

Walking the local area

In the cottage there are a couple of books containing local walks that guests can use. There is also a large scale ordnance survey map of Ashdown Forest and a street map of Crowborough.

Walkers shouldn't limit themselves to the Forest, there are some stunning footpaths across farmland in the area. These paths are little used by walkers, so that even though you are in the 'overcrowded south-east' it is still possible to walk all day and hardly see a soul.

There are three detailed walks in this Discovery Booklet:

A quiet walk east of Crowborough

Ashdown Forest and Pooh Sticks bridge

Forest pathways to the Airman's Grave

The Countryside Code

By observing these simple guidelines you can help minimise your impact and protect the natural and cultural heritage of the environment so that it can continue to be appreciated by other visitors.

- ✓ *Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work*
- ✓ *Guard against all risk of fire*
- ✓ *Fasten all gates*
- ✓ *Keep your dogs under close control*
- ✓ *Keep to public paths across farmland*
- ✓ *Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls*
- ✓ *Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone*
- ✓ *Take your litter home*
- ✓ *Help to keep all water clean*
- ✓ *Protect wildlife, plants and trees*
- ✓ *Take special care on country roads*
- ✓ *Make no unnecessary noise*

Thank you



A quiet walk east of Crowborough

This walk takes you out on to the heaths and woodland of the High Weald, criss-crossed by streams.

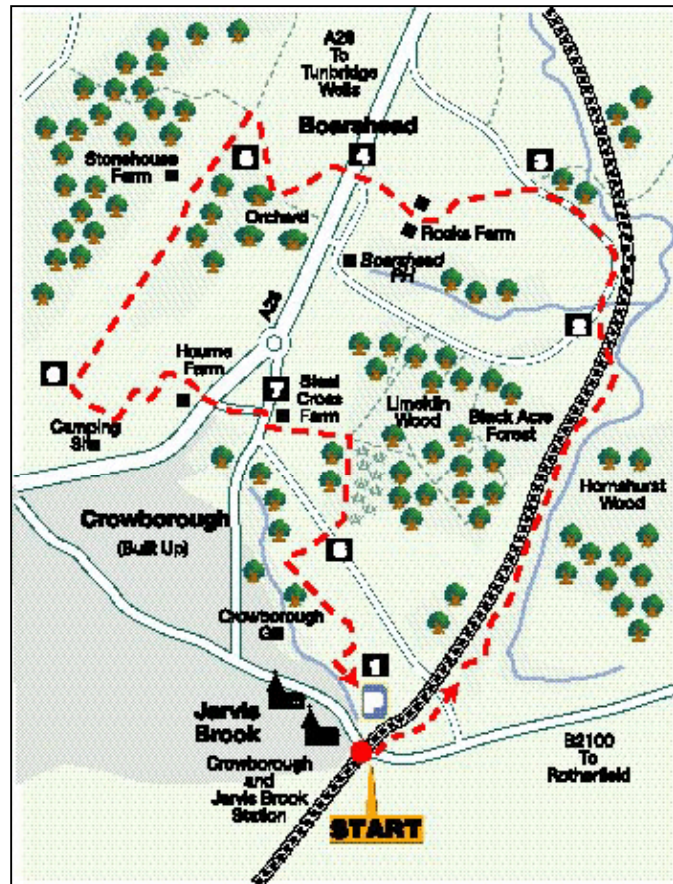
Start: From Jarvis Brook to the east of Crowborough on the B2100 road to Rotherfield. Park in the free car park in one of the long-stay bays. The car park is signed from the road 'Parking'. The Map Reference for the start is GR 536298.

Duration: Seven-and-a-half-miles taking three and a half hours.

Terrain: Mostly along good paths and tracks with well drained sandy soil underfoot. Moderate hills only.

Maps: OS Explorer 135: Ashdown Forest.

Refreshments: Pubs at Jarvis Brook and Boarshead.



Directions

From the car park (1), return to the High Street and turn left to walk downhill past the station and under the railway. A few yards beyond the railway bridge, turn left along a narrow path. Once out into a more open area of bracken and scrub, keep left along a path which meanders more or less parallel to the railway fence on your left, out to join a lane.

