

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: 7 km / 4.5 miles

Time: 2.5 hours (depending on conditions, numbers and excluding stops)

Description: A gentle walk through ancient woodland and across meadows with a small amount of road walking. 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.

www.highweald.org

Maidenbower Junior 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 back of the School and cross over the bridge. Turn right and follow the footpath along the edge of the stream **1**. When the footpath comes out at Maidenbower Drive turn right and almost immediately cross the road to continue down the footpath alongside the stream **2**. At the main road turn right and cross at the pedestrian crossing opposite The Coaching Halt **3**. Turn left and walk along the pavement as it takes you away from the main road and along a side road **4**. Continue on the pavement gently uphill. The pavement ends at a small road, Church Road. Turn right here to head towards the ancient church of St Nicholas. Before reaching the church turn left down Worth Way bridleway **5**. Follow Worth Way over the motorway and continue on with farmland either side. When you reach a farm on your right there is a crossroads of paths. Follow the signpost and continue straight ahead **6**. Carry on this path until you see a wooden gate ahead and a stile on the right **7**. Climb the stile to enter woodland and follow the clear path for over a mile ignoring paths to right and left. The path climbs uphill. Look out for a footpath sign where the path continues ahead and sharply to the right **8**. Take the right turning. When the path forks, bear left, and follow it through coppiced, sweet chestnut woodland **9**.

The path continues through pine plantation and more open overgrown heathland. As the path nears its end you can hear the hum of the motorway. Bear left at the veteran oak **10** and follow the path until it reaches a wooden gate at the roundabout **11**. Turn left and walk around the roundabout crossing at the traffic island. Be aware traffic travels quickly here. Continue around

the roundabout, crossing a side road and head into Crawley along the B2036 **12**. Stay on this road passing Pagewood Close. At the next roundabout continue straight ahead crossing over Lucerne Drive and passing The Coaching Halt pub on the opposite side of the road. Look out for a footpath on your left just beyond the pedestrian crossing. Walk down this path to reach and cross Maidenbower Drive, returning to the school the way you came.

