

Circular walk to Bedelands Nature Reserve

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.6 km)

Time :2 hours

Starting point: Fox and Hounds Car Park, Fox Hill



Start at Fox & Hounds car park, taking the Public Footpath beginning close to the pub and leading to a field.

Go down the field, cross a footbridge and continue beside a stream. This stream flows from the Ashenground Woods north of Rocky Lane and continues westwards as a tributary of the Adur river. The Fox and Hounds is on the low ridge that forms the watershed between two river catchments, the Adur reaching the sea at Shoreham and the Ouse reaching the sea at Lewes.

Leaving the stream through the gate leading into a field, you come back to it in a marshy area and cross over a footbridge leading to a broad green lane bordered by ancient banks. The marshy area is fine wildlife habitat with willow trees. The lane is overhung by twisted hornbeam trees. In days gone by, these trees would have been regularly cut down to ground level (coppiced).

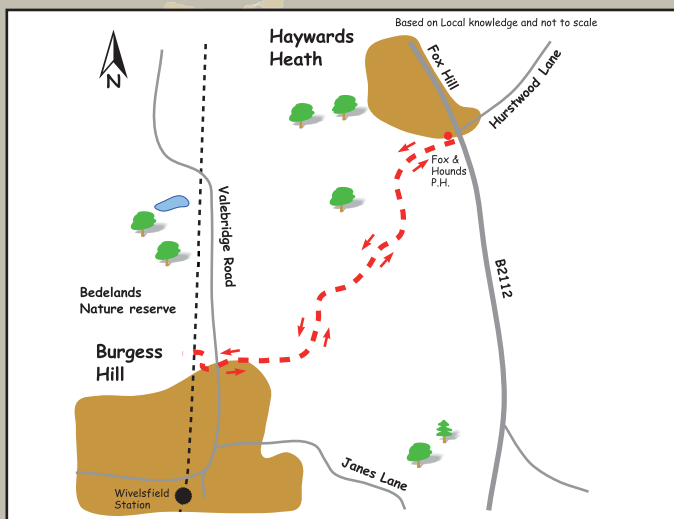
After about 300 metres go over the stile on the right hand side; keeping the hedge on your left, continue down the field. Shortly, there is a

small bridge taking you into the neighbouring field, where you look across the valley to Clearwaters Farm, reached by a bridge across the stream.

Head up slope towards the left hand side of the farm, where a gate and a stile lead to Clearwater Lane. Turn into Clearwater Lane. Continue along Clearwater Lane passing the stile on the right, which leads to Clearwater Farm.

Half a mile further along the lane and on the lefthand side is Antye Farm. Continue along the lane, which eventually becomes Theobalds Road, opening into the main road between Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill (Valebridge Road).

Cross over the main road, turn right and after about 100 metres just beyond Valebridge Close, take the Public Footpath on the left leading to an unguarded railway crossing. Do not let children get ahead here and cross with great care.



Beyond the railway lies Bedelands Farm Nature Reserve, extending over several hundred acres, with many footpaths by which to explore woodlands, wild flower meadows and Vale Bridge Lake. A leaflet about Bedelands Farm is available from the Town Council & Mid Sussex District Council.

To return to the Fox & Hounds car park, use the route taken to get to Bedelands Farm, but in reverse.