

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



Education Resource

Distance: 4km / 2.5 miles

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

Description: A gentle walk through farmland, ancient woodland and past sandstone outcrops. There is some walking on quiet roads without pavement. 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

West Hoathly C.E. 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 West Hoathly Primary School to walk along North Lane (watch out there is no pavement). At the Cat Inn, cross the road to the church and continue straight ahead along the pavement **1**. When the road turns left cross over the road and walk down a lane with signs to Philpots Quarry **2** (watch out for lorries from the quarry coming along here). Pass the quarry on your right and at the end of the lane turn right towards Philpots Farm **3**. Almost immediately turn right again following the bridlepath sign to put the farm and a low wall on your left **4**. Carry on into a woodland. As you enter the wood look for a path on your right and follow it over a foot bridge **5**. Continue on along an uneven path through the wood. Notice the sandstone outcrop on your left. Cross over another bridge and carry on uphill.








Bear left and look out for a signpost to a stile on your right and climb this to leave the wood **6**. Carry on along the path with the wood on your left and a field on your right. At the far end of the second field turn right to walk up the same field keeping the hedge on your left. Just before you enter the next field look out for a sign and a stile on your left to lead you into the wood **7**. Pass over a footbridge and leave the wood via a stile. Bear right to cross the field diagonally and head towards a stile **8**. Cross the next field and turn right at the track **9**. At a junction of tracks turn right to follow a wide track uphill **10**. When the track turns left continue straight ahead **11**. Stay on this path through two fields with the hedge close on your left. A little way after the second field the path turns to a track and meets the road opposite the Cat Inn **12**. Turn left and return to the school.

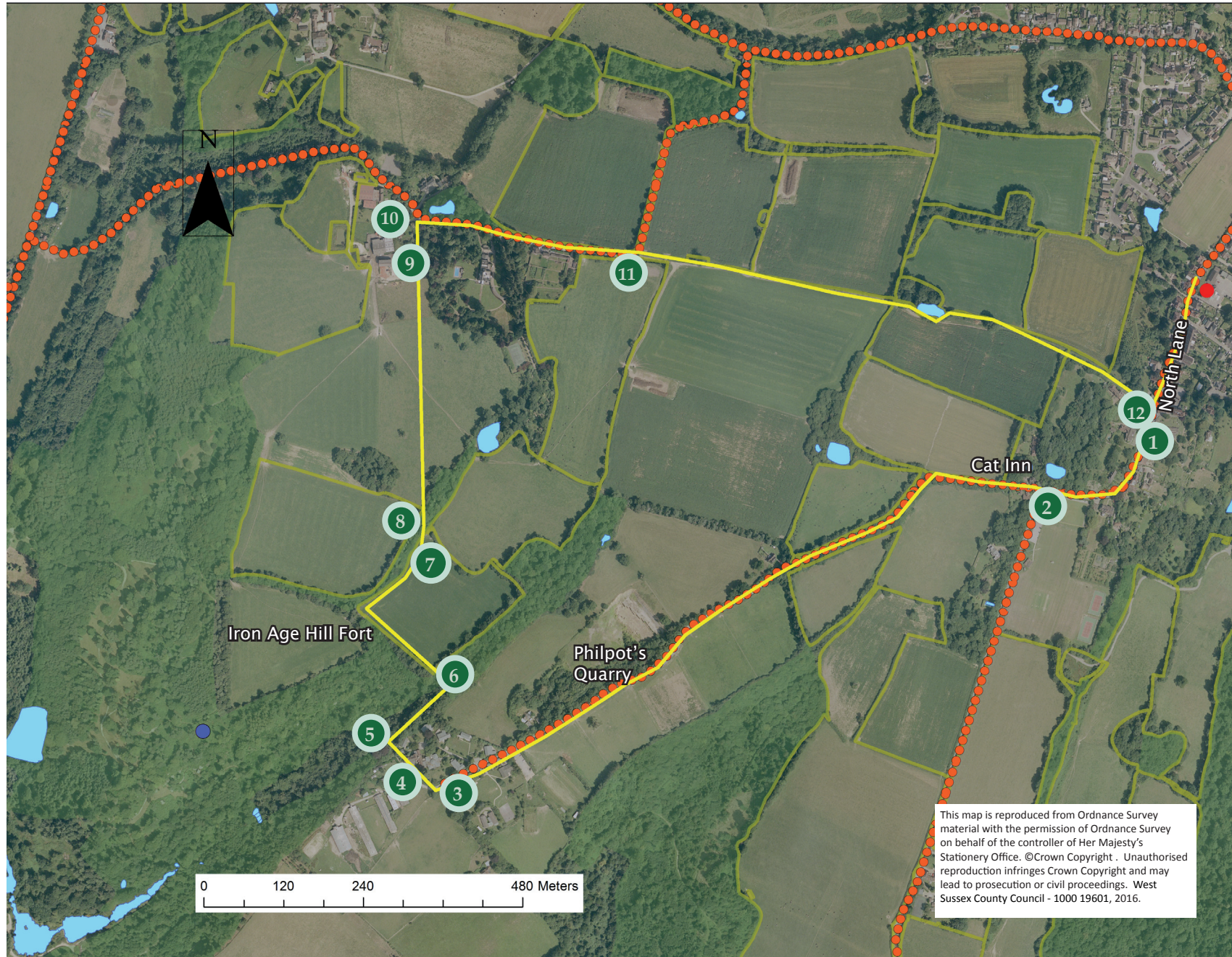
Look out for...



