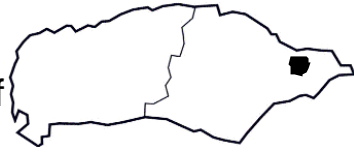


# Flatropers Wood

A peaceful mixed woodland of great variety with streams and an open heathy area



Close to the Kent border and in the heart of the rural countryside, this reserve is found in one of the quietest and most wooded parts of Sussex. Much of the surrounding land is Forestry Commission owned plantations of conifers, but Flatropers Wood offers an oasis of variety. The east of East Sussex is an area where woodlands have been worked for centuries, and this nature reserve reflects that history. Parts of the boundary bank that line the old road are

## Highlights

Spring woodland flowers, woodpeckers, tiger beetle, palmate newt, wood club-rush and a variety of trees.

topped with hornbeam pollards; inside there are oak standards throughout, with an understorey of hazel. Some areas have been planted in the past with Scots pine, others with beech, or sweet chestnut coppice, and the light sandy soils are perfect for birch whose soft wood is

ideal for woodpeckers to bore out their nest-holes. There are scattered examples of other trees such as cherry, alder, and aspen, and the woodland floor comes alive when the wood anemones open their blooms to the spring sunshine, followed by the bluebells.

Spring is a good time to examine the stream and small pond, where male palmate newts may be seen courting the females by waving their over-sized hind feet at them. Later in the year, emerald green tiger beetles can sometimes be seen scurrying over the sandy patches among the heather beneath the electricity pylons.

Years ago wild boar escaped from nearby farms, and signs of where they have snuffled in the leaf litter for acorns or other food may be found, but the animals themselves are very rarely seen.

## Access

Access to this 35 hectare reserve is from Bixley Lane, a small unsurfaced road which joins the A268 on a fairly sharp bend two kilometres west of Peasmarsh. There are one or two lay-bys on which to park in the lane. There are gates at the entrance, and the many paths throughout the wood are fairly flat and mostly dry.