

Another right turn leads to a magnificent **veteran oak**. Linger under the shade of its branches for a while, or lean against its 200 year-old trunk, and take in the

roast if the wood mice haven't got there first!

ground you should find the green, spiky shells of the chestnut in winter, and you could find chestnuts to with **sweet chestnut** coppice on your left. On the Head up the slope beyond Decoy Pond, and turn right

you'll be able to sit and enjoy it all!

other pond wildlife to flourish – and it means that the pond. This will allow dragonflies, damselflies and the dam, bringing the water levels up and opening up overgrown and almost empty, but we have reinstated **Decoy Pond**. When we arrived, the pond was

Here the trail turns right, soon sloping down to the abundant woods, scattered farmsteads and sunken landscapes – rolling hills, irregular-shaped fields, Outstanding Natural Beauty one of England's finest features that make the High Weald Area of panoramas, allowing you to see some of the special This is a spot where in future we will open up

The track continues through to a **main crossroads**. made by **wood ants**. These industrious chaps build their homes – which can reach up to two feet high – from fallen leaves and other woodland debris. Look for the little paths the lines of ants have worn bare and we expect woodlarks to return quickly.

Soon you may notice heather plants clinging on along the sides of the path. All the land either side of you was once sunny heathland where the heather could thrive, but this was destroyed when the conifer crop was planted. We will restore much of the heathland here, to see special heathland wildlife, such as rare nightjars. special moments.

is somewhere to enjoy bird song, rare habitats and nature trail. This isn't a place of big "bird spectacles" – it's developing simple facilities, such as a car park and free. It is a quiet and peaceful site, where we are restored for wildlife. It is open all year round and entry is Broadwater Warren is a special place that is now being

The car park – just walk as if heading back out of the car park and turn right through the kissing gate on to the main track. It is wide and flat, but can be muddy in the winter. We intend to put an all-ability surface along this first stretch in future, to give everyone the chance to see special heathland wildlife, such as rare nightjars.

As you carry on from here, look out for big mounds made by **wood ants**. These industrious chaps build their homes – which can reach up to two feet high – from fallen leaves and other woodland debris. Look for the little paths the lines of ants have worn bare and we expect woodlarks to return quickly.

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Walking the trail

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Visitors, please note:

We welcome **dogs**, but request that you keep them under control at all times. In particular, please prevent your dog leaving the paths to avoid disturbing rare birds and respect that some visitors may feel nervous around dogs. Please clear up after your pet

the paths are in general flat or gently sloping, but there are a few **fairly steep slopes**. Many of the paths can become **very muddy** in winter and after rain – wellingtons or walking boots are advisable

midges can be a nuisance on damp, humid days.

This leaflet will help you find your way around the site and discover its varied landscape, habitats and wildlife. The main trail is 2.25 miles (3.5 km) long – please allow 2 hours to complete it. Simply follow the white arrows on the marker posts.

This guide just gives you a flavour of what you might see – there's no doubting you could see much more!

You are welcome to explore the main tracks and devise your own route, but please keep to the paths in order to avoid disturbance to wildlife.

We hope you have a great time here. Remember that the reserve you see today will be quite different in ten years' time. Our restoration will open up the historic mix of heathland and woodland habitats.

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Welcome to RSPB Broadwater Warren nature reserve

TRAIL GUIDE



Broadwater Warren
nature reserve

Get close to nature



a million voices for nature

tussock sedges stands. In the future, we will build a boardwalk to get you into the mire without risking losing you up to your waist! For now, the trail leads straight up the hill. Take care after wet weather as this stretch can be slippery. This is another area that used to be heathland and which we will restore in due course.

There is a right turn back to the car park and trail end.

You can contact the Site Manager at: RSPB, Unit 10, Sham Farm Business Units, Eridge Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9JA. Tel: 01892 752430, e-mail southeast@rspb.org.uk



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- n The European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund of the EU
- n The Department for Environment, Food



As a charity, the RSPB depends on the goodwill and financial support of people like you. Please visit www.rspb.org.uk/supporting or call 01767 680551 to find out more.



The RSPB speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment. Nature is amazing – help us keep it that way.

Front cover: southern hawkker by Adrian Thomas; woodland trail by Graham Davies (all RSPB). Chiffchaff by Sue Tranter (rspb-images.com)
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BWW-1118-09-10

Chiffchaff

sounds of the ancient woodland. In spring and summer, these sounds include the "chiffchaffing" chiffchaffs and sweet-singing blackcaps. These too nest on or near the ground – if you thought that birds nest in trees, think again here at Broadwater Warren!










You can, if you wish, take a detour from the main trail here by turning left opposite the oak tree onto the Sussex Wildlife Trust nature reserve to see the curious **Eridge Rocks**. Then retrace your steps back to the old oak.

Carrying on from the oak, the path can sometimes be muddy. Look for animal tracks such as **deer slots**, evidence of some of the reserve's more timid residents.

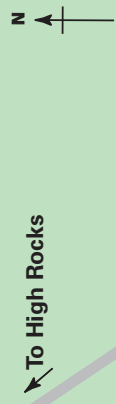
The trail turns right and then left to a copse of soaring mature pines. Head into the trees and follow the winding path. It isn't the richest place for wildlife, but it is a wonderful shady promenade and a favourite place for local walkers. Some thinning out will be needed in the future to keep the plantation healthy, but we intend to maintain the serene atmosphere here. We are adding a **warren viewpoint** overlooking the heathland restoration to the west.

