

Walks near Haywards Heath

By: Isaac Bilton, July 2024



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Introduction

This collection of walks have been devised, and written, by Isaac Bilton

Isaac is a keen hiker and as a Scout (5th Haywards Heath) and Explorer (Trident) has enjoyed many hikes both competitive and for-fun. He has been a member of Downsman-winning (S-Class 2022 and E-Class 2023) and Overland-winning (2023) teams. He's now a Young Leader with the Squirrels and is enjoying introducing these 4-5 year olds to the joys of walking.

He has also spent many, many hours exploring the local countryside with his family. He has devised these walks based on his own knowledge and grouped them roughly according to the lengths/climbs that the different sections of Scouting might be best suited to. He has also noted any particular sites of interest and included practical information such as parking and places to get refreshments.

Walking is cheap, good for you and a great way to explore all the beauty that Sussex has to offer.

DISCLAIMER

Although every metre of these walks has been walked at some point they may not have been pre-walked recently.

It remains the responsibility of the walkers to check the route for suitability for your group.

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Routes 1-8 start at either Ardingly Reservoir or Ditchling Beacon. Routes 9-12 start at the Section meeting places.

Routes 13-16 are based around getting on a train and then walking and getting a train back from a different station , obviously you don't have to actually do the walks like that but they will be very long if done in both directions.

Each walk route is fully mapped in OS Maps® which you can access by clicking the link or the QR code in the walk descriptions.

General tips

Maps and Apps

It is always wise to have a paper map whenever you go out.

For these walks you will need Ordnance Survey orange Explorer® Maps OL11 (Brighton and Hove) and OS 135 (Ashdown Forest)

Isaac uses OS Maps® on his phone as well. This app is incredibly useful. You can use the links in the pdf version/QR codes in the print of this booklet to take you to the routes described. OS Maps® App can show you exactly where you are when you are out and about using GPS (very useful if you can't find the path). The paid-for version can find you the quickest route to where you want to be if you get lost and has better mapping. It does, however, eat the battery on your phone very quickly and some functionality needs 4G internet data.

Another free option is the Gaia App. This doesn't have the functionality of OS Maps®, nor the familiar Landranger mapping style but can still show you where you are and it can track a route if you want to know where you've been.

Kit to take

Isaac always takes, no matter how short the hike:

Water	Waterproof
Snacks	Sun hat and sun cream
Maps	Warm jumper
Phone	Basic first aid kit
Spare phone battery pack	Torch

What to wear

Most of these walks would benefit from walking boots or at least very sturdy trainers. Especially in the winter season as Sussex clay mud can be very slippery.

Long trousers can be useful as many paths are edged by brambles, nettles or thistles. And given the British weather you might find you need a sunhat, a woolly hat and a raincoat on a single afternoon so be prepared!

Navigation

All of these walks are on public footpaths or bridleways. Footpaths are marked on signposts with yellow arrows and bridleways in blue. You should stick to the path at all

times. However, sometimes it is not easy to see where the path actually is – this is where one of the Apps mentioned above can be useful to get you back on track.

