**Ashdown Forest Traverse – Uckfield to Ashurst, Saturday 27th June 2015**

21 walkers, 21.7 miles – leader Paul Lawrence

After first visiting Buxted Park and the location of its 'lost village' and later some unusual rock formations, we made a crossing of [Ashdown Forest](http://www.ashdownforest.org/enjoy/history.php) on sections of the [Vanguard Way](https://www.ldwa.org.uk/ldp/members/show_path.php?menu_type=S&path_name=Vanguard+Way) and [Wealdway](https://www.ldwa.org.uk/ldp/members/show_path.php?menu_type=S&path_name=Wealdway" \t "_blank) stopping at the Forester's Arms at Fairwarp for a welcome lunch and drinks in the warm weather. Then ascending to one of the Forest's high points at Camp Hill Clump and some cooling breezes, we descended to join the [High Weald Landscape Trail](https://www.ldwa.org.uk/ldp/members/show_path.php?menu_type=S&path_name=High+Weald+Landscape+Trail) and a tea-stop at Hartfield Village. The final section was along the Medway Vvalley and [Sussex Border Path](https://www.ldwa.org.uk/ldp/members/show_path.php?menu_type=S&path_name=Sussex+Border+Path). Ashdown Forest is a former hunting 'forest' with large open areas with wide tracks and is one of the largest remaining areas of [lowland heath habitat](http://www.ashdownforest.org/wild/environment.php) in Britain and is mostly accessible to walkers. Views extend southwards to the South Downs and northwards to the greensand ridge and the North Downs. It was a past centre for the iron industry and the first blast furnace and is crossed by the track of a Roman road. The walk included 2100 ft of ascent. At [Buxted Park](http://www.felbridge.org.uk/index.php/publications/buxted-park/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), the site of a 'lost village' lies near the church, but there is little to see of the original location of the village after the then landowner, the first [Lord Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Jenkinson%2C_1st_Earl_of_Liverpool), politician, close adviser of George III, and father of a Prime Minister in Victorian times, 'encouraged' the villagers to relocate to make the grounds of his mansion more secluded, a process known as 'Emparkation'. The first military iron canon was cast in the village. Thanks to Andy Davies for backmarking!