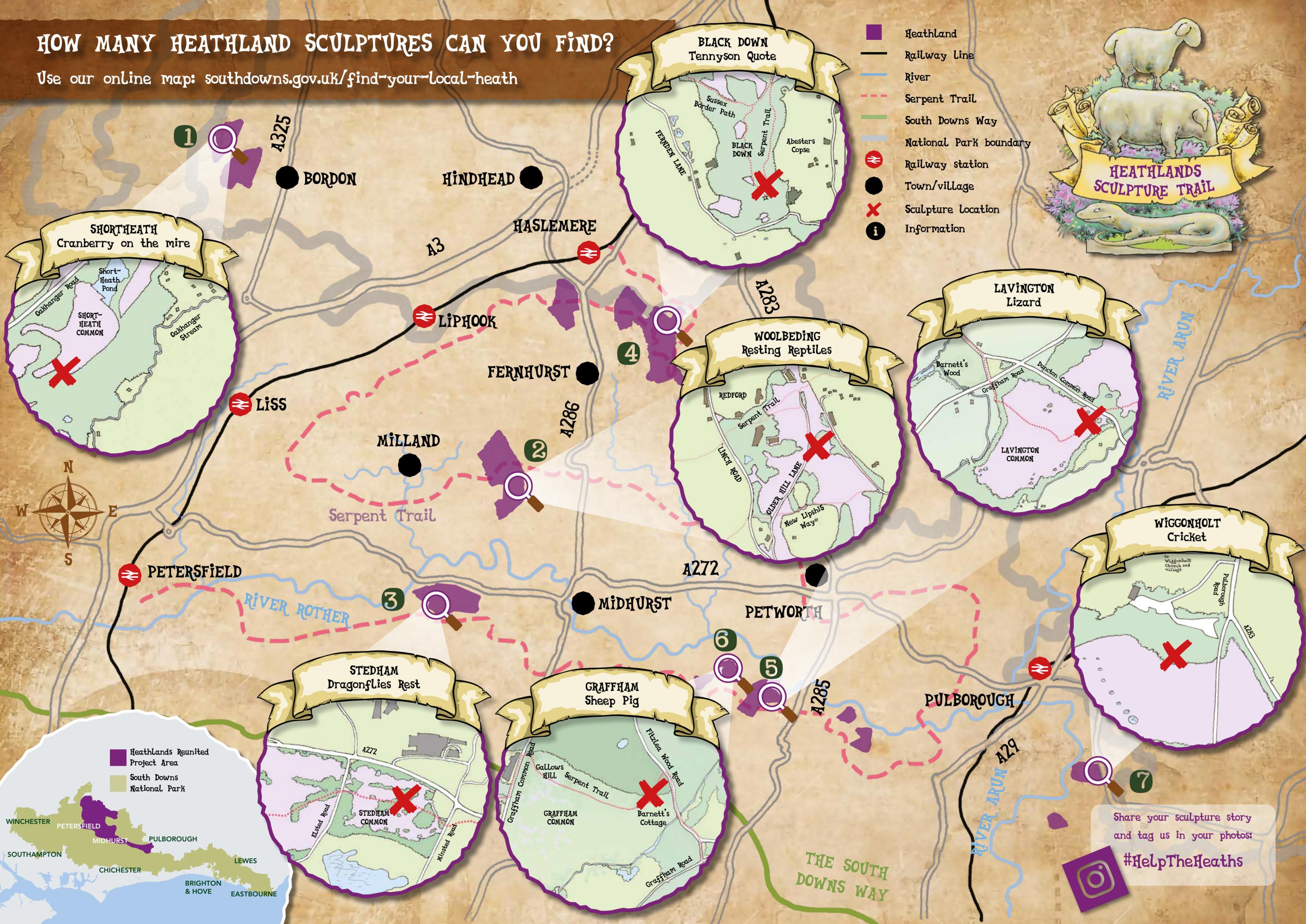


HOW MANY HEATHLAND SCULPTURES CAN YOU FIND?

Use our online map: 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.

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

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



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.

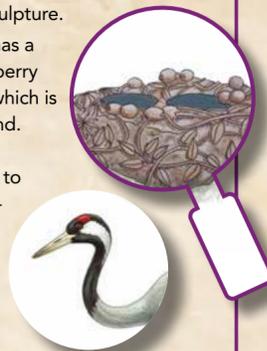
1 Cranberry on the mire

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

Location: Shortheath Common
Grid reference: SU 773 364
Nearest town: Oakhanger Found it



Cranberry Plant © Nicki Paton

2 Resting Reptiles



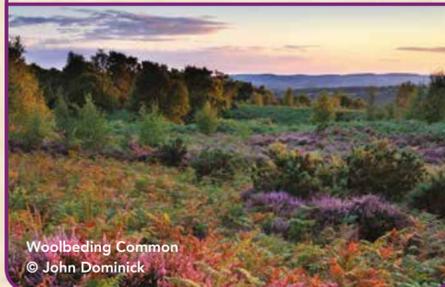
Heaths are home to three species of snake; Grass snake, Smooth snake and Adder.

