

Continue downhill as more of the Pale and possibly an old sunken cart track is revealed on your left and cross the stream (or Ghyll, which may run red due to the presence of iron deposits) at the bridge at the end of the path 10. Now follow the path up the hill to where it joins a cart track where you bear right and join a tarmac drive 11.

Continue forward and follow the tarmac track all the way to the road 12. Cross the road taking the small sunken path diagonally opposite, which then runs along the bottom of the open heath. The narrow path eventually drops down into a hollow which is thought to be a marl pit (marl is lime-rich mud containing clay). Come out of the hollow and follow the path until it meets the ride where you turn right 13.

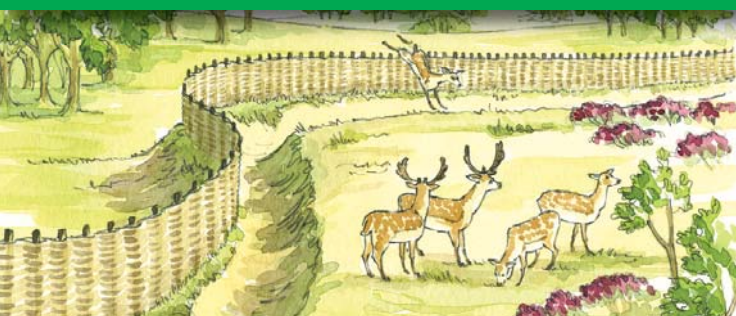
Follow the wide ride through open heath until you come to a junction 14. Just before a memorial stone complete with compass points (in bushes to the right of the path), take the right fork and continue across open grassy heath until you reach the road again.

Cross the road and turn left along the other side of the trees and you are walking parallel to the road on your left 15.

At the far end of the heath follow the path as it carries on into the woods and over a small stream 16. Now climb on the main path that shortly emerges on to open heathland again. Walk through some birch trees and emerge next to the seat just below Goat car park.

A pub called the Goat once stood at the crossroads at Goat car park. The pub was an infamous destination for smugglers coming up from the coast. Tea and brandy were the main commodities smuggled during the 18th century.

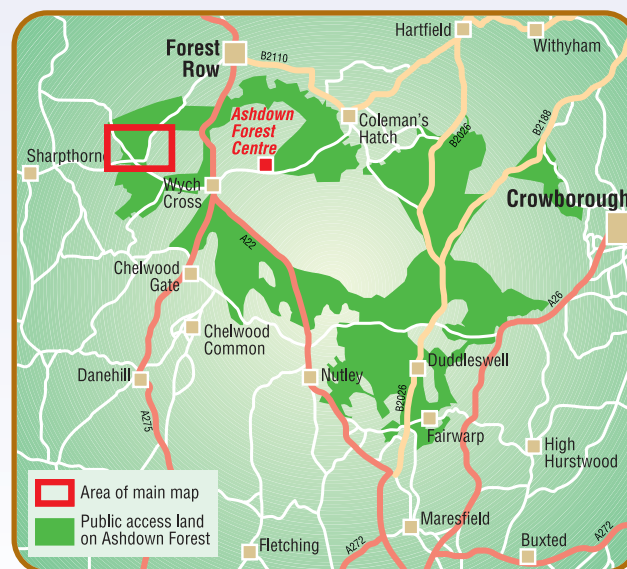
Artist's impression of Pale with fence on top



www.ashdownforest.org

Ashdown Forest is a former medieval hunting forest: the largest of four spread between Horsham and Tunbridge Wells in an area known as the Weald Forest Ridge. This is the highest ridge of the High Weald, itself recognised as one of England's Finest Landscapes and designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

At 2,500 hectares (10 square miles), Ashdown Forest is the largest open access space in the South East. Nearly two thirds of it is heathland, one of the rarest habitats in Britain.



A Board of Conservators manages Ashdown Forest as a quiet, natural place for you to enjoy and also as a refuge for wildlife. You can find out more by visiting www.ashdownforest.org and the Ashdown Forest Centre at Wych Cross Tel: 01342 823583



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A WALK BEYOND THE PALE



EXPLORING ASHDOWN FOREST ON FOOT - WALK 10

A 2.5 miles / 3.8 km circular walk taking in the medieval Pale, ghylls, woodland and glorious views across the High Weald.

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All details are believed correct at time of production but we cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.



