

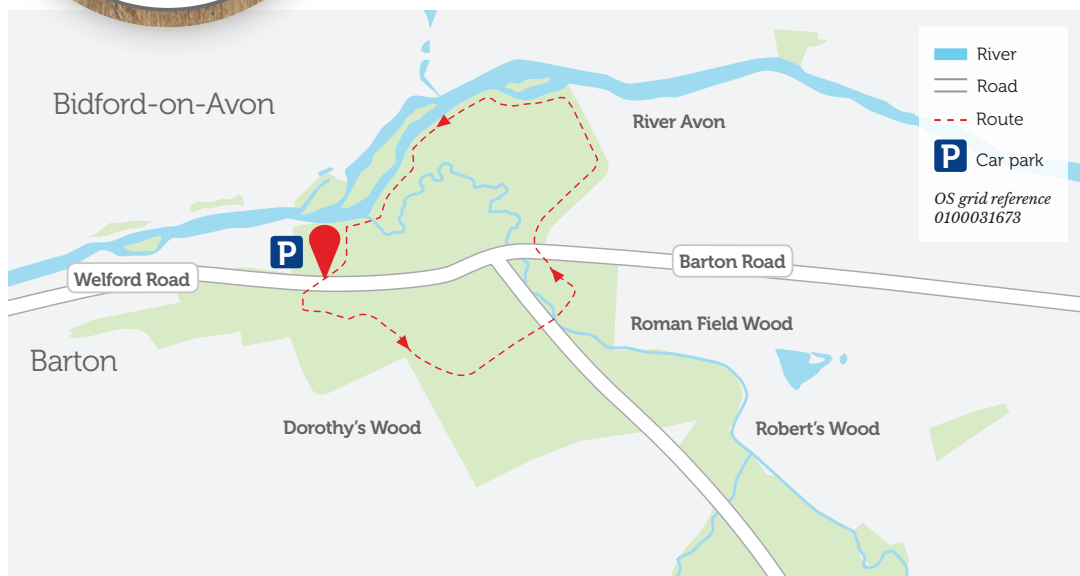
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HEART
 OF
ENGLAND
 FOREST

Get walking in the Heart of England Forest

Come and explore the Heart of England Forest with our first two walking trails, starting at Barton on the Dorsington Estate. These easy-to-follow walks take you through the beautiful beginnings of your new native broadleaf forest – you're bound to fall in love with it just like we have!



An easy walk through magical woodland and along the banks of the Avon, with lots of trees to identify and wildlife to spot.



Distance: 1.5 miles Difficulty: Easy Start/finish: Barton car park B50 4NP
Terrain: Clearly marked woodland paths following the red arrows

1. From the car park, cross the road into Dorothy's Wood – a riot of blossom and colour in spring. Follow the trail through the trees until you reach the wide grass path.
2. Turn left onto the path. Continue until you reach a clearing in the woodland with a play area. Turn right and follow the path up the hill.
3. At the top of the hill is a bench – catch your breath and enjoy the stunning views over the surrounding countryside. Continue on up to level ground.

4. Walk on and take the left fork, following the signposted arrows. This part of the path is lined with flowering shrubs. Follow this curved path, passing a bench on your left.
5. Head out of the woodland down the fenced path. At the bottom, cross the road into a more mature woodland. After 20 metres, there is a wooden footbridge. (From this point the longer blue route continues along the brook.)
6. Cross the brook on the wooden bridge and enter Roman Field Wood.

7. Walk up the slope. Bear left and follow the red arrows through a gate and cross the road. Join the public footpath for a short stretch.
9. Go through the pedestrian gate on the left into the river meadows and head to the River Avon. Walk left along the banks of the river, past Pilgrim Lock with its large weeping willow.
10. Cross over the small bridge and continue to follow the river. Then over a second footbridge and immediately left back to the car park.

LOOK OUT FOR...



THE RIVER AVON

Also known as Shakespeare's Avon, this picturesque river flows from Northamptonshire through Warwickshire to join the River Severn in Gloucestershire.



BAT BOXES

Bats love woodlands – they thrive in cool temperatures and shaded light and find plenty of food in woods. Bat boxes attract them to areas with few roosting sites.

TREE SPOT: VETERAN HAZEL

The hazel trees lining the field and footpath before you reach the River Avon are more than 50 years old – referred to by foresters as veteran hazels.

