


A unique part of the Chilterns...2 ½ miles German forest walk (purple route)

Explore the dark evergreen woods of Hughenden estate, inspired by Disraeli's visits to Germany's Black Forest.

Map and grid reference: Landranger 165, Explorer 172: SU866955

Getting there

Train: High Wycombe  2 miles


Buses: Arriva 300, regular service, High Wycombe–Aylesbury (passing close High Wycombe ). Bus stop at the entrance to the drive. Note: Long and steep walk to house entrance. Footpaths head into the estate from surrounding villages.


Road: 1½ Miles from High Wycombe, Valley Road towards Hughenden Valley.


Facilities available: WC, restaurant and shop in stableyard at Hughenden Manor. Open Wednesday to Sunday, March to November.

Contact us: 01494 755573 hughenden@nationaltrust.org.uk

Points of interest:

 **The D'Israeli monument:** This stone spike on the edge of the estate is visible from certain points of the walk. Although it was originally built by Mary-Anne Disraeli to commemorate her father-in-law, it now also serves as a monument for Benjamin and his wife.

 **The German Forest:** Disraeli fell in love with the Black Forest while on a visit to Germany; this wood, with its mysterious tree lined avenues and swathes of laurel carpeting the ground to chest height, was an attempt to recreate the calm that he found there.

 **The Wildflower Bank:** Just off the side of the path, which runs next to Hanging Wood, you will find a bank that is deliberately ungrazed and unfertilised. It is managed in this way to allow an abundance of wildflowers to flourish here. These vary throughout the year and include wild strawberries, milkwort and large clumps of primroses (Disraeli's favourite flower).

Walk distance, terrain and accessibility:

2 ½ miles, 1 hour, with moderate slopes, tarmac and open country.



The German forest with its evergreen trees and low laurel plantings has quite a different character to the open beech woodlands found on the rest of the estate.

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Britain's least frightening ghost; there have been strange sightings of an old gentleman in Victorian clothes smiling and tipping his hat to passers by.

Disraeli, by Sir Francis Grant (1852)

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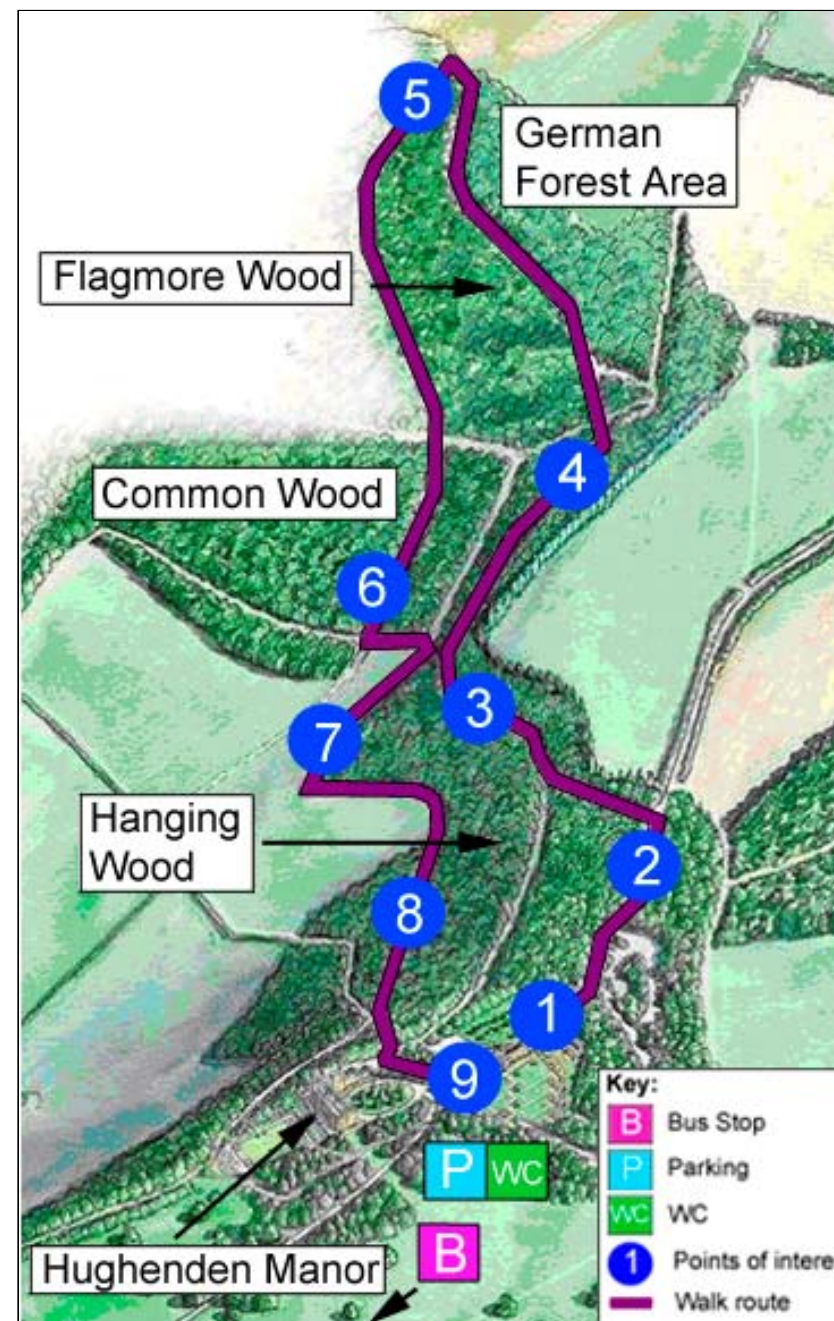
The wildflower bank next to Hanging Wood is covered in primroses, dog violets, wild strawberries, buttercups and many other plants. (Number 7 on the map).

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Route and directions:

Start near the notice board in the woodland car park at Hughenden Manor, facing away from the house. Follow the 'woodland walks' sign that points up an earth track (the coffin path) and follow the **Purple arrows** thereafter.

1. Follow the coffin path as it runs away from the Manor, keeping the woodland car park to your right.
2. After seventy yards turn left at the junction onto a path near the edge of the woodland and after 30 yards bear right near a small swampy area to the right of the path. Then take a left at the next junction, followed by a right (all way-marked).
3. On your left you may catch a glimpse through the trees of a stone spire standing on a hill – this is the D'Israeli monument. Follow the path into the German Forest between an Avenue of yew trees.
4. Carry on until you reach a crossing of 5 paths; take the 2nd path from the left running uphill. Climb over a small rise and follow the path which runs parallel to the slope; there should be dark yew trees on your left and younger broadleaves on your right.
5. Follow the path until it reaches the base of the slope and meets a bridleway running along the bottom of the valley. Turn left on to the bridleway at the wooden sign.
6. Turn left off the bridleway just before a field gate and follow the footpath uphill past some large trees, which have the tops cut off. Turn right at the T-junction along a path which skirts the edge of Hanging Wood.
7. On your right here you can get a good view of the monument and the valley over to High Wycombe. In spring look out for a bank on the right of the path with a good display of wildflowers. Continuing the walk, carry on towards the woods and past the abandoned badger's sett.
8. At the first crossroads follow the left path about 40 yards inside the wood. Go uphill until you see the apple store ahead of you (a single story brick and flint building). Walking past the apple store, follow the flint wall on the left up a sunken road. TAKE CARE AS CARS DO USE THIS ROAD.
9. Follow the wall as it curves left until you see a large brick archway into the stableyard; this is the end of the walk.



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