in the Wild
Wilderness Wood, Hadlow Down, East Sussex
01825 830509 www.wildernesswood.co.uk
1000-1200 hours
What are the four things you need to survive? Find them in the woods! Hands-on activities to learn and test survival skills! Entrance Fee: Child (8-13) £6.25. Please book
- 30 – 31 October
Halloween at Buchan
Buchan Country Park, Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
Email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk
1430-1700 hours
Enjoy apple/pumpkin carving and decorating, making masks, and seasonal games. As the sun goes down and the lanterns are lit be brave and stay awhile to hear some spooky stories. Fun for all the family. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Entrance Fee: £2.50 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking essential.
- 7 November
Stories from history
Buchan Country Park, Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
Email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk
1430-1600 hours
Become a time traveller and go back in time to discover the history of Buchan. Find the hidden clues to solve the mysteries of the past. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Entrance Fee: £2 per adult, £1 per child. Booking essential
- 5 December
Tree Dressing Party
Buchan Country Park, Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
Email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk
1200-1400 hours and 1400-1600 hours.
Celebrate the magic of trees by creating decorations, cards and presents. Take the opportunity to "dress" one of Buchan's special beauties. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Entrance Fee: £2.50 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking essential for either of the 2 hour sessions.
- 21 December
Lights & Lanterns
Buchan Country Park, Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex
01293 542088
Email: buchan.park@westsussex.gov.uk
1430-1630 hours
Celebrate the winter solstice by designing and creating some magic lanterns and listen to the ancient stories of how we can help the sun return next springtime. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Entrance Fee: £2.50 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking essential.

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www.heavenfarm.co.uk

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bewl.water@kent.gov.uk
www.bewlwater.org

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Tel: 01444 450326 Email: info@bordehill.co.uk

Natural resources



The High Weald is rich in natural resources – and these have been exploited by humans for thousands of years. From the iron industry's point of view, for example, the High Weald had it all. Not only did it have the raw material – iron ore – itself, but it also had a plentiful supply of wood to fuel the furnaces plus fast-flowing streams in narrow, steep-sided valleys that were ideal for damming – to produce water power on tap just when it was needed. Though there's still iron ore in the ground, the iron industry is now dead and – often quite literally – buried. (To find out more about the iron industry and its decline visit www.highweald.org) On these pages, we look at two natural resources that may have more of a future in the High Weald.

When the wind blows

Roland Harris looks at this powerful natural resource

The High Weald's well-known history of iron and cloth industries tells us of its capacity to produce energy. Coppiced woods provided charcoal for the furnaces, forges and cloth dyeing and abundant streams powered bellows and hammers. But the area has another energy resource in the form of wind and this has been utilized too, for grinding corn and – in at least one instance – for powering a sawmill.

Like most redundant technology, windmills have suffered great losses: they are extremely costly to maintain and are peculiarly vulnerable to fire and storm damage. Out of 41 mills in the AONB c.1870, only 14 survive to some extent.

The historic harnessing of wind energy in the relatively windy High Weald is a reminder that, technically at least, wind power could have a future in the area as the need for renewable energy increases. Modern wind turbines, however, are often seen as something quite different to historic windmills:

- Historic mills used local materials – predominantly post and smock mills with timber framing and weatherboard cladding, but also brick tower mills: wind turbines are rarely in tune with local character as they combine metal, GRP or wood-epoxy blades with steel nacelles and towers.
- Wind turbines are often grouped together into

wind farms, whereas historic windmills were rarely built in more than pairs.

- Wind turbines are usually taller than windmills. Typical wind turbines in the UK have a hub height of 30-50m and a blade length of 20-35m. The tallest wind turbine in the UK has a hub height of 85m. By contrast, Cranbrook Union Mill is the tallest windmill in the AONB and the second tallest in the country, but is a mere 22m to the top of the cap.
- Whereas the historic mill provided a tangible service to the local population, the modern wind turbine has a more abstract function, rarely driven by local need and wishes, invisibly producing electricity that dissipates into a national grid.

What relevance to the High Weald?

Contrary to popular opinion, wind turbines or wind farms are not ruled out in AONBs. Indeed, the government's target to generate 20% of UK electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020 represents considerable support for technologies such as wind turbines and the latest draft policy states that 'small-scale [renewable energy] developments should be permitted within areas such as...Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty...provided that there is no serious environmental detriment to the area' and that such developments must not compromise the objec-



tives of designation of the area. Local plans covering the AONB take a similar line in supporting renewable energy schemes subject to them being compatible with the AONB designation.

