

Henfield Community Partnership

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This walk will take you out of Henfield along the Lydds, the third most popular countryside area in the village as voted in the Henfield Action Plan. The circular route continues behind Woodmancote Place to Blackstone, and then returns towards Furners Lane and through Swains Farm.

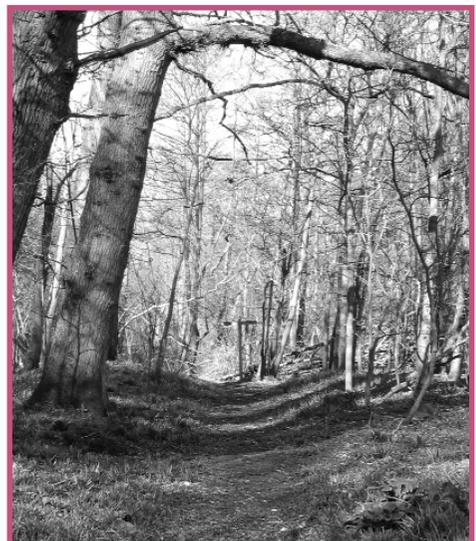
FOR THE WALK

These footpaths can get wet and muddy in places even in summer – so waterproof footwear/ wellingtons are a good idea. This route is fairly level but does involve climbing over stiles – some of them high.

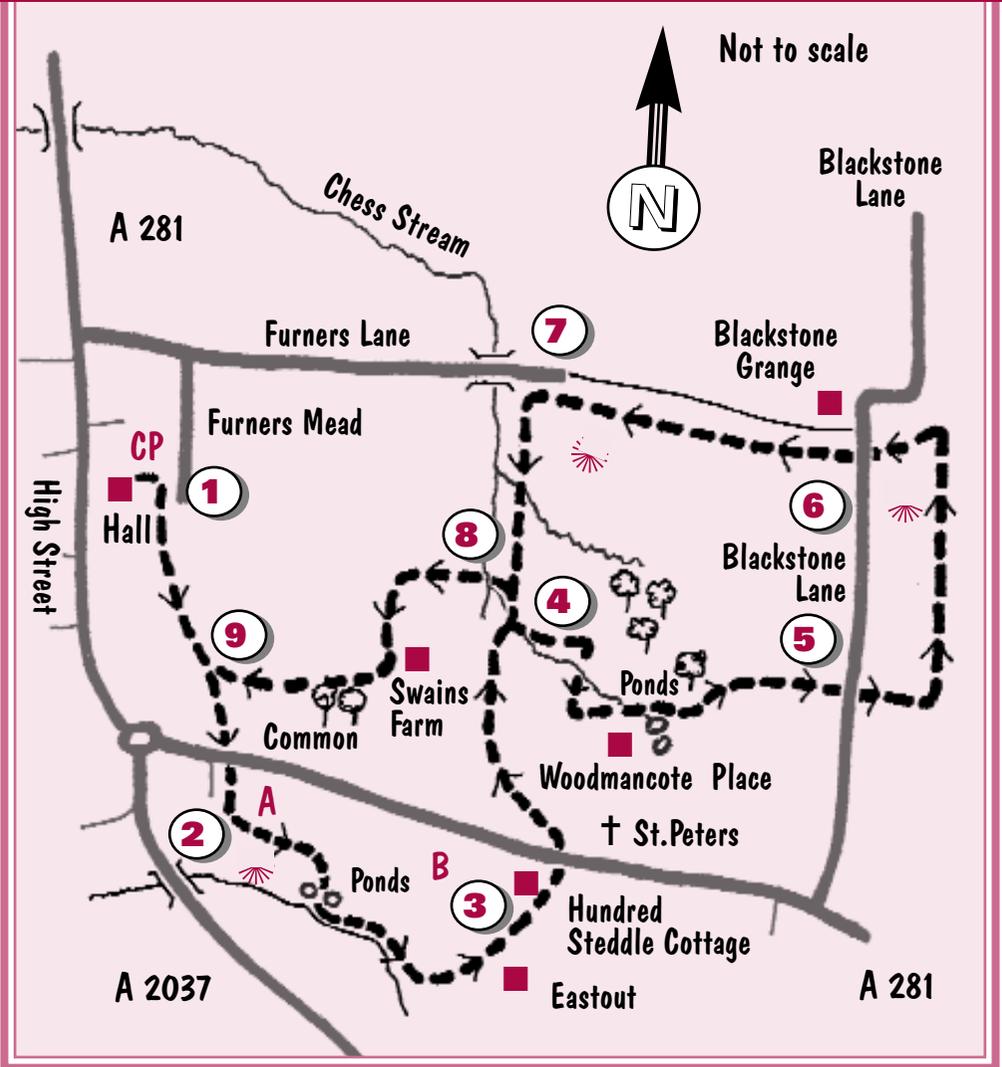
A circular walk around Henfield in the Summer

