





**ERIDGE GREEN** grew from a collection of 19th century estate worker's cottages and the Church of the Holy Trinity was completed in 1856 to serve the growing community. The Abergavenny family name was added to the Gun pub in 1860.

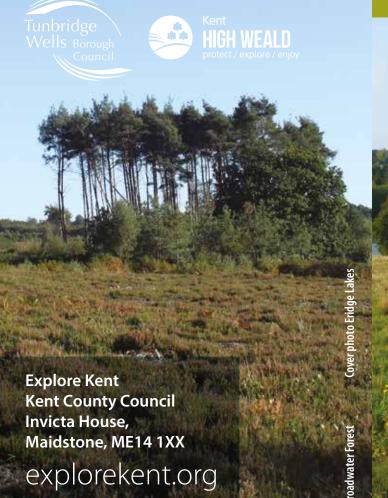
**Eridge Rocks** 

**ERIDGE ROCKS** is a majestic sandstone outcrop amongst mixed woodland and designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for the rare communities of plants the rock support. Harrison's rocks provide one of the best climbing sites in south-east England, although as sandstone is relatively soft it is vulnerable to erosion.

**GROOMBRIDGE PLACE** is a 17th century moated manor which contains a formal garden laid out in 1674. Nearby St John's church built in 1628 as a private chapel has stained glass windows depicting the history of Groombridge, its owners and benefactors.

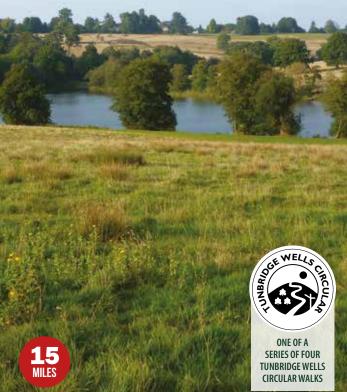
**THE CROWN PUB,** an old coaching inn, was the base of smuggling gangs in the 1730s that no doubt used the smuggler's caves in Eridge Park.

**HIGH ROCKS** is a sandrock outcrop which has been a popular visitor attraction since Victorian times and is of archaeological importance with evidence of Stone Age Rock Shelters and an Iron Age Fort. It is also a stop on the Spa valley Railway which runs historic trains from Tunbridge Wells to Eridge certain times of the year.



## SUSSEX CIRCULAR

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## SUSSEX CIRCULAR 45

The sandrock outcrops, which are a distinctive feature of the High Weald, are highlights of this walk to the south of Tunbridge Wells. The sandstone, from which sandrock is made, was formed over 130 million years ago when rivers deposited beds of sand and clay across a vast plain. The earliest deposits were compacted to form sandstone which rose up into a broad dome and subsequently eroded away over millions of years, leaving the outcrops.

The outcrops are visible at Eridge Rocks, Harrison's Rocks and High Rocks – all points of interest on this circular walk which passes through Frant, Eridge Green and Groombridge.





Starting at **THE GROVE**, the walk heads east to

Hawkenbury, passing Camden Park; a haven for urban wildlife dating back to the 19th Century.

Beyond Hawkenbury the path leads between the Nevill Golf Course and Tunbridge Wells Cemetery, a local wildlife site notable for its rare species of arassland funai.

**FRANT** is an ancient village whose name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word for "place of the fern", or Fernthe. Excavations unearthed artefacts dating back to 100BC which indicated a settlement was here.

The first documented evidence of this comes from 1120 when a chapel was gifted to Gilbert de Clare.

> Frant developed when the Wealden iron industry was at its height in the 16th century and the west side cottages date from this period. St Alban's Church was rebuilt in 1821 and the Abergavenny Arms dates from 1480.

**ERIDGE PARK** is reputedly the oldest deer park in England and has been the home of the Earls and Marguesses of Abervgavenny since 1448. The current house was built in 1938 on the site of a house where Queen Elizabeth I stayed for 6 days in 1573. The Park has a long association with iron smelting as Celtic and Roman bloomeries have been found. Eridge furnace and forge flourished in the late 16th century, powered by water contained within the lakes which have since been landscaped.

Frant Green

**Groombridge Place** 

RIDE // WALK // CYCLE // CANOE

