

Walk the Loop for Children's Centres

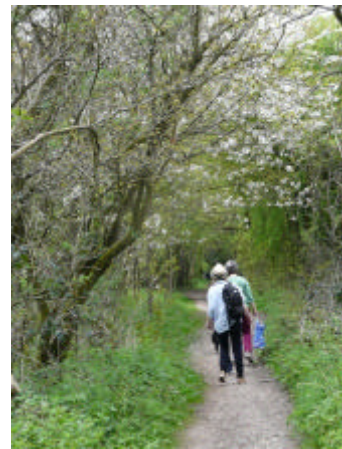
Walk 6: Down House to West Wickham Common



Charles Darwin's remote house near Down Village gave us insight into the scientific and family life of this great mind whose findings and views changed our perception of life forever.



We moved on with a keen eye for what nature had on offer for us on the trail...

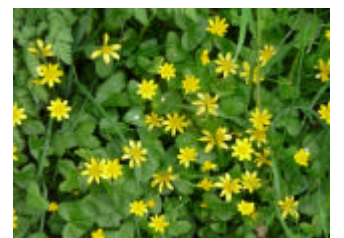
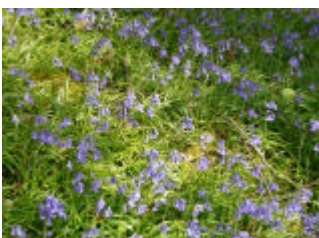
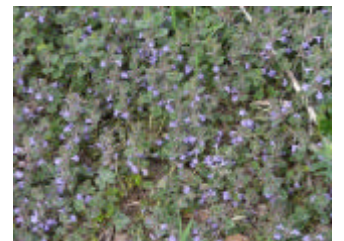
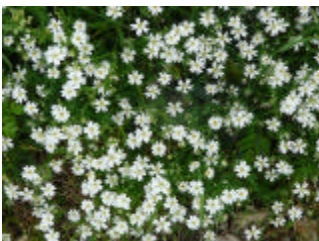


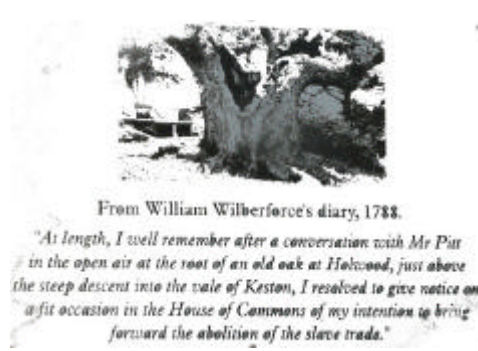
...past bluebells and cherry blossoms we walked...

...by large patches of primulae on chalk meadows, celebrating spring on this sunny day.

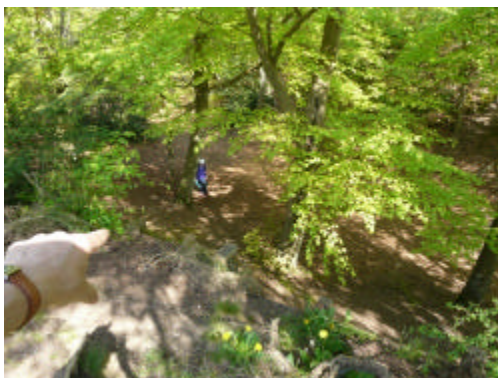


Rolling vistas opened up to us. Every shade of green was there for us to savour. Then, we began to climb... and climb...





... until we came to another location with “evolutionary” impact on history: we could imagine eavesdropping on a conversation between Wilberforce and the prime-minister William Pitt in 1788, as they discussed how to bring about the end of the slave trade. They would have sat there, looking towards the Vale of Keston, an inspiring view, shaded by a mighty oak, now little more than a heap of humus. Further along the path, we found other oaks with huge girths that span many hundreds of years.



History took us yet further back in time as we came to Caesar’s Well at the source of the River Ravensbourne. Clear water bubbled up from underground and cascaded into pools.



From there, the Loop delved ever deeper into history as remains of iron age earth works appeared along the way. By the end, we felt we had walked not just miles under foot but far greater distances through time.



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