Go straight ahead, over the stile opposite and continue with the railway on your left. Over a footbridge, go right for ten yards, then left at a waypost. A pleasant woodland path now continues, never far from the railway and with a stream nearby on your right.

After about half a mile, ignoring the large footbridge over the stream to your right, go left, squeezing to the left of a pillbox. A narrower path rises and dips to cross several minor streams and a makeshift stile allows passage over a large fallen tree.

After another half a mile, where a footpath comes in from the right over another footbridge, go left under the railway and follow a clear path up and out to join a lane beside a timber yard (2).

Turn right and follow this lane for more than half a mile, ignoring a turning to the right, go back under the railway and climb steadily up out of the valley, soon with woodland to your right. Where this wood ends (3), turn left over a stile set back from the road and follow a broad headland track beside a hedge on your right hand side.

Through a gap in the hedge, to the right, you can catch a glimpse of the Bowles Outdoor Centre, incorporating a spectacular natural sandstone outcrop, used for rock climbing.

Follow the track as it doglegs left and right to reach Rocks Farm. Walk between the buildings and follow the drive from the farm out to reach the end of a cul-de-sac road, a redundant section of the old A26 at Boarshead (4).

The Boarshead Inn is now a quarter of a mile to the left along this quiet road. Returning the same way to continue. To continue the walk, go right between the posts and follow a ramped path down to cross the new A26 and up the opposite bank.

At the top of the ramp, join the end of another cul-de-sac and immediately turn left, downhill along an access track, bordered by tree-lined banks. Shortly, fork left along the drive to a house called Leggs Hill. This becomes a green path to the left of the house gateway and brings you out into a large orchard.

Bear right to drop down along the right edge of the orchard, cross a stile in the orchard corner and continue down across pasture to funnel into an enclosed track.

At the bottom of the hill (5), go over a culvert, forward for ten yards up a low bank then half-right up along the top to reach a three-arm fingerpost. Your path now turns sharply back to the left on a level route along the valley, not the trodden path across the valley, though your path, too, is normally also trodden out through any growing crop.

A path continues through a wood, across a meadow and over a lawn a few yards to the left of a white-walled house, Stonehouse Farm. Cross a stile and bear right, squeezing to the right of a barn and continuing parallel and to the left of a drive. Shortly join and go forward along a drive, following it for a full mile.

At the edge of Crowborough where the drive becomes a lane (6), turn left through a wooden kissing gate and walk beside a post-and-rail fence, with a fine view to your left. Carry on northwards along the valley you have just traversed, to the distant ridge of the North Downs.

An enclosed path passes to the left of a campsite. Where it ends, turn left along the drive from a pumping station and, at a T-junction, go right along another drive. After another 150 yards, go left along a signed path between fences which skirts well to the left of a converted oast. Join and go ahead along the drive from this property out to the A26.

Cross the main road via the traffic island a few yards to the left and follow Eridge Road, opposite. At a road junction (7), go right beside the B2157 and, after less than 100 yards, turn left along a metalled drive, past Steel Cross Farm and on along a track.

After 400 yards, go ahead into the woodland. After a few paces, turn right along a sandy crossing track and, almost immediately, at a waypost, fork right. Follow this track along the right edge of heathland. Join a hard track and continue out to a road junction (8).

Go over the stepless stile ahead and descend gently along the right edge of two fields, then through scrub and more steeply down across rough pasture. Towards the bottom of the hill, just short of woodland, turn sharply back to the left, climbing obliquely back up the hill and traversing along the hillside on a narrow but distinct path, soon beside a left-hand fence.

Where this fence turns away to the left, go ahead through thicker woodland and on across more open heathland. At a trodden crossing path, turn right downhill. Cross a stream, unbridged but easily fordable, and turn left with the stream on your left.

The path leads out past a row of garages to a road. Continue on the path opposite, through a recreation ground and back to the start.

Ashdown Forest and Pooh Sticks bridge

This walk crosses the River Medway and then climbs gently and easily up on to the low hills to the north of the river valley. It then turns back across the valley to explore the foothills of Ashdown Forest, returning via Pooh Sticks Bridge.

