

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

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.countrysideaccess.gov.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



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:
High Weald AONB Partnership
with support from:



Walk Facts



Education Resource

Distance: 2.5 miles /4km

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

Description: moderate walk through a varied landscape of open farmland, meadows and ancient woodland. There are a couple of steeper sections and a lot of stiles to climb.

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 up-sets 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.

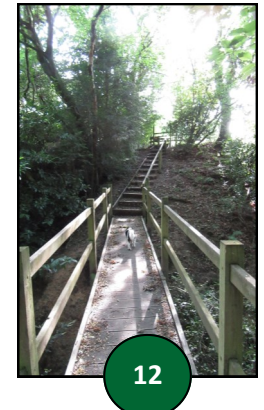
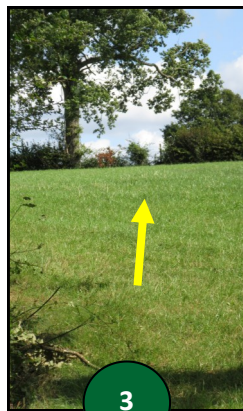
Footpaths are subject to change. The walk should always be checked for new risks before venturing out, especially when planning to take groups of children.

www.highweald.org

Maynards Green Community 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

Come out of the school and turn right. Walk a little way and cross the road safely using the traffic island and walk down Sticklehatch Lane opposite (beware there is no pavement).

Look out for a footpath sign on your right ① . Climb over the stile and walk across the field. Go through the break in the hedge to continue across the next field and enter a small woodland (look out for orange iron water on your right) ② . Follow the path through the wood to cross two footbridges and pass a pond on your left. Leave the wood via a stile. Turn left and start walking uphill along the edge of the field. As the field boundary extends to the left, leave it and walk straight ahead up towards a stile ③ . Continue across the next field to a junction of footpaths. Keep walking straight ahead close to the right-hand hedge ④ . Cross the stile at the bottom of this field then walk diagonally across the next field ⑤ . Go through a gap in the hedge ⑥ and turn right and then left onto the path that takes you diagonally across that field. Climb the stile in a hedge ⑦ . Bear left to cross the field and continue, with the hedge close on your right, towards farm outbuildings and vehicles. Just before these, turn right to pass through one wide gate and then another on the left hand side of the two ahead (making sure to re-close and secure them) ⑧ . Bear left to walk down a field and join a track. Follow the track past a house on your right and look out for a stile on the same side.

For a shorter walk continue on the track a little past the stile and turn left onto Sticklehatch Lane and back to the school.

For a longer walk head up the hill to cross another stile and enter a meadow. Follow the path down the meadow almost to the far end, then turn around and bear right to pass a pond. Walk up to the top corner of the meadow and pass through a gap in the hedge 9. Follow the path across the next field, bearing left to cross a stile in the corner. Here, a post shows a junction of footpaths, turn left to pass through a gate and enter Sapperton Wood 10. Walk straight ahead with a wire fence on your left. Follow this ancient sunken routeway (if it becomes too muddy, leave it and continue on the higher parallel path keeping the routeway in sight). At a footpath post on your left, take the right hand footpath to take you away from the routeway 11. Continue straight head ignoring any paths which cross it (it can be quite overgrown here). The path heads gently downhill to finally cross a bridge and head up steps 12 to leave the wood via a stile. Cross a small paddock then turn left down a short driveway. Turn right to walk up Sticklehatch Lane and back to the school.

Look out for ...



Sunken routeways

Key

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|
|  | Maynards Green Community Primary School |  | Welly Walk Route |  | Welly Walk shortcut |
|  | Historic Routeways |  | Ancient woodland |  | Meadows |
| | |  | Ponds | | |



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

High Weald Fields and Hedges



The fields you pass on this Welly Walk are at least 200 years old and have the irregular shapes that give the High Weald its distinctive look. The hedgerows that surround them may also be as old and provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

Look for the number of different plant species you can count in the hedges

Wildflower Grassland

There are rare, wildflower meadows across the High Weald. These are meadows which haven't had pesticides or fertilisers put on them. They are an important habitat for wildlife because they contain so many different plant species which attract a wide variety of insects birds and mammals.



Look out for butterflies, orchids and swallows in this meadow in summer

Ancient Woodland

Almost one third of the High Weald is covered in woodland. Most of the High Weald's woodlands



have been around for at least 400 years which makes them ancient. Sapperton Wood is ancient woodland. Look out for bluebells and wood anemones in the spring. These flowers are good indicators of ancient woodland.

Ancient Routeways

Many paths in the High Weald have been used for centuries, some as far



back as the Stone Age. Saxon farmers used to drive their pigs annually along paths from the North and South Downs to the wooded High

Weald to fatten them on acorns and beech mast.

This use by people, animals and later, carts has worn away the soft ground to create deeply sunken sections. All the paths on this walk are historic routeways.

High Weald Ponds

Ponds are an important habitat for wildlife and there are lots on the High Weald.



Many ponds developed because of human activity such as quarrying. They provide a valuable home for plants and animals such as dragonflies, caddis flies and frogs.

Iron-stained Water

This is found where there are iron-rich rocks nearby. The High Weald provided all the ingredients for a thriving iron industry during Tudor times: iron ore in the rock; wood for fuel and streams to feed water-powered forges and furnaces.



Look for hints to this industrial past in local names such as Furnace Wood