

Brede High Woods

Educational Resources

Fact File

Grid Reference: TQ 803 205, Ordnance Survey Landranger 199 or Explorer 124

Location

Brede High Woods is a Woodland Trust site located along the B2089 between Cripps Corner and Broad Oak Brede near Staplecross and approximately 7 miles from Rye in East Sussex. The public car park is located approximately 1¼ miles from Broad Oak Brede.

Availability

Open all year round. Contact the woodland manager before you plan your visit to ensure that no forest operations are taking place in the areas you will be visiting. The woodlands can be enjoyed at any time of the year. The acid grassland area is best seen in late spring early summer and the heathland is best enjoyed in the late summer early autumn when the heather is in flower. If studying the archaeology, it is best seen during the late autumn through to the early spring when the leaves have fallen and ground flora is sparser.

Parking

For access map go to www.maps.google.co.uk and search for Brede High Woods schools access, click on user created content for Brede High Wood Schools Access Map Woodland Trust Land.

There is only one car park available for public use, though there are some small lay-bys at some of the access points. The main car park has a height barrier so 4x4s and minibuses cannot gain access. If you are travelling in larger vehicles then you may be able to park outside of the car park, but please do not block the entrance. If you are travelling by coach then you will need to drop off outside the car park and the coach will need to move to one of the numerous lay-bys along the main road for the duration of your visit. During dropping off and picking up please do not block the entrance as the car park is frequently in use, and please be aware and warn of other vehicles.

Access to the woodland known as Rafters and Horns Wood off of the reservoir road is only achievable by car or minibus. The pedestrian access gate next to the road bridge over the stream can provide parking space for two cars, on the wide pavement on the bridge itself you can park one car and one minibus, and there is space in a small infrequently used gateway to the reservoir land for one minibus and one car. You can get to this road from the B2089 or from Sedlescombe village.

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Facilities

There are no toilet facilities on site; the nearest ones are in Sedlescombe village in the car park with the recycling facilities. For emergency purposes we suggest that you take toilet roll and either dry wash anti-bacterial hand gel or hand wipes with you and suitable bags for disposal off of the site.

Mobile phone reception is varied across the site, but seems to be best with either O2 or Vodafone networks. Reception on these networks is available in the car park and the majority of the higher parts of the site, but becomes patchier as you move down the hill towards the reservoir. The nearest public phone box is at Cripps Corner or Sedlescombe. There is also a small village shop in Broad Oak Brede.

Activities include

Habitats – The wide variety of habitats, predominantly woodlands including ancient and secondary broadleaved and conifer plantations, acid grassland and heathland, all provide opportunities for animal and plant studies, food chain activities, art and discovery and environmental games.

History – Hiding beneath the woodland canopy is a network of sunken lanes, wooded banks and strangely regular shaped holes in the ground. Brede was once the hub of the local iron industry the woodlands were managed for charcoal to fuel the furnaces as well as timber for a wide range of purposes. Evidence of these activities can still be seen today.

More recently having been the location for a gunpowder works, a manor house, farms at various times, and a reservoir, Brede High Woods makes an interesting study on how the value of the woodland and the uses of the area have changed through time.

The Countryside Code

Please protect the plants and animals and take your litter home, consider other people and leave gates and property as you find it. For more information and activities about accessing the countryside go to www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things_to_know/countryside_code

Risk Assessment

A generic risk assessment for the site is available. However, we suggest that all group leaders visit the site themselves during their planning to familiarise themselves with the features you wish to study and their location within the site. There are many paths you can use, but there are no specific way marked routes that are available for education groups, so please use the maps with the features identified to familiarise yourself with these before you bring your group to visit.

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