

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 sculptures are influenced by the special landscape of the Forest of Dean, both past and present. 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:



Key

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Toilets | Slope |
| Cafe | Sculpture Trail |
| Play area | Colliers Trail |
| Gate | Bookable BBQ |
| Go Ape | Changing Places facility |
| Parking | All-terrain mobility scooter hire |
| Sculpture | |
| Trail start | |
| Forest road | |
| Footpath | |

Enjoy the trail safely

- Please wear 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 waymarkers. Be aware that some artworks are positioned away from paths or tracks, so be sure to rejoin the main trail and keep an eye out for the more elusive sculptures. If you don't fancy walking the whole trail, you can take one of the shortcuts signposted back to Beechenhurst.

Alternative start •••

A flatter alternative start to the trail

Shortcut A •••

Approx 3.2km (2 miles)

Shortcut B •••

Approx 5km (3.1 miles)

Accessibility

The Sculpture Trail contains slopes (some steep), and uneven terrain (loose stone surface paths and narrow unsurfaced paths). This does mean certain areas are unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. A number of pedestrian gates will be encountered along the trail.

The Speech House Woodlands car park allows closer access to the sculptures found at the end of the Trail. Sculptures 16 & 18 are on level ground.

There is an alternative start route past Go Ape which provides a shorter and gentler option, and is recommended for those with pushchairs or wheelchairs.

Visitors with limited mobility can hire an all-terrain mobility scooter to explore the Sculpture trail. Email fodrangers@forestryengland.uk to enquire.

Audio descriptions for all the sculptures are available to download from: forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk/visit

Please share what you think of the Sculpture Trail:

[theforestofdeansculpturetrail](https://www.facebook.com/theforestofdeansculpturetrail)
 [@theforestofdeansculpturetrail](https://www.instagram.com/theforestofdeansculpturetrail)



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

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) parking is in operation. Charges apply. Please pay on arrival.

Contact us

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

0300 067 4800

(Mon-Fri, 9am – 3pm)

[fodrangers](https://www.fodrangers.co.uk)

[@forestryengland.uk](https://www.forestryengland.uk)

forestryengland.uk/beechenhurst

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



Forestry England forests and woodlands have been certified in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)



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

The sculptures



Forestry England

Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail

£1

forestryengland.uk



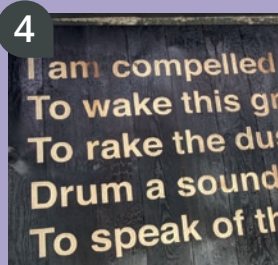
1 Meander
Kristina Veasey 2023
///letters.wept.fallback
Created from steam bent oak this sculpture offers visitors a place to rest and observe the beauty of the forest. It's form mirrors the Rivers Wye and Severn, carving their journeys through the landscape.



2 Heart of the Stone
Tim Lees 1988
///mainly.mile.trapdoor
This sculpture echoes the shaft of the drift mine on which it sits. The fish-like shape alludes to the forest's location, which is situated between the two rivers of the Wye and the Severn.



3 Yaşasin
Pomona Zipser 2016
///eruptions.suspend.locator
The title of this piece translates into Turkish as 'Hooray'. Move through and around this playful and interactive sculpture to view the forest from different perspectives.



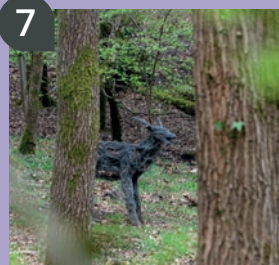
4 Soil Unsoiled
Khady Gueye and Zakiya McKenzie 2021
///intention.woodstove.square
A charred monolith etched with a poem that contemplates lived experience of racial inequality in the Forest of Dean.



5 Fire & Water Boats
David Nash 1986
///quilting.occurs.candles
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.



6 Iron Road
Keir Smith 1986
///pegged.spirit.stowing
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.



7 Searcher
Sophie Ryder 1988
///commenced.minds.dared
Constructed from wire, this life-size sculpture can be seen in the distance as you pass along the trail.



8 In Situ
Erika Tan 2003
///goal.conqueror.zebra
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.



9 Grove of Silence
Ian Hamilton Finlay 1986
///tree.homecare.stealing
High in the trees, these three plaques draw attention to the stillness of their environment. Their simplicity of form offers a space for contemplation.



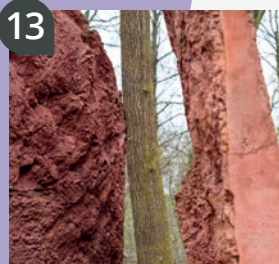
10 Cone & Vessel
Peter Randall-Page 1988
///crunchy.yourself.agency
Carved in stone, the details of an acorn cup and fir cone are amplified to reveal their scientific patterns.



11 Hill33
David Cotterrell 2010
///deriving.cowboy.tactical
Built from an industrial engineering material and filled with local coal spoil this sculpture questions the landscape and power. It is slowly collapsing and being taken over by nature.



12 House
Miles Davies 1988
///composer.executive.factoring
Reminiscent of the mine-shafts that probe deep into the forest below, this house also alludes to the forest being a home to many.



13 Threshold
Natasha Rosling 2019
///underline.reefs.because
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.



14 Coal Measure Giants
Henry Castle 2016
///loafing.scare.curated
///indicated.sprouted.toast
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.



15 Echo
Annie Cattrell 2008
///stops.outhouse.gained
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.



16 Cathedral
Kevin Atherton 1986
///superhero.attention.director
An avenue of trees creates a sense of a cathedral's aisle and the experience of awe that such impressive architecture evokes.



17 Hanging Fire
Cornelia Parker 1988
///unhappily.tipping.slept
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.



18 Gathering
Julian Wild 2023
///sports.loaded.unicorns
Mirrored stainless steel fungi inhabit these colourful forms and reflect their surrounding forest environment. Move through the structures to find textural touch points on the sculptures.

Having trouble locating any of the sculptures?

Underneath the title of each piece is a **///what3words** location. Enter these locations into the what3words website or app, and get a pinpoint location to guide you to each sculpture.

You may come across some temporary or decommissioned sculptures on the trail which aren't marked on the map. Check the Sculpture Trust website for more information.

