



Parking can get really busy at the moment. There are over 40 car parks around Ashdown Forest so there are always some with spaces. Please park considerately. Parking on the roadside, across access tracks and in front of barriers can stop emergency crews and residents from getting through. Parking is free but please consider making a donation to help towards their upkeep. See our homepage for details.



### No BBQs or campfires

BBQs and campfires are not permitted on Ashdown Forest and are against the byelaws. The results of fires can be devastating. The best thing to do is to leave the BBQ at home. Enjoy a picnic, but please clean up and leave no trace!



### No Camping or overnight stays

'Wild camping' anywhere on Ashdown Forest is not allowed. This includes sleeping in vehicles in the car parks between midnight and 6am



### Don't be a litterbug

Take home what you bring with you. Litter can start fires or easily harm wildlife and livestock. There are no litterbins on the Forest so if you brought it with you, take it home. Clear up after your dog too.



### A view but no loo

The only public toilets on Ashdown Forest are at the Forest Centre. However, these remain closed currently. We are working to reopen them so please check our website for updates. Please take this into consideration when planning your visit.



### Be a responsible dog owner

Ashdown Forest is a great place to bring your dog, but it is home to important wildlife and livestock. Be a responsible dog owner, keep them under close control at all times and do not allow them to worry other people, wildlife or animals. Remember - dogs that are seen to be worrying livestock can be shot by the farmer or Rangers. Please clear up after your dog – there are no dog bins so bag it and take it home.



### Enjoy your visit

If you are new to Ashdown Forest, download a map from our website, which shows all the car parks, main rides and points of interest. A series of walks are also available to download. A description of the walks can be found here:

<https://www.ashdownforest.org/enjoy/walking/MappedWalks.php>

---

## Help in an emergency - ///what3words

There may be situations where you need to let someone know your location in an emergency. The what3words system can help you when you may need urgent assistance.

Download the app on your phone prior to your trip. It will generate a totally unique three-word pinpoint location that can be passed on to the Rangers or emergency services.

[what3words.com/how-to-use-the-what3words-app](https://what3words.com/how-to-use-the-what3words-app)

---

## Ashdown Forest during COVID-19 restrictions

Ashdown Forest is currently operating near normally. Work continues out on the Forest although some of the administrative functions are taking place remotely and through home working by its staff. You can contact Ashdown Forest staff on 01342 823583 or on [conservators@ashdownforest.org](mailto:conservators@ashdownforest.org). Occasionally the office will be unstaffed, but the Duty Ranger will still be contactable by phone.

Due to the high volume of queries and staff capacity, response times may be slightly longer than usual so please bear with us.

Ashdown Forest remains open to visitors to enjoy. Social distancing measures and other government guidance continue to apply - please observe these at all times for the safety of visitors, residents, local communities, businesses and staff working on the Forest.

### Visitor Centre

**Our Visitor Centre at Wych Cross is still closed to the public. When it reopens, the opening hours are likely to have changed from the published times. Please check the website before visiting.**

### Handwashing and hygiene opportunities

There are no handwashing or hygiene facilities on Ashdown Forest apart from the public toilets at the Forest Centre (currently closed). You should bring an appropriate hand sanitiser and clean your hands at the start and end of your visit as well as following contact with surfaces.

### Public Rights of Way and signage

The Forest has a mix of public rights of way and forest tracks. Public footpaths and bridleways will be signposted at road crossings but not across the Forest itself. There are no signposts on the Forest tracks and rides. We advise new visitors to the Forest to use a map when undertaking long walks.

---

## Ashdown Forest Rangers – what we do...

The Ashdown Forest Rangers have a range of responsibilities and key activities including:

- Patrolling car parks and the wider Forest.
- Responding to urgent incidents such as lost/injured people, out of control dogs, injured or distressed wildlife and livestock and forest fires.
- Heathland and woodland conservation activities
- Managing dangerous trees
- Liaising with residents and local communities
- Visitor engagement

### ...and what we don't do:

- **Enforcing social distancing and other Covid guidance** - This remains a matter for the police, although our Rangers will liaise with officers if required.
- **Highways and traffic control** - Issues concerning vehicle speed remain a police matter.
- **Fly-tipping and litter on private property** - The Rangers will remove fly-tipping and litter from Forest land but not from private property or the roadside. Where cases are reported to us directly, we will pass the information on to the relevant organisation.
- **Anti-social behaviour** - Our Rangers will always seek to engage constructively with those who choose not to respect Ashdown Forest. However, they will not put themselves at risk at any time or be subjected to violence or verbal abuse and will liaise with the police if they feel it is necessary.
- **Deer on private property** – The Rangers are not able to attend to injured or dead deer on private property.

---

## Q: Is Ashdown Forest Centre open?

Ashdown Forest Centre (Visitor Centre, Toilets and Forest Office) remains closed to the public. Deliveries can be made via the yard entrance. The Forest Centre Office is open to visitors by appointment only and meetings will be held outside or in the Information/Education Barn where possible. To make an appointment please call 01342 823583 or email [conservators@ashdownforest.org](mailto:conservators@ashdownforest.org)

We are working to reopen the Forest Centre and updates will be posted on the website.

## Q: Are there any Forest Centre events planned?

Due to ongoing uncertainties regarding Covid-19 we have taken the decision not to run any guided walks for this year. Other events such as the Remembrance Sunday commemoration and Fungi Foray are under consideration and might be cancelled at short notice. Updates will appear on our website and social media pages.

## Q: Are public meetings and committees being held?

Upcoming committees and public meetings are expected to be conducted remotely or postponed until further notice. Check the website for updates and further information

## **Q: I am interested in volunteering for Ashdown Forest. What can I do?**

Most of our volunteers have been stood down although some, including our mounted and volunteer rangers, are still helping us on a regular basis. Volunteers will be updated directly as activities and tasks resume. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please complete and return the volunteer application form which can be found on the Volunteers page of the website.

We rely very much on our volunteers and have missed their help over the past few months. We would like to extend our thanks to all our volunteers for their dedication and the contribution they make to Ashdown Forest. We look forward to welcoming you back soon.