Welcome to Holmwood Common

You can start your walk at Scamells, Fourwents, Mill Road or Inholms car parks. From here follow the signs to the circular trail and at a gentle pace it should take you 2 ½ hours.

There are plenty of places to stop off on the way for a picnic, to splash in a brook, climb trees or build dens. You can walk the route in any direction and if you feel adventurous try one of the wilder paths.

The main body of Holmwood Common was given to the National Trust in 1956, although smaller parcels including Holmwood Corner and land west of the A24 were donated up to 1980.

Find out more about what happens on the Surrey Hills

The National Trust looks after much of the Surrey Hills – from Limpfield Common in the east to Hindhead Common in the west. In between are Box Hill, Leith Hill and Bookham Commons to name but a few of the places we care for. Our places are great for running around and exploring, building dens and seeing the wonderful wildlife that lives there. You could take a kite on windy days and wear wellie boots for splashing on wet days. Pack a picnic and make a day of it, or come along for just an hour or two.

National Trust

The National Trust is an independent conservation charity and needs your continued support. If you would like to know more about the National Trust, local places to visit, or how to become a member, please contact our local office:

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Holmwood Common Circular Trail

There's lots to see and do at Holmwood Common throughout the year. The 3.1 mile (5 km) circular trail will help you to discover the common and the flora and fauna that live in this special place, whatever the season.

- Fourwents Pond was enlarged in 1876 to water the horses of 3000 troops who had assembled for a review by the Duke of Northumberland.

- In the past people who lived on Holmwood Common would have "Commoners’ Rights". These ranged from the right to graze your pigs (pannage), the right to gather firewood (estovers) and the right to graze your sheep or cows (pasture).

- Holmwood Common is a haven for summer visitors – both two legged and winged! Chiffchaffs, blackcaps and willow warblers fly in from southern Europe and Africa, making the most of the large number of insects here in summer.

- Winter months and the profusion of berries, particularly those of the holly tree, mean that redwings and fieldfares from Scandinavia thrive in our warmer winters, stocking up for their long migration in the spring.

- Many of the oak trees that you will see on the common are the result of jays planting acorns for their winter reserves of food. Left forgotten and uneaten, they grow into oaks and subsequently feed more animals.

- Holmwood Common is remarkable for its mushrooms and toadstools. With ponds, rabbit mown grasslands and a huge resource of dead wood the common comes alive, especially in the autumn, with fruiting bodies of many colours. Enjoy them to look at and leave for others after you in this special place.

Did you know?

On the 13 March 1944, a German Junkers 88 plane crashed on Holmwood Common. Sadly all four crew on board died of their injuries and were repatriated after the war. In 2013 the site was excavated and the remains of the plane, including a propeller hub are now on permanent display at the Wings Museum at Balcombe in West Sussex.

Did you know?

It is reputed that somewhere beneath the common lies a bricked-up underground command centre dating back to the Second World War.

Look out for!

Crab apple trees are native to the British Isles and are plentiful on the common; they are covered with pink blossom in spring and small, hard and bitter fruits in the autumn.

Explore...

An ancient common of village greens, dappled woodland and scattered ponds.

National Trust
Dappled woodland and sunny clearings greet you – beautiful countryside for walking, horse riding and cycling. The common is fairly flat and ideal for families to explore, but it can be wet underfoot. Great fun though for kids who like squelching in mud with their brightly coloured wellies.

Dogs are very welcome on Holmwood Common, though we do ask that they are kept under control and kept within sight of you.

For more information about Holmwood Common please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/holmwood-common