

HMS Victory's construction

HMS Victory was constructed at Chatham dockyards using a variety of British native tree species, including hazel, yew, rowan, Scots pine, ash, beech, silver birch, oak, black poplar, elm and alder.

The brushes and brooms were made out of silver birch, due to its flexible, cheap and plentiful nature: whereas yew was the wood of choice for the tools

Hundreds of people had been part of this momentous battle in which Admiral Lord Nelson lost his life serving on HMS Victory, but trees were also heroes of the battle. Tens of thousands of them, mostly oak, were felled to construct the ships used in Nelson's fleet.

The Woodland Trust, together with a number of partner organisations, commemorated the Battle of Trafalgar and highlighted the role trees had played, by creating 33 new woods across the UK during 2005. Each bore the name and become a symbol of the English ships which went into battle against the French and Spanish adversaries on 21 October 1805. The flagship of Nelson's fleet at Trafalgar was HMS Victory, so it was fitting that the project's flagship site was named Victory Wood.

Whether you're walking your dog, bird watching or strolling along the woodland paths, Victory Wood is always open for you to enjoy the changing seasons of the countryside.

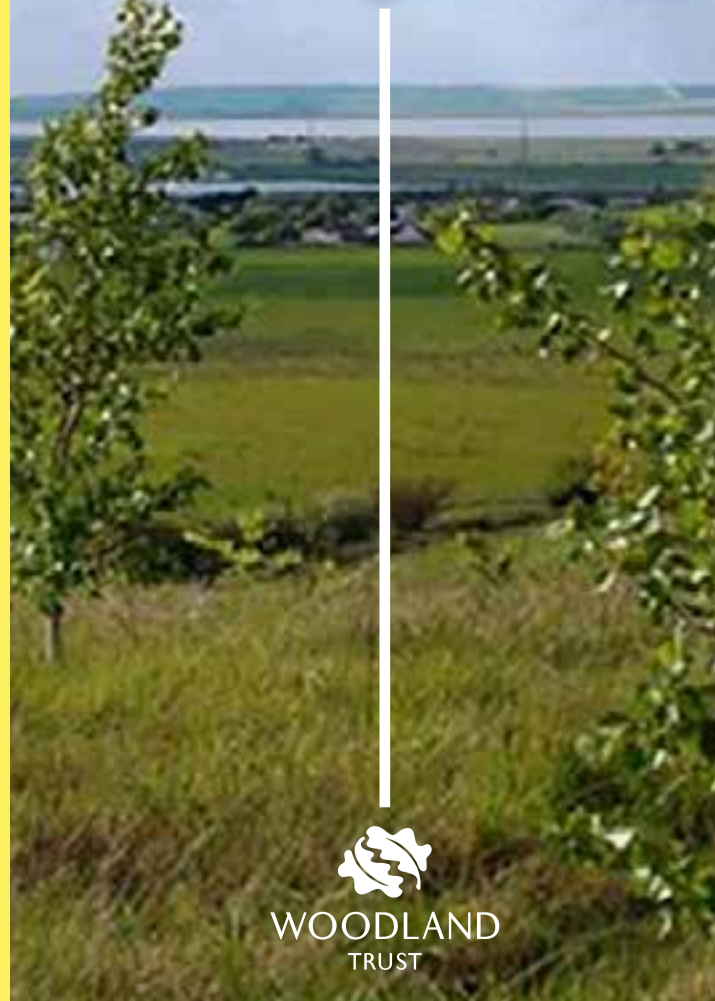
Victory Wood is the flagship site of the Woodland Trust's Trafalgar Woods project which in 2005 marked the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Where history meets nature

Gateway to the Blean

and flagship site for Battle of Trafalgar commemoration

Victory Wood



View over Victory Wood



used by the ship's carpenters. The cooks would have served food from caskets of hazel on bowls and plates made of rowan, while Nelson's bed was probably constructed with a beech frame.

The gunpowder was stored for safety in boxes made from black poplar with elm lids, and would have been made using ground charcoal produced from alder wood. However, the mighty oak was used to construct most of the body of this enormous ship. Over 5,000 oak trees were used, equivalent to 40 hectares (100 acres) of woodland.

What is Victory Wood?

Victory Wood is a 140-hectare (350-acre) site on the western edge of the Blean complex - one of the

largest areas of continuous ancient woodland in South East England at 11 square miles, arching over the north of Canterbury.

