

Imagine... the fun you could have exploring



Birchden Wood

Birchden Wood is a 42 hectare woodland in the heart of the High Weald.

The woodland is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission and provides an area for quiet recreation and nature conservation, as well as producing small quantities of timber.



Did you know?

The woodland has a long and interesting history which you can find out about as you walk the Easy Access Trail.

The circular Trail starts from the car park and follows paths suitable for all ages and abilities. There are other paths and trails to enjoy including those to Harrison's Rocks, an impressive sandstone outcrop to the west of Birchden Wood.

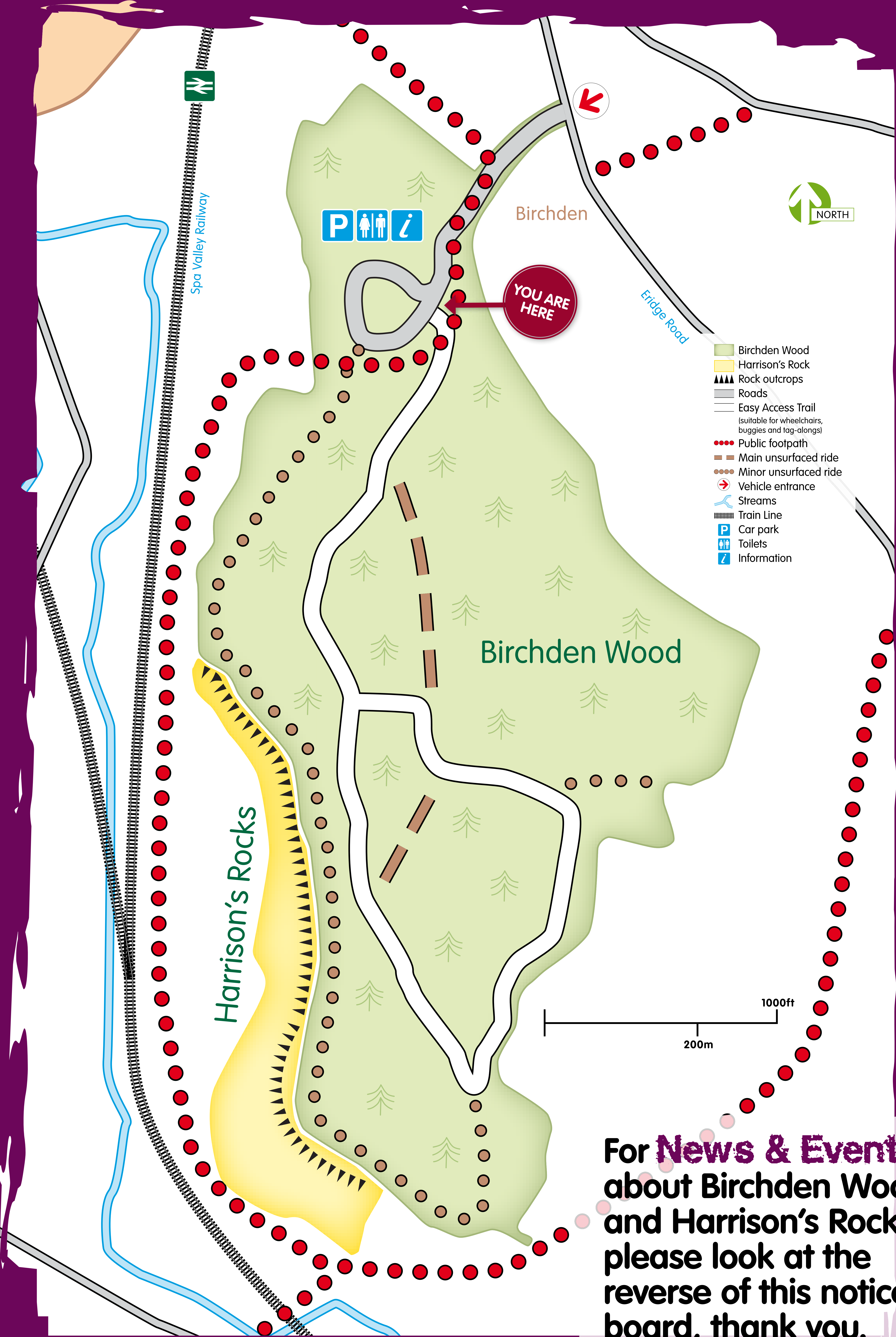
Tree facts

You can see different types of woodland at Birchden, including areas of mature conifers and mixed broadleaves, containing birch - the tree associated with the Wood's name. There are also sunny glades and areas of coppice woodland.

