

## What is King's Wood?

King's Wood is an area of two square miles of mixed broadleaf and conifer woodland. With such a regal name, it should come as no surprise that King's Wood was historically a royal hunting forest. The quarry pursued was deer, and a large herd of fallow deer still run free in the wood.

These days, King's Wood is largely owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. Although timber production is important, management of the woodland is increasingly geared towards conservation and recreation.



Dormouse - this photo was taken by licenced staff monitoring the nestboxes in the wood.

## Who are the Friends of King's Wood?

Formed because of concerns that the local community was not being kept informed of developments being made in King's Wood, the Friends of King's Wood now enjoys happy and co-operative liaison with the King's Wood management and key user groups, where we act as the voice of the community in decision making. By using our own money and applying for grants, we have also been able to fund the building of ponds, the creation of glades and rides, and the buying of nest boxes for birds and mammals.



New pond

## Contact the Friends of King's Wood

Contact the Secretary:  
Tel.: 01795 530490  
E-mail: [kings\\_wood@btinternet.com](mailto:kings_wood@btinternet.com)

### Join us...

Membership fee only £2!  
Contact us for a membership form.

## What do the Friends of King's Wood do?

As well as our involvement in decision making in the forest, the Friends organise a full programme of guided walks and practical days throughout the year.

### Guided Walks

These cover a range of subject from nightjars and bats, fungi and wildflowers, deer, small mammals, reptiles and butterflies to sculptures and dormice. All walks are lead by experts who can provide information and answer questions on the subject of the walk.



A guided walk on birds

### Practical days

Led by the Kentish Stour Countryside Project, the Friends tackle simple projects, and enjoy hands-on conservation work - clearing scrub, putting up nest boxes, creating and improving ponds and surveying the dormouse sites.

### Art and Photography Competitions

The Friends organise annual competitions for artwork created in or inspired by King's Wood. These are displayed in the forest every summer.

## Dormouse Project

The Friends teamed up with Kent Mammal Group and the Kentish Stour Countryside Project to buy fifty nest boxes which are installed at five locations within the wood, covering a variety of habitats. Results have shown that Challock Forest is an important dormouse site.

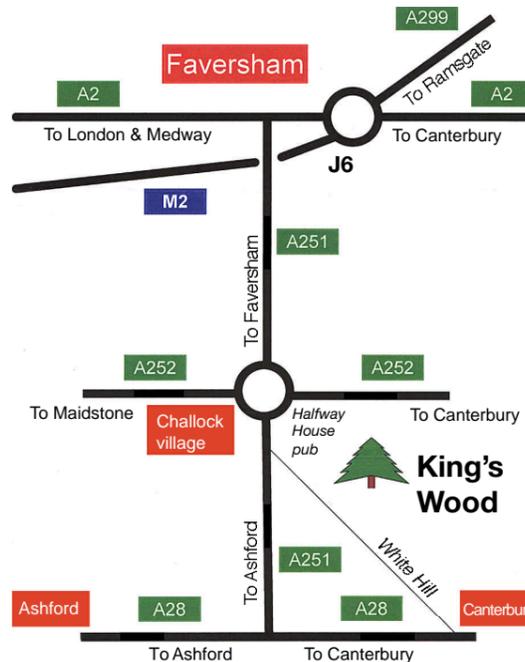
The project has made a vital contribution to our knowledge of dormouse ecology - some of our dormice were found in dense coniferous forest, not a habitat previously known for these animals.



Checking dormouse boxes

## Where is King's Wood?

King's Wood lies east of Challock village, near Ashford in Kent.



This leaflet was funded by a grant from Ashford Borough Council.

## Friends of King's Wood

Challock, Kent



A guide to the forest and the work of the Friends