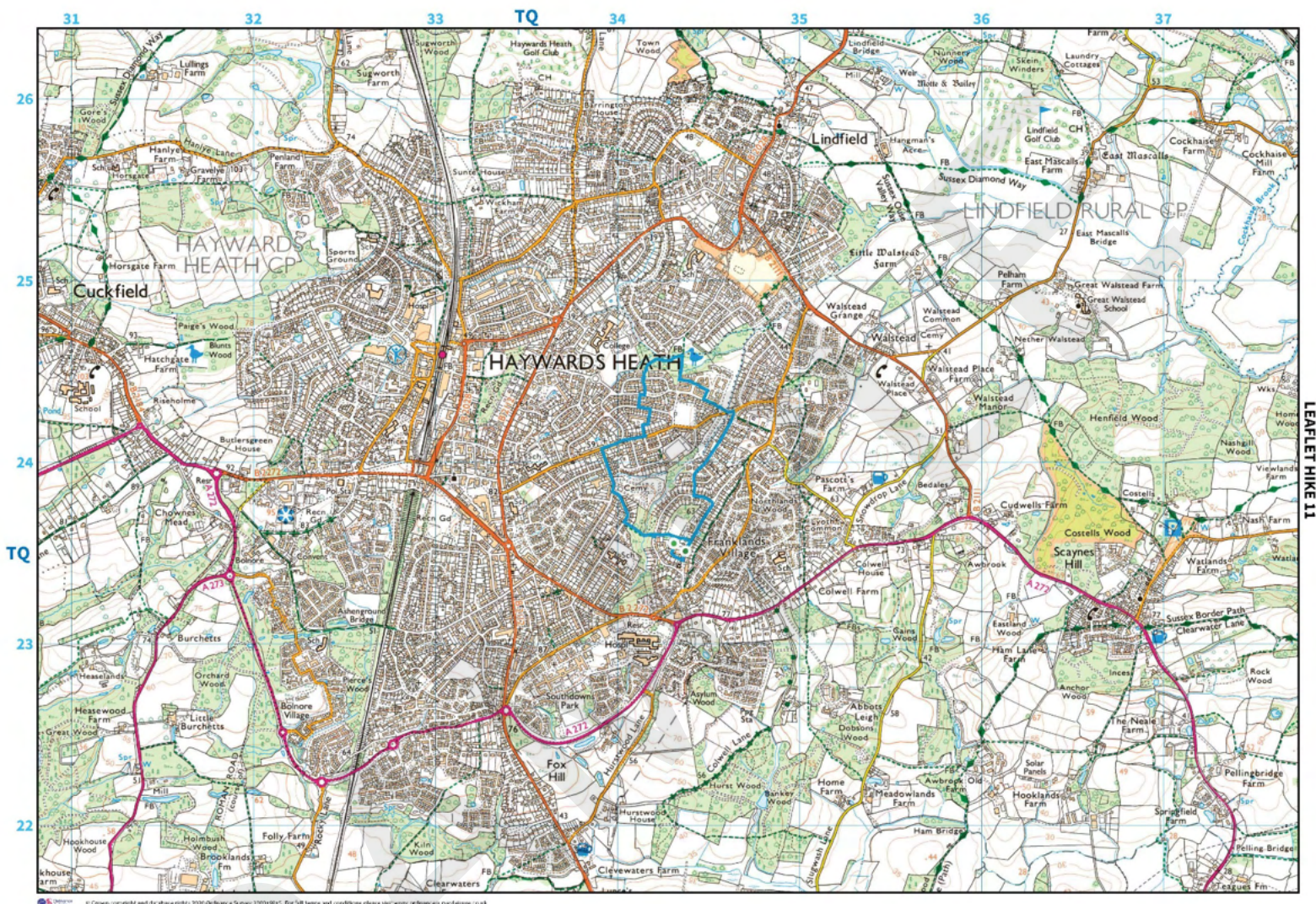
Road walking is kept to an absolute minimum and only ever on quiet stretches. If you need to walk on a road walk on the right hand side, facing the traffic and keep an ear out for approaching vehicles. Bear in mind that bridleways are shared with bikes, horses and sometimes occasional cars or farm vehicles.

Countryside code

Always follow the countryside code www.countryside-code.org.uk



11. Franklands Village hut start -Beavers route (circular): 3.63km



Title	11. Franklands Village Beavers
Type	Circular
Distance	3.63km
Total ascent	62m
Start point	Franklands Village Scout Hut RH16 3RS
Start point grid reference	343 236
End point	Same as start
End point grid reference	Same as start
Link to OS Maps digital	https://explore.osmaps.com/route/21276596/leaflet-hike-11?lat=51.000505&lon=-0.094163&zoom=14.4830&style=Leisure&type=2d

Start point. This route starts at the scout hut with a field at the back and parking is available at the road outside or the Montessori nursery car park further along (if it is a weekend). Don't attempt to park in the scout hut as it will most likely be locked and especially don't park if it is a weekday because there is a nursery.

Then you pass through the streets of Haywards heath before reaching Scrase valley nature reserve where you can see rare nature and also run around, in spring there is wild garlic.

Then you pass back up through a path next to the cemetery which contains boards describing everything that you see.

