



Ling



Cross-leaved heath



Bell heather



Common gorse

## Some flora you may spot on your walk

Ling is the most common heather on the Forest. It flowers between July and September.

Look out for the cross-leaved heath growing in the wetter areas of the heathland. It flowers between June and October.

You will see bell heather growing on drier parts of the Forest. It flowers between May and September.

Common and dwarf gorse grow all over the Forest. The first has its peak flowering in Spring, the second in August. Dense gorse provides cover for a range of species, including Dartford warblers, wood mice and reptiles. Old gorse, though beginning to lose some of its wildlife value, gives a framework for spiders to build webs and supports bird nests.

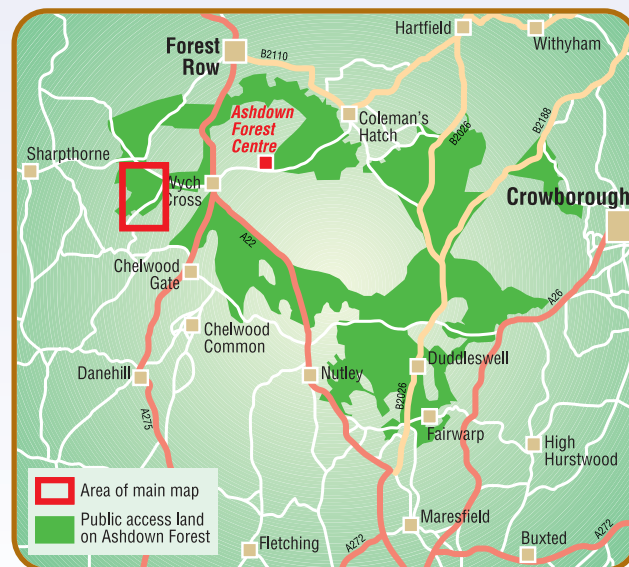
View across to the South Downs



[www.ashdownforest.org](http://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](http://www.ashdownforest.org) and the Ashdown Forest Centre at Wych Cross Tel: 01342 823583



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## THE HINDLEAP WALK



### EXPLORING ASHDOWN FOREST ON FOOT - WALK 9

A 1.4 miles / 2.3 km circular walk, through heathland and woodland, with glorious views to the South Downs.

Concept and production co-ordination: Paul Cooper: [forest.marketing@btinternet.com](mailto:forest.marketing@btinternet.com)  
Design and print production: Matt Marriott: [m.marriott@btconnect.com](mailto:m.marriott@btconnect.com)  
Cartography: Dave Brooker: [dave@mappingideas.co.uk](mailto:dave@mappingideas.co.uk)  
Photography: Dave Brooker, Natural England, Rich Allum.

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





# THE HINDLEAP WALK

WALK 9 1.4 miles / 2.3 km

Start from Hindleap car park **1** and head downhill on the grass ride between the heather and gorse. Shortly you will come to a crossroads of paths. Turn left here by the bench **2** (or pause to enjoy the views to the south), then follow the ride with silver birch trees and bracken on your right and intermittent open heath on your left **3**.

After passing the next junction to your right, the ride now enters the woodland and starts to climb gently uphill **4** to the Twyford car park which will come into view on your left as you reach the top of the hill **5**. Just before the car park, turn sharply right and follow the ride downhill **6**.

Continue downhill walking parallel to the road on your left **7**. Follow the ride and at the next junction, go right by some holly trees **8** and follow the path as it winds steeply downhill between beech and holly trees to a stream at the bottom of the small valley **9**.

Cross the stream over a bridge and continue uphill again and fork left at the next junction, leaving a small triangle of birch and a holly on your right **10**.

At the next junction in the ride **11**, you could take a small diversion to see the giant redwood tree that was planted in 1984, on the Greenwich Meridian line, to celebrate the line's centenary. Turn left, cross the stream and walk up the hill to the tarmac drive where you will see the tree on the other side of the drive. Then you will need to double back to point **11**.

Otherwise, keep right up the hill between the trees until the ride finally emerges from the woods into open heath again **12**.

Continue following this ride until it comes to a T-junction **13** where you turn left and then almost immediately fork right up the gentle slope across the grass, passing a group of trees on your left. Once again, pause to enjoy the views south to the South Downs.

The ride **14** now joins the one on which you started your walk, so continue on the grass back to Hindleap car park.



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Heather and Gorse



Woodland ride approaching point 10



Giant redwood tree from the point 11 diversion



Fallow deer



A view across the heath

