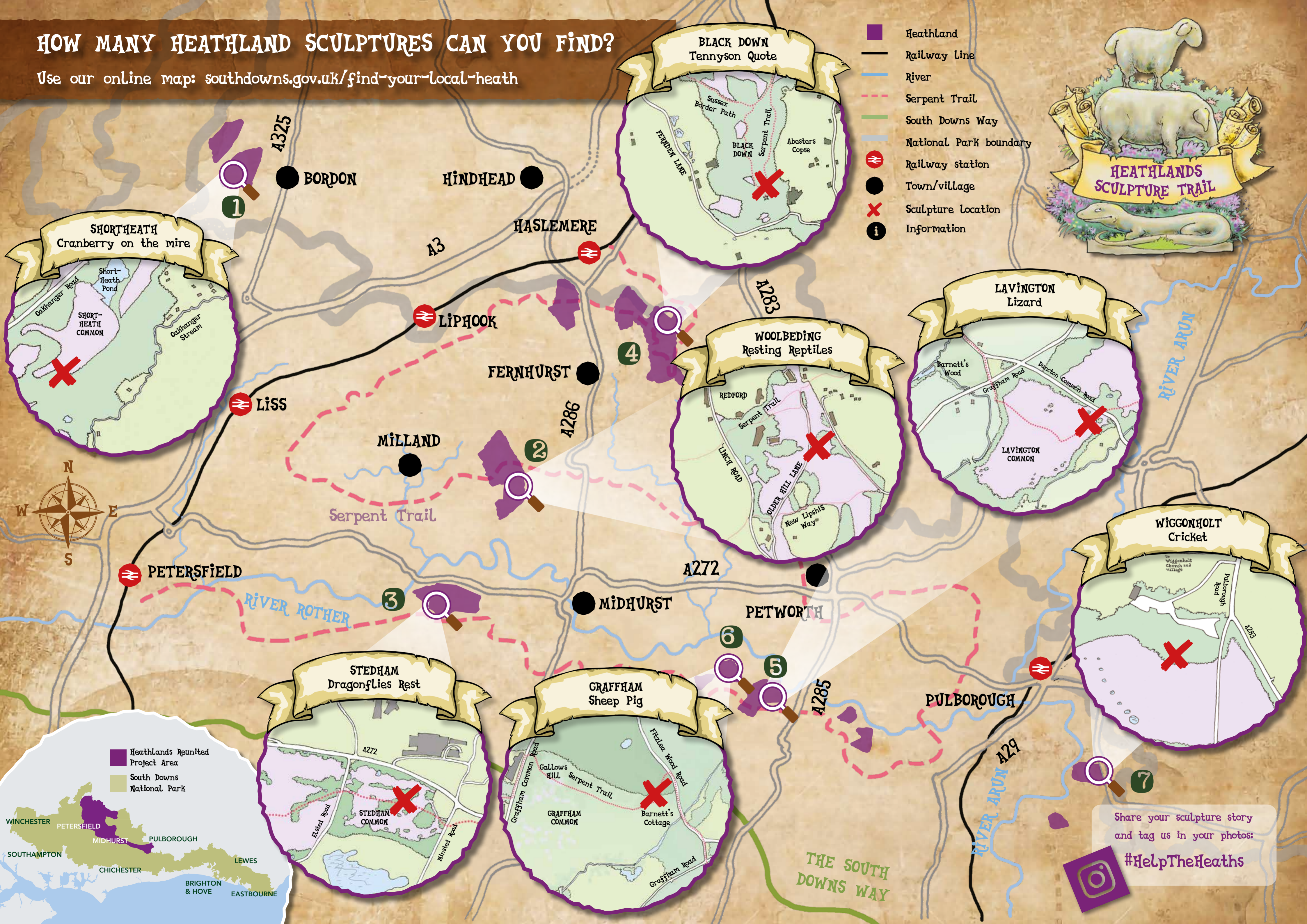


# HOW MANY HEATHLAND SCULPTURES CAN YOU FIND?

Use our online map: [southdowns.gov.uk/find-your-local-heath](http://southdowns.gov.uk/find-your-local-heath)

-  Heathland
-  Railway Line
-  River
-  Serpent Trail
-  South Downs Way
-  National Park boundary
-  Railway station
-  Town/village
-  Sculpture location
-  Information



-  Heathlands Reunited Project Area
-  South Downs National Park

Share your sculpture story and tag us in your photos:

#HelpTheHeaths



# Heathlands Sculpture Trail

Inspired by stories from communities and drawing upon sources as diverse as the poet Tennyson and a 394-year-old local map, seven bespoke stone carvings have been made as part of the Heathlands Reunited National Lottery Heritage funded project. Linking seven heathland sites in the National Park, these intricately carved characters of the heath tell the unique story of the history, wildlife and people of each site.

Graeme Mitcheson, the sculptor, spent six months working with trained volunteers who collected oral histories and carried out archive research with the local community, including groups and schoolchildren to develop these heathland habitat sculptures.

## Want to discover more heathland stories?

Snaking its way through the purple heather, green woods and golden valleys of Sussex, the Serpent Trail runs from Haslemere to Petersfield. This route is a great way to explore the wildlife and history of our precious heathland habitat, while also visiting some of the South Downs's picturesque villages and towns. [southdowns.gov.uk/serpent-trail](http://southdowns.gov.uk/serpent-trail)



## NFC and QR codes

Each sculpture will have an NFC tag and QR code. Using your smartphone you can find out more about your find using an appropriate app.

### 1 Cranberry on the mire

This site is a Special Area of Conservation noted for its impressive 'floating' transition mire, which you can see if you look north west from the sculpture. Shortheath Common has a high cover of the cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos* which is rare in southern England.

