

Founder's Walk

IMPORTANT
To complete this walk will also need to download the **Riverside Trail** guide

Get walking in the Heart of England Forest

Come and explore the Heart of England Forest by following our Founder's Walk walking trail, starting at Barton near Dorsington. This easy-to-follow walk will take you through the beautiful beginnings of this new native broadleaf forest.



Distance: 3.5 miles



Difficulty: Easy



Start /finish:
Dorothy's Wood
car park, B50 4NP



OS Grid Ref:
SP 11632 51325



WHAT3WORDS
mush.apart.joke



Terrain: Clearly
marked woodland
trails that can
become muddy!



Things to look out for



Founder's memorial

In Dorsington Wood you'll find the Founder's Memorial – celebrating the life of the forest founder Felix Dennis – inscribed with his poetry and vision for the forest.



Arboretum

Step off the Founder's Walk as you pass by the Heart of England Forest arboretum and discover a fascinating collection of over 600 trees and shrubs. Unlike the native broadleaf trees planted in our woodlands. Here you'll find specimen trees from around the world.



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

1. Follow the **Riverside Trail** to step 6.

2. Carry on along the brook to just before the fallen willow tree **1**, then follow the waymarker to the right into the younger broadleaf tree planting.

3. Follow the winding path until you emerge into an open glade of newly planted woodland **2**. Cross the glade diagonally and enter Robert's Wood. Take a right onto the track, walk uphill, take a left, then bear right.

4. 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 **3** on the right into Colletts Wood. Follow the path along the brook.

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

6. Continue straight on, up hill **5**, crossing the grass farm track and turning right to follow the hedge

until you find the gap leading into Dorsington Wood **6**.

7. Drop down left into Dorsington Wood along the central path past the Founders Rock. Carry on down through the woodland on the wide ride. At the bottom, exit Dorsington Wood and go over the footbridge **7**. Then take a left along Willow Walk and the stream.

8. Head through the gate at the end on to the road, turn left across the bridge, then cross the road at the Dorsington sign **8**. Head through another gate and onto the path. Follow this path over a footbridge **9**. Cross back over the brook and onto a path surrounded by mature poplar trees.

Follow the orange waymarkers along the route.



9. At the next gate, turn right over the concrete bridge **10**. Follow this path and, at the gate, turn left back over the brook and take a right to follow the brook **11**, with it on your right.

10. Cross over a bridge into Robert's Wood **12**, taking the path on your right following the brook. This leads back to the fallen willow and the footbridge into Roman Field Wood.

11. Pick up directions from **step 6** of the **Riverside Trail**.