

About the trail

Forestry England presents the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail, a collection of artworks that have been inspired by the unique heritage of this forest.

The trail's sculptures are developed and influenced by the distinctive qualities and landscape, both historically and physically, of the Forest of Dean. They have been intentionally left to be reclaimed by the forest over time, naturally eroding from weather, animals, plant growth and the footfall of the visiting public.

The trail was founded in 1986 and the artworks on the trail have been commissioned by the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust, a charity that works in close partnership with Forestry England.

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust CIO is a registered charity (charity no. 1185309). To make a donation and to receive updates visit forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk. Alternatively you can donate via PayPal using the QR code below.



In partnership with

**FOREST OF DEAN
SCULPTURE TRUST**

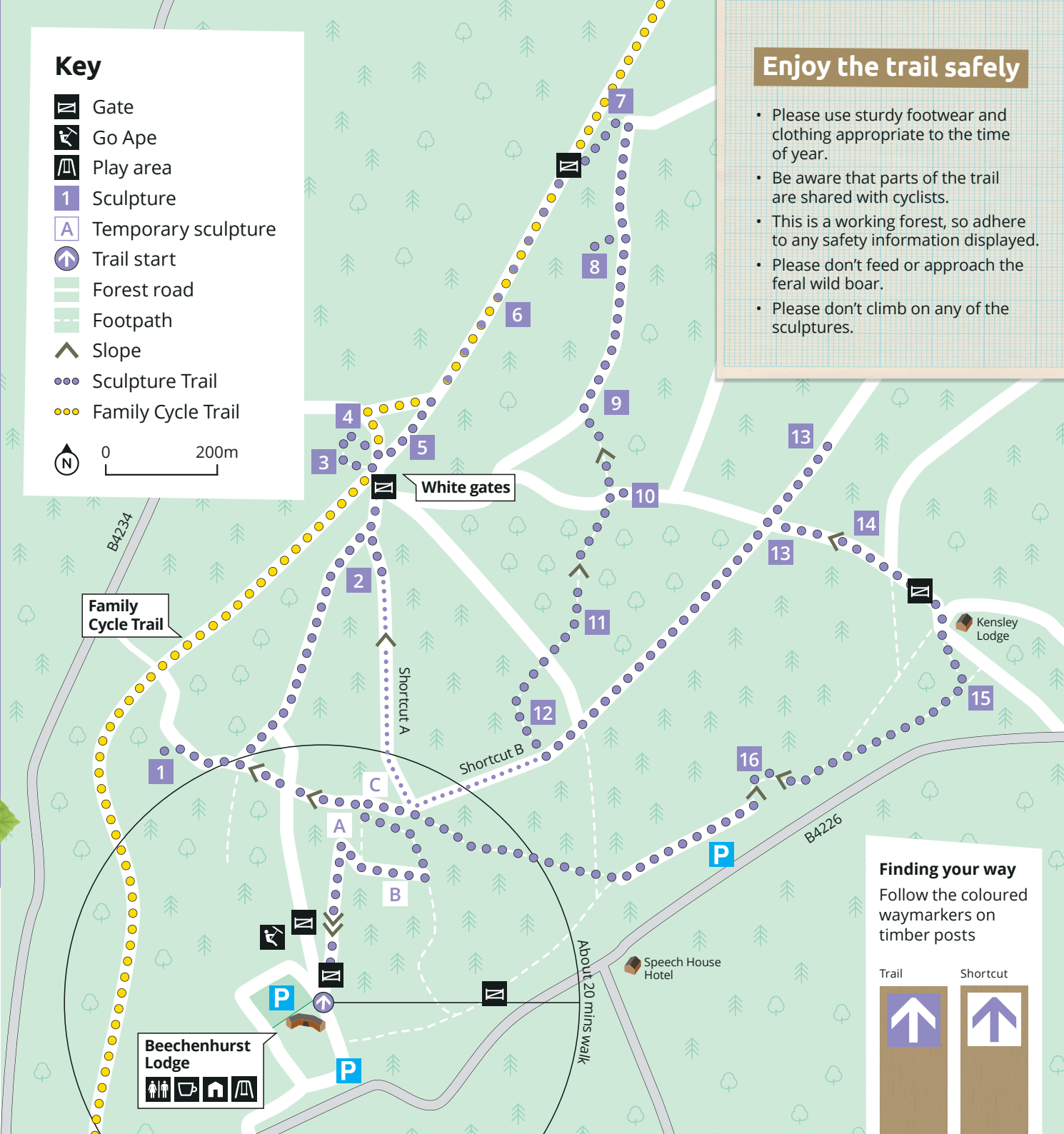
Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