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.



HOW TO FIND RESTING REPTILES

Location: Woolbeding Common
Grid reference: SU 871 260
Nearest town: Midhurst Found it



Woolbeding Common © John Dominick

3 Dragonflies Rest



Several species of dragonfly live only on heathlands and Iping and Stedham Commons are home to all five of the heathland species found in southern UK:

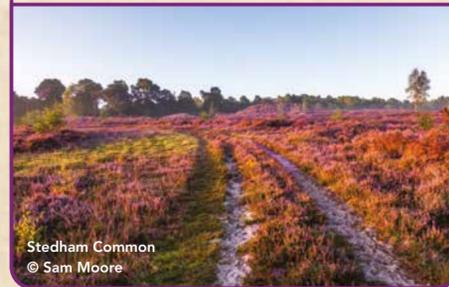
- Golden-ringed
- Emperor
- Black Darter
- Broad-bodied chasers
- Common darter

Dragonflies are bigger and sturdier than damselflies and they hold their wings out like an aeroplane when landed. Damselflies hold their wings closed along their body or half-open when landed.



HOW TO FIND DRAGONFLIES REST

Location: Stedham Common
Grid reference: SU 857 218
Nearest town: Midhurst Found it



Stedham Common © Sam Moore

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

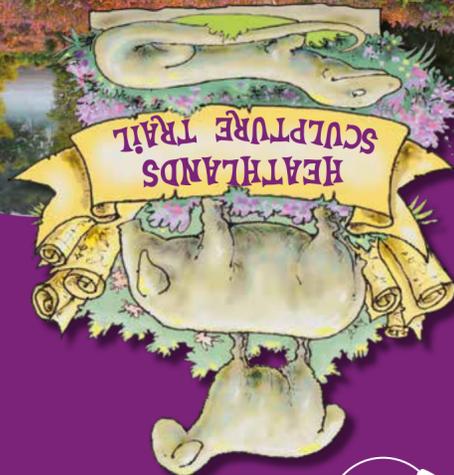
By rail: The South Downs National Park is easy to access by rail from London and the south coast. Visit nationalrail.co.uk to plan your journey.

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 to plan your journey.



SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

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



HERITAGE FUND

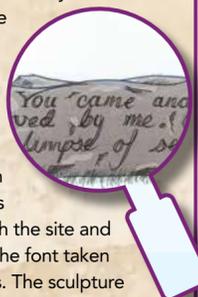
Heathlands Reunited

4 Tennyson Quote



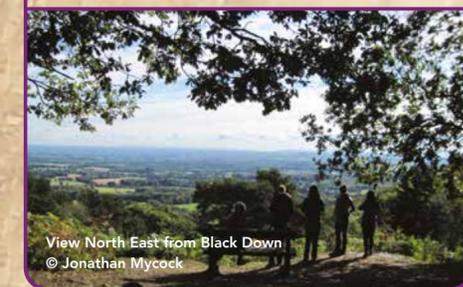
Probably the most famous admirer of the Common and nearby former resident was poet Alfred Lord Tennyson. This sculpture is inspired by some of his words and ancient documents granting rights of pasture to the common.

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

Location: Black Down
Grid reference: SU 920 293
Nearest town: Haslemere 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

Location: Lavington Plantation
Grid reference: SU 948 186
Nearest town: Graffham 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

Location: Graffham Common
Grid reference: SU 937 193
Nearest town: Graffham/Selham Found it



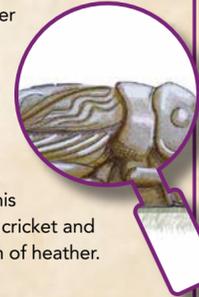
British white cattle © Sussex Wildlife Trust

7 Wiggonholt Cricket



The field cricket is an extremely rare, declining and threatened insect in the UK which depends solely on heathland habitat. It is classified as Vulnerable under UK law.

The field cricket is one of the largest crickets in the country and although it has wings, it cannot fly. There has been a lot of work on this site to reintroduce the field cricket and encourage the regeneration of heather.



HOW TO FIND WIGGONHOLT CRICKET

Location: Wiggonholt Heath
Grid reference: TQ 060 162
Nearest town: Pulborough Found it



Wiggonholt Heath © Graham Osbourne

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 1600km² 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 vulnerable 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

@SDNPA #HelpTheHeaths

/SDNPA

southdownsnp

southdowns.gov.uk/heathlands-reunited



SOUTH DOWNS.GOV.UK

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