Start: From the village of Hartfield, where parking can be a problem, though there is usually room along the west side of the High Street.

Distance/Time: Five-and-a-half miles, taking two-and-a-half hours.

Terrain: Easy walking, mostly along well-used and signed field paths, with one gentle climb.

Public Transport: Hourly weekly bus service from East Grinstead or Tunbridge Wells.

Map: OS Explorer 135 - Ashdown Forest.

Refreshments: Two pubs in Hartfield.



Directions:

Start the walk northwards along Hartfield High Street. Just past the Anchor Inn on your right (1), turn left through a gate on a path signed to the Forest Way and as part of the High Weald Landscape Trail. It squeezes along the left of some tennis courts to a stile and continues along the edges of three fields.

Cross the old railway, now the Forest Way, and go forward for a few yards to cross a footbridge over the river Medway and on across two fields, punctuated by stiles. Keep to the right of a third field, cross a fourth field to a stile and follow a path through a copse.

Leave the wood over a stile in a deer fence and head diagonally across the next field. Cross a stile beside the gate and maintain direction across the next field to another stile.

You have gained quite a bit of height since crossing the Medway and are rewarded by good views over to your left across the valley to the heights of Ashdown Forest.

Cross a drive, go through the gap opposite and bear half-left across the middle of a field where a path should be trodden out through any growing crop. The path skirts to the

right of an attractive pool, surrounded by oak trees and popular with fishermen, to reach a stile and continues along a right field edge.

Now take care. After another 100 yards or so, at a waypost (2) where there is a stile on your right (not for you) and the Landscape Trail continues ahead, you should turn left and head out across a field. Ploughing and planting may have obliterated the path but you should be heading very slightly right, passing closely to the left of a peninsula of woodland protruding into the field from the right. Join and bear right along a track.

Follow this track through a hedge and on for 50 yards before bearing left along a wide, grassy headland, dropping down along the right edge of two fields with a wide strip of woodland on your right.

From the second field corner, go ahead for 50 yards along the right edge of a regimented grove of trees then turn right through a gate where there is a 'No Cycling' notice.

After a few yards, go left along the drive from a house called Lower Parrock, following it as it re-crosses, in turn, the Medway and the old railway. Where this rough gravel drive divides, keep left, following it for another quarter of a mile out to a lane (3).

Turn left for 20 yards, then right over a stile and forward within a thin, wooded strip. Cross a stile beside a gate and veer half-left across a field to go through a gate in the far left field corner.

Head squarely across the next field to another gate and continue in the same direction across the field beyond to find a stile to the right of a house from which an enclosed path continues out to the B2110 road. Cross this and turn left along the opposite pavement. After about 150 yards (4), turn right along the drive to Fincham Farm.

As you approach the farmhouse, fork left along a stile diversion which skirts to the left of the house, garden and tennis court to reach a gate and then continues downhill along the right edge of a young tree plantation to reach a stile.

A well-worn path continues down across rough pasture, crossing a plank bridge and subsequent footbridge to follow an enclosed path and a short access drive out to a lane where you should turn left.

After about 350 yards (5), turn left along a signed bridleway track and follow it for half a mile down and over Pooh Sticks Bridge, then up again. Join a drive, go forward for a few yards to a junction with another drive and fork left. After 100 yards or so, fork right over a stile beside a gate, signposted as a footpath to Hartfield.

A path, clearly trodden by countless Pooh pilgrims, heads out across two fields. Join a drive, go through a swing gate opposite and continue along a left field edge.

Go over a stile, left to a second stile and gently downhill, still on a clear path through two fields. In the second field, the tall, shingled spire of Hartfield Church comes into view ahead, set against the low hills rising up on the other side of the Medway valley.

Join the B2110 road and turn right. It carries fast traffic but there is a good pavement on the right. Follow it for about a quarter of a mile back into Hartfield.

Forest pathways to the Airman's Grave

This walk crosses the quiet wooded pathways of Ashdown Forest, passing Nutley Windmill and a memorial to the crew of a crashed war time bomber.

Distance: 6 1/4 miles. Time: 3 hours.

