Walk
Devil’s Punch Bowl Cafe

This interesting circular walk is 4.8km (3 miles) long and takes approximately 1½-2 hours. It starts from the Devil’s Punch Bowl Cafe (off A3) where you can park for a small charge and get refreshments. The route takes you through heathland and woodland and is covered by OS Explorer map 133. There are fine views of the Devil’s Punch Bowl (a large heather-filled basin formed naturally by the action of many springs) and to the North Downs.

Much of the first part of the walk to the monument viewpoint is level and suitable for everyone. However, further parts of the walk go over uneven or hilly ground in places and there are several gates to negotiate. This part is therefore not recommended for pushchairs, wheelchairs or anyone with walking difficulties. There is a steep climb at the very end of the complete walk. During and/or after wet weather some areas can become particularly muddy, so please wear appropriate footwear.

The main path passes the cottage, bending round and down to the stream. Cross at footbridge and continue uphill (note change in soil from clay to sand). Go through bridlegate and bear right onto the open common. Follow path uphill, turning right at track junction (these paths were cobbled during WW2 for bike and tank manoeuvres). Continue, ignoring any side paths (note the signs of many green valleys formed from springheads). Pass the bench, go through gate beside a cattlegrid and join another track, bearing right. Drop into a dell and up again (note pond on right and Gnome Cottage c.1730s on left). At junction before Highcombe Farm turn right through gate towards YHA. At next path junction by more gates, fork right on a footpath through the trees. Go down slight slope and steps to the stream. Cross at footbridge and continue up steep muddy dell opposite (note change in soil back to clay – several springs appear here, note all the moisture-loving ferns). Go through kissing gate and turn left, joining the short cut and Sailor’s Lane at (B).

Follow the Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.