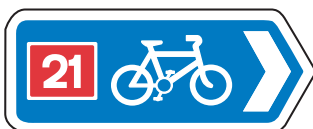


Cycling in East Sussex:
Avenue Verte Route Guide

Cuckoo Trail & High Weald circular



This is surely the quintessential Sussex countryside route, taking you through the ancient High Weald of East Sussex on a mixture of quite lanes and traffic-free sections.

Heathfield – Brightling

The ride starts with a gentle descent south from Heathfield along the Cuckoo Trail into Horam. Heading east you are immediately into a landscape of lush pastures grazed by cattle, hedgerows full of birdsong and a myriad of attractive tile-hung houses. There are pubs at regular intervals as you cycle through the villages of Vines Cross, Warbleton and Rushlake Green, some with particularly curious names and signs. Much of the surrounding woodland has been coppiced, a technique that promotes new growth by cutting back to ground level every 10-15 years.

Wood's Corner – Burwash

The longest climb of the day takes you up past the Swan Inn at Wood's Corner, crossing the B2096 and on up past the Obelisk, one of the many follies built by the eccentric MP and squire 'Mad' Jack Fuller, who lived at nearby Brightling. The longest climb is followed by the best descent, dropping over 160 metres down into the valley of the River Dudwell. At the top of the next climb, Burwash is an attractive village with many fine timbered houses along the main street and plenty of refreshment opportunities.

Burwash – Heathfield

Leaving Burwash, you encounter a series of ups and downs, crossing the

infant River Rother as it makes its way east towards the coast. Lying just off the main route, Mayfield is another very handsome village with plenty of attractive old buildings. Turning south from here it is not long before you leave the road for a bridleway, part of the National Cycle Network Route 21 which soon becomes a very fine, smooth, stone-based track climbing through woodland, past stables to enter Heathfield at its eastern end.

Places of Interest ❖❖❖

Brightling 'Mad' Jack Fuller (1757 to 1835), the 22-stone MP and local squire, is remembered for his eccentricities and the follies he left around the pretty village of Brightling. As well as the 65 foot Obelisk seen from the ride, there is a pyramid in the church yard, a rotunda with a dome, the Sugar Loaf and an observatory.

Burwash In Burwash churchyard is a cast-iron grave slab said to be the oldest in the country. There are many attractive timber-framed cottages in the High Street.

Bateman's Built in 1643 for a local ironmaster, this lovely National Trust house is best known as the home of Rudyard Kipling from 1902 to 1936. His study, gardens, water mill (still grinding flour) and one of the first water-driven turbines to produce electricity are all preserved. Much of the neighbourhood is featured in Kipling's 'Puck of Pook's Hill'.

Heathfield Old Heathfield was the original location of the village which was well known in the 16th and 17th centuries for its iron industry. The new

town developed with the railway in the 19th century.

Starting point

Heathfield

Distance

29 miles / 47 kilometres

Off road/rough sections

1. There is a 1½ mile section of bridleway south of Mayfield
2. The Cuckoo Trail is a well-surfaced, traffic-free railway path used for three miles between Heathfield and Horam

Grade

Moderate / Strenuous (over 600 metres of climbing)

Major climbs

Two long climbs, one of 150 metres up to the Obelisk near Brightling and the other of 120 metres up to Heathfield from Mayfield, with several more 40-80 metre climbs

Refreshments

Horam, Vines Cross, Warbleton, Rushlake Green, Woods Corner, Burwash, Mayfield, Heathfield

