

# Victory Wood

Nr Whitstable, Kent

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE

Victory Wood is a wonderful place for children to experience the beauty of the countryside, gain a measure of solitude and an appreciation of nature. Its links to the Battle of Trafalgar emphasise how history is tied to our landscape.

### How to get there:

Directions from London:

Take the A2 and then the M2 up to J7. Continue on the A299 and take the small turn-off signed to Yorkletts/Dargate/Waterham just before the BP garage. In 200m take first left and cross over the A299 to T junction. Turn left into Plumpudding Lane and then first right at the next T junction into the village of Highstreet onto Dargate Road. Within 100m on bend in road turn right and follow signs to Victory Wood and park in car park.

Parking on-site is available for cars, however a height barrier means coaches and minibuses are not able to park in the Woodland Trust car park. Children therefore need to be

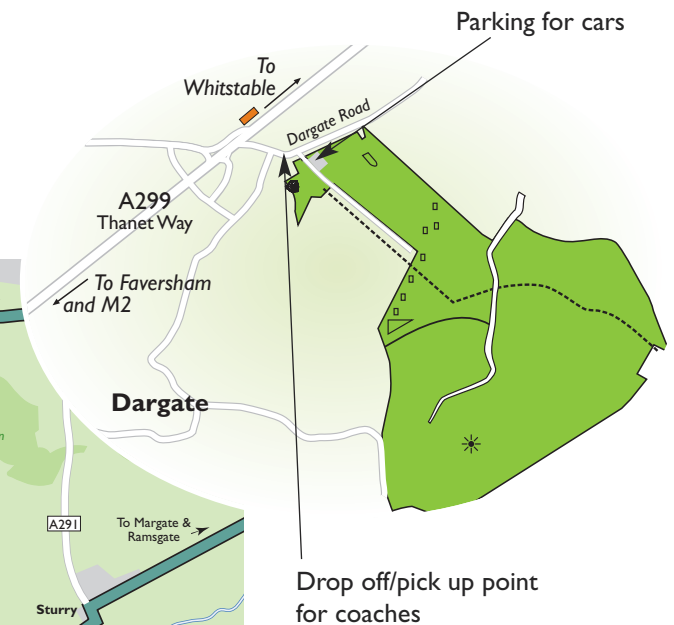
dropped off on the bend of Dargate Road and make the short walk into the car park. With prior permission, coaches can sometimes park at the Little Chef on the north side of A299.

There are no toilet facilities on site, so prepare your children before leaving school. In cold or wet weather, coats are essential and, in hot weather, sun-hats and drinking water are advised. Since the ground is mainly clay it can become muddy after rain so sensible footwear is advised – trainers are fine.

The handout for pupils *what to wear* is designed to be printed off and given to each child in advance so they can arrive appropriately dressed for their visit.



