

THE RED LION at Lower Green is another old establishment and first licenced in 1415.



Red Lion pub

RUSHALL COMMON used to be grazed heathland and now is mostly woodland, however there are some important sandrock outcrops like the iconic Toad Rock and the site is designated a SSSI as a result.



EXPLOREKENT.ORG: RIDE // WALK // CYCLE // CANOE



Kent
HIGH WEALD
protect / explore / enjoy

Tunbridge Wells Common Cover photo High Rocks

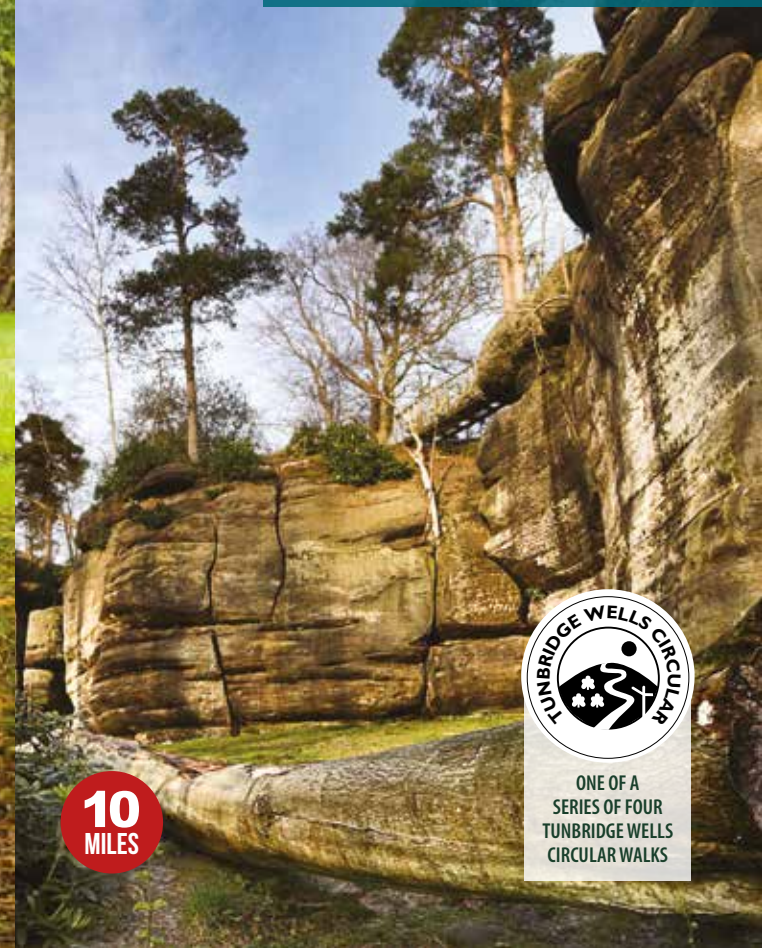
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SPELDHURST CIRCULAR



10
MILES



ONE OF A
SERIES OF FOUR
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
CIRCULAR WALKS

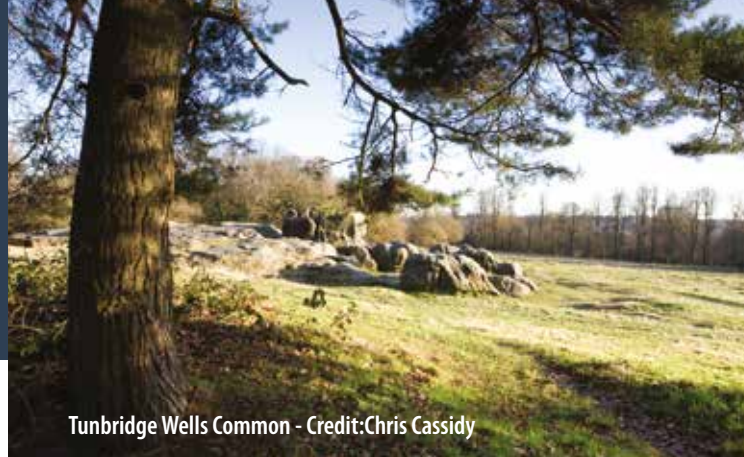
SPELDHURST CIRCULAR

10
MILES

Starting out from near the Pantiles, the walk heads west through Tunbridge Wells Common then close by the Spa Valley Railway line towards High Rocks and Groombridge, which both have stations servicing their heritage trains.

From Groombridge the route heads northwards, reaching Speldhurst before turning south back to Tunbridge Wells via Rusthall and the Commons.

A walk which encapsulates the High Weald Landscape, including sandrock outcrops, ancient ghyll woodland, manor houses and meadows.



Tunbridge Wells Common - Credit:Chris Cassidy

INTERESTING FEATURES

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON was first cleared from forest in the Stone Age and became grazed heathland. Famous for its outcrops of Sandrock the Common once held a racetrack which was in use up to the mid-19th century.

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.

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 built about 1585, was the base of the notorious Groombridge Gang, ruthless smugglers operating in the 1730s between the

village and south coast. They smuggled tea and hid the contraband in tunnels between the pub and Groombridge Place. The Gang was eventually brought to justice in 1749.



Crown, Groombridge

ASHURST PLACE, a Victorian Mansion dating from 1860s and set in 23 acres of parkland, used to be a notable centre for breeding pedigree horses and is now a residential home.

BURNT AND AVERY'S WOODS are examples of ghyll woodland which are distinctive features of the High Weald. Steep sided ravines (ghylls) have formed from the action of streams eroding soft clay or sandstone beds. They often support unique communities of flora as working on such terrain is difficult and so the ravine sides tend to be left undisturbed from traditional woodland management.

SPELDHURST is one of the oldest parishes in the area with records dating back to 1239. The Church of St Mary the Virgin was built in 1871 although the site has been a place of worship since Saxon times. The George and Dragon pub dates back to the 13th century and is claimed to be the second oldest in the country with secret smuggler's passages to the church.



St Mary's Church - Speldhurst



Groombridge Place

SPELDHURST CIRCULAR

10
MILES

SF Start/Finish

13 miles (21km)

 Gate

 Stile

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