

H WOODS

Things to see

Ancient woodland: Hornbeam and sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards dominate most of Brede's ancient woodland. These areas can often be identified by their wonderful displays of bluebells and wood anemones in the spring.

Conifers: exotic pine, spruce and larch have been extensively planted on former farmland and in some of the ancient woodland areas. Some of these trees are now the biggest in the woods.

Historic features: sunken lanes ('holloways'), banks and ditches, sawpits, iron-ore extraction pits, ruined buildings and other lumps and bumps are all evidence of past uses of the old woods and farms that now make up Brede High Woods.

Wildlife: look out for species as diverse as fallow deer and rare beetles. The red cardinal beetle and green tiger beetle can be spotted with care. Classic woodland butterflies such as the silver-washed fritillary and white admiral can be spotted on sunny rides in the summer.



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Free access to woodland has been made possible by generous donations to the Woodland Trust since 1972.

To find out more about Brede High Woods and how to support the Woodland Trust, visit woodlandtrust.org.uk/brede

If you enjoyed your visit to Brede High Woods and would like to find other woods to visit nearby, go to VisitWoods.org.uk

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The management of these woods is grant aided by the Forestry Commission.



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The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



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Brede High Woods East Sussex



An exceptional landscape

BREDE HIGH WOODS

At 247 acres (262ha) Brede High Woods is a stunning mosaic of ancient and secondary woodland and heathy clearings on the north-east shore of the Powdermill reservoir. The Woodland Trust acquired the site in 2007. Since we have been protecting this important woodland by sensitively improving habitat for biodiversity and improving access and information for the public.

Many areas of the woods retain their original broadleaved character, with hornbeam and sweet chestnut coppice. Areas previously planted with conifers are gradually being returned to native broadleaf woodland, and we are safeguarding the important open habitats of heathland and acid grassland.

Farmland between the woods was planted with larch, pine, beech and sycamore from the 1930s after Hastings Corporation acquired the estate and built the reservoir. Under these plantations are remains of a typical High Weald landscape – woods and small fields connected by shaws and hedges with evidence of boundary banks, ditches and sunken tracks.

The woods contain a vast array of habitats that offers a home to a diverse range of wildlife. Walk in Brede High Woods and you can see open heathland, coppice, ghyll woodland, broadleaf woodland, small ponds, springs and streams.

There are 55 ancient woodland plants and trees including bluebell, wood anemone and primrose and rarer species such as green hellebore and wild service tree. Other species to look out for include spotted fly-catcher, fallow deer, hobby, nightingale, and buzzard, a species still comparatively rare in Sussex.

Well known for its invertebrates, Brede High Woods is the only known UK location of the flea beetle *Longitarus longisetata*, previously thought to be extinct. Stay a while longer and you may even spy glow worm in the grassland.



Above: Brede High Woods WTPL/Colin Varmell Species from top: Primrose WTPL/Steven Kind; Buzzard WTPL/Dennis Johnson; Red-headed cardinal beetle WTPL/Patrick Roper; Fallow deer WTPL/Carole Sutton

