

Henfield Community Partnership

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A circular walk around Henfield in the Spring

Approximately 4½ miles
and lasting 2 – 2½ hours.
Shortcut 2½ miles.

If you would like to walk this route with others, meet at The Henfield Hall on SUNDAY, 12th MARCH 2006 at 2.00pm.

This walk will take you through mainly open countryside to the east and north of Henfield. The land is gently undulating and interspersed with streams. In several places there are views of the High Weald to the north and the Downs to the south.

FOR THE WALK

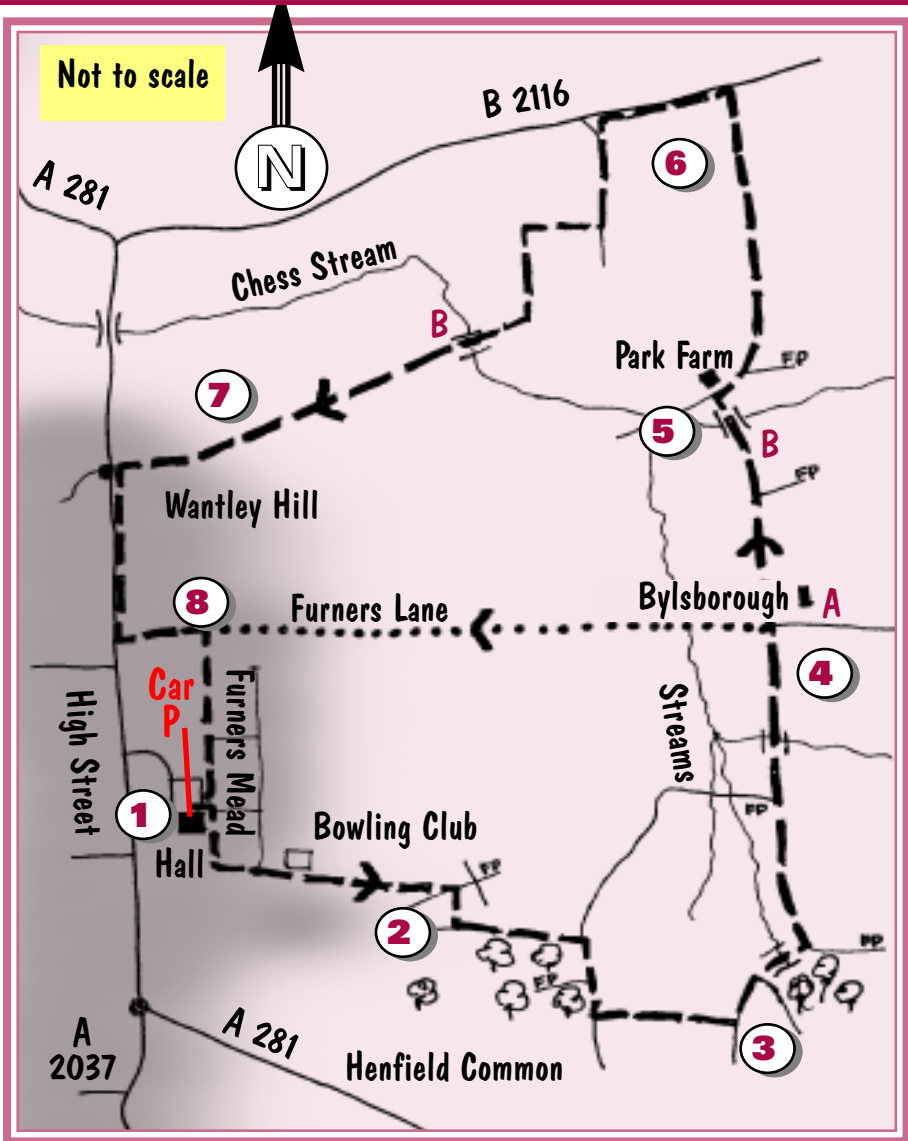
These footpaths can get wet and muddy in places – so waterproof footwear/wellingtons are a good idea.

