

### Danehill and the Birch Grove Estate

Welcome to the High Weald National Landscape, an unspoilt medieval landscape. A reasonably easy, but undulating, walk through the beautifully maintained Birch Grove Estate and attractive woodland.

<b>Distance and duration</b>	A 4 mile (6 km) walk, taking about 1½ - 2 hours.
<b>Level</b>	Moderate
<b>Start point / Post code</b>	Danehill village car park off School Lane, Danehill, East Sussex, RH17 7JE
<b>OS map reference What-3-Words</b>	OS Explorer 135, TQ404278 <a href="https://what3words.com/potential.gurgling.tested">https://what3words.com/potential.gurgling.tested</a>
<b>Other information</b>	There are five stiles on this route and two or three of these would be difficult for dogs. Also, dogs will have to be on a lead for a good deal of the walk, so this is probably not a good walk for them. <a href="#">Click here</a> to download a GPX file of the route

#### I-Spy - Something to look out for in the landscape



## Two

Our thanks go to [Mid-Sussex Ramblers](#) for permission to use this walk..

This 4-mile undulating walk starts from the car park off School Lane, about 180 yards from the junction with the A275 in the centre of Danehill village. The Metrobus service 270 could also be used to get to the start point.

Follow the path at the far end of the car park up past the Village Hall and out to the A275.

Cross the road and go left a short distance to take the road with a 'No Entry' for vehicles sign.

You shortly join a larger road and bear right to follow this road downhill towards Horsted Keynes. Take care as traffic may be travelling quite fast.

After about 200 yards, and a short distance past the de-restriction sign and before the bend, look for a grassy path on your right leading to a stile.

You are about to join the Greenwich Meridian Trail (GMT), which you will follow all the way to the Birchgrove Road.

Go over the stile and follow the well-trodden path which initially parallels the road and then continues straight ahead as the road swings left.

Go downhill to cross a stream and a track entering woodland.

Follow the obvious path through the wood which descends to a bridge.

Cross the bridge, taking care on the steep descent on the far side, and walk beside a pond to a T junction, where you turn right onto a signed track.

At a junction of paths, turn right onto a narrow, signed path.

At a T junction by a pond, bear left onto a driveway, cross a bridge and then take the signed path on the right uphill.

You pass a house on the right, and then approach a very imposing, newly rebuilt one on the left. The official right of way is on the far side of a wooden gate, but a grassy path is offered as an alternative way of reaching the Birchgrove Road as of August 2024.

Turn right along this road, usually fairly quiet outside peak hours, for about half a mile.

When you reach the road junction at the hamlet of Birchgrove, just after passing Hamewith and opposite a small post box, turn right on a signed path down a track.

At a dwelling, bear right and then left to go over a stile, then a gate and follow the left-hand field edge downhill and into a wood.

Cross a footbridge and stile and go uphill to cross a private golf course, carefully following the waymark posts.

When you next enter woodland there is a slightly misleading waymark sign, indicating you should head towards a ditch, but instead stay on the track.

Turn left where signed to walk alongside woodland for about 75 yards, then bear right on a path, descending through a strip of woodland.

### Three

On the other side, continue uphill to cross a gravel track and then take the left-hand option where the path splits. You then cross another gravel track and then leave the wide track to enter woodland on a narrow path.

The large house away to your left, which you may be able to spot, is Birch Grove House, home of

the former Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, Earl of Stockton, who died there in 1986.

During Macmillan's time, Charles De Gaulle, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Nikita Khrushchev, Jawaharlal Nehru and John F. Kennedy stayed as guests at Birch Grove.

Macmillan is buried at nearby St Giles Churchyard, Horsted Keynes.

Follow the path ahead to a stile giving access to the A275.

Turn right along this road for approximately 100 yards, taking advantage of one of the verges as the traffic is fast.

Cross the road with care, sooner rather than later for the best visibility and pass by/over a stile at a signed path.

Go down with woodland on your left and enter a wood at the bottom, taking care on the first section as it is very rough under foot.

Cross a wider track and carry on downhill on a sunken track through the wood. You may need to negotiate a fallen branch.

At the bottom of this sunken track, continue ahead to cross an earth bridge, eventually coming out close to Box's Lane at Holly Cottage.

For those wanting refreshment, turn right and then left along Box's Lane for about 300 yards to the well-regarded Coach and Horses pub. It has a wonderful garden with views to the Downs.

Use the same route to re-join the walk just off Box's Lane.

Otherwise, do not go out to Box's Lane, but take the signed path to the right, which initially runs alongside Holly Cottage and crosses a boardwalk over a boggy area.

Ignore all paths off to your left and right and carry on ahead on a meandering path through woodland for about 500 yds.

The path joins a concrete track beside a house, then shortly-bears right uphill. Take the left-hand option where the path shortly splits. Continue on a signed path, still in woodland, to join the road from Danehill to Chelwood Common.

Cross the road to the pavement opposite by the school and walk uphill to return to the car park.

**At all times please follow the Countryside Code**



