

The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is an outstanding medieval landscape, protected for its historic character of: rolling hills draped with small irregular fields; abundant woods and hedges; scattered farmsteads; and sunken lanes. It covers parts of 4 counties: East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent and Surrey and has an area of 1,457 square kilometres (570 square miles).

**High Weald Heroes** is a primary school programme that encourages children to do the following actions:

### Explore

the local countryside around your school - there's nowhere else quite like it.



### Take care of

your local environment as you walk. Remember to follow the Countryside Code. For more information, visit [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)



### Enjoy!

yourself and have fun outdoors whatever the weather.



### Find out about

the habitats you walk through - discover the story behind the landscape. To find out more go to the learning zone on [www.highweald.org](http://www.highweald.org)



### Be proud of

your countryside. Tell other people about the special landscape around your school - even better, take them on your school's Welly Walk and show them!



Produced by the High Weald AONB Partnership with support from:



# Walk Facts



**Distance:** 4km / 2.5 miles.

**Time:** 2 hours (based on younger children but depending on conditions and numbers).

**Description:** A gentle walk, with a few hills, through ancient gill woodland and a local nature reserve. The woods can get very muddy and slippery. There are a few minor roads to cross. We have suggested using the pedestrian crossing for the main road.



## RISK ASSESSMENT - Points to consider

- Please use with an Ordnance Survey Explorer Map.
- Wear sturdy footwear or wellingtons, being aware of uneven and slippery ground especially near water and in wet weather.
- Long trousers are advised.
- Check the weather - waterproofs or hats and sun cream might be needed.
- Taking a drink with you is advisable.
- Consider adequate adult to child supervision ratios as paths are narrow, the group will spread out and there are roads to cross.
- Plants such as nettles and brambles can sting and scratch; berries from plants can cause stomach upsets if eaten.
- There are no toilet facilities, so we recommend that toilet paper and antibacterial hand gel are taken as a precaution.
- Everyone must clean their hands before eating.
- Remember that a large group of people can be intimidating, especially to animals.
- Remember to follow the Countryside Code.

*Footpaths and rights of way are subject to change. The walk should always be checked for new risks before venturing out, especially when planning to take groups of children.*

[www.highweald.org](http://www.highweald.org)

# Ashdown Primary School High Weald Welly Walk





Be a High Weald Hero - you can make a difference



*For guidance only; actual conditions may be different from those shown, depending on the weather and time of year.*

## Photo guide and route description

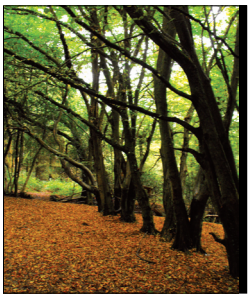
Turn left out of the School gate. Cross Luxford Road opposite the limited access sign and walk down the access road at the corner of Kemp's Farm Road **1**. Cross over the stream and turn right keeping the stream to your right and the houses on your left **2**. Cross straight over the road and through the gate to enter the Country Park , the site of an old clay quarry **3**. Take the path to the right and go over a bridge watching out for the steep sides of the gorge on your left. Further on you pass a pond with a viewing platform on your right. Bear left staying on the main path downhill. Go through the gate, turning right to leave the Country Park. As you exit, turn left, and follow Osborne Road up the hill **4**. Cross Osborne Road and turn right at the main road to walk down Crowborough Hill. Cross at the zebra crossing and turn left to head back up to Burdett Road. Walk down Burdett Road until you are opposite the entrance to The Ghyll **5**. Cross the road and go through the car park to enter The Ghyll via the kissing gate. Turning immediately right, follow the path down the slope to cross over the bridge. Turn left to reach a large clearing level with the stream. Continue along the lower main path keeping the stream to your left **6**. As you climb up the incline there is a junction of paths. Turn right to head back on the higher path **7**. You will pass a yellow metal marker post on your left. At the T junction, turn right **8** and follow it down until you meet the original path **9**. Turn left on this path to take you back to the large clearing . Go back over the bridge on

your right, bearing left to leave The Ghyll **10** . Cross over the road turning right down Burdett Road. At the end of the road turn left continuing down to cross at the zebra crossing. Turn right and head back up Crowborough Hill passing Windsor Road on your left. Turn down Osborne Road, crossing the road soon after you leave the main road, and keep going to reach Crowborough Country Park. Carry on through the car park and take the gate at the far end to cross over the bridge. Keep on this path until you reach the top entrance to leave the Park. Go through the gate and cross straight over the road. Carry on straight ahead, this time with the stream on your left and the houses on your right. Turn left over the stream and head back up the steep access road **11** . When you reach the top cross over Luxford Road and turn left **12** to return to Ashdown Primary School.