A WALK BEYOND THE PALE

WALK 10 2.5 miles / 3.8 km

Start from Goat car park and, with the road facing you, walk towards the entrance. Turn right and walk along the grassy bank for about 15 metres up the road towards the cross roads to a wooden post ①. Pause here and look across Legsheath Lane where it joins the junction and you will see a giant redwood tree planted to mark the centenary of the Meridian Line ② in 1984.

Turn right at the post and follow the ride that goes straight ahead between the trees. Follow the ride ③ as it quickly emerges on to a small patch of open heath where gorse grows along the edge of the ride. You will now be walking parallel to the road on your left and at this point you will cross the Meridian Line. Once you cross a tarmac drive, continue straight ahead into the woods. Stay on the wide track all the way until you come to a T-junction ④. Turn right and, after a short while, the ride emerges again on to open heathland ⑤. Follow the main ride through the middle of the heath and bear right at the next junction of the rides ⑥ and then the path descends into the woods.

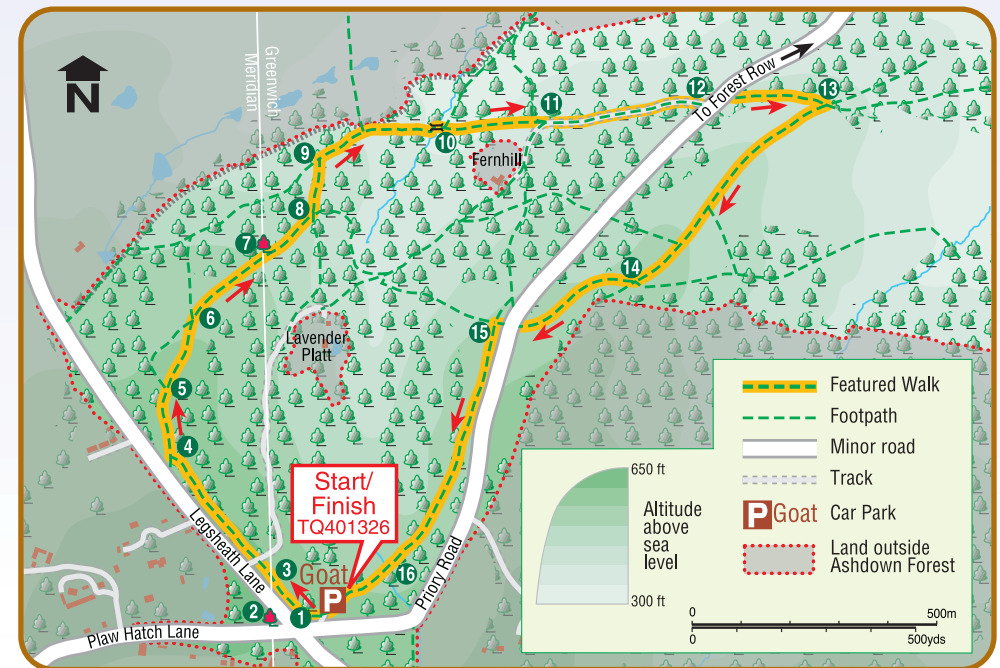
After a short distance you will pass the second Meridian giant redwood tree ⑦ on your left (as you are now crossing the Meridian Line for the second time) and continue on the path as it descends gradually downhill

through the trees. At the next junction, in a woodland glade of mature beech trees ⑧, turn left. Turn right at the next path ⑨ and on your left are now the remains of the old Forest boundary.

You may not realise that the term 'forest' does not mean a landscape covered with trees, but derives from the name for a royal hunting park with special powers to protect the deer within it. The historic area of the hunting forest was considerably larger than the area within the present Ashdown Forest boundaries (which were mostly set after a large-scale sale of land at the end of the 17th century) and was

enclosed by a 'Pale' - a ditch and a bank with the ditch to the inside, with a wooden fence built on top of the bank to prevent the deer escaping. The medieval Pale (part of which is now on your left) was first referred to in records from the 13th century. Access through the Pale was by "gates" or "hatches" and some of these survive today in place names such as Chelwood Gate and Chuck Hatch.

(Just along this path, you will see a small footpath marker sign on the right, pointing to the start of a footpath opposite, that leaves the Forest and takes you to Weir Wood reservoir).



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Giant redwood marking the Meridian Line

Footbridge over a Forest ghyll

Gorse in bloom

Marl pit

View across the High Weald

Cart track and the medieval Pale