This means that it is unlikely that wind farms will be proposed or permitted in the High Weald AONB, but it is clear that there could be scope for, say, one or two turbines providing sustainable energy for a hamlet, village or small town, as has happened with huge local support at Swaffham in Norfolk. Around 50 such turbines would meet the total 240 gigawatt/hours annual domestic consumption of electricity of the High Weald (a figure similar to the number of windmills in the 19th century). Only 10 such turbines would be required to meet the 20% government target for

renewable energy. Certainly, with careful siting, such a low density would not of itself contravene objectives for the AONB, as expressed in the High Weald AONB Management Plan 2004, published in April.

This presents a challenge to all of us. Should we view the odd lone wind turbine that provides renewable energy for a High Weald settlement as an update on our old windmills? Can we deliver enough renewable energy through alternatives such as woodfuel? Do we think that the High Weald should have its skyline and views frozen in 2004, and that there can be no justification for even a single wind turbine?

We would love to hear your views...

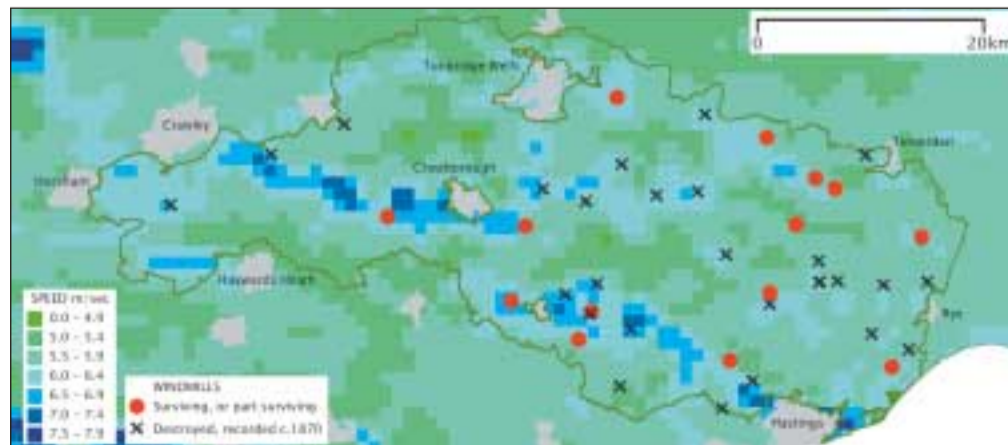


Fig. 1. Location of historic windmills in the High Weald AONB in relation to wind speed. (Wind speed is mapped using data supplied for wind speeds at 25m above ground from the Department of Trade and Industry's NOABL model).

Patrick McKernan, South-East AONBs Woodland Officer discusses

Burning issues



Many of the woodlands in the Weald are abandoned coppice (above) that were once a vital part of the region's industrial wealth. Management is essential to bring life to what have become dark, overgrown woods. Photograph by Patrick McKernan.

The High Weald is famous for its historic woodlands, and indeed, the AONB has twice the amount of ancient woodland than any other protected landscape in the country. Through history, this timber resource has been used as the material and fuel for Wealden industries, chief among them the iron industry, which saw its origins in pre-history and peaked in the 16th and 17th centuries. Although the woods of the High Weald were heavily exploited, they were rarely destroyed. Careful management ensured that a sustainable supply of wood, mostly from coppice, would always be available. In the coppice system, each woodland block is cut on rotation and allowed to regrow. Although not designed with wildlife in mind, this management has, by a happy coincidence, also been good for conservation. The open areas created by the coppice cuts provide the conditions favoured by many woodland species, perhaps mimicking the original 'wildwood' – not a dark, dense forest, but more likely containing frequent

glades and clearings grazed by wild cattle, horses and deer.

Today, with the huge decline in woodland management across the Weald, there has been a corresponding decline in many plants and animals that depended on the warm, open woodland areas created by continuous management. Species like the pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly are under serious threat of extinction in the High Weald as the woods they once occupied become dark and overgrown.