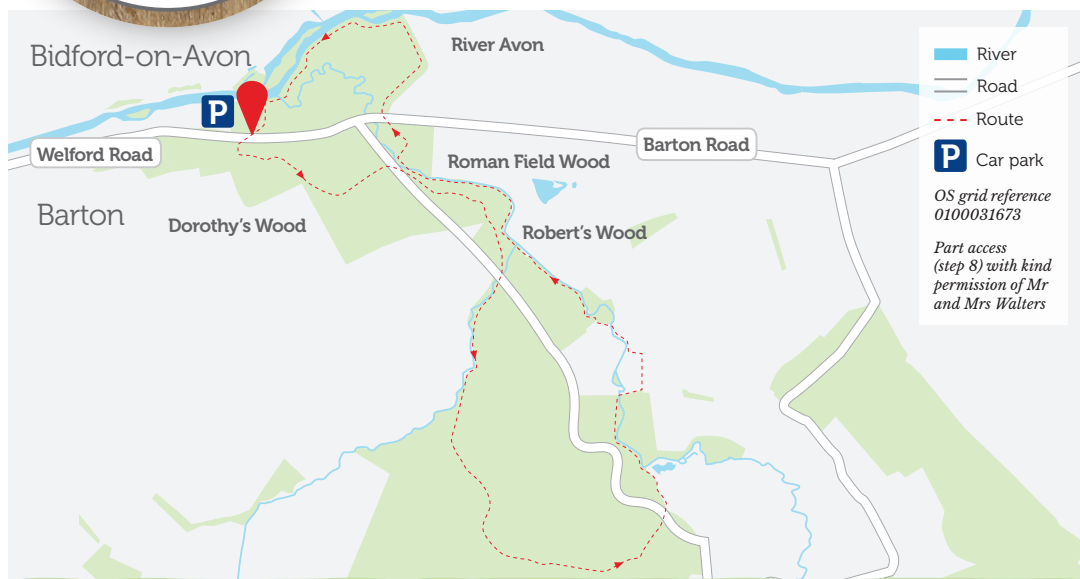


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A longer stroll through the growing forest, taking in newly planted saplings and meandering brooks.



Distance: 3.5 miles Difficulty: Easy Start/finish: Barton car park B50 4NP
Terrain: Woodland paths that can become muddy, following the blue arrows

1. Follow the Family Trail (on the reverse) to step 6. Carry on along the brook to just before the fallen willow tree, then turn right into the younger broadleaf tree planting.
2. Follow the winding path until you emerge into an open glade of newly planted woodland. Cross the glade diagonally and enter Robert's Wood. Take a right onto the track, walk uphill, take a left down past a bench, then bear right.
3. Keep straight on at the crossroads then left at the woodland edge. Go through the gate on your right,

over the bridge and cross the road. Head through the gate on the right into Colletts Wood. Follow the path along the brook.

4. Continue on the winding footpath, with the brook on your right. You'll reach Colletts Pond with its wild-flower meadow. Just past the pond, turn left then right through the hedge into a young wooded area.

5. Follow the path through the wood, then head for the top right corner of the field, where you will go through three gates. Then, turn right onto the public bridleway.

6. Drop down left into Dorsington Wood along the central path. Carry on down through the woodland on the wide side. At the bottom, take the right fork and go over the footbridge. Then take a left along Willow Walk and the stream.

7. Head through the gate at the end on to the road, turn left across the bridge, then turn right at the Dorsington sign. Head through another gate and onto the path. Follow this path over a footbridge and enter Tall Trees. Cross back over the brook and onto a path surrounded by mature poplar trees.



FOUNDER'S MEMORIAL
In Dorsington Wood, you'll come across the Founder's Memorial – celebrating the life of the forest founder Felix Dennis – inscribed with his poetry and vision for the forest.



TREE SPOT: BLACK POPLAR
Often found near river banks or streams, black poplars can grow to 30 metres and can live for 200 years. It's a rare and declining species across the UK.

8. At the next gate, turn right over the bridge following the signs 'Path to Crooked Barn Cottage'. Follow this path and, at the gate, turn left back over the brook and take a right to follow the brook with it on your right.
9. Cross over a bridge into Robert's Wood, taking the path on your right following the brook. This leads back to the fallen willow and the footbridge into Roman Field Wood.
10. Pick up directions again from step 7 of the Family Trail.