



Self-Guided Walks

Barnes Wood Whatlington

Welcome to the High Weald National Landscape, an unspoilt medieval landscape. At the time of writing (July 2026) the car park at Footland Wood was free-of-charge but Forestry England had started to install the payment machines for charges that will apply in the near future. Nevertheless, this is the only car park for this walk. Once parked, you have to cross the B2089 – looking in both directions to be safe - to then go into Barnes Wood, which is also part of the larger Vinehall Forest – all of which is Open Access land. Refreshments may be taken after the walk a short distance by car (no footways) south along the A21 at The Royal Oak, Whatlington.

Distance and duration	Just in excess of 2 miles walking, taking about 1½ hours
Level of ability expected	Moderate, slight descents and ascents
Start point & post code	Footland Wood car park, TN33 0NT
OS grid reference What3Words location	TQ763203 https://what3words.com/yesterday.says.guitar
Additional information	The car park is to the south of the B2089 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 Bev Marks of [Battle Ramblers](#) for providing this walk.

Leave the car park and cross the B2089.

After you have crossed the road look for the locked vehicle access barrier (TQ763204). Walk around it on the right-hand side and proceed straight ahead on the wide track. Notice on your right-hand side there is an area that was cleared of many trees, though a few remain.

In forested woodlands the tracks are provided for forestry vehicles but are often called 'rides' and you may even see a horse rider on your way.

Being Open Access land, this wood has no direction signs or finger posts to follow but the walk stays on the rides, as shown on the map and is easy to navigate.

For a little extra help some of the instructions will use approximate compass directions to help explain the route. When starting this walk you will be facing more or less north along the ride.

About 420 metres along the ride, turn left (south westerly direction) and continue slightly downhill.

After about 200 metres you will see a ride on your right but carry on in the same direction further downhill. The ride width seems to narrow a little.



Very gradually, over many metres, the route you are taking turns through a right angle and you will be walking in a north westerly direction.

You will be gradually descending to a very damp usually "poached" area fed by an underground stream, which in winter time is very muddy.

After about 1.5 kilometres you will be walking northwards again, for about 300 metres on flat firmer ground.

At this point the ride turns fairly sharply eastwards and gradually climbs up again.

Now, on your left there is a quite steep, falling away northwards, wooded area covered randomly by beech trees which obstructs the view; whereas on your right the beech woodland is a little more open.

After about 500 metres you come to an open area with a very obvious T-junction in the rides. This might be a good place to stop for refreshments and take a good look at the many varied trees species (e.g., beech, oak, sweet chestnut, silver birch) all within view.



The High Weald - An outstandingly beautiful medieval landscape

Three

Take the left turn downhill and quickly back uphill to the next T-junction, which is about 250m distance.

Turn right here to be facing roughly south again.

Walk uphill past a forestry works clearance area on the left and continue now through the planted mature conifer woodland.

After about 650m walking you will have reached the summit level and see a ride on the right – but continue southwards going straight ahead for about 400m with the clear-felled woodland, that was seen at the start, with it on your left until reaching the metal barrier.

Cross the road carefully and you will be back in the car park.

At all times please follow the Countryside Code



Respect everyone

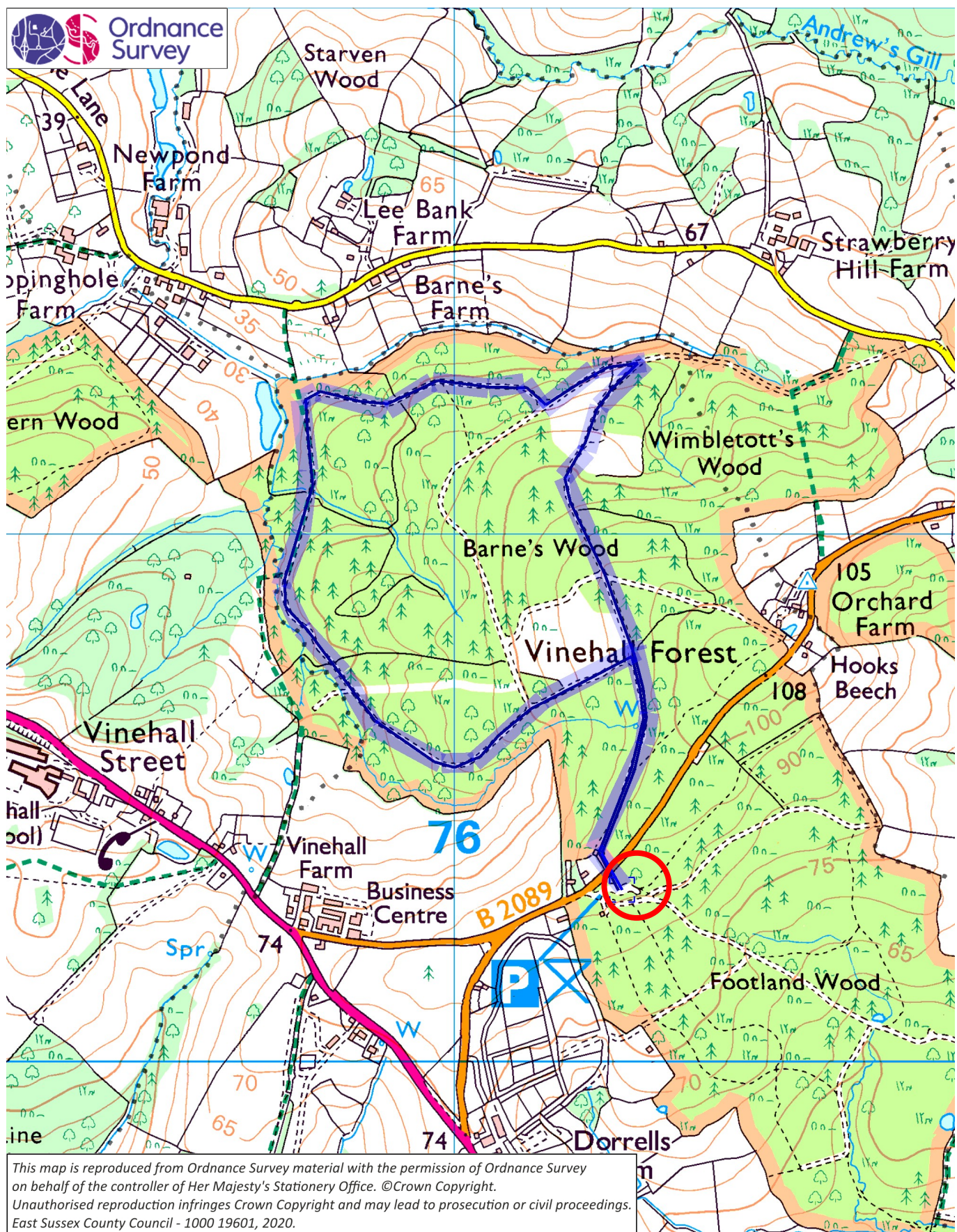
- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

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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