

How well do you know the Ashdown Forest - Answers

You might need to refer to the OS Explorer map 135 Ashdown Forest.

For simplicity, the Ashdown Forest will be referred to as the Forest.

I must apologise in advance - some answers are open to discussion and I am sure some of you will send me corrections. The current boundary of the Forest is not shown on the OS map and there might be a few accidental mistakes!

1. What was the original purpose of the Forest?

Ans) A royal hunting park, to protect deer for hunting

2. Which century was the Forest first recorded for this use?

Ans) 13th century as an enclosed park, but used in 11th century after Norman Conquest for hunting

3. What was the original type of boundary of the Forest and what was its length?

Ans) Ditch & bank called pale, 23 miles (38km) long

4. What was the original size of the Forest?

Ans) approx. 13956 acres (5648 hectares) enclosed by the pale

5. What is its size today?

Ans) approx. 5920 acres (2396 hectares)

6. How many Gates are there to the Forest?

Ans) originally 48 gates (excluding hatches)

Today 8 gates: Friars, Fishers, Chelwood, Greenwood, Highgate, Shepherd's Gate, Barnsgate & Pound Gate

7. How many named hills are within the Forest boundary?

**Ans) 7 hills– Black, Bunkers, Camp, Church, Dodds, Jessops, Mardens hills
(counted on OS Explorer map but there might be more!)**

8. Who is responsible for the management of the Forest?

Ans) Conservators

9. What animals are commoners allowed to graze?

Ans) sheep, cattle, goats, geese, mill horses (NOT riding horses)

10. What is this right called? **Ans) Pasturage**

11. Name the breed of 3 different types of animals that help manage the heathland.

Ans) Hebridean sheep, Riggitt Galloway cattle, Exmoor Ponies

12. Which is the only native deer found in the Forest? **Ans) Roe deer**

13. Name 3 other types of deer to be found in the Forest.

Ans) Fallow, Sika, Muntjac

14. Which 2 types of birds is the Forest renowned for? **Ans) Nightjar, Dartford warbler**

15. What is the speed limit across the Forest? **Ans) 40mph**

16. How many named car-parks are in the Forest? **Ans) 32 named car park**

17. Can anyone land by parachute in the Forest? **Ans) No it against the bye-law**

18. Is off-road cycling allowed? **Ans) No it against the bye-law**

19. Which bye-law covers the use of drones in the Forest? **Ans) Bye-law 14**

20. How many pubs are within the Forest boundary?

Ans: None within the current boundary. The following are on the edge of the Forest: Foresters Arms, Crow & Gate, Red Lion, The Hatch Inn, The Roebuck.