

The Blue Bell, Cocking and Heyshott Loop

Distance: 5.4 km, Height Gain: 70 m, Duration: 1.5 – 2 hours, Map Sheets OL8 or Landranger 197



Description

Cross the A286 and take the minor road opposite the pub, following the private road down the gravel incline, crossing over Casters Brook with the old mill pond on your right. Then pick up the footpath sign at the end of the cul de sac next to a garage. The route then heads north through Hoe Copse to reach the nearby village of Heyshott before returning across the rolling fields. There are lovely views across the patchwork hills of the Downs throughout and lots of wildlife to enjoy in the woodlands.

The route has a few steady climbs and descents throughout. In terms of obstacles there are some gates, two stiles (both with open fencing gaps suitable for most dogs), some steps and a couple of narrow footbridges to negotiate. There are also a couple of sections of walking on quiet country/village lanes so take care of any traffic at these points. The walk follows mainly unmade woodland and field paths which, whilst generally firm, can become quite muddy in winter and after periods of rain. Some of the paths across fields can become obscured by crops before harvest. You may come across sheep and/or horses in a couple of the fields so take care with dogs.