As the great value of our ancient woodlands and the fragility of their species has been recognised, so too has the need for a rejuvenation of their management. Although some woodlands are managed for conservation, this alone is not enough – we will continue to see the decline of the wildlife and landscape value of our woods without large-scale management across areas such as the Weald. Conservation management is limited in scale because of the expense – woodland managers often have to pay directly for the work to be done. Whilst some woodland industries still survive on a modest scale, such as

chestnut coppicing, hurdle making, and firewood cutting, what is really needed is a wider commercial incentive to encourage woodland owners and managers across the Weald to look again at their woods as a valuable economic resource.

One potential market that has raised particular interest is wood fuel for heating and energy production. Advances in modern wood-fuel plants have made this an attractive proposition, and one that has been shown to work. The West Dean Estate in West Sussex, for example, generates much of its heating and hot water requirements from its own timber. Within the AONB, the Woodland Enterprise Centre at Flimwell is heated by a wood-fuel plant that is also providing a useful demonstration of this technology.

Although there are many difficulties to overcome in applying wood fuel as a solution on a greater scale, the considerable interest among woodland owners, conservation bodies, and government agencies in this technology is providing a focus and momentum that is providing real hope for the region's woods.

The potential for wood fuel to provide electric-

ity generation is also being examined. A study carried out by the High Weald AONB Unit has shown that, in theory at least, some 6% of the current energy demand of this area could be met from the sustainable management of the woodlands themselves. Combined with other renewable energy sources such as wind power, the natural environment of the Weald could well make an important contribution towards renewable energy targets.

The potential for wood as a renewable energy source is being looked at across the UK. In less-wooded areas, energy crops such as short-rotation coppice are being examined as a potential fuel source. In the south-east, however, with its great density of ancient and more recent woodland, the focus needs to be on harvesting the energy locked up in the woods we already have. As well as contributing to environmentally-friendly energy targets, demand for wood fuel may well revitalise the woodland industry and provide the much-needed management for our irreplaceable ancient woodlands.

Websites

Sussex Mills Group
www.jillwindmill.org.uk/MillsOpen.htm

Kent Windmills
www.kentwindmills.co.uk/

Bioenergy Technology Ltd
www.bioenergy.org

Lignatherm Limited
www.lignatherm.co.uk

The National Energy Foundation
www.greenenergy.org.uk/

Centre For Alternative Technology
www.cat.org.uk/

Thames Valley Energy
www.tvenergy.org/



of the High Weald

Do you like these pages? Send us your views by post or email: info@highweald.org

News in brief
Green visitors

The High Weald 'Green Visitor' community tourism project (located in and around Winchelsea in the south east corner of the High Weald AONB) has completed work on researching and planning tourism in the surrounding countryside.

A 'sustainable tourism checklist' will help measure and monitor the economic, environmental and social impacts of the project. National indicators exist, but this pioneering work is implementing this approach at a local level – and will help inform other tourism projects in rural areas.

The project also aims to spread the benefit from tourist spend to the maximum number of local businesses. A business and visitor survey carried out over the summer has provided a better understanding of the types of visitors to the area, the area's appeal (resulting in very high number of return trips) and visitor spend.

Visitor interest in efforts to reduce environmental impacts (e.g. encouraging visitors to use their cars less) or supporting the local economy (e.g. by buying food produced locally and from local shops) was particularly strong.



Winchelsea
For a summary of the report please contact Tristan Lavender 01892 500326 or email: tlavender@tourismse.com

This work was funded by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.



Bolebrooke Castle



HENRY VIII'S HUNTING LODGE

Five hundred year old Bolebrooke Castle is set in 30 acres of peaceful lakes and woodlands. It has beamed ceilings and antiques including Henry VIII's four poster suite and the second largest fireplace in England. Anne Boleyn, one of his six wives, was courted from here.

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www.Bolebrokecastle.co.uk
Edenbridge Road, Hartfield
01892 770061

A day in the life of a golfing grazer



Another fine morning at the golf club. 18 holes, par 68 and with a challenging 6070 yards of vegetation to selectively eat our way through. Hamish and I teed off at 6am and were soon in the rough! Some tasty saplings had caught our eye, so we gave them a bit of stick before moving towards the first hole. Here, alongside the fairway, we nibbled lots of purple moor grass that was invading the heather.

On to the second hole and our first birdie of the day – I think it was a rare Dartford Warbler. We haven't seen any eagles yet: eagles are more common where we come from. Frankly, I'd rather be nearer home – grazing St Andrews, but the Hebridean breed of sheep is ideal for conservation grazing and so we often find ourselves going on missions to other parts of the UK.