A variety of wildlife

This mixture of habitats makes the woodland ideal for a variety of birds and animals, such as nightingales, nightjars, adders and slow worms.





For **News & Events**
about Birchden Wood
and Harrison's Rocks,
please look at the
reverse of this notice
board, thank you.

Imagine...
135million
year-old rock at

Harrison's Rocks



These sedimentary rocks are sandstone deposited during the Cretaceous Period about 135 million years ago.

LOWER PATH &
WOODLAND PATH
From car park

Harrison's Rocks - User Code

KEY POINTS

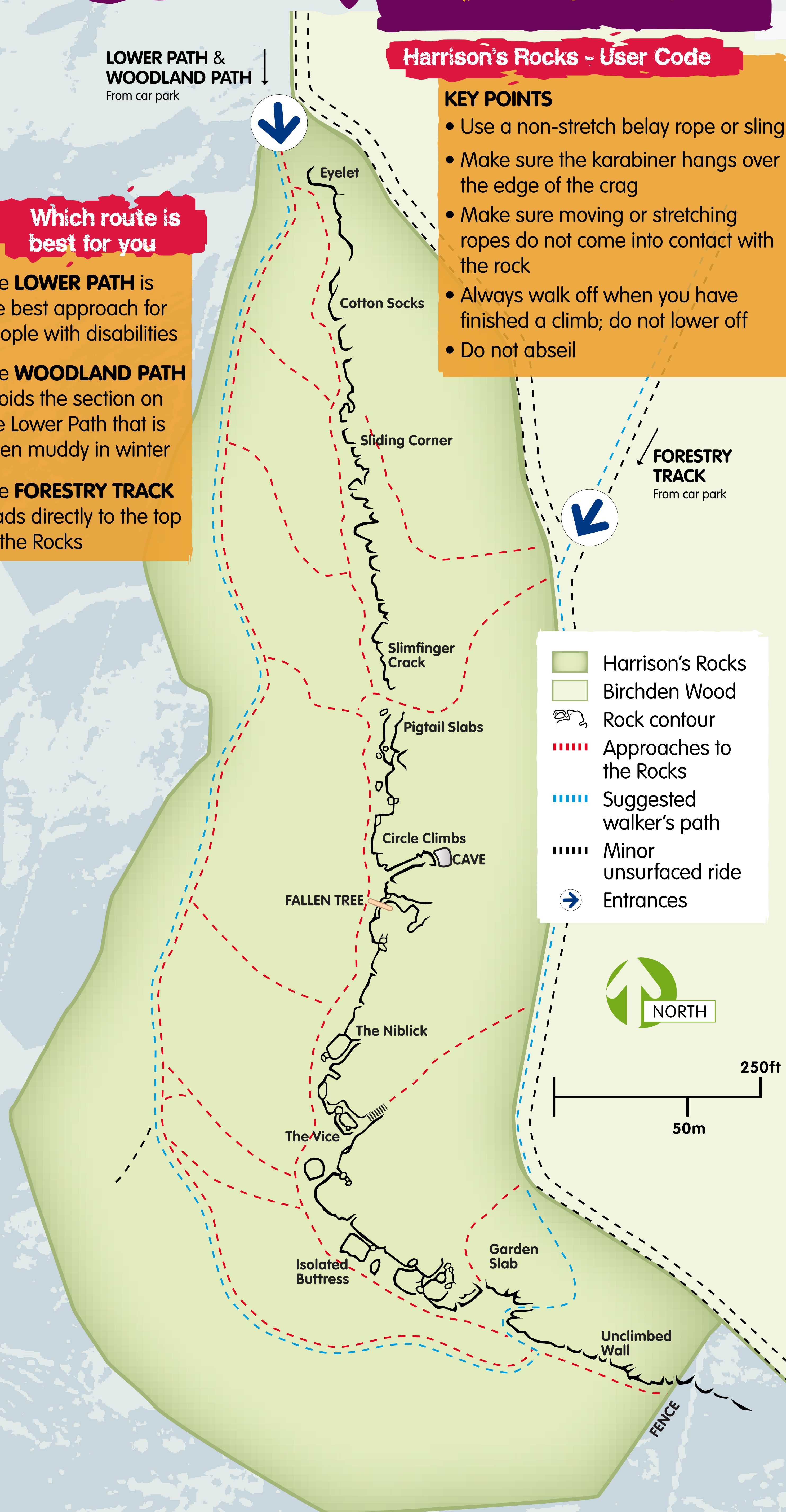
- Use a non-stretch belay rope or sling
- Make sure the karabiner hangs over the edge of the crag
- Make sure moving or stretching ropes do not come into contact with the rock
- Always walk off when you have finished a climb; do not lower off
- Do not abseil

