

Brede High Woods

5 OR 7½ MILES (shorter route from Woodland Trust car park)
2 OR 3½ HOURS
MODERATE

1 START

From bus shelter opposite Red Lion Inn in Brede, go downhill for 100 metres and turn R along tarmac road to 'Brede Water Supply Work', taking in views of traditional farming landscape across the valley. After ¼ mile, follow public footpath through metal gate and bear R along grassy path to next gate. Enter southern tip of Little Park Wood via hand gate. After passing under second line of pylons, exit wood by way of gate to follow track up to Brook Lodge Farm. After passing large barn on R, turn R along surfaced road up to T-junction, then turn L.

2 1½ MILES

Continue on Brede Lane to enter the Trust's Rafter's & Horn's Wood through gap in fencing at southern end. Follow well-defined path inside western edge of this ancient wood, looking out for white wood anemones in spring. Go through squeeze gap and turn L over road bridge. Go past Fishing Club and after 20 metres take public footpath to R, into woodland. Follow footpath up

and down through mixed woodland, crossing 3 footbridges. To R there are glimpses of Powdermill Reservoir, constructed in 1930 to serve the expanding population of Hastings. Pass redundant stile into area of tall Scots pine, taking care on narrow section downhill. Enter Trust land over stream and turn immediately L, crossing 2 small footbridges to follow public footpath along northern bank. At T-junction of paths, turn L for 200 metres.

3 3¼ MILES

Turn R up public footpath, once an ancient trackway, and at derelict farm building on L turn R to crossroads. Continue straight on through Sedlescombe Heath, a valuable habitat that is being restored. Once in Holman Wood, continue uphill as path joins from R, and when metal gate on road is in sight, take path to R between tall Scots pines. About 100 metres after next road entrance follow main path as it takes right-angled bend to R. After 150 metres

turn L. Take a moment to sit on the bench to admire views across Brede High Heath to wooded valley beyond. Reaching established woodland, turn R to follow path to bottom of hill. Turn L along ancient woodbank lined with coppiced hornbeams. Ignore path to L and continue on to crossroads beneath electricity wires, then turn R. *For Woodland Trust car park turn L up steps.*

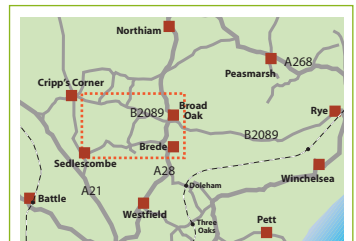
4 4¾ MILES

From Woodland Trust car park take steps straight down past information board and at crossroads go straight on. Follow path as it traverses the slope through predominantly beech plantation. Exit on to sunken lane and turn R to pass log seating area. After 100 metres turn L to follow public footpath, looking out for bluebells in coppiced woodland. Pass under electricity wires on embankment and turn R at crossroads with seat and saw pit, once used for turning trunks into planks. Follow footpath down and round to L to cross large footbridge. At crossroads go straight on to cross next footbridge and climb steep steps to follow path up to second pylon.

5 5¼ MILES

For shortcut, go straight on to squeeze gap at road junction. Turn R down Goatham Lane for ½ mile to rejoin route

by turning R at point 2 on the map. At crossroads turn L and leave the wood by squeeze gap in fencing. Cross road, go through gap in hedge with hand gate and follow line of fence to stile. Climb over second stile and cross pasture to enter North Wood via stile. Bear slightly L and take care to follow correct angle of waymarks (and occasional bits of yellow tape) down through broadleaved woodland. Cross powerlines and re-enter wood over footbridge. Head straight uphill through sweet chestnut coppice. Exit wood, keeping belt of trees on R, pass through open gate and head straight across field to road. Turn L into Brede village and R on to A28, following pavement back to bus stop.



TERRAIN

The route is on surfaced roads or woodland tracks, which may be boggy in wet conditions. There are short sections on quiet country lanes and the A28 has a pavement. There are 3 stiles on approach to North Wood.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Regular buses run from Hastings, Rye and Tenterden, Monday to Saturday. The Southern train service between Hastings and Rye stops at Doleham station, less than 2 miles from Brede village. For information on train and bus services call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 (www.traveline.org.uk). For details of coach services contact National Express on 0871 781 8181 (www.nationalexpress.com).

PARKING

Woodland Trust car park on B2089, almost opposite Watt's Palace Lane (grid reference TQ804206). Car park behind Red Lion Inn, Brede (grid reference TQ826183).

REFRESHMENTS

Red Lion Inn, Brede, TN31 6EJ (telephone 01424 882188), serves lunch and evening meals every day (grid reference TQ826183).

ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centres at Battle, Hastings and Rye. Call South East Tourism on 0871 716 2449. There are youth hostels at Eastbourne and Blackboys, Uckfield (telephone 0800 019 1700 or visit www.yha.org.uk).

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 124; Landranger 199

OTHER WOODS TO VISIT

Go to visitwoods.org.uk or see the Exploring Woodland guide for South East England.