

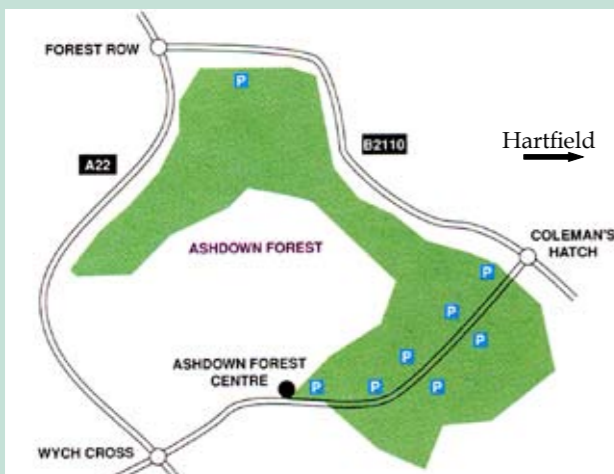


Further Information

LOCATION

Wych Cross, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5JP

The Forest Centre is located opposite the Ashdown Park Hotel on the Colemans Hatch Road, one mile east of the Wych Cross traffic lights on the A22. For further details www.ashdownforest.org or visit www.multimap.com



THE HIGH WEALD

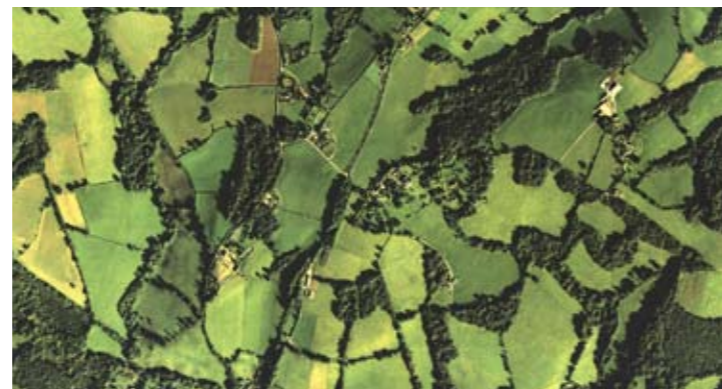
The High Weald was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by the government in 1983 to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.



It is the fourth largest protected landscape in England and Wales, covering 1461 square kilometres (564 square miles).

The essential character of the High Weald was established by the 14th century and has survived major historical events and social and technological changes. It is considered to be one of the best surviving, coherent medieval landscapes in Northern Europe.

Its landscape is characterised by rolling hills, small, irregular fields, abundant woods and hedges, scattered farmsteads and sunken lanes.



High Weald Heroes is a primary school education programme which has been established to help school teachers use the area's rich landscape heritage to support curriculum delivery. For more information and the reason for the 'pig' logo visit www.highweald.org



Education Visit Information



INTRODUCTION

Ashdown Forest is steeped in history, rich in wildlife and beautiful whatever time of the year. Originally a deer hunting forest in Norman times, Ashdown Forest is now the largest free public access space in the South East. Open all year it is a great place for walking and enjoying spectacular views over the Sussex countryside and is known the world over as the 'home' of Winnie-the-Pooh. The [Ashdown Forest Centre](#) is the ideal base for any visit to the Forest and offers a range of education options to suit your school (see page 3).



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FOREST CENTRE FACILITIES

Information Barn As well as a permanent display on the Forest, the Information Barn often has a variety of temporary exhibitions, often featuring local artists and photographers

Opening hours: weekends, Bank Holidays (excluding Christmas and Boxing Day) and half term holidays: 11:00 – 17:00. From 1 April to 30 September, also open weekdays: 14:00 – 17:00

Outside of these times the Centre can be opened by prior arrangement for education options A,B,C & D (see page 3)

Education Barn See page 3 for details

Toilets There are toilets available at the Forest Centre

Public Transport To check out if you can visit the Ashdown Forest by using public transport visit www.transportdirect.info or www.traveline.org.uk

Parking is available at the Forest Centre. Coaches should drop off passengers at the entrance to the Forest Centre car park, and park in Broadstone car park, about 200 metres away (towards Colemans Hatch)

Circular walk from the Forest Centre - The Broadstone Amble

The route is clearly waymarked and can be downloaded from the downloads section of www.ashdownforest.org. Distance: 2 miles/4km Start Point: Forest Centre car park Highlights: common heathland plants, gill woodland, views of the High Weald and North Downs Risk Assessment: an example risk assessment can be downloaded from www.ashdownforest.org



A Special Place



CARING FOR ASHDOWN FOREST

The Forest is at the heart of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has national and international protection because of its wildlife. Nearly two thirds of its 6500 acres (2500 hectares) are heathland, amounting to 2.5% of the UK's extent of this rare habitat. The Forest Centre is the headquarters of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest, who are responsible for the management of the Forest as a quiet, natural place for you to enjoy and as a refuge for wildlife.