The site was previously arable farmland but also included 7.46ha (18.4 acres) of existing woodland when acquired by the Woodland Trust in 2004. Since then, the Trust and the community have established 103.8ha (256 acres) of new woodland, the majority on the ridge at the southern end of the site. This ridge had previously been populated by ancient woodland, felled and converted to agriculture between the late 1940s and early 1970s, so this new wood re-establishes the ridge's link with the two adjacent ancient woodland areas - Blean Wood to the west and Ellenden Wood towards the east.

Within this new woodland are permissive paths and areas left unplanted to maintain views and for non-woodland habitats.

Outside the new woodland, to the north of the site, is a new lowland wood pasture habitat which will develop through the use of livestock, such as cattle and sheep, to form a mosaic of grazed pasture; thickets of blackthorn and hawthorn; and individual and groups of trees.

Details on what you can discover at Victory Wood can be found on the map in the centre of this leaflet.

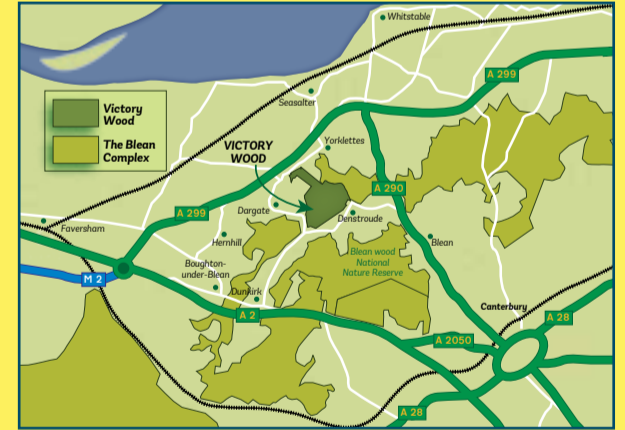


New lowland wood pasture

Getting there

Victory Wood is located south of the A299 in Kent, close to Canterbury and Whitstable.

Grid reference: TR095615
Nearest postcode: ME13 9EP



Do you love trees?

You can help us protect native woodland and its wildlife, and get inspiring ideas for woodland adventures at:

- The Woodland Trust**, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL
- woodlandtrust.org.uk
- or call **033 033 33 300**



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Cold War bunker



Admiral Lord Nelson's sculpture



Adversary ship oak tree



Link sculpture

Explore Victory Wood

Use our trails to explore Victory Wood.

Our car park at the northwest corner of the site is the main access point.

For walkers wanting to explore the Blean complex, there are other access points for pedestrians as shown on the leaflet map. Part of the Big Blean Walk passes through Victory Wood along the ridge.

Access is also provided for cyclists and horses along the multi-user path.

The only surfaced path is a wheelchair route from the car park to the Victory footprint; all other routes are unmodified grass and earth surface.

Look out for our Trafalgar Structures

Sculpture of Nelson

This depicts Nelson atop a nautical scene and is located beside the car park. It was made from a felled oak planted at the Admiral's request over 200 years ago.

The Victory footprint

Located on the small hill next to the car park, this full scale footprint of HMS Victory has been marked out using oak posts and newly planted trees to convey a sense of the ship's scale. HMS Victory was completed in 1778 and from figurehead to taffrail was over 226ft long, with 27 miles of rigging and four acres of sails. Weighing over 3,500 tonnes, she also had 104 guns and was crewed by 821 men. Since 1921, the ship has resided in Portsmouth for all to see and admire. She still retains her status as a fully commissioned ship in the Royal Navy.

The Trafalgar battle

Taking the path towards the ridge from the Victory footprint, you'll pass between eight evergreen oaks. These mark out the positions of eight of the adversary ships in the Battle of Trafalgar at the start of the battle (all we can fit on the site) - see our battle information board beside the link sculpture for more information.

Link sculpture with its panoramic viewfinder

You can survey Victory Wood's stunning location from here, with breathtaking views north across Kent and the Thames Estuary and south towards



Blean Woods National Nature Reserve which includes 95 hectares (234 acres) owned by the Woodland Trust.

The Trafalgar Groves

There are 27 one-acre groves of trees, each of them named after a ship of the British fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar and sponsored by individuals and organisations.

Cold War Bunker

This was one of 1,563 underground posts built during the Cold War to report nuclear explosions and monitor radioactive fallout in order to give the public the best chance of survival. This bunker was opened in 1966 and decommissioned with all its contents removed in 1976.



WOODLAND
TRUST

the Blean
Canterbury & Swale's Ancient Woodland

	Information		Viewpoint and link sculpture
	Multi-user path		HMS Victory footprint
	Wheelchair route		Adversary battleships
	Permissive footpath		Developing wood pasture
	Entrance		Ancient woodland
	Car park		Young woodland
	Nelson's statue		Open space
	Cold War bunker		