barnwood

**Esmée
Fairbairn
FOUNDATION**

**HERE
FOR
CULTURE**

LEADER



Enjoy the trail safely

- Please use sturdy footwear and clothing appropriate to the time of year.
- Be aware that parts of the trail are shared with cyclists.
- This is a working forest, so adhere to any safety information displayed.
- Please don't feed or approach the feral wild boar.
- Please don't climb on any of the sculptures.

Trail information

Sculpture Trail ●●●

Approx. 7.7km (4.8 miles)

Follow the purple waymarker posts. Some artworks are off the trail so make sure you rejoin the main trail and keep an eye out for some of the more elusive sculptures. If you don't fancy walking the whole trail you can take one of two shortcuts signposted back to Beechenhurst.

Shortcut A (sculptures 1-5) ...

Approx 3.2km (2 miles)

Shortcut B (sculptures 1-12) ...

5km (3.1 miles)

Accessibility

The Sculpture Trail is situated on the side of the Cannop Valley, as such there are steep slopes and uneven terrain throughout making it unsuitable for many pushchairs and wheelchairs. We welcome feedback to continue to improve accessibility. You can get in touch at westengland@forestryengland.uk.

Please share what you think of the Sculpture Trail:

- theforestofdeansculpturetrail
- @FODSculpture
- @theforestofdeansculpturetrail

Wild boar

The forest is home to a number of feral wild boar. For your safety, please do not approach them or feed them.



Contact information

How to find us

Easy to access from the M4 or M5, and less than half an hour from Chepstow or Gloucester. There is no accurate postcode for Sat Nav systems to use. GL16 7EL takes you to the nearby Speech House Hotel.

Opening times

Beechenhurst is open from 8am daily. Closing times change throughout the time of year, please check the Forestry England website.

Parking

Pay and display parking operates.

Contact us

Forestry England, Bank House, Bank Street, Coleford GL16 8BA

0300 067 4800 (Mon-Fri, 9am – 3pm)

westengland@forestryengland.uk

Beechenhurst contacts

Cafe: 01594 824662
Go Ape: 01603 895500

forestryengland.uk/beechnhurst

Join today

As a member you'll be supporting the Forest of Dean and get free onsite parking, forest updates and discounts.

forestryengland.uk/membership

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For alternative formats, please get in touch:
Call **0300 067 4000** or email info@forestryengland.uk

The sculptures



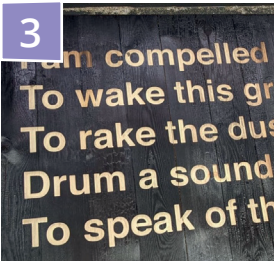
1 **The Heart of Stone**
Tim Lees 1988

Created using local stone, this sculpture echoes the shaft of the drift mine on which it sits. The fish-like shape alludes to the geographic location of the forest, which is situated between the two rivers of the Wye and the Severn.



2 **Yaşasin**
Pomona Zipser 2016

The title of this piece trans-lates into Turkish as 'Hooray'. Move through and around this playful and interactive sculpture to view the forest from different perspectives.



3 **Soil Unsoiled**
Khady Gueye and Zakiya Mckenzie 2021

A charred monolith etched with a poem that contem-plates lived experience of racial inequality in the Forest of Dean.