On this heathland golf course in the High Weald, for example, we selectively graze and browse the unwanted vegetation, but tend to leave the heather alone. (We actually do well on this "poor" vegetation – fodder that would have some of our soft, Southern cousins turning up their noses!)

In the High Weald AONB, open heathlands are a distinctive feature of this nationally important landscape. Trees and bushes ('scrub') plus species such as purple moor grass and gorse must be properly managed in heathy areas because, if left unchecked, they will invade the heather and open sandy areas. If this happens, then the special heathland habitat – home to some rare, exciting and unique wildlife such as the Dartford Warbler, nightjar and silver-

studded blue butterfly – will be lost. The ecologists say that grazing is a very valuable management tool because it "provides a mosaic of microhabitats as well as controlling invasive species". Though I say it myself, us hardy Scots are doing a Stirling job of keeping the invaders at bay here!

The ecologists also say that golf courses can play a significant role in wildlife conservation, a large part of their area being potentially valuable wildlife habitat. They can also act as links between other isolated areas of the same habitat, in this case, heathland. Several are classed as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). Many golf courses in the Weald were, in fact, once grazed commons.

Near the 7th tee, we saw an adder basking in the sun on a sandy bank, so we gave it a wide berth. I know adders won't bite unless threatened, but Hamish doesn't like snakes and I can't say I'm all that fond of them myself (even though our father, Calanais McBroch IV, was very fierce and brave and not afraid of anything – even Tiger Woods on a bad day).

We went out of bounds at the 11th – that proved more interesting: a boggy patch of ground under threat from some more invading purple moor grass. We skillfully nibbled around the marsh gentians, bog asphodels, lousewort, orchids and sundews. A bright green 'bog bush cricket' jumped out and frightened Hamish half to death. He's such a wimp that I sometimes wonder if he really is of the same proud McBroch bloodline as me.

I spotted some silver birch scrub in my line of play in the rough on the 12th. It had to go.



James (Jimmy) McBroch the Hebridean Sheep



The Head Greenkeeper would like to point out that Jimmy and Hamish graze and browse the 'carries' between the tees and the fairways; the rough alongside the fairways and some of the 'out of play' areas of the course. They are prevented from straying further afield with electric fencing, which also protects them from dogs.

High Weald ANAGRAMS

How well do you know the High Weald? The following is a list of anagrams of High Weald village names... see how many you can work out. (Answers below).

1. OLD ETHNIC SIGN (1 word)
2. NEW PONT STUNT (2 words)
3. ENDORSE THE SKY (2 words)
4. DASH SCORN (1 word)
5. SERF OR TWO (2 words)
6. THE RUSTIC (1 word)
7. STRUNG NEGLIGEE (2 words)
8. FIND THE REEL (1 word)
9. WEALTHY HOST (2 words)
10. CASHEW LINE (1 word)
11. NEVER NYLON, DALE (2 words)
12. MEDIA FLY (1 word)
13. HAMSTER WIT (1 word)
14. WIN DARLING (1 word)
15. SEE TONY NIXON (3 words)
16. WE'D STIFLE (1 word)
17. IT'LL DOG NAN (1 word)
18. WE'LL FILM (1 word)
19. DRAW SHOT (1 word)
20. BUSH WAR (1 word)



Friends of the High Weald

Get more involved in looking after the High Weald – become a Friend!

- Do you want to help look after the High Weald countryside?
- Do you walk around it with eyes, ears and mind open?
- Do you have views on what should be done to conserve its beauty?
- Do you want to stay in touch with others who do?

Personal pledges made by new Friends of the High Weald

For the year ending 31 March 2005 I pledge to ...

- Create a wildflower meadow
- Plant at least 100 metres of new hedge
- Protect and encourage wildlife on our land
- Replant an old orchard and its hedges
- Lead walks in the High Weald and introduce people to the countryside
- Increase our area of wildflower meadow
- Plant a two acre woodland
- Purchase more local products
- Walk instead of using the car where possible
- Clean up my stream
- Help restore Hollybush Wood to a working woodland
- Continue to pick up litter on my walks
- Continue improvement of my farm for wildlife
- Enhance wetlands at Hexden Marsh
- Continue environmentally friendly farming

Many people and organisations are working together to ensure the long-term protection and enhancement of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): Local authorities and national agencies develop policies and funding schemes to support conservation action, special High Weald initiatives encourage the better management of important habitats such as heathland and wildflower meadows and develop countryside access, and local groups organise events and allow people to be involved to improve everyone's awareness of the needs and treasures of the High Weald countryside.

