



HIGHBROOK SMOKERY

Highbrook is situated in the western end of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on a sandstone ridge 1.5 miles south of the Medway/Ouse watershed, and within the administrative Parish of West Hoathly. It has a population of approximately 120.

The footpath between the Smokery and the Church connects the Sussex Border Path (1.6 km to the East), and the High Weald Landscape Trail (1 km to the West).

The Smokery was donated to the village of Highbrook by Dame Rebekah Clarke in 1982. It is believed to have been built around 1780 as a meat smokery, but has not been used for this purpose for many years. Together with the Village Hall, Playground, Garages and Car Park, it is maintained by the Highbrook Village Hall Management Committee

A generous landscape

From as long ago as 4,300 BC people drove their pigs into the High Weald in autumn. Living in temporary pastures called "dens", the pigs feasted on acorns. They were then slaughtered and the fresh meat was preserved by salting and then smoking.

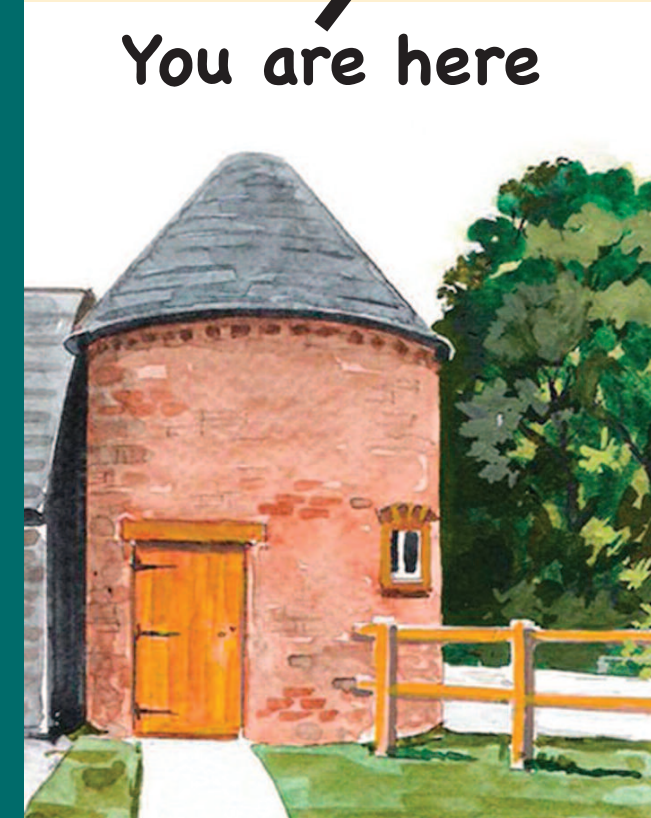
Visible traces

The legacy of all this activity is still visible in the sunken roads of the Weald, and in the many place names ending in "den".

The clay bricks and wood that the Smokery is made from also come from local woodland and brickmakers. To find out more about the unique heritage of this outstanding environment visit www.highweald.org



High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



You are here

The roof of the Smokery was restored in 2004, with the generous support of Awards for All.

The major restoration of the building was completed by B J Babb Builders in 2009, and funded with grants from the heritage Lottery Fund (through the High Weald AONB Unit), Mid Sussex District Council, Gatwick Airport Community Trust, West Sussex County Council, West Hoathly Parish Council, and the residents and friends of Highbrook.

