

STAGE
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Marley Common through Lynchmere and Stanley Commons to Iron Hill



After crossing the A286 this stage continues to follow the purple Serpent Trail 'tail route' waymarkers. Take Marley Hanger up a steep ascent to the National Trust's Marley Common. As dense woodland thins to reveal patches of heathland look out for more belted Galloway cattle which sometimes graze the common here.

The Greensand Ridge that this stage follows is a remnant of the Weald dome, part of the great Weald-Artois Anticline that runs from south-east England into northern France. Walking west towards Lynchmere Common you will begin to see some classic geological features of this escarpment such as steep wooded slopes and sandstone cliffs.

Lynchmere and Stanley Commons are managed by the **Lynchmere Society**, a registered charity setup in 1991 with help from local fundraising and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The Society purchased the 125 hectare lowland heath habitat in 1998 with the intention of restoring it for nature using traditional management techniques. The area is also now a Local Nature Reserve. Without this protection and management, the heathland wildlife would be lost and the land may have been sold off in small sections or now covered in dense scrub.

1 The common redstart, has a population stronghold on Lynchmere Common. Similar in size to a robin, with a longer tail that constantly quivers up and down, the males develop a bright orange breast and flanks which contrasts beautifully against their striking black face and throat.

2 Lynchmere also has an accessible circular path suitable for pushchairs and



-  Cattle grazing, check site signage.
-  Ground-nesting birds: March to mid Sept.



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-  Start: Stagecoach Bus 70 to Bell Road, A286.
-  Iron Hill. At Highfield Lane, take Midhurst Road towards Liphook Railway Station for connections by rail to Haslemere, London Waterloo, Petersfield and Portsmouth.



wheelchairs so that everyone can enjoy the magic of this habitat.

This stage of the Serpent Trail ends after passing through Iron Hill, a Forestry England woodland actively managed for timber with pockets of heathland.

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