

Reigate Heath

Treasure Trail



Please respect other users of Reigate Heath

Look after yourself and look out for others. Though we have taken every care in the preparation of this Trail, you undertake it entirely at your own risk.

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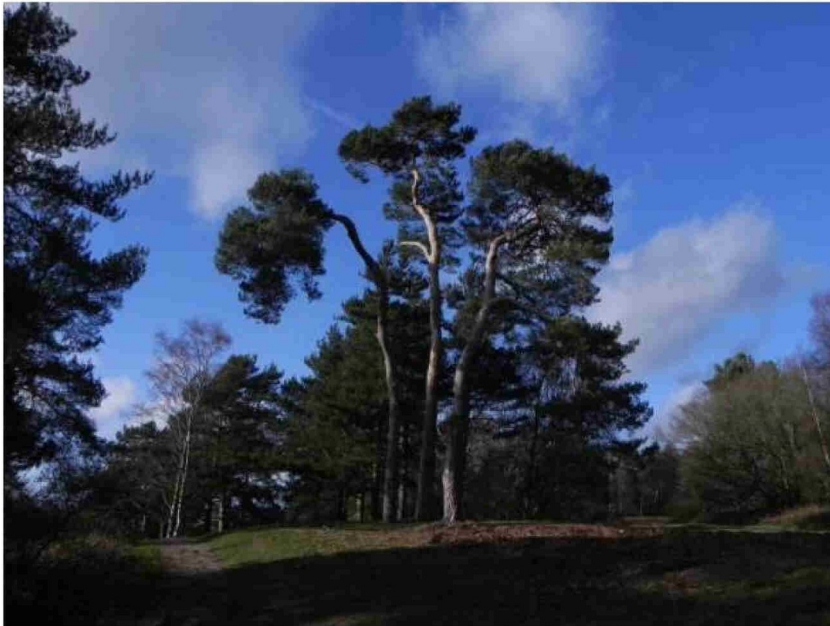
Start from the Car Park on Flanchford Road

- 1 Take the path past the information board until you come to three pine trees growing together in a group.

They are sometimes known as 'The Three Graces'.

What sort of Bronze Age memorial did the Victorians plant these particular trees on?

This is was a very sacred place in the Bronze Age (2,500 - 750 BC) there were 9 burial mounds placed here, which are classed as ancient monuments. Two Neolithic axes were found on the heath and a flint arrow head. When you walk along the main path you will see worked flints and stones.



- 2 A bit further on, there is a look-out point above the golfers' 5th tee.

What sort of factory shows above the trees on the next hill?

It was built in 1765 and last produced flour in 1868.



2 Carry on along the main path until you reach a way marker post where 3 paths cross. Directly ahead on the left hand side, there between the path and the barrow is a rare blue atlas cedar - a native tree from Morocco.

At the way marker take the path to the right and follow it around to the left (be careful of the tree roots). Where the paths cross, take the small path to the left.



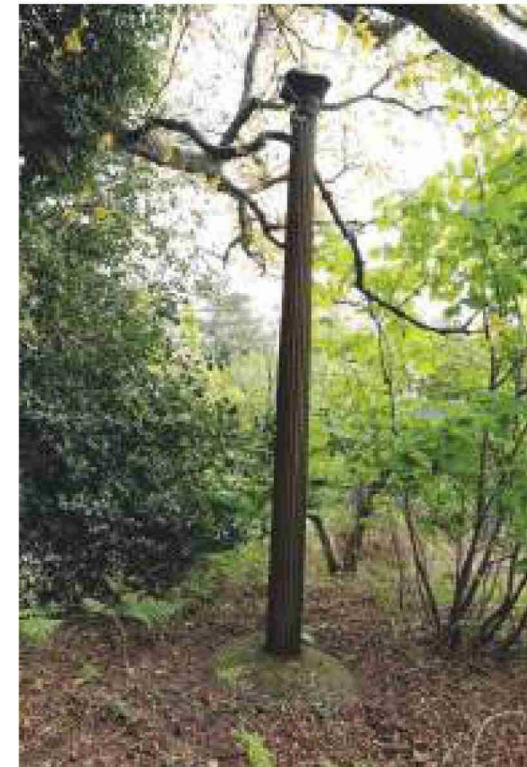
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4 Can you find the Victorian column?

At the way marker turn left and immediately right. There is now a large holly tree to your right. Walk around the back of the Holly tree and up on the barrow and follow the line of the fallen log. At the end of the log there is a pine tree straight ahead. Stand in front of the pine tree.

In Summer work your way carefully through the bracken, please mind your footing.

Behind the pine tree is a large oak and to the right of the oak is a Victorian wrought iron column, just above the road. Do you know what it was used for?



5

- 5 Go back to the holly tree and get on to the small path again. Now go straight to the way marker post and keeping the way marker post to the right. Re-trace your steps to the blue atlas cedar by taking the path to the right, where the four paths cross.
- 6 Go back down to the golfer's tee, where two benches are located. Take the golfers path carefully down past the tee, through the heather and onto the right-hand side of the fairway below.

Take care of golfers behind you!

