

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



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 / 2.8 miles

Time: 1.5 hours (depending on conditions, numbers and excluding stops)

Description: A gentle walk using footpaths in Tunbridge Wells to reach ancient woodland, farmland and a gill stream. There is some road walking and some without pavements. The woodland 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.
- Remember that a large group of people can be intimidating, especially to 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 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.

Claremont 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 gates and turn left down the restricted byway **1**. When it reaches a road turn right and then left to continue on the Tunbridge Wells Circular (TWC) footpath **2**. Carry on straight ahead as the footpath changes to a private road. When this meets the public road (Forest Road), turn right to walk along the pavement. Cross at the pedestrian crossing, and turn left to walk back along the road on the other side. Cross over two side roads then at the main junction turn right down Halls Hole Road. Almost immediately turn right again to walk down High Woods Lane **3**. Pass the Indoors Bowls Club on your left and continue uphill with fields on either side. Stay on the lane as it enters woodland, passing an old workshop on your right. Look out for a footpath crossing the lane marked by an interpretation board on your left and a stone footpath sign on your right. **4** Take the right hand footpath into the wood. Continue through sweet chestnut coppice. At a gravelled path, cross over, to continue straight ahead on the same footpath **5**. As the path leaves the wood look left to see rolling hills and a bit further on, Hawkenbury Park on your right. The path narrows, then emerges at a small road. Turn left to walk down it (watch out there are no pavements). Pass a few houses on your right then turn right at Hawkenbury Farmhouse to follow the footpath **6**. Just before the entrance to Tuttys Farm, turn right. Go over the stile **7** and follow the footpath as it descends gradually downhill. Cross over a small gill stream via a footbridge and immediately turn right to follow the footpath along the stream **8**. As the path winds and turns look out for a fingerpost on your right almost hidden by trees. Just after this there is a crossroads of paths. Take the right hand path **9** and as it emerges from the woods, bear right to cross the stile **10**.







Continue on the path between high fences and at the road turn right to walk up Maryland Road. Pass Forest Way on your left and cross over Maryland Road to continue uphill on the other side of the road. At the top of the road turn left and look immediately for a footpath on your left signposted to Westbrook Terrace **11**. Take this path and turn left when it meets the road. Cross the road at the traffic island and turn left to continue along the road. Turn right to walk down Farncombe Road. Almost immediately, bear right to leave the pavement and head down a footpath **12** which takes you back to the School.

Look out for...



Boundary Bank

Key

-  WALK ROUTE
-  Claremont Primary School
-  numbered views showing walk direction
-  ancient woodland
-  historic roads
-  historic public rights of way



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

Biodiversity

When trees are coppiced, sunlight can reach the ground. This encourages wild flowers to grow. Look out for bluebells, wood anemones and wild garlic in the spring.



Bluebells



Wood anemones

Rolling Hills

The rocks and soils of the High Weald are made up of clays and sandstones. The softer clays have eroded away to form the low valleys while the harder sandstones form the High Wealds hills.



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.



Mosses, Liverworts & Ferns

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



Coppiced Woodland

Coppicing is when trees are cut down low to the ground allowing many stems to grow back. These are used to make products such as fence poles, charcoal and trugs. The outgrown coppice on this walk is sweet chestnut.



Hedges

Hedges are an essential part of the High Weald's distinctive character and are an important habitat for wildlife. They provide food and shelter for insects, birds and mammals.



Outgrown Boundary Hedgerow

Remains of a traditional laid hedge topping a boundary bank can be seen where the branches have right-angled elbows. Look out for these on the banks leading to the gill stream.



Ancient Routeways

Many paths in the High Weald have been used for centuries, some as far back as the Stone Age. Over time people, animals and later, carts - have worn the soft ground away so that today, many of the routes have deeply sunken sections.



Ancient Woodland

Covers almost one third of the High Weald and is mostly ancient woodland; existing for at least 400 years. Dead wood is an important habitat for wildlife.



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