

COMMONWORK CONFERENCE AND STUDY CENTRE

BORE PLACE, CHIDDINGSTONE, KENT



COMMONWORK

THE COMMONWORK CENTRE

Set in the low weald of Kent, close to Sevenoaks, the Commonwork Centre is a place for conferences, workshops and seminars, owned by an educational trust. An old manor house with its ancient walled garden and a group of historic barns within a courtyard have been restored and refurbished to provide a beautiful and peaceful environment.

The Centre offers space, time and resources for resident and non-resident groups to join Commonwork projects or to develop their own work. We aim to provide a nurturing and stimulating environment, in which you can feel 'at home' and use your stay creatively.



Main picture: the Large Barn.
Clockwise from top right:
the courtyard flowform, the
reflecting pool, young and
adult visitors at work.

Visitors to the Commonwork Centre

These include small businesses, national companies, local authorities, health authorities, GP practices, environmental organisations, umbrella bodies, professional associations, community groups, voluntary organisations, national charities, educational institutions, schools, colleges, universities.

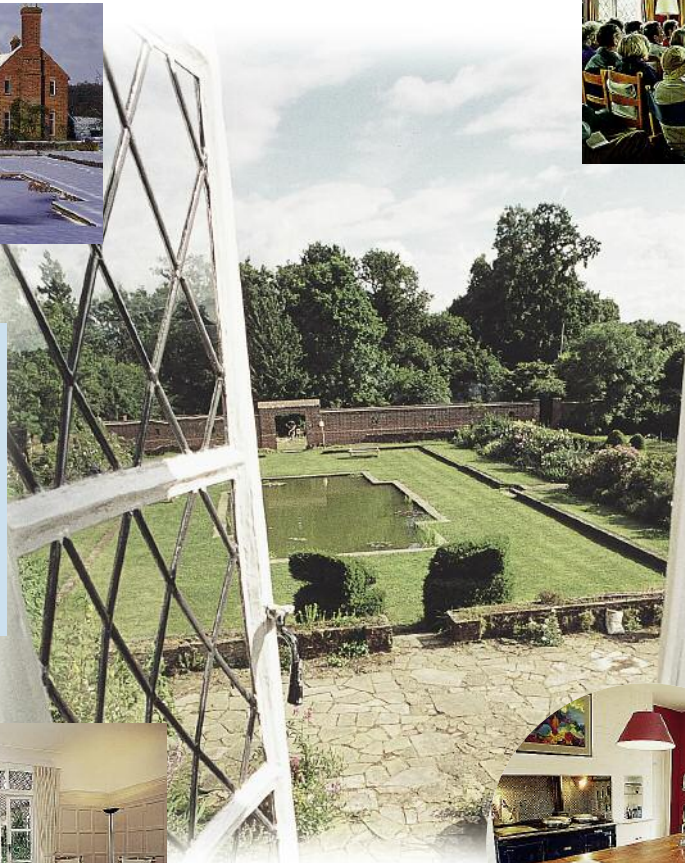
“The Commonwork Centre has proven itself to be a perfect location for running training courses. The relaxed atmosphere created by the beautiful surroundings and the friendly staff allow people to unwind and become more receptive to the learning experience. I have been to no other venue which has managed to create such an atmosphere. I will be using the site many times more in the future.”

Alistair Orr, Customer Support Manager – Legal and General Group

Your Stay at Bore Place

The whole Centre offers a great sense of peace, which can be felt in the arrangement of the rooms, in the courtyard and in the walled garden looking over the reflecting pool towards trees and fields. We do all we can to foster this in the way you can make the spaces your own for your stay and in the efficient but unobtrusive support from staff.

We offer a range of service from full catering for lunch and dinner to self-catering, to suit your needs and budget. Meals – meat and vegetarian – include organic and locally produced ingredients, and we can cater for vegan and special diets. We provide fair trade tea and coffee which is always available in the kitchen for you to help yourself. We have a licence for wine and beer and can supply a variety of soft drinks.



Activities

Your group is welcome to arrange a Commonwork activity at Bore Place including: painting, claywork, breadmaking, milking, night walks, willow basketry, trees to tools.

Bore Place House
Main picture: the Walled Garden. Clockwise from top right: drawing room, bedroom, kitchen, studio, winter.



“Our two days at Commonwork were just what was needed following some very difficult times. We were able to think creatively in a relaxed and beautiful environment. Staff at the Centre were really helpful and delicious meals appeared in our dining room as if by magic. We are still benefiting from our retreat months later. Thank you!”
Elly Crichton Stuart, Head of Marketing – The Unicorn Theatre for Children

“The British Red Cross regularly use Bore Place for their seminars. The facilities are excellent and the support provided by staff is always friendly and professional.”

British Red Cross Society

The Gardens, Farm and Countryside

The gardens around the Centre offer a calm and refreshing space to meet and work. They had their heyday in the Jacobean period when both the manor house and gardens were very extensive, planned and formal. Now our garden plans reflect our interest in the interdependence of people and the natural world. They are managed organically and include permaculture and wildlife gardens.



Main picture: aerial view of Bore Place.
Clockwise from top right: Wild and Native Garden, Green Man Glade, Commonwork Organic Farm, the Walled Garden.

A field trail around the 500-acre estate is open to visitors and a mini field trail is accessible to wheelchair users. Bore Place has been farmed for over a thousand years and its history is reflected in its landscape features. Now, Commonwork is committed to sustainable land management and its fields, ponds, woodland and hedges are managed under a long-term whole farm plan.