Approximately 6 miles and lasting 2½ – 3½ hours.
Shortcut 3 miles.

If you would like to walk this route with others, meet at The Henfield Hall on SUNDAY, 4th JUNE 2006 at 2.00pm. On a warm day bring some water to drink.



A Summer Walk south from Henfield, east to Blackstone – Distance 5.6 miles (9.2km).



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. At end of Furners Mead take footpath on right. At Henfield Common go right then left, follow footpath across. At A281 road, cross and follow Bridleway opposite. As gravel track turns left, go onto footpath at right of white house. Then go left onto path along Lydds.

2. Continue along path and just before house take footpath on right down hill. Path goes left between ponds, then straight on through farm gate. Cross stile carefully and at end of field go left up hill. Follow path along edge of field around 'Eastout'. Go down steps and left along tarmac bridleway. At 'Hundred Stedde Cottage' go through gap in fence and approach A281. Cross road with care and go through gate opposite.

3. Follow footpath on left and at next fingerpost veer left. Continue along path and go straight at next stile along wide grassy path. Then 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.

***For shorter route** – go left onto footpath along edge of wood and at next fingerpost go left. Rejoin route at 8 – 1.2 miles (1.9 km) back to start.*

4. Take footpath right just before the open field and walk along edge of wood with fence on left. At next fingerpost at edge of wood, cross bridge ahead and continue on. At 3-way fingerpost go left across bridge and walk in wood with fence around 'Woodmancote Place' on right. At end of wood go left at 3-way sign. Keep straight with paddock on right and at large tree go straight. Follow next sign right through woods. At end of woods continue and then go left over bridge.

5. Cross Blackstone Lane and climb high stile opposite. Continue ahead and at next 3-way sign go left over stile. Follow path north up between coppiced hedges and then down to edge of Blackstone. At edge of village go left at 4-way sign. Follow footpath around edge of field. Good view of Devil's Dyke and Newtimber Hill on South Downs. Go right through gap in hedge, through gate and down steps, then cross Blackstone Lane.

6. Go up path opposite and find path on right at 2-way sign. Follow path past 'Blackstone Grange'. At start of field follow path along left edge to stile. Panoramic view of Sussex Weald on right. Look for fingerpost ahead and join track. Continue west then cross stile onto footpath. Pass 'Bilsborough Barn' and join tarmac road.

7. At 'Holders' turn left onto footpath, go through gap in fence into sunken path. Cross plank bridge over stream and follow path half left. At next 3-way sign go right.

8. Cross stream and go ahead in next field passing close to pylon on left. At end of field follow track and signs, then cross next field towards fingerpost ahead. Go left and follow track, keeping hedge on right. Go through Swains Farm. At 3-way sign follow track right past 'Pigeon Croft', then on path ahead through woods. At edge of wood join road left along edge of Henfield Common.

9. At next fingerpost go right, and then left along Furners Mead until you reach the car park on left, your original starting point.

