

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 1,461 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



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



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: 4.5km / 2.7miles

Time: 2 hours (depending on conditions, numbers and excluding stops)

Description: A moderate walk through the southern edge of town and into Hargate Forest with woodland, heathland and views across the High Weald. There are some steep sections and the paths can get very muddy and slippery.



RISK ASSESSMENT - Points to consider

- Please use with an Ordnance Survey Explorer Map.
- Wear sturdy footwear or wellingtons, being aware of uneven ground and fallen trees, especially near water and in wet weather.
- Adequate staff to student supervision ratios.
- Fields may contain farm animals.
- Long trousers are advised.
- Check the weather - waterproofs or hats and sun cream might be needed.
- Taking a drink with you is advisable.
- 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 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

Broadwater Down Primary School High Weald Welly Walk



Be a High Weald Hero - you can make a difference



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

Photo guide and route description

Come out of the school onto the footpath and turn right. Walk to the road and cross over to continue on the footpath until it meets Broadwater Down road. Turn right to walk down Broadwater Down road. Shortly after passing St Mark's church on your left cross the road and turn left to continue in the same direction. Look out for the permissive access towards Hargate Forest on your left marked with a metal gate **1**. Just beyond the gate the path divides, take the right hand path, passing two World War II pillboxes on your right and left, to enter Hargate Forest **2**. Follow the path straight ahead through the pine plantation keeping on this path; where there is a fork (at the end of the plantation) keep to the right **3** to emerge onto an open heathy area with a view over rolling hills. Where the path divides take the narrow, right hand path towards the wooden bench then head straight downhill through the open heather. The path meets a wider track at the bottom. Turn left here **4** to carry on downhill and then almost immediately turn left (by post with green arrow), up another wide track **5**. Continue to the end of this track and turn left to walk up 'The Old Carriageway'. Continue past decorated, metal tree guards depicting local history and wildlife.

Take the second wide path on the left **6**. Follow this track until you emerge from the trees and come to a crossroads of paths **7**. Here, turn right and walk straight ahead continuing on the left hand path **8**. Carry on along this path and continue straight across another path **9** until you come to the end of the tree line on your right. At the end of the tree line, turn right **10**.

Follow this path and pass the wooden bench you came across earlier in the walk on your left. Continue on the same path to retrace your steps back through the pine plantation and out of Hargate Forest. Pass the pillboxes to emerge onto Broadwater Down. Cross over the road and turn right. Continue along Broadwater Down and take the second left down Glenmore Park. As the road bears right, look out for a footpath between fencing, on the left hand side of the road **11**. Follow the footpath down the steep hill as it snakes from side to side. Near the bottom where the path divides take the right hand fork to go down wide steps **12**. Follow this pavement as it bears right and meets Essex Close and then Broadmead. Here, turn right and look out for the sign on the other side of the road that marks the footpath back to the school.

Look out for...