Yet, responsibility for the care of the High Weald lies with all of us. Whether we live in, work in or visit the area, we affect its environment – directly or indirectly – through our shopping, travelling and leisure activities and the way in which we manage our land. In order to recognize the important contribution individuals can make to conserve the AONB, a new supporters group is being created: The Friends of the High Weald. The Friends will be a focus for personal conservation action and a mechanism for building local people's knowledge and views into positive decisions about the area.

You are invited to become a Friend of the High Weald. By becoming a friend you will confirm your commitment to help conserve the High Weald landscape.

If you join the Friends of the High Weald, you will receive regular newsletters (with information about High Weald issues and advice on nature conservation) and have the opportunity to contribute your observations and views about High Weald developments and planned work. You will also qualify for a 2 for 1 offer to visit a local countryside attraction, and be invited to Friends events such as walks, talks and conferences.

In return we would ask you not for a membership fee, but instead to make a commitment to look after the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You can do this by signing up to the High Weald charter "Caring for the High Weald" (featured on page 4), and by making a pledge to take an action that makes sense for you personally. This may be something you are doing already and would like to make others aware of. (For inspiration, please see a selection of Friends' personal commitments in the green box and continue to visit the website www.highweald.org for an up-to-date list.) And if you feel able to also make a donation to enable new conservation work in the High Weald, it would of course be gratefully received.

If you would like to join the Friends of the High Weald, please complete and return the registration form.

Registration form

First name: _____
Surname: _____
Address: _____

Postcode: _____
Telephone: _____

In order to save paper and postage we would prefer to send you information by e-mail. To give us permission to e-mail you, please tick here and give us your e-mail address (for our use only):
E-mail: _____

Your age: under 30 30 – 44
 45 – 64 65 and over

Do you live in the High Weald AONB? Yes No
Do you own land in the High Weald AONB? Yes No

Reduced-rate admission to a High Weald attraction.
As a new member we can offer you savings on visiting a High Weald attraction. You can select a 2-for-1 offer for one of the following attractions. Please indicate which one you prefer, and we will send you the appropriate voucher:
I select the 2-for-1 offer for

High Beeches Gardens Wilderness Wood
 Great Dixter (April or Oct. only) Marle Place

Your Commitment to Caring for the High Weald

In return for membership we would ask you to show your commitment to caring for the High Weald by signing up to the charter "Caring for the High Weald". In addition to your general commitment, would you also – as your annual subscription – name a particular action you intend to take over the next year, e.g. create a meadow, take part in a volunteering scheme, or not use the car every other Sunday.

Please complete, sign and date the following declaration:
"I would like to become a Friend of the High Weald. As a Friend I choose to have regard to the charter 'Caring for the High Weald' in my day-to-day actions, and for the year ending 31st March 2005 I pledge to

Signature _____ Date _____

Voluntary donation

There is no membership fee, however if you would like to make a donation to support conservation work in the High Weald, please make your cheque payable to the 'High Weald Landscape Trust'. Many thanks.

I enclose a donation of £ _____
(We apologize for being unable to accept credit card donations.)

Please return this form to Friends of the High Weald, High Weald AONB Unit, Woodland Enterprise Centre, Hastings Road, Flimwell, East Sussex TN5 7PR.

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Pooh-phenalia Expoitions
Pooh Corner, High Street, Hartfield, E.Sussex
Opening times: Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm
Sundays and Bank Holidays 11am - 5pm

- Answers**
1. Chiddinstone
 2. Pinnets Town
 3. Horsted Keynes
 4. Handcross
 5. Forest Row
 6. Ticehurst
 7. Gillingham Green
 8. Farningham
 9. West Heathly
 10. Winchelsea
 11. Rovenham Layne
 12. Mayfield
 13. Wistransham
 14. Warmingfield
 15. Stone in Oxney
 16. Westfield
 17. Dullington
 18. Farningham
 19. Wadhurst
 20. Burwash

Do you like these pages? Send us your views by post or email: info@highweald.org