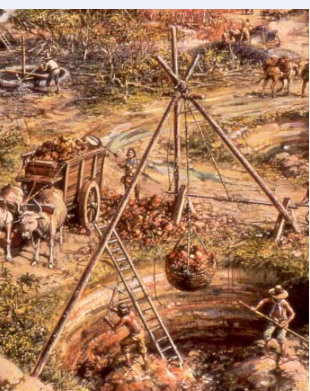


The term 'forest' does not mean a landscape covered with trees, but derives from the name for a royal hunting park with special powers to protect the deer within it. The historic area of the hunting forest was considerably larger than the area within the present Ashdown Forest boundaries, which were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

A number of hunting lodges were located in the Forest, one of which may have been at King's Standing where some earthworks remain. Monarchs from Edward III to Henry VIII may have enjoyed hunting expeditions in the Forest.



Impression of iron production

The Millbrook Valley was once the site of a Saxon iron smelting furnace. In the 17th century, a number of large iron production sites sprang up around the margins of Ashdown Forest with the ore being extracted from pits within the Forest. The large ponds used to provide water to drive the bellows in the furnaces are still a major feature of the Wealden landscape.

During the summer months you may well come across sheep and cattle grazing the Forest. The livestock may belong to Commoners, who have enjoyed rights on the Forest for centuries, or to the Conservators, who have their own flock of black Hebridean sheep as part of their Forest conservation programme.



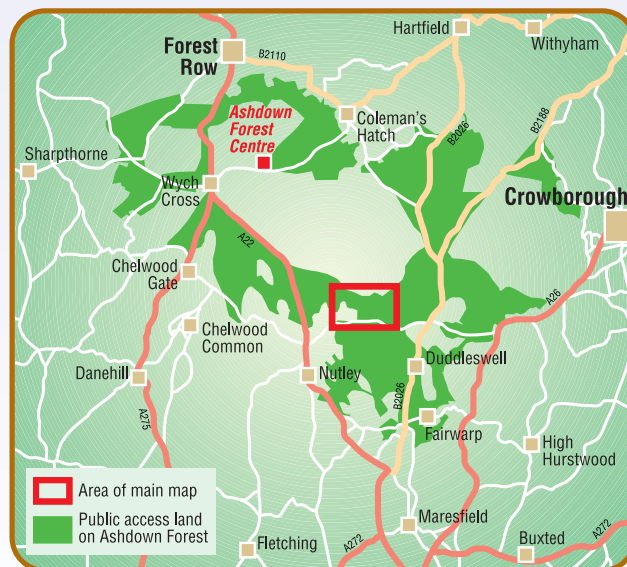
Hebridean sheep grazing



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



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A WALK AMONGST FRIENDS



EXPLORING ASHDOWN FOREST ON FOOT - WALK 8

A 1.7 miles / 2.8 km circular walk taking in Friends Clump, Nutley Windmill, Millbrook Valley and Old Lodge.



A WALK AMONGST FRIENDS

WALK 8 1.7 miles / 2.8 km

Start from Friends car park **1** and walk towards Friends Clump. Clumps of Scots pines were first ordered to be planted here in 1825 by Elizabeth, Countess de la Warr, whose descendants owned the Forest until 1988. At the time, local people were outraged by these "interlopers" and many of the trees were cut down!

They became iconic, however, and in 1973 The Friends of Ashdown Forest decided to commemorate the "Year of the Tree" by planting the Friends' Clump, which is at the start of this walk. Today, it would seem strange to be planting trees when the emphasis has turned back to the conservation of this ancient, open heathland but the Clumps are certainly a feature of the Ashdown Forest landscape and serve as useful markers for visitors.

Turn left **2** and follow the wide ride in front of you downhill for 250 metres **3**, then take a narrow path on the left signposted "Windmill". The path **4** passes the Nutley Windmill on your left and continues on a narrow winding path through the trees **5** winding down to the main ride again.

Nutley Windmill is the last open-trestle post mill in Sussex - indeed one of only five surviving and the only one working.

Having an open trestle, Nutley Windmill is a very fine example of the oldest post mill design, known since the 12th century. The mill is believed to be about 300 years old. As there wasn't a mill on this site before 1820, it has been suggested that it came from Kilndown in Kent. But one thing is certain, the post was used before, probably supporting at least two other mills.

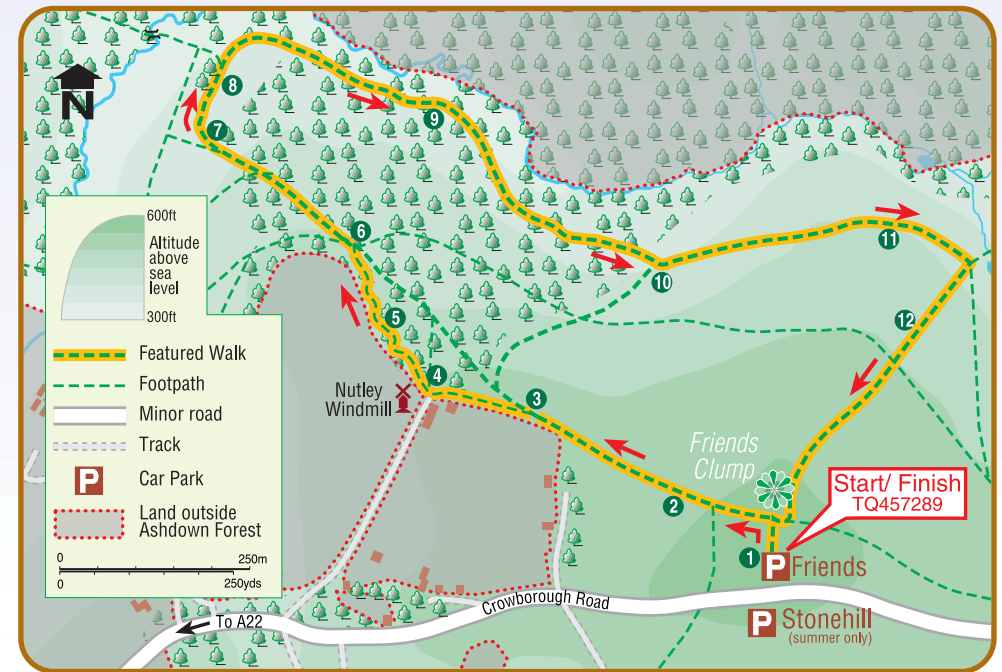
Turn left **6** and head straight downhill on the ride ignoring others to your right and left. The path now descends steeply downhill on to the open heath.

As you go downhill, keep the line of five holly trees on your left **7**.

Just past the holly trees the path turns right and then runs along the edge of the woodland **8**.

Follow this ride **9** into and through the woods, with views down through the trees to the meandering stream, until you emerge on to the open heath below Friends Clump **10**.

Now turn left and walk along the bottom of Millbrook Valley **11** until you reach another ride where you turn right and continue steeply uphill back to Friends car park **12**.



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Friends Clump from point 1



Hebridean sheep



Nutley Windmill



Approaching point 6



View to Camp Hill

