

ACCESSIBLE RAMBLES IN SUSSEX Uckfield and Ashdown Forest area

Please read the introduction before reading this section

UCKFIELD AREA AND THE ASHDOWN FOREST

SHEFFIELD FOREST grades 1, 3, 4



Researched: 30/4/10

Grid reference: Start TQ429269

Map: Explorer 135, Landranger 198

Summary: A pleasant perambulation through quiet mixed woodlands, explored by few, with optional muddy adventures.

Public Transport: none

Car parking: At the start there is room for up to four or so cars, with the possibility of trailer parking if there are not too many of you. Do not obstruct the gate.

Accessible toilet: No toilet on route

Refreshments: none on route.

Grade: 2/4 for the first part of the route. 3 for the remainder

Length: First part of the route 3.7 km return total ascent/descent 60m. Maximum gradient about 1 in 13 Second part of the route, 1.9 km circuit, total ascent/descent 25 metres, maximum gradient about 1 in 8

More details

Sheffield Forest, which is situated to the edge of the Village of Nutley, must be one of the quietest woods in Sussex, and also one of the most beautiful. This ramble uses forestry tracks about 3 metres wide. The forest is statutory access land, where you have the right to go where you want.

The Forestry Commission says about the wood: "Early mornings are the time to see the forest's resident Fallow Deer, a population of around fifty. Look in adjoining fields where large groups can be seen. Roe Deer are less likely to be seen, but can be glimpsed at the edge of the forest road, where the bramble grows its best.

Buzzards soar over the woods during the spring and summer, Hobbies can be seen hawking over open heath within the woods. At night the Nightjar can be seen at the heath areas. Families of Crossbills hang upside down from large conifers along the forest road. Kingfishers and Moorhens can be glimpsed at the small pond beside the forest road.

The heathy nature of the wood is good for lizards and adders which bask and hunt in the older stands of heather.”

Start from the entrance to the wood. There is a gap about one metre wide to the right of the gate. In front of you is a compressed earth and stone track which you can follow for 1.8km through the wood. Stile free paths can be explored to the right and the left, depending on your ability. After 1.8 km the track crosses a stream and then divides. This is the end of the first part of the ramble. The return is by the same route.

To your left is a promising looking route uphill which, however, was obstructed by a fallen tree when I followed it and later is obstructed by a locked gate and stile. To the right a track leads to the southern part of the wood. At this point the quality of the route degenerates. It is no longer reinforced with stone and is vulnerable to damage by forestry vehicles. The condition of the route will vary according to the amount of rain and how much vehicular use there has been recently. Go as far as you are comfortable with. I have not yet been able to fully research the remainder of the route. If you want to explore it take the Explorer map which shows the route clearly

The track winds up and turns left. Take the first major turning on your right to leave the main track, and then at the next Junction bear left turning on your left. At a further junction turn left and then meet the track you left previously. Turn left here and return to the point where you left the main track. Carry straight on and retrace your route to the start.

Routes we have not researched yet. Would you like to research them?

Ashdown Forest bridleways