

Mayfield and the High Weald

The Mayfield circular walk is a 3 mile walk through a landscape of contrasts, a mosaic of fields, hedges and woodlands which are the product of a unique history.

It is difficult to imagine that 500 years ago this was an industrial area, alive with the smoke and noise of England's iron industry.

The sandstones of the area provided iron ore for the process and the woodland was coppiced for small timber products and charcoal to fire the iron furnaces. Many of the large houses in ridge-top settlements like Mayfield were owned by the iron masters.

Agriculture is now the dominant activity of this area and the coppice woodland is restricted to slopes too steep to have gone under the plough.

Walking in the Weald

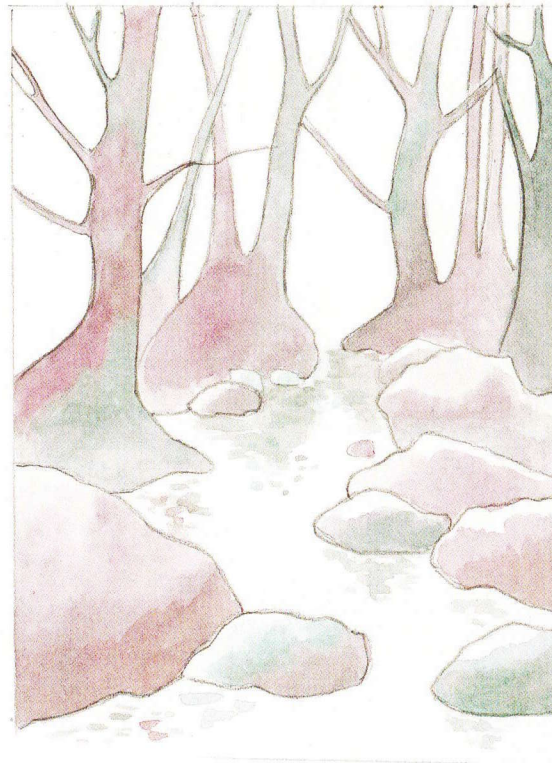
The heavy clay soils of the weald means it can be wet and boggy even in summer, so always wear appropriate footwear and take care when walking along the roads.



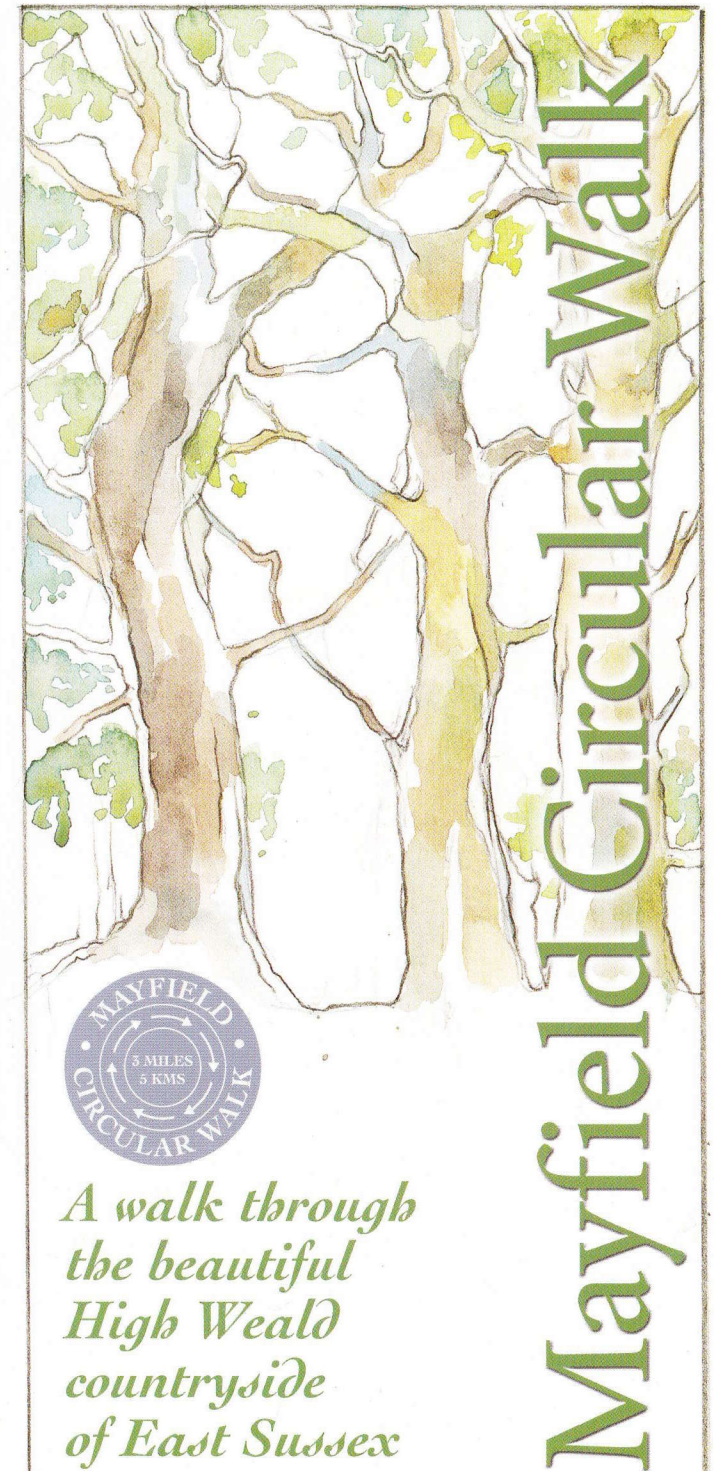
The O.S. maps for this walk are:

Explorer 1:25,000 Ashdown Forest 135
Landranger 1:50,000 Eastbourne & Hastings Sheet 199
Mayfield is at TQ 590270

This walk has been created with the help and support of local landowners. Please remember this is a working landscape and respect private property.



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Mayfield Circular Walk

From the South Street car park, walk up the one way street passing The Middle House car park on your left. Cross the High Street, and turn right along the pavement, bearing left into Tunbridge Wells Road. After 100 metres, turn right into Memorial Hall car park **1** and leave by the tarmac path along the right hand side of the Hall, passing between the "All weather" court and the Skateboard park.

Leave the tarmac path and go straight ahead, making for the wooded corner of the football pitch. Here, go down 7 steps, cross the track and over the first stile **2**. Turn right along the field boundary. About 50 metres after the next stile, fork left along the path, leaving the house and garden on your right.

Go over 2 more stiles near the woodshed, then turn right along the field. After the next stile, follow the field boundary until the path veers downhill to the left and enters a wood over a high stile. **3**

Cross a brook and then climb through the wood to a farm track. Turn right past the remains of a dam on your left and the site of the Mayfield forge on your right. **4** Turn right and follow the stream until a narrow concrete bridge is reached. Turn right over the bridge, straight ahead for 50 metres then fork left up through the woods. Cross a brook then walk up through the woods to a stile leading to a concrete track beside the Waterworks. At the end of this lane, turn right onto Coggins Mill Lane. **5**

Walk uphill for 50 metres, turn left at the post box into a driveway and after about 50 metres turn left over a stile into a field.

After the stile, Cross the field and go through the gate and up the "Jacob's ladder" **6** then proceed straight ahead over the field. Turn right at the stile and then left over another stile at the next field boundary. After a little hollow, climb up to the edge of the field, over the stile and then turn right, following the field boundary to a double stile. Take the route ahead over the stile with a dog latch.

Bear left towards Scots pines on the skyline. The next dog latch stile leads onto East Street at Five Gables **7**. Turn right towards the village.

After about 250 metres, with houses on your right, turn left down a fenced path; at the end of the path, turn right onto Piccadilly Lane **8**. Follow the Lane for about half a mile to the brow of the hill **9**. Turn right over a stile, keep to the right of the high deer fence down to a stile into the woods. Cross the bridge and steps lead up to a gate; continue up the hill over 2 more stiles. Bear left to a sleeper bridge and over a stile.

Turn left up the field to another stile and follow the path up, when The Carpenters' Arms **10** will be seen across the road. To return to South Street car park, turn sharp left and then after 200 metres fork right up to the car park.