Tourist Information Centres

Ashdown Forest Llama Park:
01825 712040

Cycle Shops

Heathfield: Cycle Revival:
01435 866118

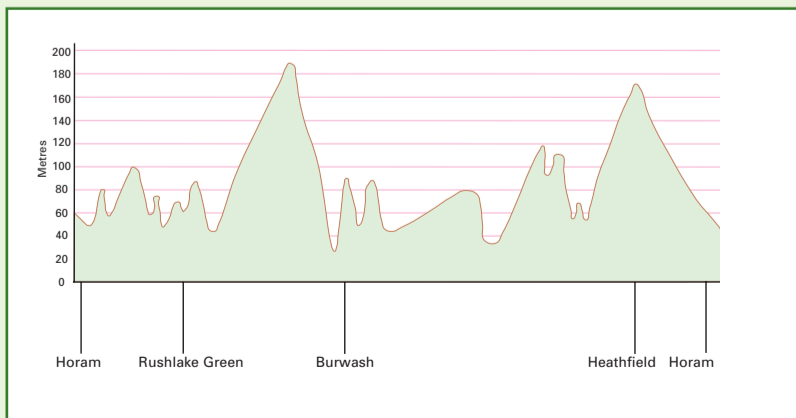
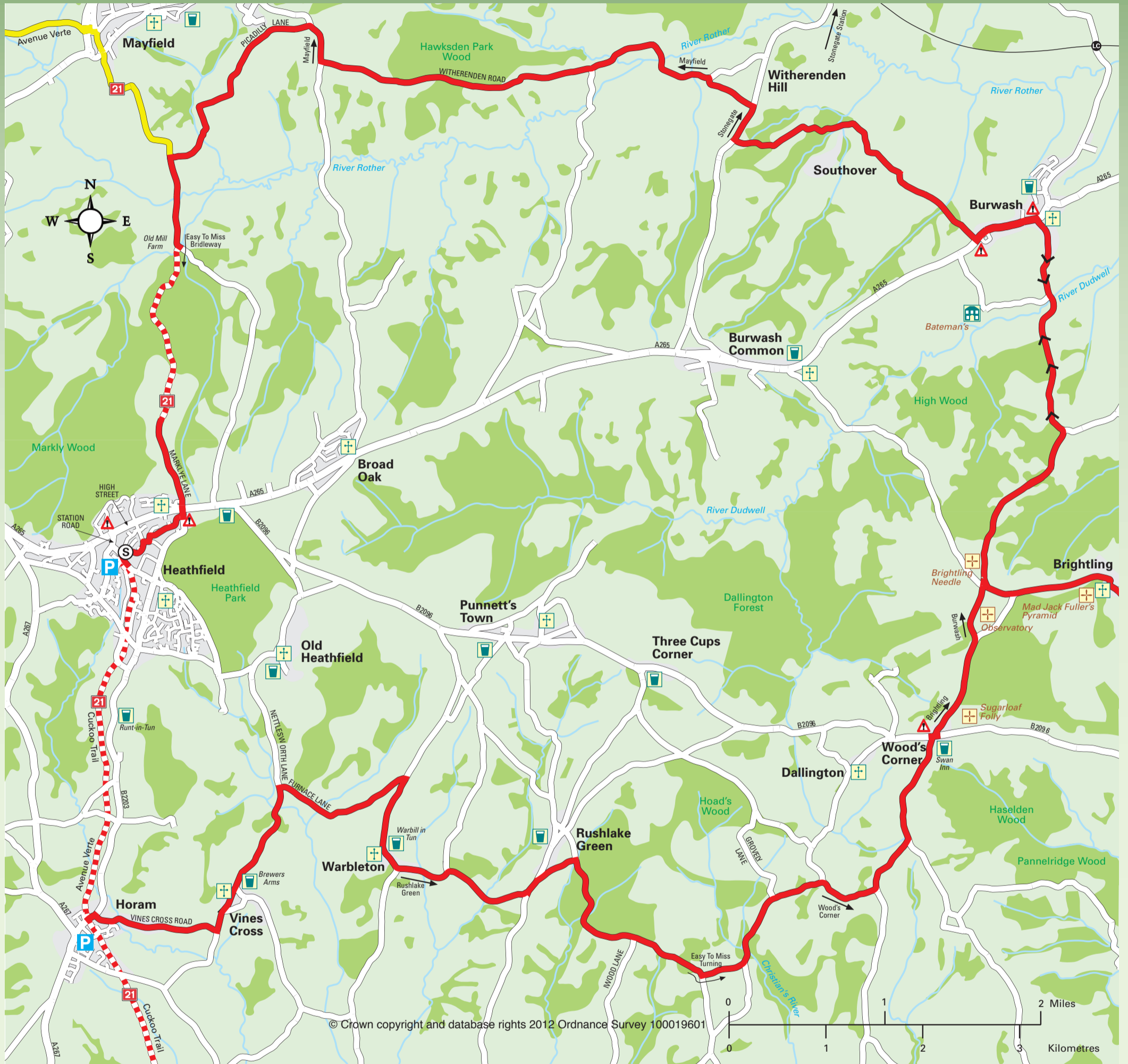
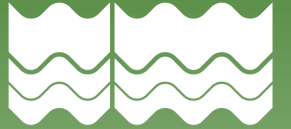
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Avenue Verte

East Sussex
County Council



	Railway (with level crossing)		Circular Route (on road)
	Church		Traffic-free route
	Pub		National Cycle Network (on road)
	House of Interest		A Road
	Other site of interest		B Road
	Car Parking		Minor Road (arrow indicates steep hill pointing downhill)
	Take Care!		
	Follow Road Sign as Marked		
	Start of route		