4 **Fire & Water Boats**
David Nash 1986

These charred boats resemble canoes carved by hand from a single piece of wood. The waterway in which they sit was previously used to drain the mines underneath the forest.



5 **Iron Road**
Keir Smith 1986

Twenty carved jarrah wood railway sleepers represent the train line that used to run through the forest. Each sleeper illustrates an aspect of the forest, from smelting to writing, charcoal to hunting.



6 **Searcher**
Sophie Ryder 1988

Constructed from wire, this life-size sculpture can be seen in the distance as you pass along the trail.



7 **In Situ**
Erika Tan 2003

Bamboo, both real and recreated, finds an unlikely home in this English forest environment. Mounds, hollows and circles traced in the earth link back to the industrial past of the area.



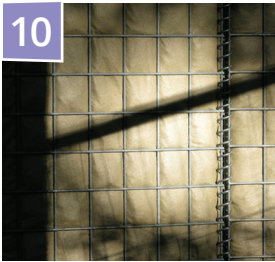
8 **Grove of Silence**
Ian Hamilton Finlay 1986

High in the trees, these three plaques draw attention to the stillness of their environment. Their simplicity of form offers a space for contemplation.



9 **Cone & Vessel**
Peter Randall-Page 1988

Carved in stone, the details of an acorn cup and fir cone are amplified to reveal their scientific patterns.



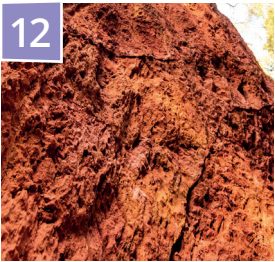
10 **Hill33**
David Cotterrell 2010

Built from an industrial engineering material and filled with local coal spoil this sculpture evokes questions about landscape and power. It is slowly collapsing and being taken over by nature.



11 **House**
Miles Davies 1988

Reminiscent of the mine-shafts that probe deep into the forest below, this house also alludes to the forest being a home to many.



12 **Threshold**
Natasha Rosling 2019

This crevice formation reveals a patchwork of subterranean rock faces cast from Clearwell Caves iron ore mine, recalling a history of labour through the marks left by miners in the rock.



13 **Coal Measure Giants**
Henry Castle 2016

300 million year-old tree fossils sit alongside two cast iron sculptures sited 300 metres apart, representing the distance of the nearest coal seam below ground.



14 **Echo**
Annie Cattrell 2008

Cast from the face of the quarry in which this sculpture sits, *Echo* captures a moment of this rock's life preserved in monochrome, drawing attention to surface detail and texture.



15 **Cathedral**
Kevin Atherton 1986

An avenue of trees creates a sense of a cathedral's aisle and the experience of awe that such impressive architecture evokes. Instead of religious imagery depicted, we see the life of the forest in brilliantly coloured glass.



16 **Hanging Fire**
Cornelia Parker 1988

Locally smelted iron ore has been formed into rings of flames high up in the trees. A poetic work that implies the crowning of the trees in this once royal forest.

You may come across some temporary or decommissioned sculptures on the trail which aren't marked on the map. **How many can you spot?**

Temporary sculptures



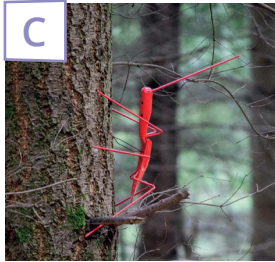
A **Animal Shelter**
Michelle Cain, 2021

Animal Shelter is a wicker structure created from dark and white steamed willow in the form of a Badger, an animal that is prevalent in the Forest of Dean.



B **Trees are Talking**
Robin and Isla Collings, 2021

This sculpture features a poem by 9-year Isla about the forest. It is made from 2-metre-high steel panels bolted together, which will change colour as they responds to the forest environment.



C **Shovel Bugs**
Land Atelier, 2021

Bright red bugs made from garden trowels populate the tall fir trees, highlighting the hidden bug life that often goes unnoticed below the forest floor.