



Caring for the countryside on your doorstep . . .

Where is the Combe Valley Countryside Park?

Combe Valley Countryside Park covers approximately 2.3 square miles (about 1440 acres) between Bexhill and Hastings. Although most of the land is privately owned and farmed, there are lots of paths for walkers, cyclists and horseriders allowing the quiet enjoyment of this beautiful stretch of East Sussex countryside.



What is the Combe Valley Countryside Park?

The park contains three broad areas:

1. **Wildlife and countryside area** to the north including the Combe Haven valley SSSI and Filsham Reedbeds
2. **Activity park** including the Bulverhythe playing fields and containing a landfill site, household waste and recycling site and waste water treatment works
3. **Coastal park** stretching from Bulverhythe beach to Glyne Gap



The Park is accessible by an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways, and a multi-functional 'greenway' alongside the 'Combe Valley Way'.

On the south western side of the Park a town expansion is underway with around 1,200 dwellings and 500,000 square feet of employment space planned. The newly constructed Bexhill-Hastings Link Road joins central Bexhill with Queensway and also provides a greenway between the two towns for use by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

A new Park 'Discovery Centre', located at the southern end off Freshfields represents the first built facility within the Park for existing users and new visitors, but much remains to be done over the coming years to realise its full potential.



Why is the Park so important?

Surrounded by urban communities it provides a much needed 'breathing space' for the immediate population of 22,500 and an overall urban population of 130,000 residents with much of the land recognised for the quality of its ecology, wildlife or geology.

Since 1840 nearly 2,500 species have been recorded from wildlife reporting in Combe Valley, including rare gems such as the Bittern and the endangered Jewel

Wasp. There are also significant areas of Ancient Woodland which need to be brought back into active management. All of these features merit interpretation for public enjoyment and education.

History of the Park

Recent archaeological finds show that the landscape has been occupied and modified by man to live, farm and make things for more than a thousand years - and it is possible that one of the Combe Valley's first visitors was William the Conqueror's army on the way to Battle in 1066!

On the beach at Bulverhythe, the remains of the wooden East Indiaman ship 'Amsterdam', which sunk in 1749 can be seen. The Bexhill Railway once strode across the Valley on a lofty viaduct, of which little remains, and pre-war ambitions for a permanent aerodrome in the Valley are now denoted only by a woodland known as 'Happy Landings'.

How can you help?

As a Corporate Supporter you can help deliver this vision and raise awareness of your own activities and community credentials in the process. The Community Interest Company was established in 2015 to take a lead in ensuring that the Landscape within the Park is developed and managed in a coherent way, with stakeholders from public and private sectors and the local community.

Site and project-specific sponsorship opportunities

Here are just a few examples of the work we could do together:



Adding more sustainability features and interpretation in our Discovery Centre



Developing fishing lakes for recreational use



Improving access for visitors of all ages and capabilities



Woodland management to improve biodiversity and provide opportunities for environmental education



Providing opportunities for volunteering and learning countryside management skills



Working in surrounding communities to record local memories of the Combe Valley and its history

Combe Valley Countryside Park Corporate Supporters response form

1) Your company name:
2) Who will be the lead contact in working with us?
3) Lead contact details Phone: E-mail: Address:
<p>The purpose of the Combe Valley Countryside Park Community Interest Company is to:</p> <p>“To create and manage a high quality sustainable, attractive, accessible and multifunctional landscape rich in wildlife to serve the recreational, economic, and health and wellbeing needs of residents and visitors”</p> <p>4) Your declaration: We support the Combe Valley Countryside Park CIC in its objective to protect and enhance the Park.</p> <p>Contribution £.....</p> <p>Your Signature</p> <p>Your position in the Company</p> <p>Date</p>

Please complete and return this form to us with a cheque* (for £150, £500, or £2,000 respectively) payable to ‘Combe Valley Countryside Park CIC’ to:

Fiona Wellings, c/o Groundwork South, Portslade Aldridge Community Academy, Chalky Road, Portslade, Brighton, East Sussex BN41 2WS

For any enquiries don't hesitate to get in touch:
Fiona.wellings@groundwork.org.uk, 0773 460 5307

*If you need us to invoice or would like to set up a standing order, just let us know.