

Fawke and Bitchet Commons 4-mile circular walk



A circular walk through Knole Park, and the ancient woodlands and clearings of the Greensand Commons of Fawke and Bitchet. This 4-mile walk starts and finishes at Godden Green, a modest green that supports a wide variety of native wildflowers and pollinators.

START LOCATION

Godden Green outside The Buck's Head
Post code: TN15 0JJ
National Grid reference: TQ 553 551
What3words reference:
songs.allow.fever

Distance: 6Km (4 miles)

Difficulty: Some steep hills and can be muddy in wet weather.

Walking time: 1½ hours

ALTERNATIVE STARTS

Knole Park
One Tree Hill car park
Bitchet Green (parking on Rooks Hill Road next to cricket ground)

By car – parking on the road opposite The Bucks Head, Godden Green.

By public transport – Route S4 bus (Go-Coach) from Sevenoaks Bus station stops at the Bucks Head.



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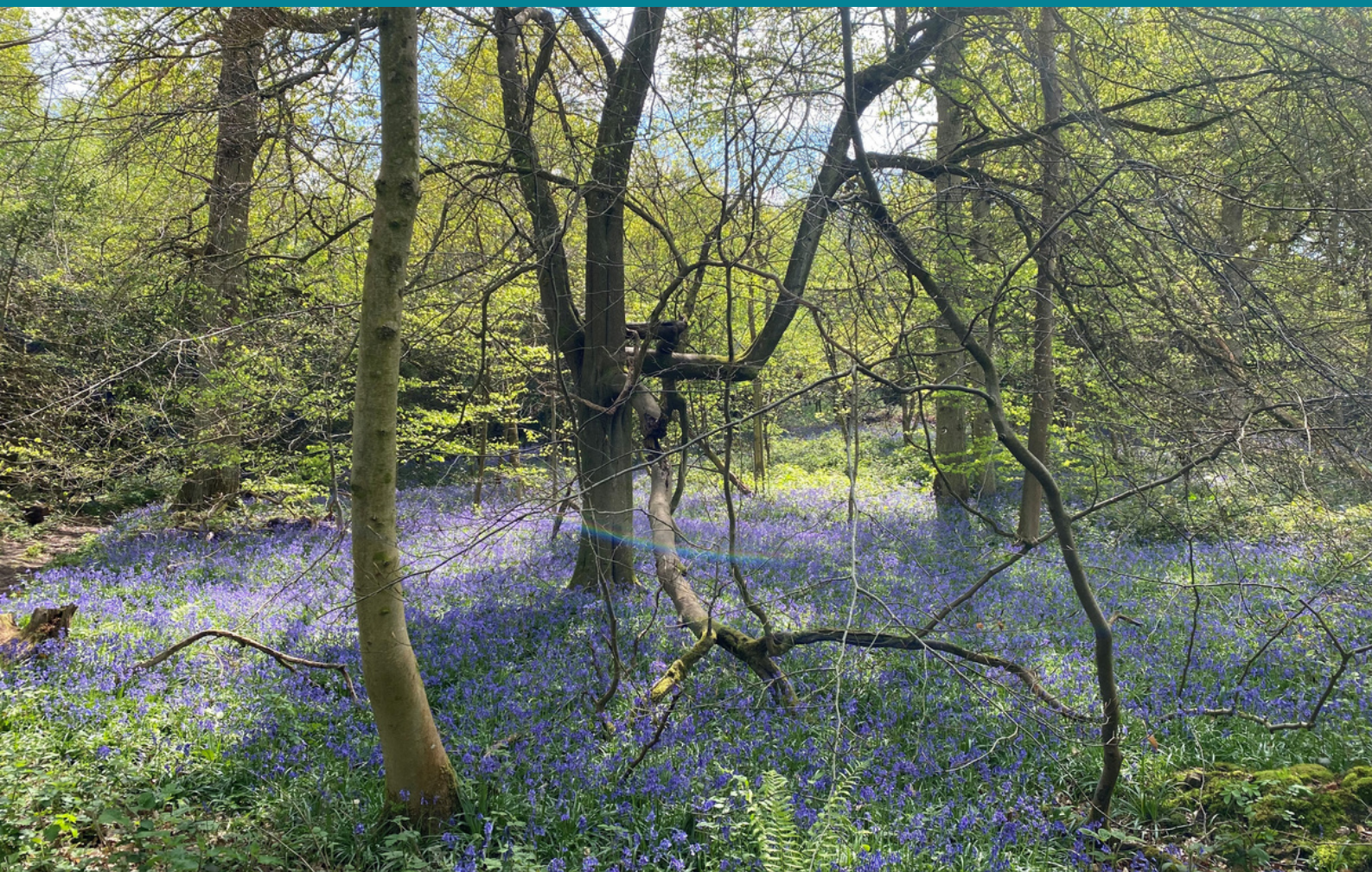
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DIRECTIONS