This route is fairly level but does involve climbing over stiles – some of them high.



A Spring Walk to the north east of Henfield.

Distance 4.3 miles (6.9km).



1. Start your walk in front of The Henfield Hall alongside the car park. Keeping the Hall and Museum on the right leave the car park. At road (Furners Mead) turn right and follow road. Continue ahead past The Daisycroft. Look for fingerpost and walk to the right of Henfield Bowling Club. Follow the path between wire fences. At next fingerpost, go right past the iron gates 'Camellias'. Follow footpath between gardens and go through small metal gate.

2. Turn left past a seat into woods. Path joins a track outside 'Pigeon Croft'. Continue until track meets a road and go right. Ignore footpath to right and at 2nd fingerpost, go left and climb stile into field. Go straight across two fields. At end of second field cross bridge, then go towards right edge of field, away from pylon. Follow edge of field looking for stile at far end.

3. Climb stile, go left onto a wider grass path with gorse bushes on right and same field on left. Ignore fingerpost at end of field, but at next fingerpost go right across bridge. Follow path to left and cross second bridge. Go up slope and at next fingerpost continue to edge of field. Go left onto footpath along edge of wood. In the woods look for a pond on left and at fingerpost go ahead through the hazel (primroses). At next fingerpost ignore stile and follow path ahead. Cross bridge over stream and into sunken path (violets on left bank). Pass through holly trees (Hart's-tongue fern) and onto Furners Lane, with 'Holders' on right.

For shorter route turn left and follow Furners Lane back towards Henfield, rejoining route at **8** – 1.1 miles (1.8 km) back to start.

4. At 4-way fingerpost keep straight on using private track, go past 'Bylsborough'. As track goes right, look for footpath and stile ahead, and climb two stiles. Rejoin road and turn left. Ignore footpath on right into 'Old Woodhouse' and continue on road. Pass 'Chess Barn' on left and bridge over Chess Stream.

5. Ahead is 'Park Farm House', follow road to right, and then left past end of barn and past the next fingerpost. Continue on road passing 'Coach House' on right. Follow road between beech hedges. Just past 'Hollinger' join B2116. Turn left, walk carefully along verge for about 200 yards. At Stable Cottage follow footpath sign left through a gap in hedge.

6. Continue onto track, look for a glimpse of St Peters Church in Henfield. At fingerpost turn right over stile onto a wide grassy track. Keeping fence on left at corner of field turn left and cross second stile. Keep beside fence and cross third stile. Go right and look for a bridge ahead then cross Chess Stream using stiles/bridge. Head diagonally left across field looking for a stile hidden in hedge. Cross stile and follow footpath towards houses in the distance, go through opening in hedge. Path continues towards Wantley Hill Estate.

7. Climb stile, cross field & at footpath sign continue between gardens. Cross road and walk past green and through houses. As you see the roundabout ahead, turn left past a telephone box. Follow onto main road towards Henfield. Continue until you turn left into Furners Lane.

8. At Eastern Terrace turn right into Furners Mead. Continue along until you reach the car park on right, your original starting point.

Features of interest

A. The half-timbered farm-house, Bylsborough dates from the 14th century and was originally a 'Hall-House'.

'Hall-houses' were common in the Weald of Sussex during the 14th & 15th centuries and Henfield has several examples. They featured a central hall, with an open hearth. At one end was the 'solar'

with a parlour below. The other end was often used as the buttery and pantry.

B. Chess Stream and its tributaries flow into the River Adur at Betley Bridge. Between them they drain Henfield Common and countryside to the north of Woodmancote and as far as Hurstpierpoint.

Wildlife

Chiffchaff this little brown/greenish warbler migrates here in spring from the Mediterranean.

You may not spot it but you might hear its distinctive "chiff chaff, chiff chaff" call.

Catkins front page – many tree species have catkins including Hazel, Birch and Alder.

Violets,



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Working with Henfield