

ridge (N). In about one third mile you will reach the eighth Clump, **King's Standing**.

15. Go round the Clump and, carrying on in the same direction, drop down towards the Forest boundary to a cross ride. Turn left (NW) and follow the ride to the road. Cross the road, pick up the ride to the top of the slope, then turn right (N). Stay on this ride for half a mile, passing some small groups of trees, until you arrive at **Greenwood Gate Clump**.
16. From this Clump you need to cross Wren's Warren valley to Gills Lap. The best way to do this is to circle the head of the valley by turning left when you reach **Greenwood Gate Clump** (NW), dropping onto a ride which goes SW. Soon you can join a path which crosses the valley and heads back up towards the car park at Gills Lap.
17. Ignore the side ride which heads towards the car park, but cross the road on the horse riding route 200 metres further on.
18. Go up the hill to the cross ride and turn right towards the final Clump, **Gills Lap**.
19. From Gills Lap, turn left (W) and drop towards a lone pine standing near a sandstone hole; carry on downhill towards the trees, staying on the broad ride. Ignoring cross-rides you will drop rapidly downhill to arrive on the Chuck Hatch road between Jack Humphrey's Farm and the splash. Turn left on the road, cross the splash by the footbridge and turn right uphill.
20. Up the road for one third mile then turn (second) left (W) into a road marked Little Furnace Farm (with a Forest horse riding sign as well). Follow this road for a short distance before joining the first ride striking off right (W). (Ignore a rough track going sharply back). Continue uphill eventually passing Colemans Hatch Cricket Ground. Go round this and cross directly over the narrow road to join a ride which goes to the left (W), parallel with the road. Ignore the ride to the right and later one to the left. Eventually you will cross two private roads and the ride will soon cross the main road to lead you to Broadstone car park. If you are parked in The Centre car park, reach this via a small footpath at the western end of Broadstone.



Ashdown Forest

The Clumps Walk

A fourteen mile circular walk visiting 10 of the existing 11 Clumps on Ashdown Forest

Approximately 14 miles (23 km)—at least 5 hours

The Ashdown Forest Clumps

In 1825, Arabella Diana, Dowager Duchess, Lady of the Manor Duddleswell, and therefore owner of Ashdown Forest, planted on the Forest eight groups of Scots Pine trees. Her reasons for having this work done are not known; perhaps the trees were planted as aids to navigation across the barren heath, shelter for deer and grazing animals, or merely as landscape features. What is known is that she gave permission for the public to cross her land to visit the new Clumps. Until the Ashdown Forest Act of Parliament 1974, this was the only right of access the public had across the Forest.

The original eight Clumps were **Wych Cross, Greenhall Toll, Crowborough, Camphill, Crows Nest, Kings Standing, Greenwood Gate and Gills Lap**. **Crowborough Clump** has now disappeared under the Army Camp built during the war and **Greenhall Toll** has been excluded from this walk due to its isolation on the far side of the golf course; if you have the energy you are, of course, welcome to complete the set!

Of the other four Clumps, **Millbrook** is contemporary with the original eight, but for some reason was never mentioned in the documents. **Friends** was planted in 1973 for The Year of the Tree, **MacMillan** was planted because Harold MacMillan lived nearby at Birch Grove and **Kennedy** was planted to commemorate a visit by J.F.K.



Camphill Clump



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*This walk will take most people over 5 hours; allow plenty of time, especially in Winter.
Remember—if you start on the top of a hill, you will finish with an ascent!*

*The directions start at the Ashdown Forest Centre, but as the walk is circular, you can start anywhere on the route.
Wear appropriate clothing—strong, tried boots are recommended to cope with boggy and stony ground.*

Take (and know how to use) a compass. If you think you are lost, stay on the rides and use the map and compass to continue. On Ashdown Forest you are never far from a road.

In the text, approximate compass directions have been included to keep you going in the right direction.

