

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



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



Education Resource

Distance: 4.5km / 2.7miles

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

Description: An easy walk through East Court parkland, ancient woodland and farmland. 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.
- 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

Estcots 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 and turn left and walk to the top of the road. Cross over the adjoining road and turn right **1**. Look out for a footpath sign ahead of you signalling left. Take that path to enter the parkland of East Court. Continue straight ahead, walking below the small car park. Pass a brick building on your left and carry on towards the woods ahead of you **2**. Take the lower path which leads on to a log path **3**. Follow this through the woods and emerge at a grassy glade **4**. Walk through the glade to turn right at a wider path. Cross the footbridge over the gill stream **5**. Follow the board walk and go up the steps and at a crossroads pass another glade on your left. Continue straight ahead through Ashplats wood. With houses visible through the trees ahead, turn right to follow the green arrow on a post **6**. Follow the path downhill to walk down steps over a footbridge and up the other side. At the top turn left, this time heading in the opposite direction to the green arrow. Bear right to continue on the path, with houses on your left. Carry on until you emerge at a road **7**. Turn right here (beware there is no pavement) and continue to pass stables on your right. At Fairlight Farm, follow the footpath sign to turn right and walk between the hedge and post and rail fence **8**. Pass through the gate (the stile is broken) and walk through the field to a metal gate. Pass through the gate and keep to the left following a well-worn path **9**. At a post bear left keeping the fence to your left and passing gorse bushes on your right. The field opens out with views to the rolling hills. Bear right following the line of the gorse and passing a pond on your right **10**. Cross the stile ahead of you to walk through private woodland **11**. Come out at a road and cross to continue on the footpath. Pass through a play area and cross another road. Continue straight ahead into the woods and keep left to cross a






footbridge and walk alongside a high wooden fence on your left. After about 30m, take a side path to the right that leads to the stream. Look for the footbridge, cross this and walk up the other side to enter East Court parkland **12**. Turn left to see East Court Mansion up ahead. Keep to the left edge of the field and continue until you reach the path you entered by next to the small car park. Turn left to go down this footpath then at the road turn right. Cross on to Bourg-De-Peage Ave and return to the school.

