



Photo: Tim Locke

## ERIDGE ROCKS

Parts of Sussex's High, wild Weald have the knack of looking not at all like Sussex. The uninitiated might find the Ashdown Forest looks more Yorkshire than the South East. And Eridge Rocks don't quite look as if they belong here either. I've mentioned them to several seemingly well-travelled Lewesians who admitted they'd never heard of them. It's an easy bus ride from town – the frequent buses towards Tunbridge Wells take you there in 50 minutes – get off at the bus stop at Eridge Green, just north of Eridge station on the A26. Take the lane by the bus stop, signposted Park Corner, and in a couple of minutes you reach the Sussex Wildlife Trust sign by a small car park and gate into woodland; just beyond the gate the rocks immediately appear.

The rocks create a mini cliff of strange little ledges and niches, a haven for rare mosses and liverworts, as well as bamboo which was planted hereabouts and has gone rampant. Close to the gate venerable graffiti carved on a rock records the planting of the first trees here in 1811. My book *Slow Sussex & South Downs National Park* describes one of my favourite of all Wealden walks (from either Boarshead or Eridge Green) – nine miles, taking in both sets of rock outcrops and some delicious country in between – including views over Eridge Lake and Bowles Rocks, the birdlife of Broadwater Warren RSPB reserve, and plenty of opportunities for leisurely picnicking on the way. Newcomers are in for a treat.

**Slow Sussex & South Downs National Park (£14.99)**  
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