

NW Fringes of Ashdown Forest



Welcome to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty a medieval landscape.

A short walk on the north western fringes of Ashdown Forest with fine views to the north.

Grateful acknowledgement to High Weald Walkers (Trevor Mann) for the loan of this walk.

Distance and duration	2.5 miles / 3.8 km. 1.5 - 2 Hrs
Level	Easy
Start point	Goat car park Ashdown Forest near the junction of Legsheath Lane and Priory Road, RH18 5JG. Parking charges likely to be applied.
Map reference	TQ402326
Other information	(R = right; L = left)

I-Spy - Things to look out for in the landscape

St Swithun's Church - East Grinstead

St. Swithun's is a Church of England church in East Grinstead, West Sussex, England, which is a Grade II* listed building. The site had a church since the 11th century. It was struck by lightning in 1772 and after it was rebuilt by James Wyatt it was opened in 1789. Looking to the North the church dominates the skyline ridge that East Grinstead town sits on.

Route Directions

At Goat car park walk towards the entrance. Turn R and walk along the grass bank for about 15 metres towards the cross roads to a wooden post. Turn R at the post and follow ride going straight ahead between trees to a patch of open heath. Legsheath Lane will be on your left. The Meridian Line crosses here.

Crossing a tarmac drive walk straight ahead into the woods. Remain on wide track until reaching a T junction (1). Turn R and after a little way you emerge onto open heathland. Ignore left fork here and follow main ride through middle of heathland. Turn R at next junction (2) and route descends into woods.

Soon you pass the point where the Meridian Line again crosses which is marked on the left by a plaque and a giant Redwood Tree planted to mark the Meridian Line's Centenary in 1984. Path continues down hill through trees. When arriving at a junction in a glade of mature beech trees turn L (3). At next T junction, with footpath sign facing you, turn R (4). Continue downhill with ditch or sunken track on your left eventually crossing a stream by a bridge at the end of the path (5). Follow path up hill to a cart track bearing slightly right and continuing ahead to join a made up drive (6).

Turn L and follow drive up to the road (Priory Road (7)) and then cross the road taking sunken path, diagonally left opposite, which runs along the edge of open heathland. Follow path as it winds under trees and out to a wide ride where you turn R (8).

Follow ride across open heathland (ignoring smaller rides off to left and then right) to reach a junction (9). Look for a memorial stone with compass points in the bushes on right of path where just before it you will see and should take R fork. (*Look back and enjoy the view*). Route then continues across heathland until reaching the road at a barrier.

Cross road (10), past a small pond (*maybe dried up with the drought*), and turn L on the other side of the trees to walk parallel to road on your left where at the far end of the heathland the route carries on into woods, into a dip, and over a stream (11) (*again maybe dry with the drought*). Ascend on path to emerge again onto heathland. Walk through some birch trees ahead to come out by a seat below Goat car park from which there is a panoramic view northwards.

Happy Walking!