Iron water


Key

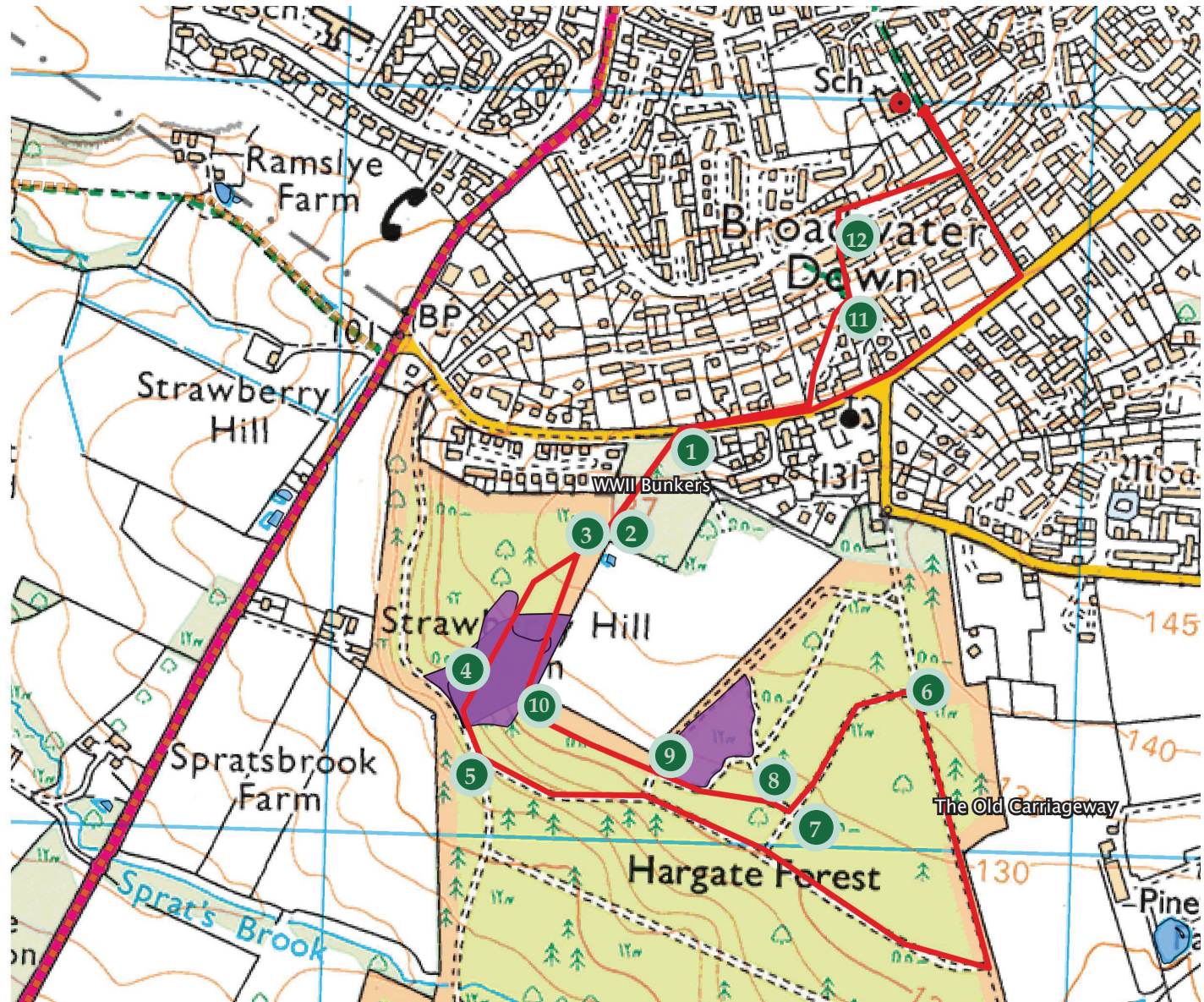
 Broadwater Down Primary School

 WALK ROUTE

 numbered views

 Heathland

 Historic Routeways



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

Medieval Forests

Hargate Forest was once part of Waterdown Forest, a much larger forest which ran from Tunbridge Wells to Wadhurst. This was one of the High Weald's four great medieval forests: They were used by royalty for hunting the 'beasts of the chase' such as deer and wild boar.



© Charlotte Molesworth

The High Weald Iron Industry

The High Weald was at the heart of the great Tudor iron industry, when iron was extracted from the local sandstone and clay to make objects such as cannons for fighting. Trees were cut down to make charcoal for feeding the furnaces, and the many streams powered giant hammers in the forges.



Look for clues of iron rich rocks in the orangey coloured water in Hargate Forest

Ponds

Ponds are an important habitat for wildlife and the High Weald has lots of them. Many ponds have developed because of human activity such as quarrying. They are home to animals such as dragonflies, caddis flies, frogs and newts.



Look out for the pond you pass on your left on the edge of the pine plantation

Ancient Routeways

Many paths in the High Weald have been used for centuries, some as far back as the Stone Age. This use by people, animals and later, carts has worn away the soft ground to create deeply sunken sections.

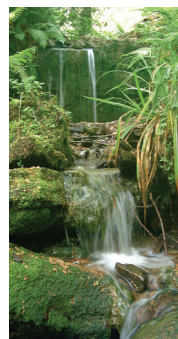


The Old Carriageway on this Welly Walk was used by the Earl of Abergavenny in Victorian times; to ride from Eridge Castle to St Mark's church.

Look out for metal treeguards along 'The Old Carriage Way' which tell the story of the local High Weald landscape

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. Plants growing on these slopes, such as ferns, liverworts and mosses form an important, fragile eco-system.



Look out for little streams that feed into Sprat's Brook Gill at the bottom of the Forest

Heathland

Heathland is a rare habitat found throughout the High Weald. Look out for heather on this Welly Walk, it is one of the most common heathland plants and a sign that the Forest once had large heathy areas. The Woodland Trust is managing Hargate Forest to create more areas of heathland.



Look out for heather on this Welly Walk

Medieval Landscape

The High Weald looks much the same today as it did in the 14th Century. The view from the wooden bench shows: gently rolling hills, irregular shaped fields, scattered settlements and wooded areas. These features give the High Weald its distinctive look.



If you are interested in finding out more then please visit www.highweald.org/learning-zone