

Self-Guided Walks

Ardingly reservoir and the Gardener's Arms circular walk

Welcome to the High Weald National Landscape, an unspoilt medieval landscape. This walk explores an area that is very much on the extremities of the High Weald. Ardingly reservoir was created in 1979 by damming Shell Brook, a tributary of the River Ouse which flows into the Ouse about 500m south of the reservoir. It is filled with water pumped from the River Ouse when river flows are high.

Distance and duration	A 4¾ mile walk, taking about 2½ to complete
Level of ability expected	Moderate
Start point & post code	The lay-by opposite the Gardener's Arms, Little London, Ardingly. Near the entrance to the South of England showground. RH17 6TJ
OS grid reference What3Words location	TQ342306 https://what3words.com/patching.lock.items
Additional information	Roadside parking Click here to download a GPX file of the route

I-Spy Something to look out for on your walk



Two

We are grateful to Anne Woodroffe of Mid Sussex Ramblers for permission to use this walk.

The route includes a path through some woodland and as such is not suitable for a buggy.

Refreshments may be obtained half way at the cafe at Ardingly reservoir.

Follow the grass verge alongside the road on the same side as the show ground.

Turn left down the lane that leads to Tillinghurst Farm. This is just before the grounds to Wakehurst Place, which is always well worth a visit.

Pass through the gateway and take the footpath that runs to the right side of the barn and follow a path along the right side of the next field.

Follow the path into a field where you can see the Ardingly Reservoir ahead of you and the fence and grounds of Wakehurst Place to your right.

From this viewpoint follow the path across the field and down through the steps and gate, briefly joining a lane in front of you and walk over the enclosed bridge leading over the arm of the reservoir.

Make your way up hill following the path as it winds through the woodland, often there may be a tree down across the path so mind your way up the hill.

Emerge onto Paddockhurst Lane and turn left.

Follow lane and at the junction turn right on to Mill Lane until you reach Edmond's Farm, pause to look at the old farmhouse before turning left into the field opposite.

Follow the path down through the field and at the bottom you meet the path around the reservoir.

Here turn left (Dormouse Information Board) and follow the path around edge of reservoir.

Keep an eye out for any birds of interest on the reservoir.

The reservoir beaches are restricted to access for anglers with permits.

The path may be muddy in places but also provides views across the water.

Where the path meets the road turn right to follow this alongside the reservoir. Then take the path on the right to continue your way alongside the reservoir.

Continue along the length of the reservoir and take the path uphill towards Townhouse Farm away from the reservoir, this is just before reaching the reservoir dam and car park.

The path takes you up across the fields and it's worth stopping to look at the view behind you across the Balcombe Estate.



The High Weald - An outstandingly beautiful medieval landscape

Three

Towards the top you may be able to pick out the view of the Ouse Valley or Balcombe Viaduct in the distance.

Join the lane at the top of the field and this leads along Church Lane passing some interesting homes. St Peter's Church is at the far end of the lane.

There is an ancient yew tree by the kissing gate of the 14th Century church.

Carefully cross the road and take the lane beside Church Cottages, this leads you to the show ground.

There are often events on at the show ground, but this should not prevent you completing this walk, obviously the grounds might be busy.

Through the gate follow the tarmac lane around the grounds to the left. This will bring you out opposite the Gardeners Arms and the completion of the walk.

The Gardeners Arms is a popular stop for refreshments at the conclusion of the walk.

This walk should provide some splendid views across this area of the National Landscape within the High Weald

At all times please follow the Countryside Code



Respect everyone

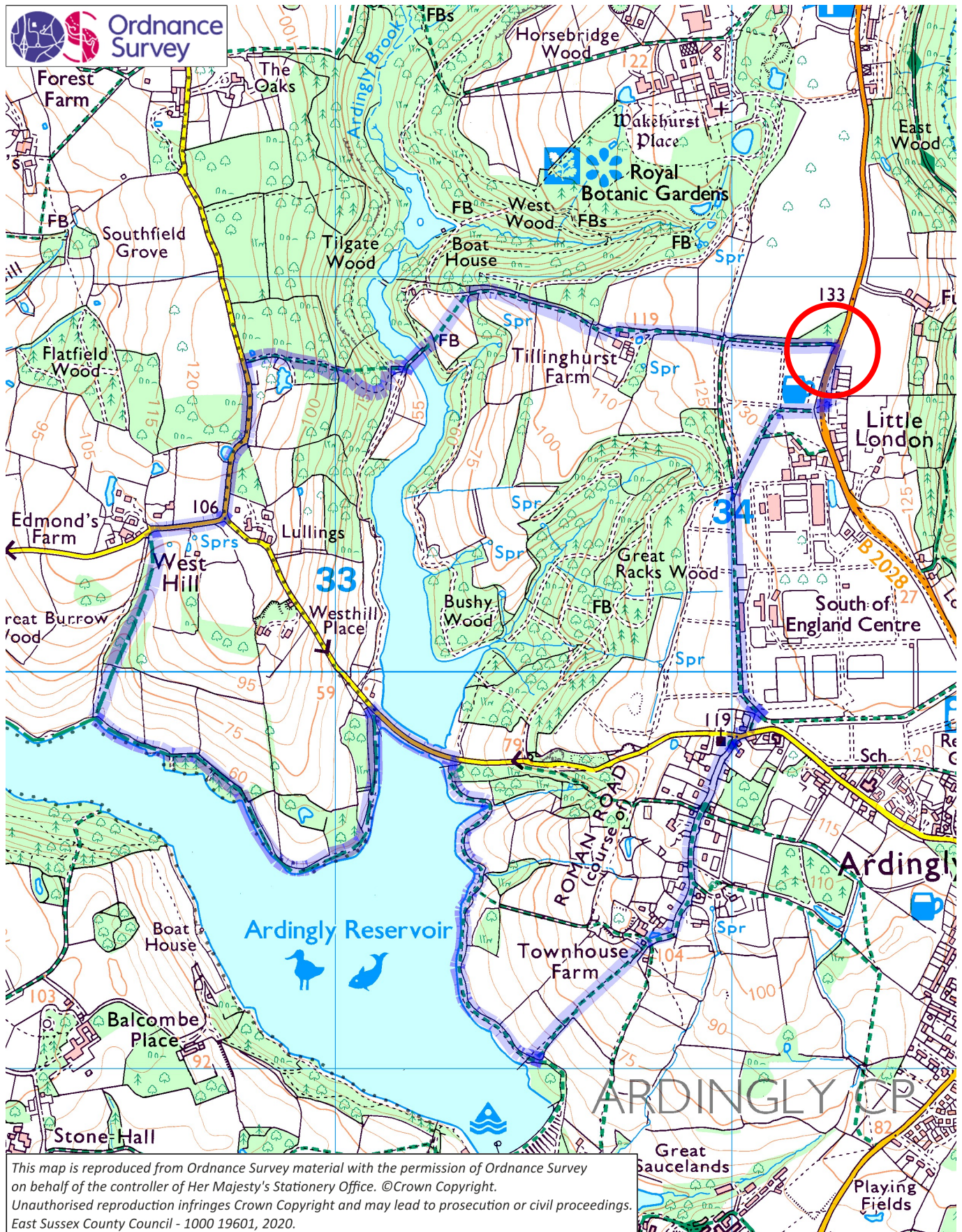
- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have barbeques where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



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