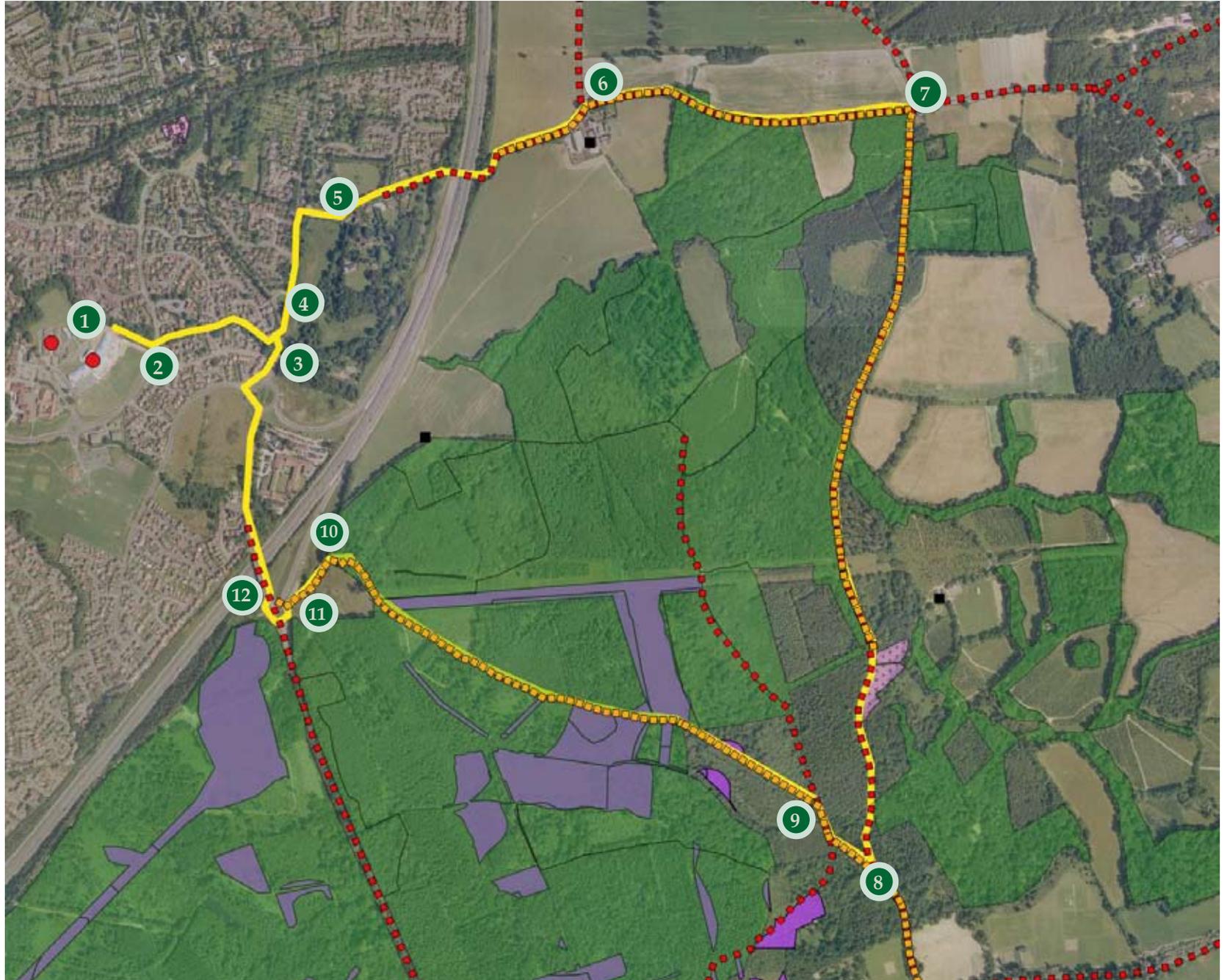
Look out for...



Veteran Trees

Key

-  WALK ROUTE
-  Maidenbower Primary School
-  numbered views showing walk direction
-  meadows
-  heath
-  ancient woodland
-  historic roads
-  historic public rights of way
-  historic farmsteads



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

Medieval Forest

Worth Forest was once part of a much larger forest; one of the High Weald's four medieval hunting forests. These forests were not solid woodland, but a patchwork of woods, coppices, wood-pasture, heaths and commons.

Heathland

Lowland heath is a rare habitat found in the High Weald. Look out for heather, one of the most common heathland plants and open sandy paths as signs of former heathland.



Timber Stacks

These indicate that a wood is being commercially managed and must not be climbed on. This wood consists of mixed woodland, with mature conifer and deciduous plantations.



Coppiced Woodland

Coppicing is when trees are cut down low to the ground allowing multiple stems to grow back. The stems are used to make products such as fence poles, charcoal and trugs. Hazel and Sweet Chestnut trees were commonly coppiced on the High Weald.



Wildflower Grassland



Ancient, undisturbed, wildflower-rich hay meadows and pastures are another habitat found in the High Weald. They are special because they have so many different plant species on them. You will pass a wildflower grassland on this Welly Walk (see the map).

Count how many grasses and plants there are in a small area. Compare it to another field on the Walk.

Oaks

Saxon farmers used to herd their pigs from the Downs to the wooded High Weald to fatten them on acorns. Oaks, particularly old or veteran trees, provide food and shelter for many animals species.



Local Building Materials

Traditionally buildings were made out of materials from the local landscape. St Nicholas Church at Worth is made from local sandstone and has parts dating back to around 1000AD.



Fields & Hedges

Several fields and hedges that 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. Hedges are also an important habitat for wildlife providing food and shelter for insects, birds and mammals.



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. Look at the map to see that the walk is mainly on historic routeways.