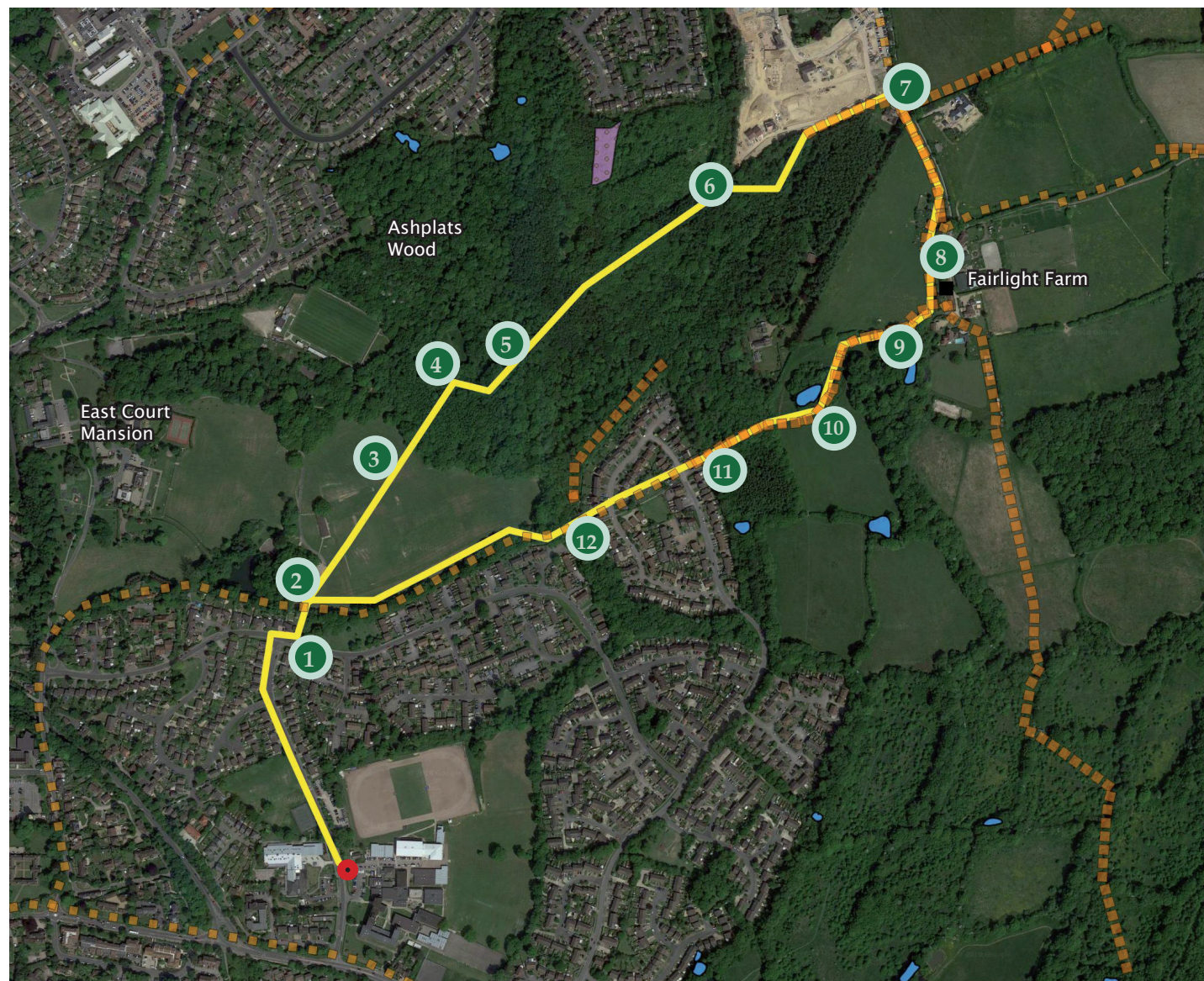
Look out for...



Timber framed buildings

Key

-  Estcote Primary School
-  WALK ROUTE
-  numbered views
-  historic routeways
-  historic farmsteads



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

Medieval Landscape

The High Weald looks much the same today as it did in the 14th century: gently rolling hills, irregular-shaped fields, small, scattered settlements and wooded areas. These features give the area its unique character.



Look out to the hills from the field beyond Fairlight Farmhouse to see a view that has hardly changed in 600 years

Ancient Woodland

Almost one third of the High Weald is covered in woodland. Most of the High Weald's woodlands are classed as ancient. This means they have existed since at least 1600AD. Most of Ashplats Wood is ancient.



Bluebells



Wood anemones

Look out for bluebells, wood anemones and ransoms (wild garlic) in the spring. These flowers are good indicators of ancient woodland

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 were commonly coppiced on the High Weald.



Look out for sweet chestnut and hazel trees with lots of trunks in Ashplats wood

Ancient Routeways

Many paths in the High Weald have been used for centuries, some as far back as Neolithic times. This use by people, animals and later, carts, has worn away the soft ground to create deeply sunken sections. Many of these ancient sunken routeways are now roads, such as Blackwell Hollow in East Grinstead.

Look out to see if the road to Fairlight Farm is sunken. It is an historic route way



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

Ponds

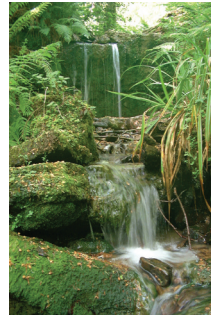
Ponds are an important habitat for wildlife and the High Weald has lots of them. Many ponds have developed because of human activity such as quarrying.



Look out for the pond you pass it will be home to lots of plants and animals such as dragonflies, caddis flies and frogs

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 the paths carved by gill streams in Ashplats Wood

Local Building Materials

Traditionally buildings were made from materials in the local landscape. In the High Weald, that meant wood for timber-frames and weather-boarded buildings, clay bricks and tiles, and sandstone.



Look out for the historic timberframed building at Fairlight Farm