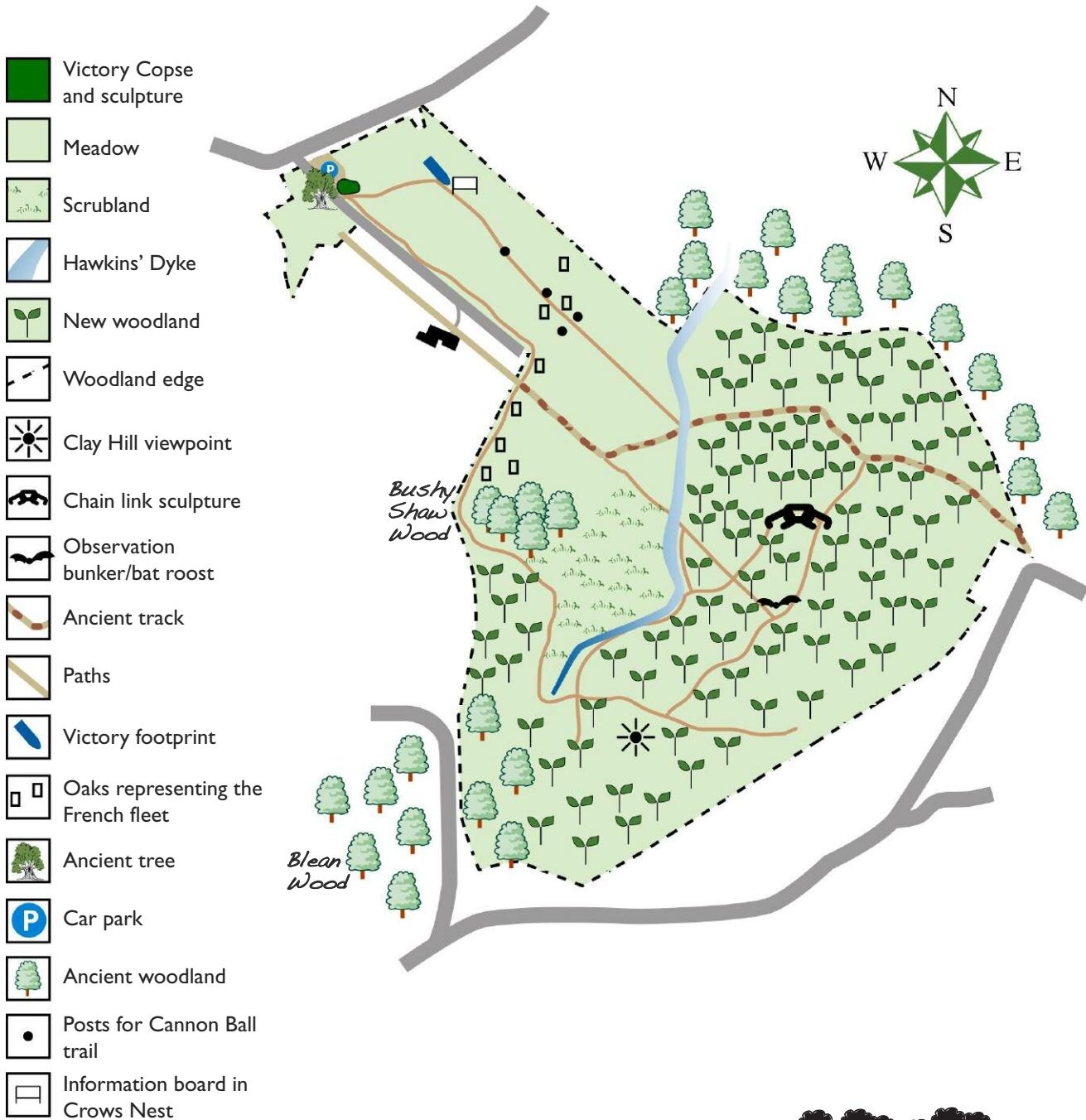
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## MAP OF THE SITE



# Victory Wood

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The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. It has more than 300,000 members and supporters.

## What does the Woodland Trust do?

1. Plants new trees
2. Protects old trees and woodland
3. Helps wildlife
4. Helps people to enjoy woodland too

## Fact file

- ♥ The Woodland Trust started in 1972
- ♥ The Trust cares for more than 1,000 woods across the UK
- ♥ It has planted over 4.5 million trees
- ♥ Millions of visits are made to Trust woods each year
- ♥ The land now known as Victory Wood was purchased by the Trust in 2004 and is named after Admiral Nelson's ship at the Battle of Trafalgar



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Pre-visit activity

On-site activity

Post-visit activity

## QUICK QUIZ

This quick quiz may be used when the children have a long walk to reach their next activity. Answers are in italic.

