

## A circular walk from Slaugham



Welcome to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty an unspoilt medieval landscape.

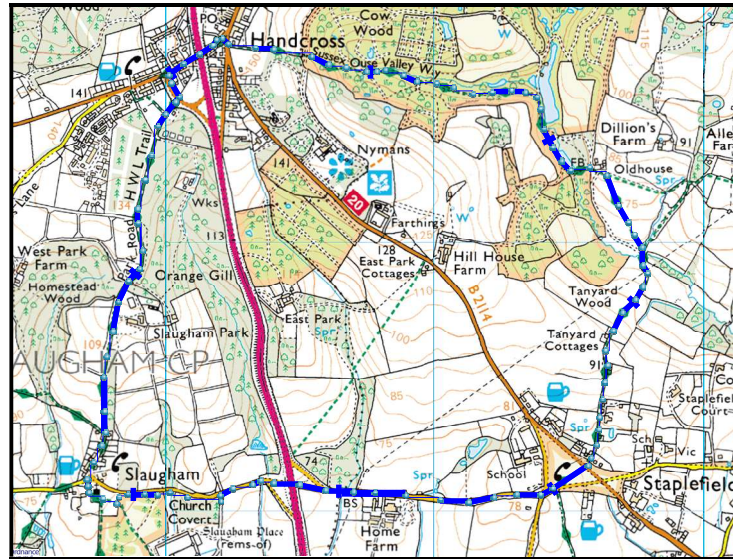
This is an easy 4 mile walk along established tracks and lanes, passing through part of the National Trust Nymans Estate at Handcross. Part of the route follows two long distance trails, the High Weald Landscape Trail which runs from Horsham to Rye, and the Sussex Ouse Valley Way which runs from Lower Beeding to Seaford Bay. Paths are generally easy to follow but care should be taken to follow the signposts through Cow Wood

<b>Distance and duration</b>	4.2 miles / 6.8 kilometres 1.5 – 2.5 hours
<b>Level</b>	Leisurely
<b>Start point</b>	Parking area in front of Slaugham Parish Church, The Green, Slaugham, West Sussex, RH17 6AG
<b>Map reference</b>	TQ257281 OS Explorer map OL34 What3words: ///softest.archduke.mimic
<b>Other information</b>	The path through the grounds of Nymans will probably be busy at weekends.

### I-Spy - Things to look out for in the landscape



## The walk



This walk starts and finishes at Slaughterham Parish Church which is situated about a mile to the west of the A23. There is usually adequate parking in front of the church, but if a service (10.30am on Sundays) is/will be taking place, parking is available in the main street opposite.

Given its close proximity to this busy road, the village is a peaceful place and relatively secluded. With your back to the Church, walk up the main street of the village, past the Heritage restaurant and follow Park Road for approximately a mile to the link road from the A23 to the B2110. Turn left and cross to the opposite pavement once it is apparent, then turn right going over the motorway bridge to Handcross.

Just before the old Red Lion pub go to the right past a shop, then cross the road to the Handcross village sign and take the confined path signed Nymans Woods alongside the entrance to the National Trust Gardens. The path descends steeply downhill and into the woods. At crossing tracks, continue ahead down steps into Cow Wood. The path is joined by a track coming in from the left and after crossing a stream bear left to pass through an avenue of tall trees, first deciduous and then conifers. The path bears right, and descends to eventually reach a lake, where you should bear right and carry on with the lake on your left.

Ignore the first path on your left over a footbridge and at a signed path junction take the left fork, with another lake on your left. Turn left to cross a footbridge over a stream, then proceed onto duckboards over normally marshy ground and ascend some steps to a stile into a field. The right of way crosses the field diagonally right, but there is unlikely to be an obvious path on the ground. It is easier to follow a concrete driveway around the edge of the field to the right. You leave the field through a gateway by a cattle grid to a concrete lane. Turn right uphill and follow the driveway and then a lane out to the B2114 at Staplefield.

Cross the common to a pavilion and turn right to Slaughterham Road and follow this relatively quiet road for a little over a mile back to the Church. To alleviate some of the road walking, about 200 yds past the entrance to Slaughterham Manor, turn left into the Woodland Trust's property Church Covert, bearing right to walk parallel with the road, then right again and through a gate beside a tall tree into the Churchyard.

*The original version of this walk was produced by Les Campbell and appeared in Sussex Living magazine, published from 2005 to 2010. It was then brought together by Tony Osmand of Mid Sussex Ramblers in a book "Sussex Walks by Les Campbell" (1 of 27 walks) with the kind permission of Sussex Living.*

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## **Please follow the Countryside Code:**

### **Respect other people**

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

### **Protect the natural environment**

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

### **Enjoy the outdoors**

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures

Wildlife, including nesting birds, may have moved into new areas and land managers may have provided extra protection for wildlife. Be vigilant and comply with these protective measures so that you do not disrupt the local wildlife