

On crossing the bridge there is a choice of routes: either continue up the track and follow it for 1.3 km, or turn right after about 15m and follow a small path that gradually climbs uphill parallel to the stream, and along an old boundary bank, for about 1.0 km. The two routes join up as they re-cross the stream higher up ⑤.

The sweet chestnut coppice to the left of the main track (after a further 500m) is a useful source of wood to make poles for barriers, such as those by the car parks. Throughout the Ghyll there are numerous paths through the undergrowth made by fallow deer. A large population, wary of visitors and their dogs, lives in private and military land nearby and at night moves elsewhere to feed. They eat all regrowth on coppiced chestnut and eventually kill the trees in the absence of any fencing.

In the spring the pale yellow heads of wild daffodil grow beside the stream. In the summer male redstarts sing loudly from the tops of the beech trees. Although common in western Britain, they are a rare breeding species in the South East – indeed the Forest is by far the best place for them.

Follow the track until it emerges from the trees, and go straight across the grassy ride ⑥ towards the road, with Linton's car park on the other side.



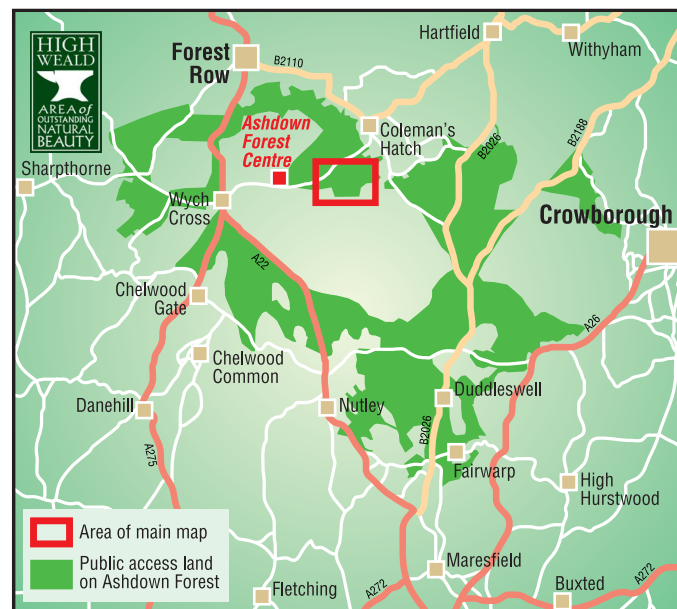
The view north from Linton's car park

Leaflet 1 in this series covers walks to the Winnie-the-Pooh sites on the Forest.

Information

A Board of Conservators manages Ashdown Forest as a quiet, natural place for you to enjoy and as a refuge for wildlife. At 2500 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. On account of this, the Forest is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and an EU Special Area for Conservation and Special Protection Area.

This leaflet is produced as part of the Conservators' contribution to The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. This is a £3.3 million programme of activity, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to enrich the area's natural and cultural heritage and to enable people to enjoy and care for the area.



Text by Per-Rambulations
www.per-ramblings.co.uk
and the Conservators

If you would like further information about the work of the Conservators and the Friends of Ashdown Forest, visit the Forest Centre at Wych Cross. Telephone 01342 823583 or visit www.ashdownforest.org



Cartography, photography and graphics by Mapping Ideas Ltd. www.mappingideas.co.uk

Tabell Ghyll



A walk that starts with great views to the north and descends across heathland to a wooded, stream-lined valley

Tabell Ghyll has stands of fine beech trees and the only sweet chestnut coppice in the public part of Ashdown Forest.



Exploring Ashdown Forest on foot



Tabell Ghyll

1.75 miles/3km

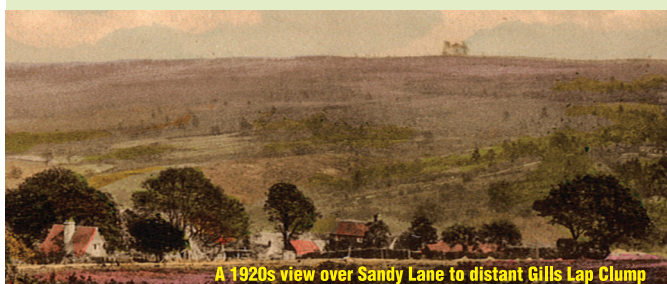
From Linton's car park cross the road (with care) into Ridge car park (summer only). Walk out of the rear past a seat onto a grass path and in about 50m turn left onto a ride. Remain on this gently descending ride, ignoring another that bears off right, for about 400m.

On both left and right are linear quarries, now filled with scrub and trees. Such quarries dot the Forest landscape and provided stone for roads. Typical heathland birds such as nightjar, stonechat, tree pipit and woodlark usually breed in this area and the ride edges in particular are one of the best places on the Forest (indeed in Sussex) to see, in May, the yellow flowers of the small spiny shrub, petty whin.



Petty whin
(© Hew Prendergast)

The ride bears left, then right through a break in the quarries ① and continues descending for 400m to a metalled drive (Sandy Lane) ②. On the left is a bowling green and ahead are the cricket pitch and pavilion of Coleman's Hatch Cricket Club.



A 1920s view over Sandy Lane to distant Gills Lap Clump



Coleman's Hatch Cricket Club
(© Hew Prendergast)

On the hill-top in the distance is Gills Lap Clump, the Galleons Lap of the Winnie-the-Pooh books. One old name for the Clump was The Camel's Hump, from the shape formed by the silhouettes of its pine trees. In the 1920s, when the picture (left) was taken, there were very few trees on the surrounding slopes, just open heathland.

Cross the drive and walk to the right of the cricket pitch. Where the ride divides, bear right, leaving the pitch, and bear right at the next divide after 300m ③. The ride descends more steeply and swings right and downhill into woodland and to a bridge over a stream ④.

This area is known as Tabell Ghyll. Its woodland is most unusual for the public part of the Forest with its many large trees, especially beech, and several hectares of planted sweet chestnut coppice. The area was sold off from the common land of the Forest in 1693 and only 'returned' during World War Two in exchange for the compulsory purchase of land elsewhere for military reasons. In the map of 1931 (below) the heavily wooded Ghyll is in marked contrast to the heath to the north of the stream – a reflection of different land use over 250 years.



Redstart
(© Daniel Trim)