Beyond the pines, the trail drops down past a round pond, totally encircled by trees, and across a babbling stream. To the left of here is a rare wetland habitat called "**valley mire**" where an army of solemn

Key

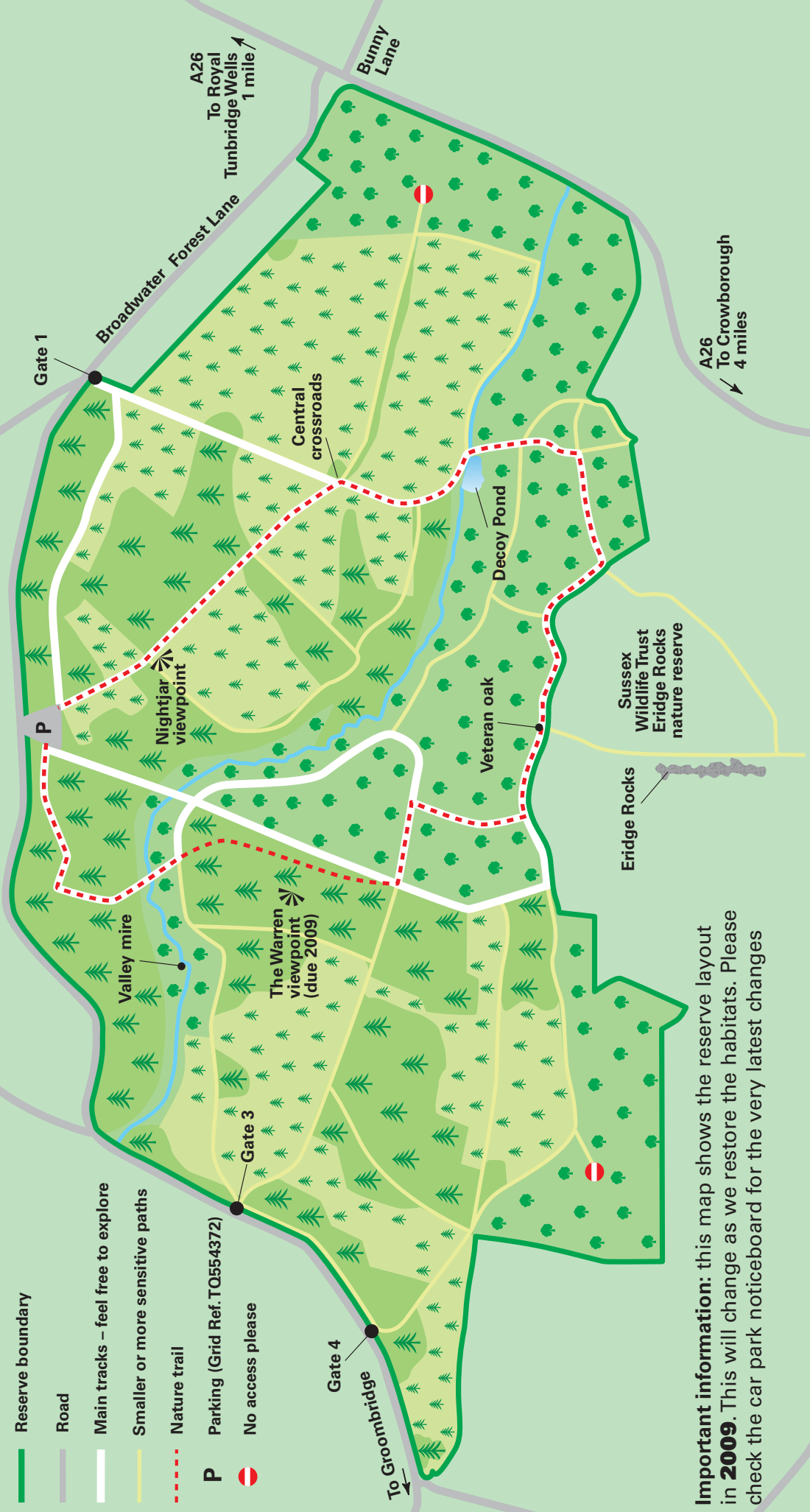
-  Mature conifer plantations
-  Young conifer plantations
-  Plantations in deciduous woodland
-  Water
-  Reserve boundary
-  Road
-  Main tracks – feel free to explore
-  Smaller or more sensitive paths
-  Nature trail

-  **P** Parking (Grid Ref. TQ554372)
-  No access please



↖ To High Rocks

0 250m 500m



Important information: this map shows the reserve layout in **2009**. This will change as we restore the habitats. Please check the car park noticeboard for the very latest changes

Sussex Wildlife Trust Eridge Rocks nature reserve

Eridge Rocks

Veteran oak

Decoy Pond

Central crossroads

Nightjar viewpoint

The Warren viewpoint (due 2009)

Valley mire

Gate 1

Gate 3

Gate 4

To Groombridge

Broadwater Forest Lane

Bunny Lane

A26 To Royal Tunbridge Wells 1 mile ↗

A26 To Crowborough 4 miles ↘