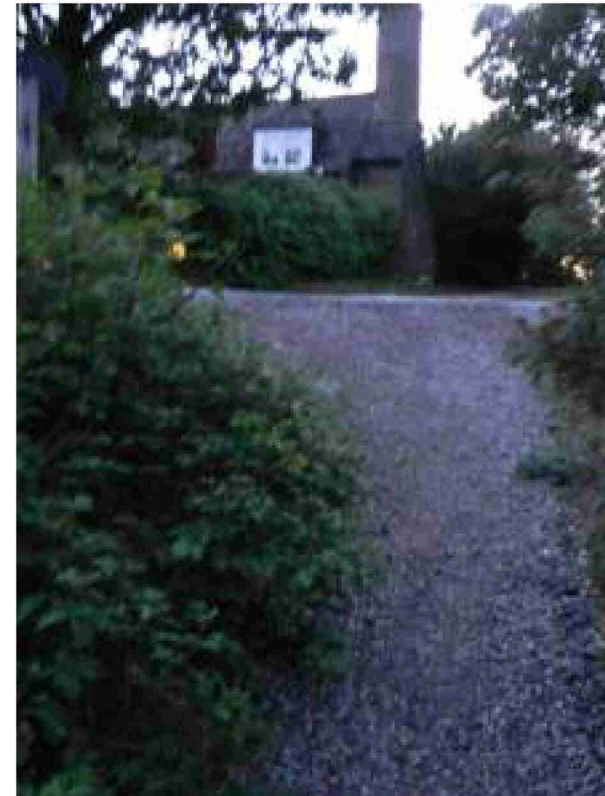
For your safety, please wait while golfers take their shots, and they will wait when you need to cross their path.

- 7 There are 3 types of heather on the Heath: bell, ling and cross-leaved. They can be hard to tell apart



Can you see two of them?

- 8 Follow the path by the trees, and keep the golf fairway on your left. When you see the sails of the windmill in the distance on your right, cross the drainage ditch carefully, between the two fairways and walk up the winding sandy track to the windmill. When you reach a crossroads of paths turn left. Please proceed carefully up the path - because it is sandy, it can be slippery; also it gets narrow and steeper. At the top is the Artisans Hut. Turn right to walk up to the windmill.



- 9 This is the only windmill in England that is a church. It was consecrated in 1880, before the Golf Club was built.



In 1897, when Lady Henry Somerset agreed to a Golf Course on what was then her land, she insisted it should be open to those who could offer their trade services as payment instead of green fees.

- 10 Walk straight past the windmill to the viewpoint at the front of the Club House.

Looking North, you can see the cliffs of the former lime quarries at Brockham.



- 11 Look over the tree tops and up into the sky -- you may see a Sparrow Hawk soaring above the Heath.
- 12 To the left of the lime quarries, the hills dip at the Darking Gap. Can you see the spire of the church on Ranmore Common?

13 Go down the access road towards Flanchford Road

Take care!
Some drivers go very fast here -
LISTEN for traffic in BOTH directions

At Flanchford Road, cross to the access road on the other side, the one with the signs for Heathfield and Tilehouse.

Take care of golfers!

Please wait for golfers to take their shots, and they will wait when you need to cross their path.



14 As soon as you can, stand on the left bank of the access road, and look up at the horizon far beyond the fairway.

Can you see the top of another windmill?



The windmill is at Wray Lane.

15 Walk along the access road and take the first path to the left, through the trees beside the fairway. The access road leads on to Heathfield House where J Arthur Rank of Rank Film Studios lived. A devout Methodist, he started producing religious films and then formed the British National Films Company in the early 1930s. By 1935 he owned one third of Pinewood Studios. In 1937 Arthur Rank consolidated his film Holdings into the Rank Organisation and in 1938 he bought out the Odeon cinemas. The Rank Organisation made fine British Films such as The Red Shoes, Henry V and Black Narcissus. In the 1950s films were aimed at the family market eg Norman Wisdom, Doctor in the House series and the Carry On films. There were 31 Carry On films in total.

You will arrive at a white house. Below the front lawn is another path along the side of the fairway, please follow this path.



17 Continue along the side of the golf fairway to the next access road -- to Heathfield Nursery. There's a White House on the other side of this road.

- 18 Keep on along the side of the golf fairway to the next road - Bonny's Lane, named after Bonnys Mineral Water Factory, which ceased operating in the 1950s. The path can be muddy.

Take care of golfers!

Please wait for golfers to take their shots, and they will wait when you need to cross their path.



Cross the road carefully to the post box. To your right you will see Bonny's Cottage. On your left on the golfing green, can you see the big dip where Bonny's Pond used to be?



- 19 Take the path ahead, behind the post box, and walk towards the wood, at the way marker take the path to the left. Older residents on the heath remember heath pigs being kept in the woods; and if you explore the woods to your right you may find the remnants of the old pig pens. Locally, this area was known as Wickens Wood after the family who kept the pigs.

- 20 Stay on the path through the woods, and carry on past a car park (on your left), until you come out beside Flanchford Road.

