



Ashdown Forest Monster

Distance: 41 km=25 miles

easy but very long walking

Region: E.Sussex

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Refreshments: Chelwood Gate, Fairwarp, Hartfield, Forest Row

Maps: Explorer 133 (Ashdown Forest)

Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org

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Forest, green meadows, magical glades, heath, arboretum, views, villages

In Brief



This is a monster circular walk that combines four other walks from this series in Ashdown Forest, with some additional bridging sections. This is the *Overall Guide* but you need to browse, print or download the *latest* versions of the following *additional walks*:

[Hindleap and Vachery](#)

[Turnstile and Windmill](#)

[Rock Wood and Purple Heather](#)

[Poohsticks and Sandpits](#)



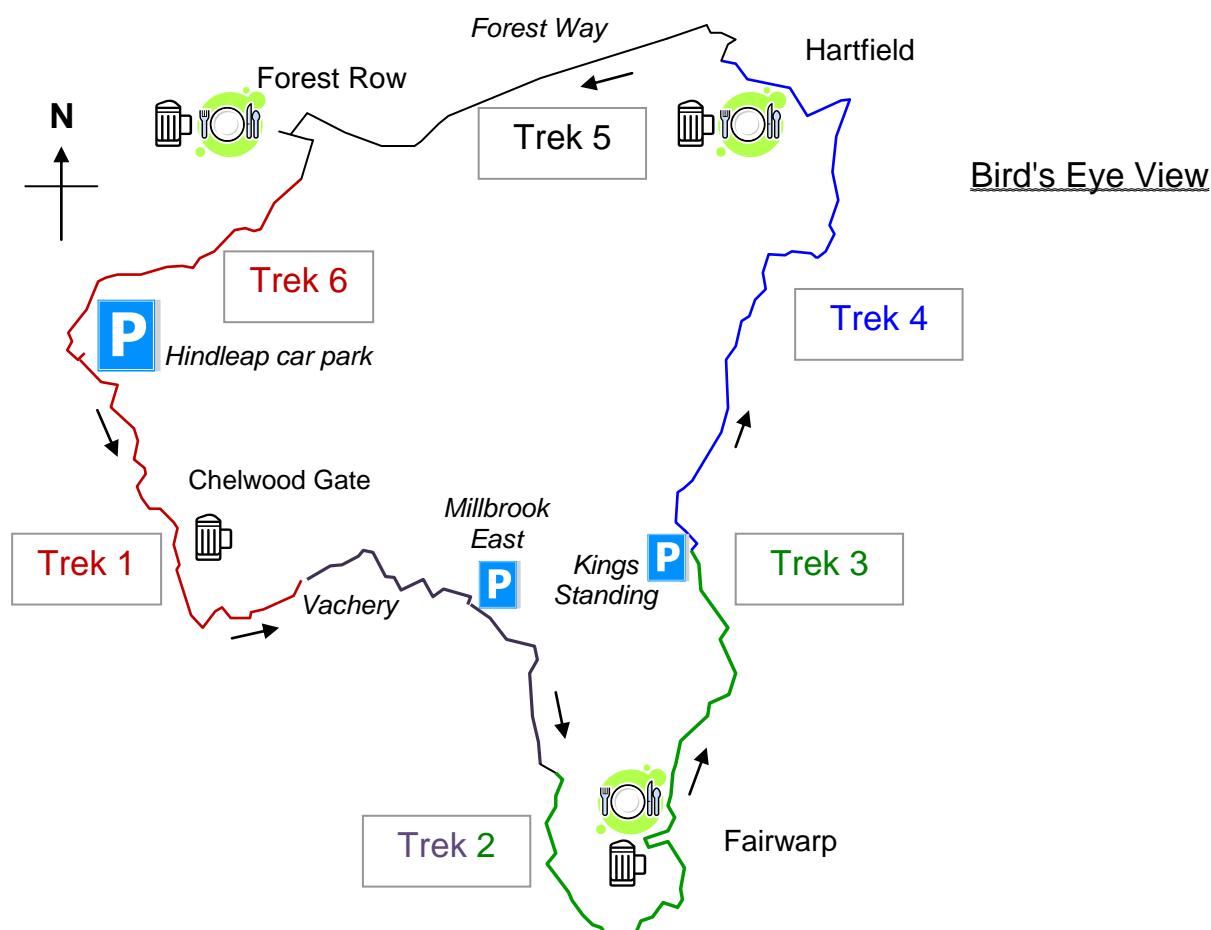
Warning! This is an extremely long walk and should not be attempted unless you are physically fit and have back-up support.



Boots are recommended because of the length of this walk. A walking pole is also recommended. This monster walk is not suitable for a dog. There are no nettles or briars to speak of.