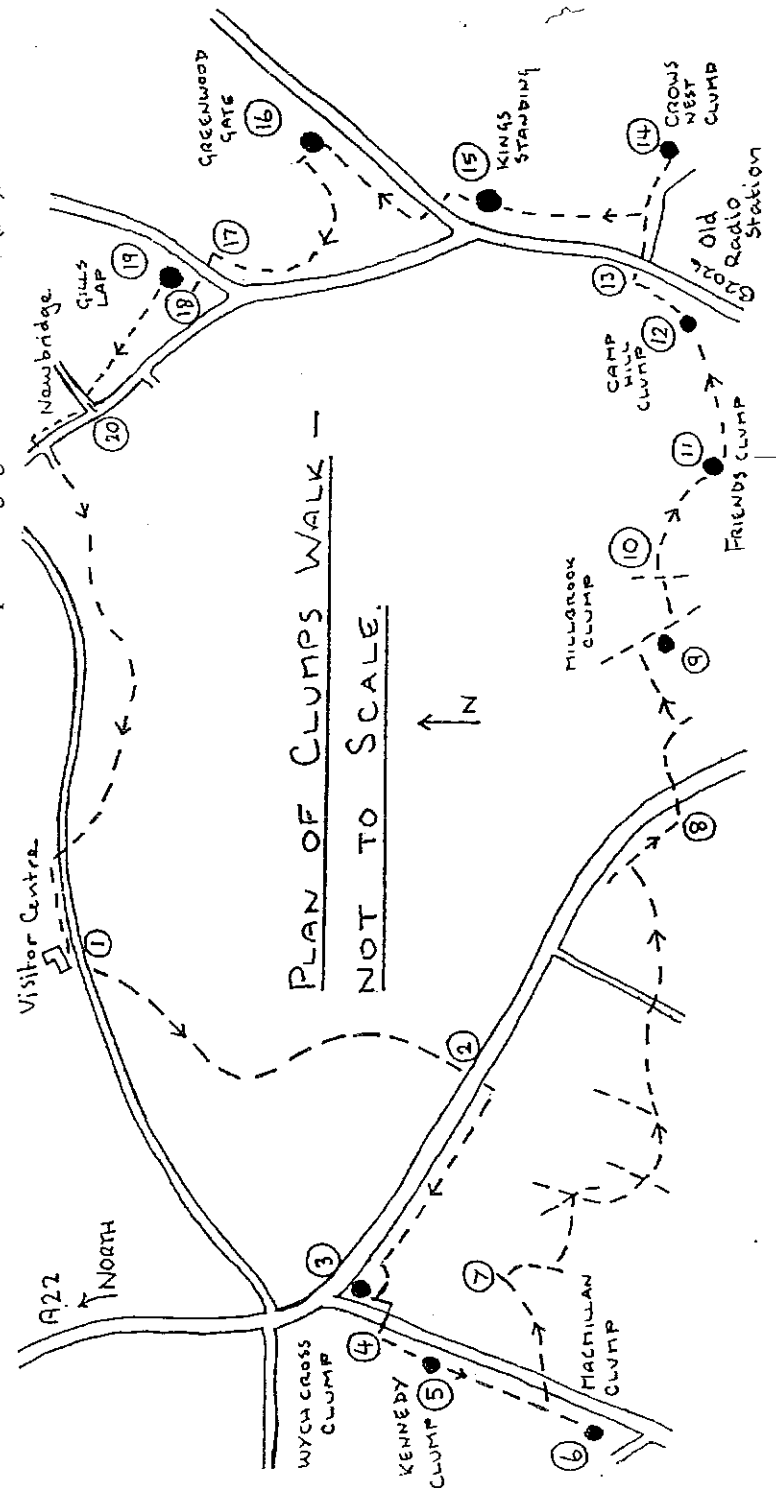
We hope you enjoy your walk and that the weather is kind. If you experience any difficulties, please let the Rangers know.

Please park your car in a proper car park and leave nothing valuable in it.

1. Starting from the Ashdown Forest Centre, opposite the rear entrance to The Centre, is a public footpath marked by a low concrete sign. This path passes in front of a pair of garages and then winds through the buildings of Ashdown Park. At the second sign, do not turn sharp right, but diagonally right to pass through the car park and close to the right hand side of the main building.

2. The path crosses an area of private fields and woods (S) eventually emerging on the A22 main road. Go directly across the road, through a narrow strip of woodland and on to a broad ride. Turn right (NW) and follow the ride (passing round the outside of Long car park) until you reach a green chainlink fence which surrounds a covered reservoir.
3. Follow the ride around the fence and into the car park. The first Clump, **Wych Cross**, can be found in the area of woodland on the opposite side of the reservoir and is reached by following the woody ride (N) for 100 metres and then striking off to the right (E) for 50 metres into the Clump which is surrounded by a low bank. Return to the car park.
4. To reach the second Clump it is necessary to cross the road (A275) and join the ride (S). This ride soon passes **Kennedy Clump**.
5. Continue in this direction on the main ride for about two-thirds of a mile and you will come to **MacMillan Clump**.
6. From **MacMillan Clump** it is necessary to retrace your steps for one third of a mile until the ride splits with one part turning right to re-cross the A275 (NE).

7. Take the first ride to the right, turning sharply back southward and then left to cross a small stream by a sleeper bridge. Carry on uphill until you reach a 5-ride crossing. Turn right and continue to the bottom of the old Airstrip. Turn right and left to go round Chelwood Vachery, cross the road onto a small path, over the back track and onto a footpath. This leads down to a main ride; turn right.
8. Behind the Millbrook car park is a large grassy picnic area. Cross this diagonally to leave at the lower corner (SE) on a broad ride. Follow this for about 100 metres before turning left (E) downhill. **Millbrook Clump** can now be seen as a group of pine trees halfway down the slope. Follow the ride for several hundred metres until you see a footpath striking right directly to the Clump (SE).
9. Leave **Millbrook Clump** by the lower ride. After a short distance a side route leads off left downhill (E). Follow this halfway down the rest of the slope until you meet a ride T-junction. Turn left and then right. The ride you are on crosses Millbrook Stream by a sleeper bridge.



10. Over the bridge climb steeply uphill to the right and follow that ride as it enters woodland and passes close to the windmill just visible through the trees. At the top of the hill, the ride leaves the woods and passes the next clump, **Friends**.
11. Stay on the same track downhill passing Ellisons Pond and then climbing to **Camp Hill Clump** on the next ridge.
12. From this Clump, take the ride heading towards the far corner of the Radio Station (NE) and follow it down and then up until it crosses the road opposite the northern corner of the Radio Station fence.
13. Cross the road (B2026) and follow the ride around the fence until the next Clump can be reached by following a side ride for about 50 metres to the left (E).
14. From **Crows Nest Clump**, re-trace your steps around the Radio Station (NW) and follow the ride parallel with the road along the