Getting there

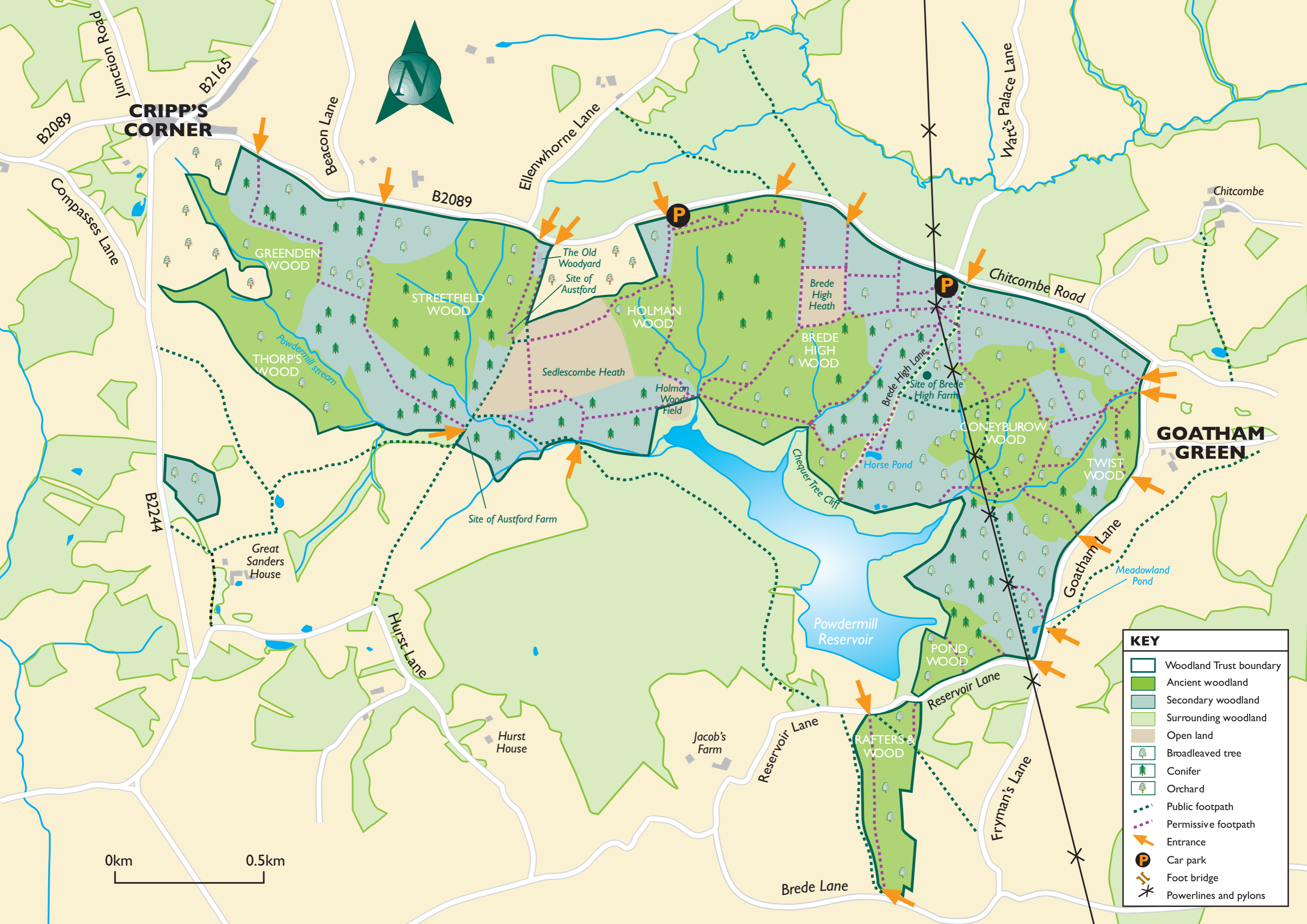
Brede High Woods is between **Cripps Corner** and **Broad Oak Brede**, south of the B2089 about 10 miles north of Hastings. The main car park lies to the south of the B2089 Cripps Corner/Broad Oak Brede Road almost opposite Watt's Palace Lane.

The nearest **bus stop** is at Cripps Corner about ¼ mile from the nearest entrance into the wood. Walk on the pavement on the north side of B2089 to entrance – take care crossing the busy road. Bus services are provided by Stagecoach route number **349** from Hastings to Hawkhurst which runs every two hours, journey time 35 minutes. Rambler Coaches route number **383** from Robertsbridge High Street runs once a day, journey time 15 minutes. For the latest travel information, contact Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

The nearest **public toilets** are in Sedlescombe in the public car park off Brede Lane, about 4 miles from Brede High Woods car park. Disabled facilities are available with RADAR key. No baby changing facilities. For more information from Rother District Council call 01424 787878.



Ordnance Survey map ref: TQ804206.



0km 0.5km

KEY	
	Woodland Trust boundary
	Ancient woodland
	Secondary woodland
	Surrounding woodland
	Open land
	Broadleaved tree
	Conifer
	Orchard
	Public footpath
	Permissive footpath
	Entrance
	Car park
	Foot bridge
	Powerlines and pylons