

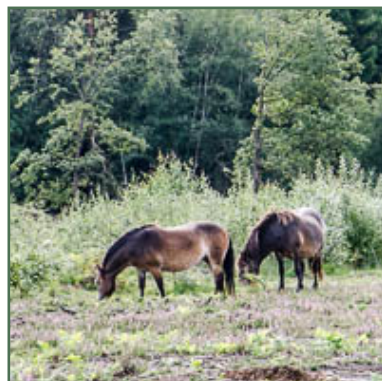
Nevill Crest and Gun and Broadwater Warren, Eridge Green, East Sussex



Challenging Terrain

4 miles
Circular
1.5 to 2
hours

161213



Access Notes



1. The route has several climbs and descents throughout and the woodland and heath paths can get very muddy in winter and after wet weather so good boots are recommended.
2. There are no stiles and three kissing gates to negotiate.
3. Dogs are welcome in the nature reserves but must be kept on leads in some parts and kept to the paths in the remaining areas.
4. The open heath is grazed by Exmoor ponies.

The Nevill Crest and Gun is more than 500 years old and takes its name from the Nevill family, the Earls of Abergavenny, on whose estate the pub was built.

A 4 mile circular pub walk from the Nevill Crest and Gun in Eridge Green, East Sussex. The walking route follows a loop through the two adjoining nature reserves – Eridge Rocks and Broadwater Warren.

The woodland walk is really beautiful with mixed woodland, sandstone outcrops and open heath being home to a wide range of birds, dormice and Exmoor ponies.

Getting there

Eridge Green is located on the A26 between Royal Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough. The walk starts and finishes at the Nevill Crest and Gun pub which is on the main A26 Eridge Road, on the right-hand side as you are travelling south. If the pub and its car park are very busy, you may find it easier to park in the Broadwater Reserve car park (Waypoint 4) on Broadwater Forest Lane and adjust the walk to start half way round.

Approximate post code for pub **TN3 9JR**.

Approximate post code for reserve car park **TN3 9JP**.

Walk Sections



Start to Eridge Rocks



Come out of the pub car park and turn right along the pavement, with the main A26 road running on your left. On the right you'll pass the Holy Trinity Eridge Church. Immediately afterwards turn right down the small access road, marked as a public footpath to Park Corner.

Follow the quiet lane passing a row of brick cottages on the left and continuing between open fields. As the lane enters a section of trees, you'll see a gravel parking area on the right. Take a moment to step into this to

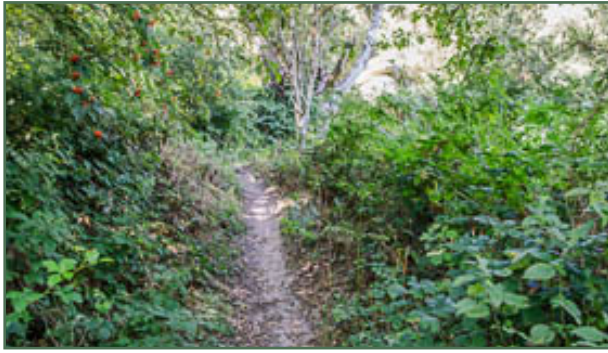


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see one of the sandstone outcrops known as Eridge Rocks.

1 → 2 Eridge Rocks to Veteran Oak

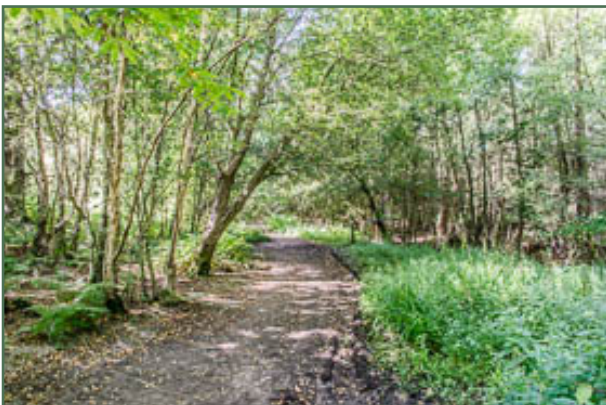


Return to the main lane and turn right for just a few paces, then turn right again onto the woodland footpath signed for the High Weald Landscape Trail. Follow the path over the brow of the hill and beginning to descend. You'll emerge to a T-junction with a quiet tarmac lane, turn right along this. After just 30 yards (well before you reach the buildings ahead), turn right again onto the next woodland footpath.