Sandstone outcrop

Key

-  West Hoathly C of E Primary School
-  WALK ROUTE
-  numbered views
-  historic routeway
-  ancient field boundaries
-  Mesolithic rock shelters
-  Ponds



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

Sandstone Outcrops

Dramatic sandstone outcrops can be found scattered all over the High Weald. The rocks that you can see on this Welly Walk in Chiddinglye Wood are a good example. The rocks are porous and create a unique habitat. They are home to some rare mosses, lichens and liverworts.



Evidence shows that these sandstone rocks were used by Stone Age people as shelters. This area, including these rocks, was an Iron Age hill fort. More recently sandstone has been highly valued as a building material, often used for grand houses and churches.

Ancient Woodland

Almost one third of the High Weald is covered in woodland. Most of these 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. The woodland on this Welly Walk is ancient. Look out for bluebells, wood anemones and ransoms (wild garlic) in the spring. These flowers are good indicators of ancient woodland.



Bluebells



Wood anemones

Local Building Materials

Traditionally buildings were made with materials from the local landscape. In the High Weald that meant sandstone and clay for bricks and tiles and wood for timber-frames and weather-boarding. Remains of many small local quarries can still be seen in the High Weald but Philpots Quarry, passed on the walk, is the last working quarry in the area, providing stone for restoring old buildings. In West Hoathly village look out for: The Manor House built of sandstone and The Priest House, a beautiful example of a 15th Century, timber-framed Wealden hall house.



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. Which can you see on this walk?



Hazel



Sweet chestnut

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

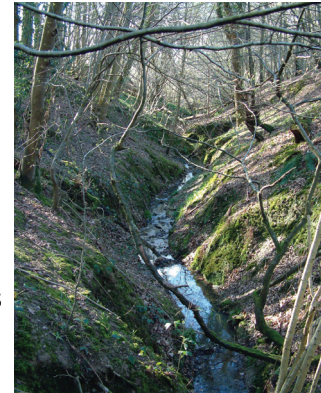
High Weald Hedges

Hedges are an essential part of the High Weald's distinctive character. Hedges mark land boundaries and help to manage livestock. They are also an important habitat for wildlife.



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 gill streams on this Welly Walk. Plants growing on the unique environment of the gill slopes such as ferns, liverworts and mosses form an important, fragile eco-system.



How many ponds can you spot on this Welly Walk?

Ponds

Many ponds were created by human activity such as quarrying for stone and creating drinking ponds for farm animals.