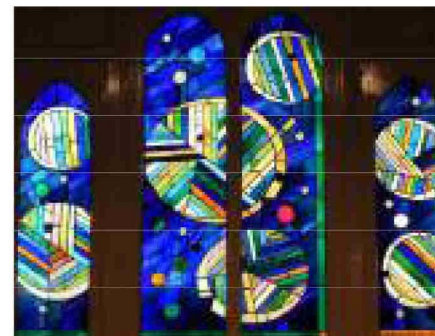
The path narrows alongside the road. At the speed limit sign, take the wide track to the right. The path narrows alongside the road. At the speed limit sign, take the wide track to the right, down to the Heath Church.

Take care of oncoming traffic!

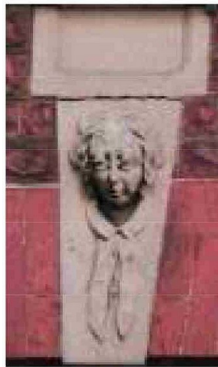
- 21 At the end of this track is an "iron church", it was built from a kit in 1907. Originally erected at Shaws Corner where it was the United Reform Church, until it was not needed and moved to Reigate Heath, and is now part of the congregation of St Mary's Church Reigate.



Can you see the Stained Glass window that was added in February 1971?



- 25 Go back to Flanchford Road and turn right. Walk along the row of cottages, most built between 1860 and 1880. Towards the end of the row of cottages, there is a stone cottage, set back from the others, can you spot the wall on the face?



The property to the right of the stone cottage, used to be Reigate Heath Garage, which belonged to the Gregory family since 1947. Before it became the garage it was a bakery shop, which the Gregory's opened in 1930. There was a shop in this location before the Gregory's moved in; named Swayne's.

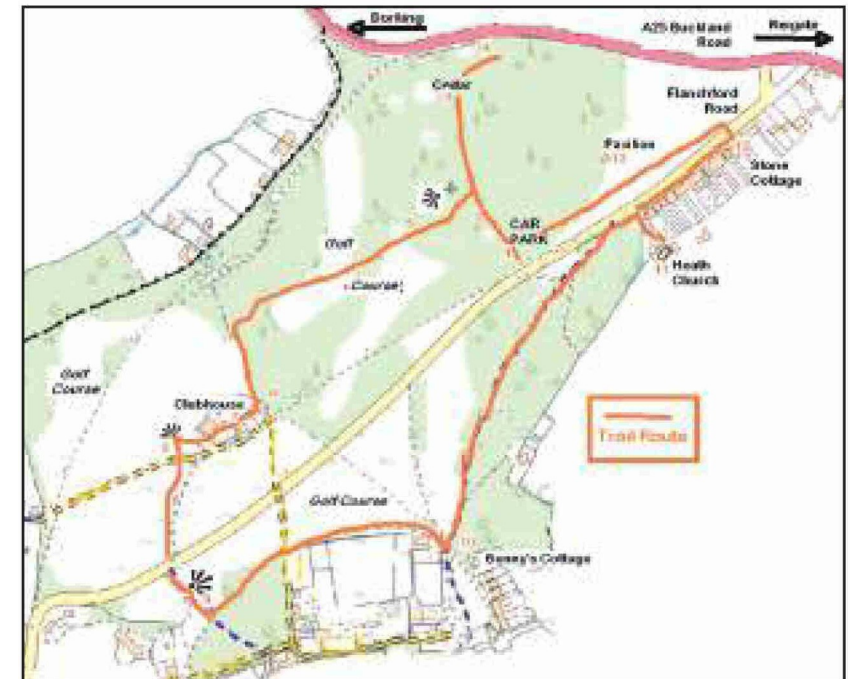
- 26 With your back to the gargoyles, look across the Heath. In the 19th century, this area was used for horse racing.



- 22 Cross the road to the open grassy area of the Heath. Take care of traffic in BOTH directions!
- 23 Look towards the Sports Pavilion, in front of the trees.

A Football club was founded here after World War 1 and, later, J.Arthur Rank became its President.

Proceed along the track beside Flanchford Road, to return to the car park.



HOLMESDALE Natural History Club Museum

14 CROYDON ROAD, REIGATE, RH2 0PG

NATURAL HISTORY | ARCHAEOLOGY | LOCAL HISTORY | GEOLOGY

FOUNDED IN 1857 | FREE ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM



The Holmesdale Natural History Club is a charity, which exists to promote the study of natural history, local history, archaeology and geology in the vicinity of Reigate.

It has extensive museum collections (with some specimens collected in the eighteenth century) which include a large collection of stuffed birds, herbarium specimens (including material collected by James Brewer for the first Flora of Surrey which was published by the Club in 1863), local history and archaeological collections.

Lectures given by visiting speakers or Club members are arranged on the third Wednesday of the month (except December and August) in the museum lecture room. Later in the month there is usually some other activity such as a walk, excursion or social event.

The museum and its library is open to members on the first Tuesday evening of each month for private study and for the sharing of interests. Members receive a Bulletin three times a year with details of the programme, news, and notes on items of interest to the Club.