You'll pass the back fence of a private property on the left and then simply keep ahead on the woodland footpath with a steep slope visible down to the right. The ridge on which you're now walking is where the local village gets its name, Eridge being derived from 'ridge frequented by eagles' – sadly the eagles are now long gone.

When you reach a minor crossroads of paths go straight ahead on the woodland trail heading steadily downhill. A few yards later, at the staggered T-junction, keep left, still continuing downhill. You will reach a T-junction at the bottom of the slope, with a small information board in front of a large oak tree known as the Veteran Oak.

2 → 3 Veteran Oak to Boardwalks



Turn left here, along the level woodland path (marked as the Nature Trail with white arrows). At the T-junction turn right and at the second T-junction turn left (still marked with a white arrow). Shortly you'll come to a major crossroads in the path. Turn right along the main woodland wide track. Look out for the wood ants marching across the paths.

Some distance further, you'll reach another crossroads just before the bottom of the slope. Turn left and keep left again at the minor fork. Further along, keep straight ahead at a junction (ignoring the path off left) passing another waymarker post on the right. Follow the main track as it bends left and a few paces later turn right (following the white arrow again). This leads you to the start of the boardwalks.

3 → 4 Boardwalks to Nature Reserve Car Park



Follow the boardwalks as they zig-zag across the boggy marsh area – the iron-rich soil turns the pools of water bright orange. Cross a small stream and, as you step off the final boardwalk, turn right again marked with the white arrow.

Follow the path with the small stream down to the right. You'll reach a T-junction with a major track and a bridge over the stream. Turn left here and follow the track as it climbs swinging right. Take the next path to the right (before you reach the road ahead). Follow this trail ahead and pass through the kissing gate at the end to enter the Nature Reserve Car Park.

4 → 5 Nature Reserve Car Park to Decoy Pond



Cross over the car park and take the path immediately to the right of the main information noticeboard. Pass through the large kissing gate (note you may come across Exmoor Ponies grazing from this point) and turn right down the wide well-made track.

The Broadwater Warren Nature Reserve, sitting within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is managed by the RSPB. It is a nature reserve in progress, with the large areas of coniferous plantations being slowly replaced by mixed woodland and open heath. Heather seeds can lay dormant for 50 years and, when the dense coniferous woodland is removed, the sunlight and warmth returns and the seeds burst into life. The new mixed woodland and open heath is creating an important habitat for rare mammals such as the dormouse and rare birds including the nightjar.

A little further along on the right, you'll pass a wooden bench, a nice place to stop for a rest and to enjoy the views. Continue along the main track, ignore the smaller paths off left and right, keeping ahead through the heath clearing that supports a range of ground nesting birds.

You'll reach a major crossroads in the path, turn right here,

marked with the white arrow. Keep ahead and then pass through the kissing gate. Follow the track as it swings left and at the bottom of the slope you'll reach Decoy Pond on the right. This makes another lovely place to sit and you're likely to see plenty of dragonflies and damselflies darting around over the water in the summer.

5 → 6 Decoy Pond to End



Beyond the pond, follow the main track as it climbs steadily and then levels off. Take the next major path off to the right, again signed with a white arrow. When you come to the major fork in the path, take the left fork (leaving the white arrow nature trail which goes off right). Follow this obvious path for some distance passing through the mixed woodland.

At the bottom of the slope you'll come to a fork. Take the right-hand path continuing downhill. At the next fork keep left, climbing once again, and you'll emerge to a T-junction with a main path. Turn left along this, passing a number of the sandstone outcrops which form Eridge Rocks on the right. These impressive cliffs, some 10 metres high, support an internationally important community of ferns, mosses, lichens and liverworts. They were a popular spot for dinner parties in Victorian times.

Stay on the main path as it winds alongside the sandstone rocks. You'll emerge alongside a vehicle gate to reach the gravel car park which you passed earlier. From this point you'll be retracing your steps back to the pub. To do this, turn left along the tarmac lane. At the end of the lane, turn left along the pavement passing in front of the church. A little way further along you'll come to the Nevill Crest and Gun for some well-earned hospitality.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