HEATHLAND HABITATS

Heathlands have been created over many centuries by the impact of people and their livestock. Commoners living on or near the Forest had – and still have – rights to use the Forest to graze livestock, collect firewood and cut bracken and heather for animal bedding. In the past, these activities stopped trees growing and created the Forest's distinctive heathland landscape. Today, of the 730 existing Commoners, only a very few take advantage of their grazing and wood-cutting rights. The Forest is suffering from the decline. After about 900 years of use, the cessation of grazing and cutting is allowing the heathland to turn into woodland. In much of England heathland landscapes have disappeared. Ashdown Forest now has the largest and best-preserved area of this habitat in the South East but it takes careful management to keep it this way.



INDUSTRIAL PAST

For more than 2000 years, the raw materials of Ashdown Forest shaped people's lives. They were exploited on an industrial scale for making iron in two major eras of history. The Romans, as well as needing iron for every day household objects, used huge amounts to service their army and navy. Fifteen hundred years later the Tudors took advantage of the new blast furnaces, which used enormous amounts of iron ore, charcoal and water, to make iron. Much of this iron was later turned into cannons used by the Royal Navy for fighting the Spanish Armada. Britain's second blast furnace was built on the Forest in 1496.



Useful Websites

- www.ashdownforest.org
- www.highweald.org
- www.sussexwt.org.uk
- www.naturedetectives.org.uk
- www.english-heritage.org.uk
- www.arkiveeducation.org



Education Visit Options



OPTION	A Sussex Wildlife Trust led workshops	B Half day	C Self-guided visits	D	E
	Whole day 2 x 2hr sessions 10.00 –14.30 with lunch break	2 hour session 10.00–12.00 or 12.30–14.30			
Pre-packed Explorer Packs	No	No	Yes	No	No
Education Barn	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Access to Information Barn	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Normal opening times
Maximum number of children	2 groups – maximum of 30 per group	2 groups – maximum of 30 per group	60	60	N/A
Coach parking and toilet facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Booking required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cost	£115 (if you are bringing up to 30 pupils) £230 (if you are bringing 30 – 60 pupils)	£65 (if you are bringing up to 30 pupils) £130 (if you are bringing 30– 60 pupils)	£75	£65	Free

Sussex Wildlife Trust Workshops KS1&KS2 – “Discovering Ashdown Forest” Options A & B

All equipment is provided. Activities include;

- learning about Ashdown Forest
- mini-beast hunt/sweep netting
- activities designed to help pupils appreciate the sounds and sights of the landscape
- mirror walk – ‘fly’ through the woodland, experiencing what it is like to be high in the tree canopy, finding out about how the trees survive and the wildlife they support
- heathland identification – looking at the colours within the heathland and learning to identify some common heathland plant species
- finding out about basic heathland management
- trees – simple methods for estimating the age of a tree
- journey cards – looking at contrasting habitats along part of the route.

Other options are available – just ask!

Education Barn Options A, B, C, & D

This provides a base for your visit, somewhere to store your things when walking and an area to work in or eat your packed lunch if it is wet.

Explorer Packs Option C

You can pre-book equipment such as sweep nets, field guides, parachute and art materials. Just download the list from downloads section www.ashdownforest.org, fill in what you would like to use, send it back and the equipment will be ready on the day, pre-packed in a convenient rucksack.

Availability

The education options are available on all weekdays except Bank Holidays. All options must be booked through the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

Booking Information

Please contact us during office opening hours: weekdays 09.00–17.00 (closed for lunch 13.00–14.00 and Bank Holidays)

Telephone: 01342 823583

Email: tracy@ashdownforest.org

or download a form from the downloads section of www.ashdownforest.org