The name is supposed to be derived from crane-berry because the flowers look like cranes (the bird) with their long necks.

**HOW TO FIND CRANBERRY ON THE MIRE**

<b>Location:</b> Shortheath Common
<b>Grid reference:</b> SU 773 364
<b>Nearest town:</b> Oakhanger <input type="checkbox"/> Found it

Cranberry Plant © Nicki Paton

### 2 Resting Reptiles

Heaths are home to three species of snake; Grass snake, Smooth snake and Adder. The smooth snake is Britain's rarest and most secretive reptile. This sculpture shows the snakes curled up on a bed of oak and birch leaves, trees which are both associated with wooded heaths. Woolbeding is unique as it was never made into a plantation and still has links to its ancient birch and oak woodland.

Oak Birch

**HOW TO FIND RESTING REPTILES**

<b>Location:</b> Woolbeding Common
<b>Grid reference:</b> SU 871 260
<b>Nearest town:</b> Midhurst <input type="checkbox"/> Found it

Woolbeding Common © John Dominick

## COUNTRYSIDE CODE

RESPECT · PROTECT · ENJOY

**Respect other people**

- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Keep to the paths unless wider access is available

**Protect the natural environment**

- Take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

**Enjoy the outdoors**

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

## Getting around

**By rail:** The South Downs National Park is easy to access by rail from London and the south coast. Visit [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk) to plan your journey.

**By bus:** One of the most cost-effective ways to travel by bus around the South Downs is by using the **Discovery Ticket** which gives you unlimited travel for the day across the National Park and beyond. Visit [traveline.info/se](http://traveline.info/se) to plan your journey.

## HEATHLANDS SCULPTURE TRAIL

### Discover the historical tales and hidden gems of the South Downs heaths

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

### 4 Tennyson Quote

Probably the most famous admirer of the Common and nearby former resident was poet Alfred Lord Tennyson. This sculpture is inspired by some of his words and ancient documents granting rights of pasture to the common.

The documents are beautifully hand written with incredible flowing fonts. This quote is long associated with the site and written by Tennyson, using the font taken directly from the documents. The sculpture references the beautiful landscape and view from the site but also nods to its industrious past.

**HOW TO FIND TENNYSON QUOTE**

<b>Location:</b> Black Down
<b>Grid reference:</b> SU 920 293
<b>Nearest town:</b> Haslemere <input type="checkbox"/> Found it

View North East from Black Down © Jonathan Mycock

### 5 Lavington Lizard

South Downs Heathlands support all 12 of our native amphibians and reptiles. Lavington Common provides a home for all three types of lizard that rely on heaths; slow worms, common and sand lizards can all be found here.

During the breeding season male sand lizards adopt a bright green coloration to attract a mate. They were once nearly extinct in Britain and are now protected by law, and are still classed as an endangered species.

**HOW TO FIND LAVINGTON LIZARD**

<b>Location:</b> Lavington Plantation
<b>Grid reference:</b> SU 948 186
<b>Nearest town:</b> Graffham <input type="checkbox"/> Found it

Lavington Common © John Dominick

### 6 Sheep Pig

The Sheep Pig is inspired by a map, drawn in 1629 during the reign of Charles 1, showing the heath as common land. It reflects the former use of the site as grazing land but also refers to the rare map of the vicinity.

The original archive copy of the map was found in the West Sussex Records office. On the primitively drawn map of the area, tiny drawings of animals (almost appearing to be standing on top of one another) can be seen. Based on this, the sculptor created a replica of the drawing in carved stone.

**HOW TO FIND SHEEP PIG**

<b>Location:</b> Graffham Common
<b>Grid reference:</b> SU 937 193
<b>Nearest town:</b> Graffham/Selham <input type="checkbox"/> Found it

British white cattle © Sussex Wildlife Trust

## The South Downs National Park

**Glorious heathland is not the only gem to uncover in the South Downs National Park.** There are rolling hills, ancient woodland, river valleys, listed buildings, diverse archaeology, thriving villages and market towns as well as the iconic white cliffs of the Heritage Coast. Covering over 1600km<sup>2</sup> of England's most valued lowland landscapes, the South Downs is a living working landscape waiting to be explored.

**Heathlands Reunited** is a partnership of 11 like minded organisations, led by the South Downs National Park Authority. The project runs for five years from 2016-2021 within an area covering 41 heathland sites. The project aims to inspire communities to visit their heathlands and learn more about them so they can be enjoyed by future generations to come. It is also practically recreating, reconnecting and restoring our precious heaths.

*Mary Saunders and Rachel Richie with Map of Fitzlee Common 1629 from the Mitford Archives (Mitford MSS 998), in the custody of West Sussex Record Office*

## Open Access Land

Where you see the **Open Access symbol** you can leave the footpath on foot and walk, sightsee, picnic, watch wildlife, run or climb within the mapped area. Please adhere to site signage and follow our Take the Lead messages to stay safe and protect venerable wildlife in these areas. Cycling, horse riding and driving are not permitted on open access land. These recreational users must stick to designated rights of way.

## Take the Lead

**For a safe and fun visit with your dog please remember to keep them on a lead around livestock and wildlife.** Always bag and bin your dog poo – any public bin will do. Stick to the paths during ground nesting bird season (March – September) and do not enter Ministry of Defence Land when the red flags are flying.

## Contact

01730 814810

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[f /SDNPA](#)

[southdownsnp](#)

[southdowns.gov.uk/heathlands-reunited](http://southdowns.gov.uk/heathlands-reunited)

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