Which route is best for you

The **LOWER PATH** is the best approach for people with disabilities

The **WOODLAND PATH** avoids the section on the Lower Path that is often muddy in winter

The **FORESTRY TRACK** leads directly to the top of the Rocks



Conservation plays a key role in the management of Harrison's Rocks and in the User Code. The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) owns the Rocks and is dedicated to preserving the site for the enjoyment of climbers and walkers.

Conservation

The nature of the rock, a thin weathered crust over poorly bonded sandstone, makes it susceptible to erosion. Please follow the User Code and take care not to damage the rock. Rope grooves worn in the top of the crag and erosion of holds and features are common problems. Various techniques are being used to minimise erosion of the rock and the surrounding land.

Harrison's

Climbing started at Harrison's after the First World War and had become very popular in the late fifties, when it became one of the busiest climbing venues in the country. This led to pressures on the local neighbourhood and the Rocks were bought by climbers and donated to the BMC.

Since then Harrison's has maintained its popularity. The Rocks are now owned and managed by the BMC. Site maintenance is contracted to Soft Rock, run by Chris Tullis, who can be contacted on **01892 862924 / 07977 930838**.

Get involved

Views of climbers and walkers are welcome and can be expressed by contacting the BMC office or attending either the **Sandstone Open Meeting** or the **Sandstone Volunteers Group (SVG)** meetings. These are held in May and early autumn respectively. The SVG is open to all, and its aims are to tackle any issues that arise at any of the Southern Sandstone outcrops, and to undertake work days at Harrison's and the other outcrops.

About the BMC

The BMC is the representative body that exists to protect the freedoms and promote the interests of climbers, hillwalkers and mountaineers. As part of its work the BMC negotiates access improvements and promotes cliff and mountain conservation. Please support the work of the BMC by becoming a member.

"The BMC recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."

Warning to all visitors

Harrison's Rocks have many unprotected natural hazards. You may walk around the Rocks, or climb on them, at your own risk.

The independent Steve Durkin Sandstone Trust aims to support the maintenance, preservation and development of the sandstone outcrops of Kent & Sussex with particular regard to future generations. Tel: **01892 860670**.



Please use Harrison's Rocks with care and respect.

About the ACT

The BMC run the Access and Conservation Trust (ACT) which supports projects to improve and promote sustainable use of our natural environment.



For information on any of the BMC's projects or programmes contact:

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