

Route 4 LAKE WALK – 1.5mi / 2.5 km

Take main track from car park and follow **red** way-mark signs. After about 800m take left fork towards lake where you will find two picnic-tables. At far end of lake take track to the left uphill to reach junction with main track. Cross over to path opposite and follow back to car park. (If muddy opposite path, turn left here on forest track and follow it uphill to car park.)

Route 5 CENTENARY GLADE (200m and back)

From Queens Wood car parking bay on right of entrance, follow walkers' path north through the big Beech and Douglas fir to steps and across the 'holway' ancient track into seeded and planted Centenary Glade.

1919 – The Centenary Glade – 2019

'The Centenary Glade' is the project of local advocates Dymock Forest Rural Action - DyFRA. An area of former softwood plantation that Forestry England restored by coppicing increased light to the woodland floor. The key aim is to enhance the biodiversity, providing suitable conditions for woodland flora and fauna to flourish. The target species includes moths and butterflies, drab looper moth, the yellow Brimstone butterfly and silver washed Fritillaries, whose caterpillars rely on alder buckthorn and dog violet; other plants include Lily of the Valley, Herb Paris and of course the native daffodils and wood anemone. These ancient woodland species provide a natural home for rarer sightings of woodcock, raven and goshawk and the star species - the dormouse.

The project is community-based within a Forestry England partnership. On St David's Day 2019, local schoolchildren and parish councillors joined with adult volunteers to plant 500 trees and celebrate 100 Years of the Forestry Commission's work.

This hugely successful event at Queens Wood saw flowering and fruiting tree species planted along the edges of the forest ride such as wild cherry, wild service tree, wayfaring, guelder rose and hazel, which provide wonderful food sources and a vital habitat for insects and bees, essential for pollinating our wildflowers.

Within the Dymock Forest there are a number of areas managed specifically for wildlife, known as the Michael Harper Reserves (MHR overleaf), so named in recognition of Dr. Michael Harper who identified these areas in the late 1960s and whose role was key in managing the sites for wildlife.

DYMOCK FOREST – Genesis and History

Dymock Forest near Newent consists of 510 hectares (1250 acres) of mixed woodland straddling the Gloucestershire/Hertfordshire border.

Dymock Woods were acquired by the Crown in 1914, and from 1924 administered by the newly formed Forestry Commission (now known as Forestry England). Today, the area collectively known as Dymock Forest, illustrated overleaf, includes the separate woodlands also known as Queens Wood, Dymock Wood, Shaw Common, Hay Wood, Greenaway, Little Hay Wood, Park Wood and Oxenhall Wood.

Forestry England works in partnership with many organisations and groups (Butterfly Conservation, Ledbury Naturalists, Windcross Paths Group, et al.) and the local community umbrella group Dymock Forest Rural Action (DyFRA) to encourage and facilitate community involvement in the maintenance and improvement of woodland ecology, access paths, and visual amenity of Dymock Forest.

THE WINDCROSS PATHS GROUP

www.windcrosspaths.org.uk

Our group was set up in the 1980s and developed well-known walks: **The Daffodil Way**, **Poets' Path 1 and Poets' Path 2**. They all feature on the Ordnance Survey maps of the area and are available for purchase locally.

Our mission is to look after and promote these paths and develop interesting new walks in the Golden Triangle area. We co-ordinate with other local groups and, as in this case, Forestry England, to promote responsible access to the countryside and knowledge and appreciation of this ancient landscape.

Report path issues to:

windcrosspaths.org.uk

Related Websites

forestryengland.co.uk Forestry England

ledburynaturalists.co.uk Working Volunteers

newentloop.org Newent Cycling Loop

environmentlaw.org.uk Public Rights of Way Law

Mobile Apps by Brooks Designs on Google

The Daffodil Way – GIS maps and photos

9 Sons of Kemplay – memorial tour of the homes of nine men killed in WW1 & WW2

Published by www.themoment.press



Community involvement of the local community and the Forestry Commission

Celebrating the Centenary of the Forestry Commission

Waymarked

05:17



FORESTRY ENGLAND and the Community

The nation's forests are a great source of natural wealth and help shape the look and feel of the landscape. They influence how the countryside works, for timber as well as people and wildlife.

Forests flourish only with management and planning. The work we do today influences what the nation's forests will look like for generations to come. Working a hundred years and more ahead to ensure England's countryside adapts to a changing climate with consequent cultural changes. Find out more at www.forestryengland.co.uk

Credit Where it's Due

The Windcross Paths Group acknowledges the fabulous illustrative work of Barbara Davis (1937-2018) in producing the original illustrated maps and artwork that accompanies all our leaflets and the continuing work to update these (this map) by Pat Straus.

We wish to recognise the lifetime work of John Anderson, former Chief Forester in the Dean, now retired to Crown Lodge, Oxenhall. At Dymock he created the first FC Forest Trail along with its first nature reserve at Betty Daw's, which still houses the longest bird nesting box scheme. His influence within a 1980s remit of *Landscape, Conservation and Recreation*, grew confidently to create the Dean Sculpture Trail and Family Biking Trails on the old railway lines. His influence on management and conservation practice within this working landscape inspires us all now for the immediate and future generations.

All five routes described below are circular walks starting from the Forestry England car park at Queens Wood (GL18 2BW), just south of Kemplay Green, Glos.

Route 1 MURRELLS WALK – 3.2mi / 5.1km Can be muddy, some stiles

From Queens Wood car park walk 500m along the road towards Kemplay then turn sharp right along path between 2 bungalows. Go through the kissing gate (KG) and follow line of hedge to KG in corner and continue straight ahead through old orchard to reach the next KG. Head towards the woods passing willow tree by brook and then to KG at edge of Oxenhall Wood. Follow the yellow waymark posts through the woods for just over 800m. On reaching the road, turn left and continue for 400m. Pass Murrells Cottage on right and just beyond, at waymark on the left, climb the bank and stile into field. Cross field to stile at fence and keep right around lake. **Do not go left.** Go through a gate then take the path on the right, crossing footbridge into next field. Cross field to stile in hedge and turn right following hedge you reach a metal gate. Turn right towards New Grange Farm then immediately left through metal gate go towards stile in hedge. Walk to the top of the hill to stile in fence then across field to the footbridge over a ditch. Continue to next stile keeping hedge to your left, turn left through metal gate into Green Lane as far as main road. Turn left onto road to return to car park.

Route 2 DAUBIES WALK – 3.4mi / 5.5km Easy, only one double stile at footbridge

From Queens Wood car park follow red waymark signs as track descends hill, bearing left at the bottom, some 900m, veer right uphill on same forest road at yellow forest footpath post. After 700m, ignore left turn to the Lake and take yellow post track right – this 'island' just before the underpass to M50. Continue another 1250m to exit the wood and through arable field track onto road. Turn right. After 700m go right along track to Moor House Farm. This is the Daffodil Way National Trail. Cross stile by paddock straight ahead and then right along hedge to footbridge into next field. Keep same direction to further footbridge, then double stile. Now begin to climb with hedge on left up to a KG by road, just to right of red brick semi. At road turn right and head back 550m to car park.

Route 3 PRINCES WALK – < 1 mi / 1500m

From Queens Wood car park take the main track and follow the green waymark posts. After about 250m stay with green sign onto the left track for some 500m, then turn sharp left onto a narrower path. Continue straight on this all the way back to the car park.