This is a beautiful area of Kent countryside, rich in historic buildings and gardens. Bough Beech Nature Reserve, Hever Castle, Chiddingstone National Trust village, Penshurst Place, Emmetts Garden and Toys Hill with spectacular views across the weald are all nearby.

"I greatly admire the insight, dedication and love with which the young businesses have been built up at Bore Place, and what I see here is the very essence of real wealth creation. For our Senior Management Team it's a wonderful place to plan, share and dream together."

Jonathon Porritt, Programme Director – Forum for the Future.

Accommodation at Bore Place



1 Bore Place House. The history of the manor house goes back to medieval times; a Tudor building was later incorporated into a Jacobean mansion, parts of which remain, with seventeenth and twentieth-century additions. Together with the ancient walled garden it is listed Grade II. It has twelve bedrooms. For meetings, seminars and workshops, it has two studies, a studio, a large sitting room with a piano and a Jacobean hall.



The **Old Stable 2** is a spacious and comfortable farmhouse-style building accessible to wheelchair users and set in a historic courtyard. With eleven bedrooms it can be used independently or with the Small Barn alongside.



The **Small Barn 3** is a timbered building in the courtyard, which can be used for meetings and workshops and as a self-contained space for small groups or family accommodation.



Times available

The Centre is open all year except 24 December to 2 January.

Car parking

There is a car park at the entrance to the Centre and temporary access to all buildings for dropping off luggage.



The seventeenth-century **Large Barn 4** in the Old Stable Courtyard is a sensitively restored timber barn for large gatherings of up to 100 people and is ideal for artwork, dance, drama and music. Wheelchair accessible.



The **Loft 5** alongside the Large Barn, with windows on three sides, overlooks the whole Centre and holds up to 35 people for formal or informal meetings and seminars.

Number of visitors

Using whatever spaces are appropriate in a flexible way, we can accommodate from two to 45 people to stay, and up to 100 non-residents from half a day to two weeks or occasionally longer.



The **Granary 6** is accessible to wheelchair users and suits art and craft work as well as seating up to 50 people for meetings and lectures.

Commonwork

The Commonwork Centre is part of a group of charitable trusts and rural enterprises, working towards sustainable solutions in farming, the environment and education.

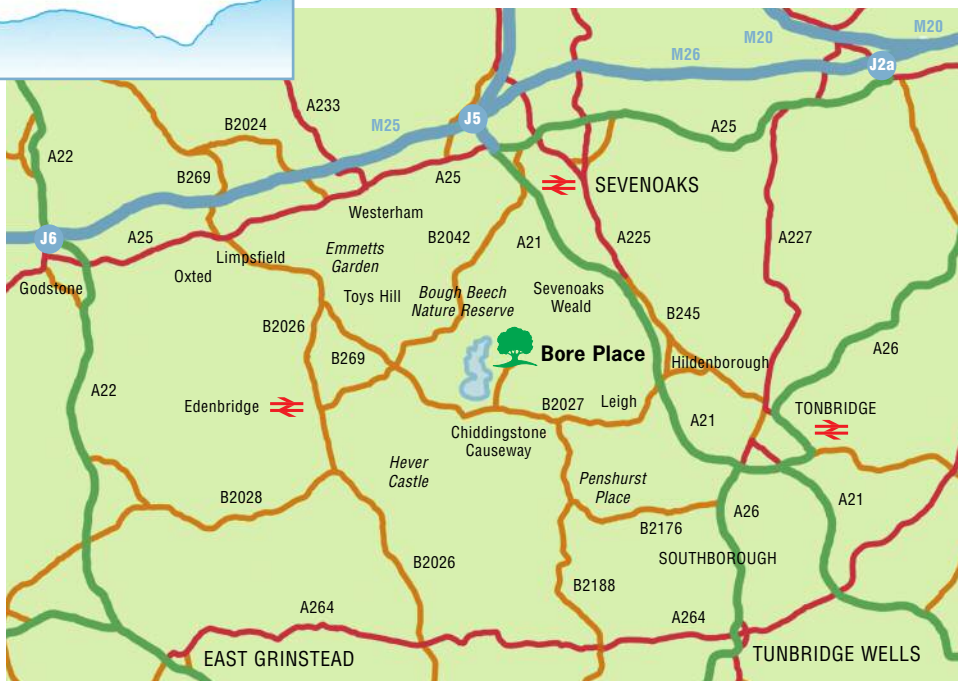
Situated in beautiful countryside at Bore Place in Kent, the Centre is on Commonwork's 500-acre organic farm. The farm is a key resource for the education and environment programmes Commonwork offers to schools, colleges and community groups. Commonwork also has a development education centre in Maidstone that explores local-global connections.

Some visitors to the Centre are familiar with Commonwork activities; many share our vision for a more sustainable society, economy and environment. Others come to develop their own programmes of work in the very special learning environment the Centre can offer, and may have different objectives and activities from Commonwork. We welcome this contact with people we might not otherwise meet. Whether you are looking for a conference centre with a difference or would like to know more about Commonwork, we hope you will be in touch.



The Commonwork Centre at Bore Place

Bore Place is situated 35 miles from London in the Kent countryside, near Sevenoaks, with easy access from the M25, Gatwick airport and the continent. The nearest mainline railway stations are Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Edenbridge. It is approximately 35 minutes by train from London Charing Cross to Sevenoaks.



For further details, information about charges and availability, to visit the Centre, or find out more about Commonwork, please contact:

The Commonwork Centre

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Commonwork may make changes to its facilities and activities as it develops over time.