The walk begins at the **Hindleap** car park, east of Sharpthorne, nearest **postcode RH18 5JQ**, grid ref TQ 403 324. Other suitable starting points are the **Millbrook East** (or West) car park on the A22 road, approximate postcode **TN22 3HW**, and the **Kings Standing** car park on the B2026 road, approximate postcode **TN22 3JD**. For more details, see **Getting There** at the end of the text of the first walk. (For the Millbrook East car park see the *Turnstile and Windmill* walk; for the Kings Standing car park, see the *Poohsticks and Sandpits* walk.

The Walk



Trek 1 Hindleap to Vachery. 6 km = 3¾ miles.

This is the beginning of the *Hindleap and Vachery* walk from the Hindleap car park to the path that runs through the centre of the Vachery. Leave that guide at the Monster symbol and keep **straight on** instead of turning left through the gate, passing on your left the walls of Chelwood Vachery.



Refreshments are available part-way at the *Red Lion* in Chelwood Gate.

Trek 2 Vachery to Fairwarp. 10 km = 6¼ miles.

Part 1: is part of the *Turnstile and Windmill* walk from the centre of the Vachery, Leg 3 Section [5]. At the end of the guide, **wrap round** to the beginning (Leg 1). The **Millbrook East** car park is an **alternative start**. This part of the walk leaves at the T-junction at the bottom of the descent from Friends Clump, at the end of Leg 2 Section [1]. (Look for the Monster symbol.)



Part 2: is a small bridging section. Instead of turning right at the wide crossing path “by the line of birch trees”, turn **left**. Follow the sandy path for 250m, ignoring minor turnoffs, to where the path enters trees and you meet a path coming down from the left by some streams. Continue for another 10m over two little two-plank bridges (one hidden) and turn **right** on a wide woodland path which runs beside a high bank of earth.

Part 3: is part of the *Rock Wood and Purple Heather* walk, beginning at Leg 2 Section [2]. (Look for the Monster symbol.) This part ends at the *Foresters Arms* in Fairwarp for a break and refreshments.



Trek 3 Fairwarp to Kings Standing. 4½ km = 2¾ miles.

Resume the *Rock Wood and Purple Heather* walk as far as the Kings Standing car park, in Leg 4 section [2]. (Look for the Monster symbol.)



The **Kings Standing** car park is an **alternative start**.

Trek 4 Kings Standing to Hartfield. 8½ km = 5¼ miles.

This is the *Poohsticks and Sandpits* walk as far as the village of Hartfield, using the **Hartfield Cut**, indicated in Leg 2 Section [2] and described at the end of the guide.



After the Hartfield Cut, keep **left** along the side of the churchyard and exit down a lane to the main road.

Refreshments are available in several places in Hartfield.

Trek 5 Hartfield to Forest Row. 6½ km = 4 miles.

Part 1: is a short stroll through the village. Turn **right** on the main road through Hartfield. In 250m the major road bends right at a junction. Leave the major road here by keeping straight on in the direction *Edenbridge*. In 150m, fork **right** on a side lane and immediately take a path on the **left**, parallel to the road, marked *Forest Way Country Park*. In 50m, turn **left**, under the road on the disused railway, known as *Forest Way*.

Part 2: is a long easy walk along the disused railway. This easy wide path runs straight for 3 km (nearly 2 miles). It now runs in a gradual right-hand curve for ½ km with houses and gardens of Forest Row visible through the trees on your left. It runs straight for one more km, where you meet industrial buildings just ahead. Turn **left** by a notice board, crossing the River Medway via a wide bridge and passing a large timber yard on your right. At a junction of paths, turn **right** on a wide path, leading to a small green and the main road in Forest Row. (If you are *not taking a rest here, you can instead keep straight on at the junction, cutting across a playground to the main road.*)



Refreshments are available in many places in the large village of Forest Row including several cafés, the *Chequers Inn* and the *Swan Inn*, both further to your right along the road.

Trek 6 Forest Row to Hindleap. 5¼ km = 3¼ miles.

Part 1: is an easy stroll through the village, back to the edge of Ashdown Forest. After a possible pause in Forest Row, turn (back) **left** along the leafy road, passing Ashdown Road on your right and a small Baptist church. Immediately after, turn **right** on Chapel Lane. Follow this smart residential road for ½ km to where it curves right to meet Shalesbrook Lane with a sign for the golf club pointing left. Turn **right** on Shalesbrook Lane.

Part 2: re-joins the *Hindleap and Vachery* walk from the outskirts of Forest Row. Begin at the start of **Leg 5**. Finish the walk at the Hindleap car park where the walk began.

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