1. Take the footpath that runs past the cottages to the right of the Bucks Head as you face it from the road. The cottages are called Golf Cottages and the path is signed to the Old Stables. Walk past the stables and turn left at the road/track. Follow the track to meet a road and turn right, sign posted Bridleway.

2. Follow the Bridleway past some cottages on your left and then turn right up a hill towards a gate into Knole Park. On passing through the gate keep left and straight on up the hill following the edge of the forest to your left. At the top of the hill turn left, again following the edge of the forest to your left.



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3. At the end of the forest, as you approach a clearing, turn left and follow the forest edge downhill, over a small stream and back up the other side. Follow the path down to a fence and a gate leaving Knole Park and onto Fawke Common.

Fawke Common is one of the Greensand Commons. Sitting adjacent to Knole Park, the wilder landscape of Fawke Common is truly a haven for Kentish wildlife. The woodland is alive from the ground to the tree canopy, providing a home to a variety of insects, fungi and birds.

4. Pass through the gate and take the path straight up the hill ignoring the path to the left. Follow the path, across a small ditch ignoring paths left and right up to a road.

5. On reaching the road the path continues immediately opposite.

Visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/sevenoaks-greensand-commons for further information about the management of Bitchet Common.

Follow this to the crossroads and carry straight on down Bitchet Green Road with Fawke House on your right and Fawke Farm on your left. Be careful as this road can be busy. Carry on along the road, downhill, until at the bottom, at a bend in the road, take a path to the right and then soon after a path to the left up-hill. You are now on Bitchet Common.

Kent Wildlife Trust volunteers have undertaken heathland restoration work in recent years on Bitchet Common as part of the Sevenoaks Greensand Commons Project.

This work has consisted of plant surveys and bracken, birch and holly clearance, which has allowed more light onto the commons to benefit heathland plants.



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6. At a crossroads of paths, by a mature beech tree, carry straight on up the hill and follow the path until you meet a vehicle track. Turn left along the track going slightly downhill.

There are the remains of old chert quarries on your right. These were shallow excavations to extract the stone which was once used for road making. Chert is a very hard grey stone similar to flint.

7. About 100m along the track, just before the track bends, take a narrow path off to the right and follow this path as it crosses an old bank (the edge of the chert quarry) and bends down the hill to your right. On your left is an old sunken trackway.

Kent Wildlife Trust would like to say a special thank you to Adrian Wain, who kindly created these walks for local people to enjoy.

8. At the bottom of the hill turn right and then, shortly after, left and follow the path up the hill. At a fork, take the left path for a short distance to join a track and then turn left. Follow the track, ignoring paths on your right, until it joins a road. Turn left along the road and follow it to Bitchet Green.

9. At Bitchet Green carry straight on across the junction, past Bitchet Farm Riding School and then turn left along the bridleway.

Keep left past Lord Spring Oast, then past some houses on your right and keep right, ignoring paths to your left. The bridleway turns into a vehicle track. Follow the track until you meet the road and then turn left and follow the road back to Godden Green.



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