



Kent Country Parks

Shorne Woods



What's on offer?

At Shorne Woods Country Park, the 288 acres of ancient broadleaved woodland and open grassland offers visitors something to enjoy in all seasons.

- A full events programme is available
- The visitor centre hosts a café offering sandwiches and snacks.
Open April – October: 10.00am – 5.00pm, daily
November – March:
11.00am – 4.00pm, weekdays
10.00am – 4.00pm, weekends & school holidays
- There are two play areas, a challenging one for those aged up to 16 and a traditional play area for younger children
- Orienteering and geocaching (electronic treasure hunt) activities
- A tramper is available for hire, in advance, for those with mobility difficulties
- Room-hire and team-building activities are available
- Education programmes are offered for schools from Key Stage 1 to A Level
- Enjoy unlimited parking with our annual season ticket



naturally, a great day out

How to find us

Shorne Woods Country Park is open daily (except Christmas Day) from 9.00am until dusk.

Contact:

Shorne Woods Country Park, Brewers Road, Shorne, Kent DA12 3HX

Tel: **01474 823800** Fax: **01474 823620**

Email: kentcountryparks@kent.gov.uk

Web: www.kent.gov.uk/kentcountryparks

By car

Signposted off the A2 between Gravesend and Rochester at the Cobham/Shorne junction.



By bus

Nu-Venture 416/417 service between Gravesend – Meopham/Gravesend – Cliffe runs Monday to Saturday and stops at the park entrance.
Tel: Traveline: **0871 200 22 33**.

By train

The nearest stations are Meopham, (4.2 miles, 6.8 km) Sole Street (2.6 miles, 4.2 km), Higham (2.3 miles, 3.7 km) and Gravesend (5.4 miles, 8.7 km). All served by taxis and buses: 416/417. For rail enquiries call: **08457 48 49 50**.

This leaflet is available in other formats and can be explained in other languages.
Tel: **08458 247 600**
(Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm).

Engaging, relaxing, entertaining, it's a great day out – *naturally*



Shorne Woods Country Park is a large and varied site. Alongside our main routes, play areas and picnic areas, there are two special interest routes:

Heritage Trail

Shorne Woods has a long and fascinating history. To see the main historical sites, visit the display boards at these points on the map. An audio guide can be downloaded from our website in advance and played on an MP3 player. There is also an archaeology finds display upstairs in the visitor centre.

- 1 Evidence of the clay industry from 1920s to 1960s
- 2 Randall Manor, a medieval house platform
- 3 A medieval track, 'the hollow way'
- 4 Prehistory sculpture: evidence of our mesolithic ancestors
- 5 Carriage drive, which once led to Cobham Hall
- 6 World War 2, Royal Air Force camp
- 7 World War 2 Army camp (no panel, not on MP3 tour)

Explorer Trail

Follow the green route for the site's best landscapes and habitats. For more information on these, please visit the display in the visitor centre.

1 Darnley Mausoleum

From this point the Grade II listed mausoleum, built in 1786, can be viewed on the horizon.

2 Ponds and wetlands

The ponds in this clay pit area are home to great crested newts, 19 different species of dragonfly and damselfly and at night daubenton bats feed on insects.

3 Coppice woodland

The rotational cutting of sweet chestnut allows light to reach the woodland, promoting wild flowers. The variety of age of trees encourages small mammals, butterflies and birds.



4 Woodland rides and glades

These open 'corridors' connect areas of woodland. They allow sunlight into the wood and enable wildlife to spread through the park and increase its abundance.

5 Wood pasture and acid grassland

The veteran trees provide habitat for insects and birds, such as the green and lesser spotted woodpeckers. The bracken is controlled by cutting and grazing, allowing grass and herbs to flourish.

6 Ancient woodland

These old trees are home to a wide variety of plants and animals. Lichen and mosses grow on the bark, and cracks in them are home to beetles and other insects.

7 The clay pit

Here the silver birch trees shelter the newer oaks, sweet chestnut and hornbeam which will eventually return the area to semi-natural woodland. In autumn it is filled with fungi.

Welcome to Shorne Woods Country Park



● Easy Access Trail (0.6 miles, 1 km)

A circular trail through birch woodland and grassy glades. Also the Trim-Trail route.

● Easy Access Extension

Direct linear route to the Knoll view point and Randall Manor from the Easy Access Trail.

● Purple Route (0.9 miles, 1.4 km)

An easy to medium route taking in the fishing lakes, meadows and following the edge of the ancient woodland.

● Red Route (1.9 miles, 3.1 km)

A medium to difficult route. The route follows the Purple Route, but then turns off to take in the Knoll view point, Cardiac Hill and the Faerie Ring.

● Explorer Trail (3.7 miles, 6 km)

A difficult route. It follows some challenging terrain, and takes in the site's best wild flowers, fungi and wetland areas.

● Heritage Trail (2.2 miles, 3.5 km)

A medium to difficult route which explores the history and archaeology of the park from 6000 years ago to the present day.

● Horse/Cycle Route (1.9 miles, 3 km)

A circular route, with extensions that link to permissive bridle ways outside the park. It can be tough in winter and is an adventurous route for cyclists. Horse box parking is available by arrangement.

● The Darnley Trail (6.2 miles, 10 km)

This circular route for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians links the Country Park with Cobham Park, Ranscombe Farm Reserve, Ashenbank Wood and Jeskyns. With several entry points and short-cuts, it makes up a varied and interesting network.

Wild flowers and fungi



In spring see bluebells and common-spotted and early purple orchids. Fungi abounds in autumn.

Birds



Look out for many birds, including green woodpeckers, jays, tawny owls and long-tailed tits.

Dragonflies



There are 19 different species here, including the emperor, ruddy darter and broad-bodied chaser.

Pondlife



Great-crested newts, smooth newts and great diving beetles are abundant from April – June.

Reptiles



The grass snake and common lizard make the park their home.

Shorne Woods Country Park is a Site of Special Scientific Interest so please remember you are not allowed to pick flowers or fungi or remove anything from this site without prior permission.

Shorne Woods Country Park



- Horse/Cycle Route
- Horse/Cycle Route shortcut
- EA Easy Access and Trim Trail
- Easy Access Route extension
- Darnley Trail
- Purple Route (45 minutes)
- Red Route (1 hour 15 minutes)
- Explorer Trail (2 hours 30 minutes)
- Heritage Trail (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Other paths
- Public Right Of Way
- Café
- Visitor centre
- Picnic area
- Play areas
- Heritage point
- Easy access gate
- View point
- Dog off lead entrance point
- Dogs on lead zone
- Seasonal grazing area
- Fishing
- Parking
- Toilets
- Disabled toilets
- Points on Explorer Trail
- Ponds/lakes
- Steps
- Benches