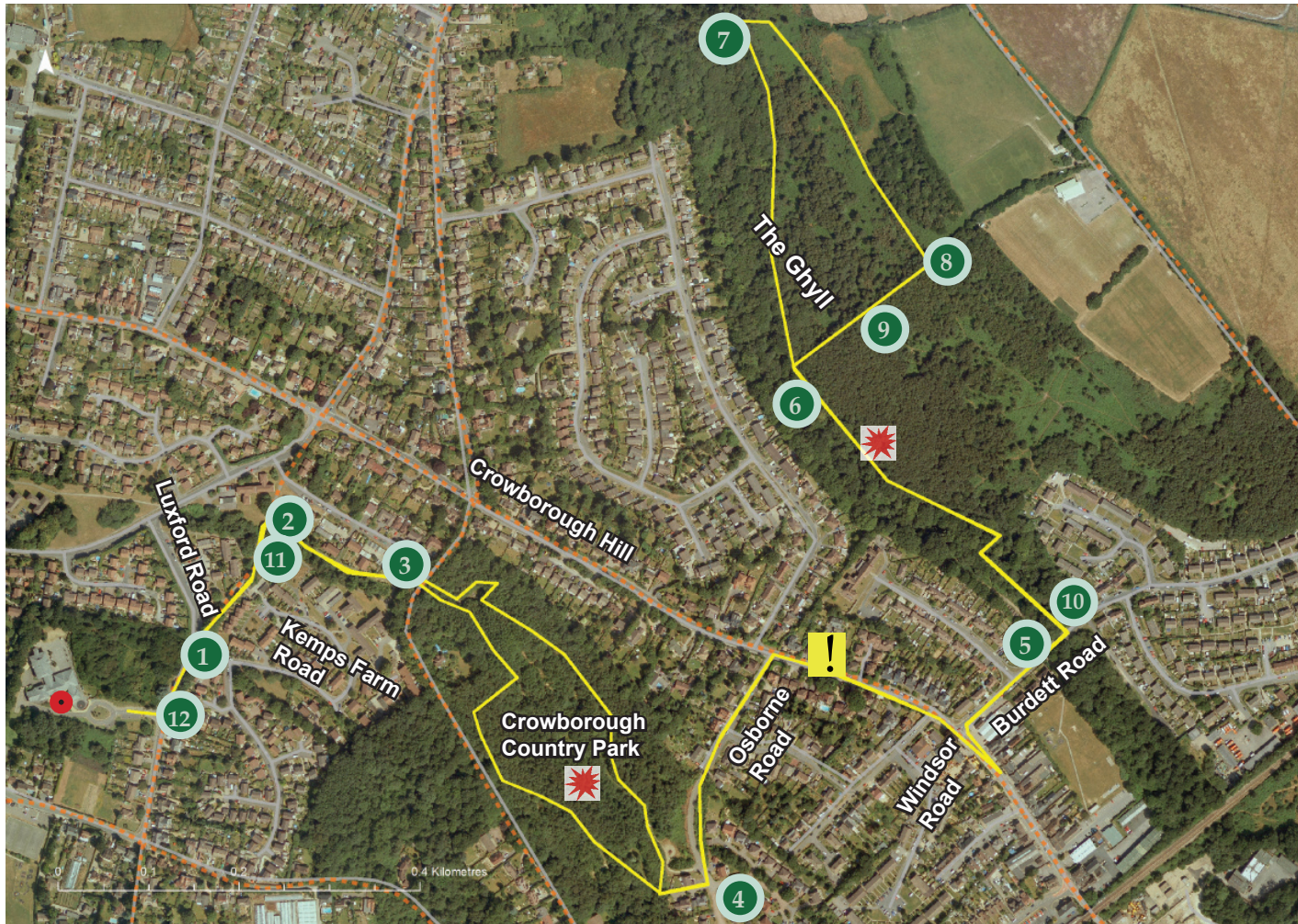
### Look out for...










Iron-stained water



Ancient woodland



### Key

-  Ashdown Primary School
-  WALK ROUTE
-  road
-  historic routeway
-  numbered views
-  suggested activity point
-  busy road

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## Look out for these key High Weald landscape features on the Welly Walk.

### Ancient Woodland

Trees and woodland cover 27% of the High Weald. Most of the High Weald's woodlands are classed as ancient. This means they have existed since at least 1600AD. Coppicing has been used for centuries in many of these woodlands, helping to maintain them.



### Coppiced Woodland

Coppicing is when trees are cut down low to the ground allowing multiple stems to grow back. The stems are harvested to make products such as fencing stakes, charcoal and trugs. Hazel and sweet chestnut are trees that are coppiced on the High Weald. Which can you see on the walk?



Hazel



Sweet chestnut

### Special Habitats

The Ghyll and Crowborough Country Park are made up of lots of different habitats – wet woodlands, wooded streams, dry woodland, scrub, wet and dry heathy glades, ponds, fen and grassland. This is important as most animals and plants are adapted to specific habitats. So, more habitats means more species.



### Dormice

The Ghyll provides important habitat for the endangered dormouse. Dormouse means sleeping mouse because this tiny mammal sleeps from October to May. It makes beautiful nests in bramble and even on the ground so be careful where you step.



©Steve Hanna

### Golden-ringed Dragonfly

The golden-ringed dragonfly is the longest dragonfly in the UK. It likes the acidic streams and ponds of the High Weald. Watch out for it from May to September.

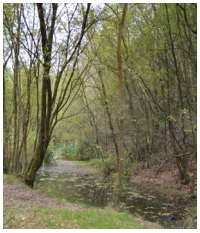


### High Weald Ponds

Ponds are an important habitat for wildlife and the High Weald has lots of them. Many ponds have developed because of human activity. Crowborough Country Park was once a clay quarry but now nature has taken over and a pond has formed in it.

*If you are interested in finding out more then please visit [www.highweald.org/learning\\_zone](http://www.highweald.org/learning_zone)*

It provides a home for lots of plants and animals such as dragonflies, caddis flies and frogs. Stand on the pond platform and see how many species you can spot.



### Gill Streams



Steep-sided, wooded gills are formed where a stream has carved a deep channel through the clay and sandstone of a High Weald hillside. Look out for orange water in the streams on this Welly Walk. This shows the presence of iron ore under the ground. The iron ore, water and wood provided the vital ingredients for the High Weald iron industry which flourished in Roman and Tudor times.

*Listen carefully as you walk through The Ghyll - can you hear the water?*

### Local Building Materials

Traditionally buildings were made from materials in the local landscape. In the High Weald that means sandstone, wood to make timber-framed and weather-boarded buildings, and clay to make bricks and tiles. Crowborough Country Park was once a clay quarry for a local brickworks. The clay produced distinctive red clay with black marks in it. Look out for these bricks in buildings near the Park.

