

# Haydon Way Wood

## Get walking in the Heart of England Forest

Come and explore Haydon Way Wood at the Heart of England Forest by following this trail. This easy-to-follow walk will lead you to a wild flower meadow through to a beautiful skyline view near Windmill Hill.



**Distance:** 1.5 miles



**Difficulty:** Easy



**Start /finish:**  
Haydon Way Wood  
car park. Nearest  
postcode: B80 7EX



**OS Grid Ref:**  
SP 08480 62213



**WHAT3WORDS**  
fame.ocean.crop



**Terrain:** Clearly  
marked woodland trail.  
Easy going - but can get  
muddy in the winter!



## Things to look out for



### Wild flowers

Providing shelter and food for butterflies and other pollinators, the wildflower meadow includes birdsfoot trefoil, knapweed, yarrow, corn cockle and vetches.



### HAZEL TREES

There are over 6,500 hazel here which will be cut on a 5-6 year rotation. Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management which extends the age of the trees and creates a self renewing source of timber. Hazel stems have many uses including fencing stakes and hedge laying.





## Take a stroll through wildflower meadows and see the scale of the Heart of England Forest for yourself.

Follow the orange waymarkers along the route.



1. Head due south out of the car park ①. Under the second set of overhead power cables turn right and follow them to the bridge.
2. Cross over the bridge ② and continue on. The wide open area in front of you is a wildflower meadow sown in 2014. Species include birdsfoot trefoil, knapweed, yarrow, corn cockle and vetches.
3. After about 100m turn right across the meadow ③ and follow the cross ride to the north-west.
4. Go through the gap in the hedge ④. Continue straight on up the slope along the ride gently turning to the left.
5. Head down the slope and over the ditch ⑤. This field has been planted with over 6,500 hazel and will become hazel coppice cut on a 5-6 year rotation.
6. After a short climb pass through the gap in the hedge ⑥ into another

open area. Continue straight on and turn right along the woodland edge for about 100m.

7. At this point, take a sharp left down the slope ⑦. The view in front of you up to Windmill Hill on the skyline makes up part of the Heart of England Forest – you will be able to see the Forest as it grows before you.

8. Head down the slope and follow this meandering ride below the paddock. Ignore the public footpath that crosses the ride ⑧ and keep heading south with a slight rise and bend to the right. Our route now takes a sharp left turn ⑨ heading across and then down the slope gently curving to the left.

9. You will notice a natural pond on your right stood over by several oak trees ⑩. Look out for dragonflies and frogs here!

10. Follow the public footpath east through the trees, pass through the open space and fork right at the

waymarker post ⑪. With the wider open space on your right drop down through the hedge towards the River Arrow.

11. Heading left ⑫ (upstream) along the river there are opportunities to stop here and contemplate for a while – maybe you'll spot a kingfisher. This is a super spot for a picnic.

12. Keep heading north with the woodland on your left and river on the right, crossing the public footpath again.

13. Head away from the river ⑬ towards a large oak tree. This tree is on the boundary of two parishes and was once on the river edge.

You are now walking on the parish boundary along the old river bank. The course of this river was altered in the early 1900's, as to why we are not quite sure but maybe to remove an oxbow lake. Turn right just past the oak and head north to the car park.