

East Court and Ashplats circular route



Welcome

The waymarked circular route is 2.5km, approximately 1.9 miles taking in the open parkland of East Court mansion and the Ancient Woodland of Ashplats Wood.

The route is maintained to allow it to be accessible for most of the year, but please note there are some steep slopes and steps within the woodland.

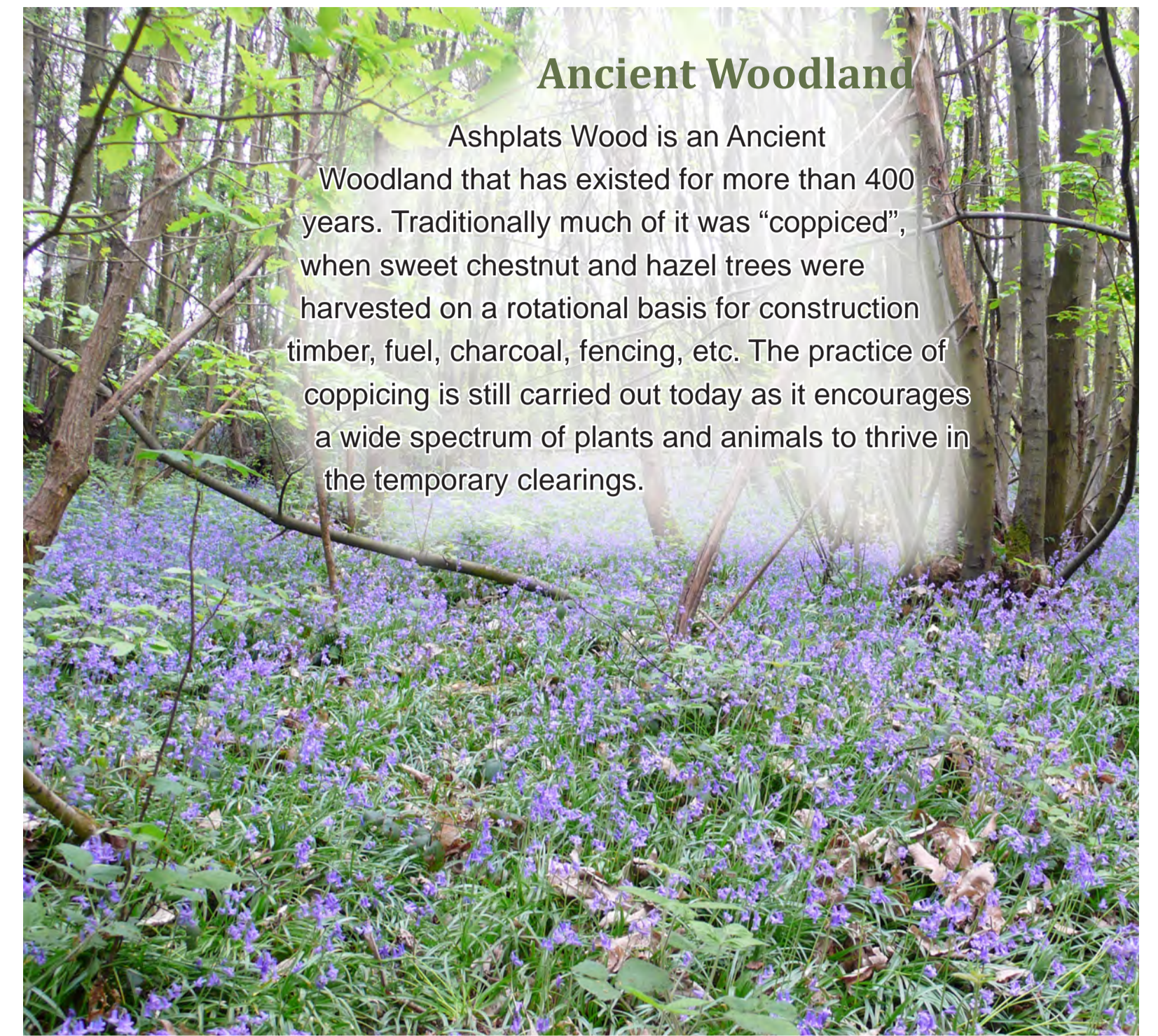
East Court mansion

East Court is a Grade II listed building. It was built in 1769 when John Cranston, a lawyer of Scottish descent, married local heiress, Catherine Green, whose family owned Estcoats. East Court was in private ownership for over 170 years up until 1946 when it was purchased by the Urban District Council to be their headquarters. Architects plans drawn up at this time show layouts for sports pitches, housing and a school in the woodland of the grounds.

It is now the home of East Grinstead Town Council and is a popular wedding venue.



The Yew hedges and the Lake once formed part of the private grounds of the East Court Estate. In 1949 the woods and East Court were donated by Alfred Wagg CBE to East Grinstead War Memorial Ltd, and Mid Sussex District Council now manages them on their behalf, funded largely by developer contributions. Today, the lake is a secluded wildlife haven, home to native bats and newts.



Ancient Woodland

Ashplats Wood is an Ancient Woodland that has existed for more than 400 years. Traditionally much of it was "coppiced", when sweet chestnut and hazel trees were harvested on a rotational basis for construction timber, fuel, charcoal, fencing, etc. The practice of coppicing is still carried out today as it encourages a wide spectrum of plants and animals to thrive in the temporary clearings.

Streams

Ashplats Wood is typical of the High Weald landscape. Ridges and steep sided valleys run down to the streams at the bottom. These streams are tributaries of the River Medway.

An example of Sussex Marble found in one of the streams in Ashplats is on display in East Grinstead Museum. Sussex Marble is stone made up of the shells of freshwater animals and was laid down about 140 million years ago.



Please...

- Keep to the footpaths to give the wildlife its own space to thrive
- Appreciate the wild flowers, but leave them for others to enjoy
- Take your litter and dog poo home with you or put it in the bins provided
- Don't cycle in the woods as it churns up the paths
- Don't light camp fires as they kill everything in the ground under them



Ashplats Conservation Group



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