Start: Park in the Ellison's Pond Ashdown Forest car park on the north side of the Nutley-to-Camp Hill road, about half a mile west of Camp Hill at GR 462286.

Public Transport: None convenient.

Maps: OS Explorer 135 - Ashdown Forest.

Terrain: Mostly on sandy tracks and paths through woodland and across open heathland.

Refreshments: none on the route.

Directions:



You will need to follow the described route with extra care in places, particularly between points 4 and 5 and, later on, between points 8 and 9, as there are so many alternative paths across the forest. Have a map to hand in case you do go adrift and a compass might come in handy too, particularly if its misty.

From the car park (1), head northwards on to the forest, almost immediately bearing right on a track which passes between two ponds and soon climbs steadily across the Forest. As the path levels out, your first objective, the tree clump on Camp Hill, comes into sight.

Walk up to the clump (2), pass to the left of it and continue on a wide track which sweeps round the head of a shallow combe, bearing gradually left and heading generally northwards to converge, after almost a mile, on the B2026 beside a small car park (3).

Don't join the road. Instead, turn left along the drive to the Old Lodge, which leaves the B2026 within yards of the point where your path reaches it. Follow this drive, soon passing between stone pillars where there is a 'No bridleway' notice. True enough, but it omits the fact you are on a public footpath. Follow this drive for two thirds of a mile, until you are directed left over a stile, marked as a path diversion.

Resume your previous direction along the right edge of two fields, with a fine view of the open heathland of Ashdown Forest across the valley to your left.

In the second field corner, go right over two stiles and carry on forward with a fence on your left. After about 200 yards, go ahead over a stile and follow a path down into a

wooded valley. Shortly, where the path divides, keep right, contouring along the hillside with little change in height at first, before eventually descending into the valley.

Cross a large footbridge and turn left to go ahead along a clear path, walking parallel to the stream down the hill to your right.

After 200 yards (4), fork left to climb gently up and out into the open forest. At a wide forest ride, bear right. Go straight over an oblique crossing track, climbing steadily. At a T-junction with another wide track, go right and, after 40 yards, left on a narrow path which winds through scrub and bracken.

Shortly, bear left up towards a wooden shed. Go through a stile a few yards to the left of the shed (5) and forward on a gravel drive, passing Nutley Windmill on your right.

This rare, open-trestle post mill, probably 300 years old and carefully restored, is open in the afternoon on the last Sunday of each month between Easter and September.

Follow the drive out to a road (6) and continue along the signed path opposite, out on to the forest. Join a drive and bear right along it, passing Alma Cottage on your right. Continue along the drive until, just past another cottage called Brackendale, you can turn right at a waypost, where a waymark indicates that you are on part of the Maresfield Parish Millennium Walk.

Follow a clear track down into a valley where it joins a roughly-metalled drive from a house called Morrisfield. Follow this drive, which becomes a lane and takes you out to the A22 at Nutley.

Turn left and walk beside this busy road until, about 100 yards beyond the village shop (7), you can turn left again along Clockhouse Lane, which soon becomes a drive.

Where the drive divides, keep left (almost straight on).

After another 250 yards or so, just past the start of the access drive to a house called Woodpeckers on your left, you have a choice of two paths, also to the left. Yours is the first and narrower of these two paths (not the signed horse ride). Follow it down to the bottom of the hill where, at a T-junction, you can go left over a stream culvert and ahead, climbing steeply at first, soon out onto open heathland once more.

Cross a ride, go ahead on a narrow path and, after a few yards, go ahead with the high holly hedge surrounding Misbourne Farm on your right.

At a drive from the farm, go left and, after 30 yards, right over a cattle grid and along another drive. After about 200 yards (8), sidestep to the left along a short, narrow path to join and go right along a forest track. Follow this track down into a dip and up again, go straight over a crossing track and then begin to drop down again.

Very shortly, fork left on a path which crosses the stream using two plank bridges. It then climbs to join a track near a stone enclosure known as the Airman's Grave, containing the memorial to the crew of a Wellington bomber which crashed here in 1941 (9)

Bear left and follow this wide track steadily uphill for a little over half a mile back to the start.