

Shave Wood, Boarshead

Background information

Location	<p>Part of Limekiln/Park Wood, Limekiln Forest Road, Boarshead, near Crowborough, East Sussex. Latitude 51°03'55"N. Longitude 0°11'58"E OS Grid reference: TQ 542 318 Nearest postcode: TN3 9LQ Within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</p>
Property	<p>7 acres (2.8 ha). Approx 250x125m. Bounded by Byway to West and track to East. Boundary marked by Blue paint markings on trees and on row of stakes along southern boundary.</p>
Travel	<p>Off A26 at Boarshead then 1.5km along Boarshead Lane. Eridge Station approx 3km with regular trains from London Bridge.</p>
Access	<p>From Boarshead Lane, through locked gate onto Limekiln Forest Road track (Restricted Byway) for 250m and then further locked gate onto gravel track which accesses all of east perimeter of wood. A mud track within the boundary also runs up west edge adjacent the Byway.</p>
Topography/ soil	<p>Gently sloping down (about 10m) towards NE; elevation 135-145m OD. Well drained. Series of gullies (probably drainage channels) cross the site. Acidic top crust (approx pH 4) sandy loam over Wealden clay base.</p>
Trees	<p>Predominantly coppiced Sweet Chestnut and planted Scots Pine, Larch and more recent Corsican Pine. Also self-seeded Birch and some Oak, Beech, Yew, Willow, Rowan, Holly and Hazel. Bracken, heather, bilberries, brambles. Chestnut stools are several hundred years old but coppiced so trunks generally around 30-40 years old.</p>
Wildlife	<p>Signs of deer, badgers, various species of birds.</p>
History	<p>Classified as 'Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site' (PAWS)- ie has always been forest, originally ancient woodland but latterly cultivated plantation. Chestnut coppiced originally to supply poles for local hop farms, but hop industry has largely disappeared. Softwood planted for timber. Was part of larger wood until recently sold off in small parcels.</p>
Our Aims	<p>Recreation for family (enjoying natural setting), conservation management, increasing biodiversity. We aim to broaden the range of species, and particularly encourage permaculture/woodland food opportunities. Initial works include thinning to promote broadleaf trees, clearing deadwood/brush into habitat piles and thickening hedging around perimeter, some planting of native species, bracken clearing.</p>
Nearby facilities	<p>Boarshead Inn pub 1.5km to NW, BP garage/ shop on A26 at Boarshead. Lynne's Organic farm 500m to E. Town of Crowborough 3km to south.</p>