

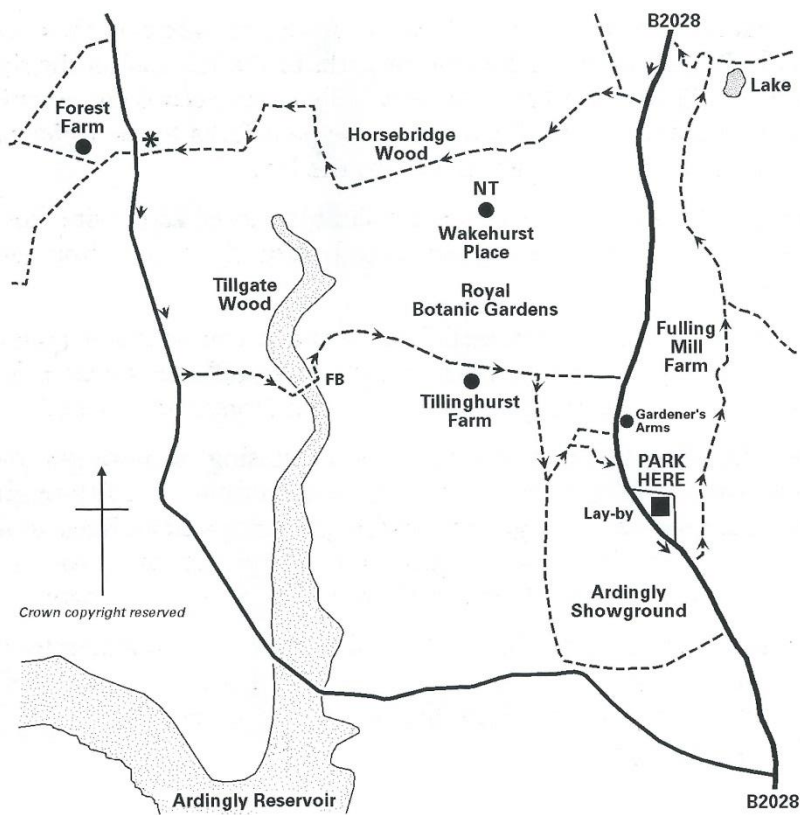
## ARDINGLY VIA FOREST FARM

This five-mile circular walk can easily be linked with the four-mile circular walk “Balcombe via Forest Farm”, making a nine-mile circular walk with a convenient pub, the Half Moon Inn in Balcombe village. This walk covers a varied and lovely area north of the village of Ardingly. It includes a section of the High Weald Landscape Circular route, going through part of the grounds of Wakehurst Place passing the new Kew Seed Bank and crosses an inlet of the Ardingly Reservoir.

**Distance:** 5 miles (8 kilometres)

**Map reference:** O.S Explorer 135, 344304

**Parking:** on the B2028, opposite the main entrance to the Ardingly Showground and just south of the Gardener’s Arms Pub, there is a large lay-by.



### Directions:

1. From the car park walk southwards to the end of the lay-by and turn left by a cottage with bridleway marker. In a few yards turn left again onto well marked bridleway.
2. In half a mile join the High Weald Landscape Trail which joins your bridleway from the right. Bear left and continue through shrubbery for another half mile. Pass a small gate on your right until you reach another larger gate on your right into a private garden and view of a lake.
3. Here turn off left and ascend a steepish bank. As you near the top, turn off right at fingerpost into a much narrower path. This brings you out on the B2028.

4. Cross over and go to the left looking for a narrow path, above the verge, which runs parallel with main road. This leads to North Drive, a side entrance to Wakehurst (see small marker "High Weald Circular Route"). You will not be required to be a member of the National Trust when using this footpath but later in the walk, you are advised not to leave the footpath when passing through. As you follow the drive you walk over the course of an old Roman road and pass by car parks to the left and on the right, the newly built Royal Botanic Gardens Millennium Seed Bank. Keeping to the right continue ahead, to where a path forks to the right. Keep straight on to a wooden gate and fingerpost.
5. Go through this gate and continue down a wide grassy path, to a wooden gate.
6. At the end you enter the National Trust area and **you must not stray off the right of way**. Bear right downhill, cross over a track and go through a tall metal kissing gate. You are now in Horsebridge Wood.
7. Follow the footpath through the wood crossing footbridges over Ardingly Brook and gradually climbing up out of the wood, go left into a field. Keep to the left and eventually bear right slightly uphill until you come to a stile onto a narrow road opposite Forest Farm House entrance (see \*on map).
8. This is the point where the Balcombe walk can be incorporated into this walk. To do so, turn to the right and walk down this quiet road and pick up the remaining directions from the "Balcombe via Forest Farm" walk at \*\*\*.
9. To continue the Ardingly/Wakehurst route, turn left and follow this narrow road for half a mile. Watch out for a fingerpost and footpath into Tilgate Wood on the left. Follow it down as it winds to a long wooden bridge across a long "arm" of Ardingly Reservoir.
10. The path is now clear as it goes off to the left. Go over a small bridge and steps to a kissing gate on your right. Then go diagonally left uphill, through a grassy area with the boundary fence of Wakehurst Place on your left, head towards Tillinghurst Farm.
11. At the farm, keep to the left of all the buildings and the duck pond and continue along lane until there is a turning on the right which you take.
12. You are now entering Ardingly Showground and as you approach Great Racks Wood on the right, follow the boundary to the end of the wood, then turn off left to reach a small car park, this is often occupied with horse vehicles.
13. There is a small gate in the far-right hand corner leading onto the B2028. Cross over carefully and turn right for the lay-by and your car.