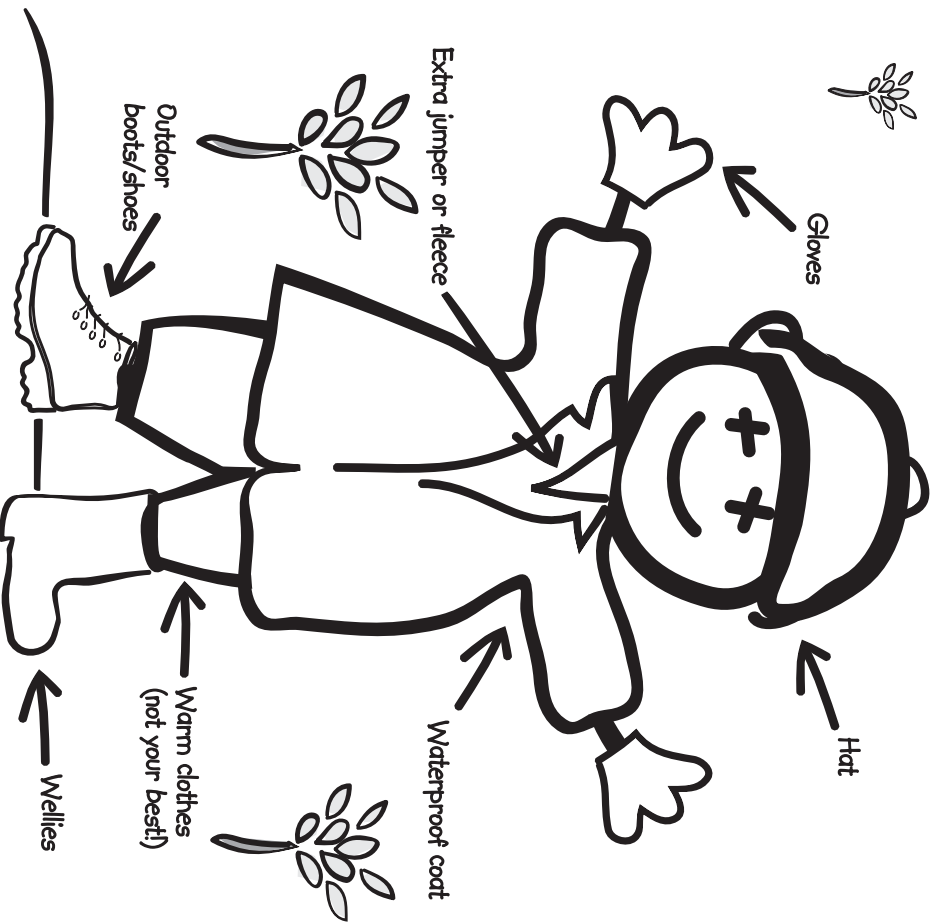
- CAR PARK: Can you spot the ancient tree? Do you know what tree it is? How old do you think it is?**  
*(It is an oak in the field over the road from the car park. It has lost most of its crown and is thought to be over 500 years old)*
- STATUE IN CAR PARK: Name two of the trees used on HMS Victory**  
*(The names are carved on the statue)*
- FOOTPRINT: Where is the crows nest usually found on a ship?**  
*(At the top of the mast)*
- How many hills can you see at Victory Wood.**  
*(Two – Clay Hill which is part of a long ridge and the one with the footprint on)*
- What do you think is at the top of the ridge on the left hand side?**  
*(The chain link sculpture)*
- Can you guess what the flat piece of grass running along behind the farm buildings is used for?**  
*(An airstrip)*
- THE HOLM OAKS: These holm oaks are evergreen. What does this mean?**  
*(That they are in leaf all year round)*
- Name three things you can see which are made of wood.**  
*(Fence rails, buildings, gates, tree stakes, sculpture, footprint of Victory etc)*
- BUSHY SHAW WOOD: Name three kinds of tree in this wood.**  
*(Oak, hazel, hawthorn)*
- There was once a stream running through the site. Can you see where it was?**  
*(It is known as 'Hawkins Dyke' and runs across site to the corner of Ellenden Wood – heavily vegetated now)*
- How can you tell the soil here is clay?**  
*(It becomes rock hard and cracks in summer and very claggy in winter)*
- Find three different types of grass.**
- Can you hear any bird song? Can you spot any?**  
*(Between May – August there are skylarks nesting in the sapling wood which have a beautiful, distinctive song when soaring in the sky)*
- Can you see any butterflies or bees?**
- CHAIN LINK SCULPTURE: Near the top of the hill is a green concrete shelter what do you think it was used for?**  
*(A war time observation bunker which is to be converted into a bat roost).*



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In case it's a cold/wet day...



## GETTING READY TO GO:

What to wear on a visit to Victory Wood

You won't enjoy it like this...

