

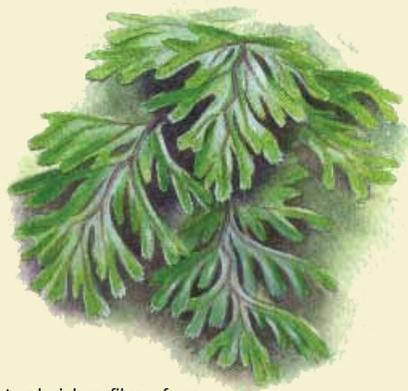
Sussex Wildlife Trust

Eridge Rocks



Welcome to Eridge Rocks Nature Reserve

The High Weald is home to the only sandstone outcrops in South East England. These impressive cliffs support an internationally important community of ferns, mosses, lichens and liverworts.



tunbridge filmy fern

Little wonders

The great variety of tiny ferns, mosses, lichens and liverworts living on these rocks make this a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Collectively called the lower plants, over 150 different types grow here - it is just like a miniature rainforest!

Wearing the concrete overcoat?

Touch the stone and feel the honeycomb pattern caused by weathering. The rocks are hard like cement on the outside while being soft and moist on the inside. However, if the outer coat is broken these tough looking cliffs will wear away. So please, no fires or digging near the rocks.

The lower plants grow here because the rocks act like a giant sponge seeping out moisture. This helps to keep it humid, perfect for these plants.



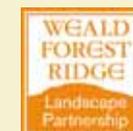
Served on the rocks

People have always been fascinated by this unusual outcrop. Victorians were fond of hosting elegant dinner parties here, complete with servants!

Unfortunately their love of these rocks was matched by their desire to plant Rhododendron which almost destroyed this valuable site.

Sussex Wildlife Trust has now cleared Rhododendron from the rocks and woodland encouraging the lower plants and woodland flowers to thrive.

The production of this panel has been supported by:



GEAR (Groombridge and Eridge Alternatives for Rubbish)

The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme is involving people with the unique heritage in one of England's Finest Landscapes.

www.highweald.org

Stay safe

Some of the rocks are open to climbers, however you must not try to climb any of the cliffs without the proper training and equipment. Thank you.

For more information on Eridge Rocks Nature Reserve or how you can help, please contact the Trust.

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www.sussexwt.org.uk

Taking Care of Sussex