Features of interest

A. The Lydds is the area of steep south-facing slopes to the south of Henfield Common. Lydds (can be spelt Lidds) comes from the old English word for sloping ground. It was the site of a windmill during 19th century known as Barringer's Mill. There are good views towards the South Downs

Wildlife – Great spotted woodpecker, Nuthatch.

Bluebells in the woods,

Honeysuckle

along the hedges,

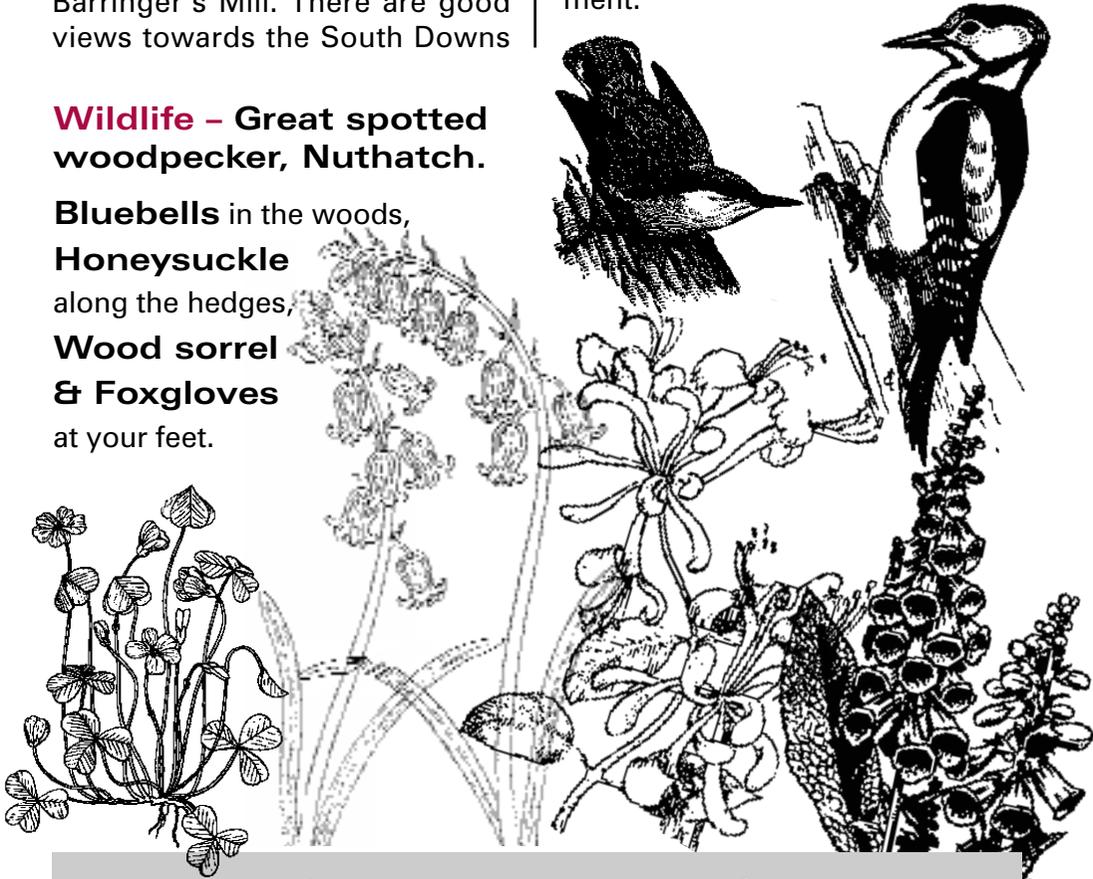
Wood sorrel

& Foxgloves

at your feet.

from here and other places on the walk, look on map for – 

B. The Hundred Stedde at Woodmancote probably dates from the 10th century as the south-eastern boundary of the 'Henfield Hundred', a Saxon term for the parish or village settlement.



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