

Severn Treescapes Project

# Wild Walks Gloucester



Explore and immerse yourself in nature

# Welcome to the Severn Treescapes map for Gloucester

This map highlights woodland and other green spaces that are brilliant for trees and other wildlife, within easy reach of Gloucester and Stroud. They can be visited by bus, train, foot, bike and/or car.

**Postcodes** and/or **what3words** are used within the sentences. Some sites have easy and harder routes available.



**Easy ★:** Well marked routes with flat, even, often hard surfaces, few steps or steep sections

**Medium ★★:** Some steeper or possibly muddy routes, with rougher surfaces

**Hard ★★★:** Less well defined and maintained routes with some steep unstable sections



Photo: Frith Wood, Sted Valley, © Nathan Millar

[gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk](http://gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk)

## Highnam Woods RSPB



Wander through this ancient woodland and witness the mosaic of habitats created by the traditional practices of coppicing and pollarding.

### Access

Various public footpath access points from Highnam or A40. Can get particularly muddy and soft under foot.

Car park only available on weekends during the summer months, [GL2 8AA](#), [soft.known.point](#)

### Highlights

- Bluebells, wood anemones, spurge laurel and rare Tintern spurge.
- Nightingales live in the dense understory in the spring.

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## Lassington Wood



A mature, mixed woodland with walks around a network of footpaths and known for its history of the Lassington oak.

### Access

East of Highnam; well signposted from the road Oakridge. Part of Wysis Way footpath.

Various access points including from recreation grounds in Highnam, [GL2 8LL](#), [whimpered.sliders.lakes](#)

### Highlights

- All that remains of the 'Lassington Oak' is a huge hollow trunk in the centre of wood.
- Common woodland wildlife and spring bluebells.

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## Alney Island



This wetland nature reserve, located on the banks of the River Severn, is less than a kilometre from Gloucester city centre.

### Access

There are two sloped access points from Castlemeads Way. Some gates use a RADAR key. Follows well known public footpath routes and cycle routes.

Free car park on westbound side of Westgate Bridge, [bonus.corner.codes](#). Loop walk possible.

### Highlights

- Managed by hay cutting and cattle grazing; home to orchids, reedbed birds, waterfowl, raptors, amphibians and insects like dragonflies and butterflies.

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## Plock Court & Oxstalls Sports Park



Originally part of the Plock Court estate, which once housed a medieval manor, the site now includes a large wetland area developed in 2010 to enhance wildlife and provide flood protection.

### Access

Free car park, [GL2 9DW](#), [gent.parkland.doghouse](#)

Pedestrian access points are at Longford Lane and Estcourt Road.

### Highlights

- Wetland habitat such as purple loosestrife, sedges/rushes and reeds.



KEY:



By Car



By Bus



By Train



By Foot



By Bike



Kissing Gate



Dogs On Lead



No Dogs



Cafe



Toilets





Photo: Giant sequoia, Shutterstock

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## Chosen Hill

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150m summit previously an iron age fort. Local area comprising woodland, grassland and scrub with spectacular views across the Severn and Avon Vales.

### Access

For views and walks use car park by St Bartholemew's Church, Churchdown, [GL3 2LG](#), [ritual.rescue.lion](#)

For a more gentle walk, explore the lower reaches of the hill.

### Highlights

- Outstanding example of Atlantic beech woodland.
- Bluebell woodlands and wildflower meadows.
- Pine trees at the top of the ridge planted in 1898 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

## Barnwood Park & Arboretum

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Once part of a larger arboretum and formal parkland that was attached to Barnwood House, the arboretum was opened to public access in June 2002 and gained local nature reserve status soon after.

### Access

Most accessible entrance at [GL4 3JB](#), [winter.rate.wizard](#)

The arboretum entrance has a stock proof gate that is wheelchair and pushchair accessible.

### Highlights

- Trees originate from the 1800s to the 1950s, including giant sequoias, a veteran Indian bean tree and two Coronation dawn redwoods.

## Robinswood Hill Country Park

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Explore this hilly space of woodland and meadows that rises to 198m above sea level and offers extensive views across the Severn Vale, Cotswolds and over to the Forest of Dean.

### Access

Main entrance and car park, [GL4 6SX](#), [jolly.precautions.buyers](#)

All-terrain mobility scooter available for hire.

### Highlights

- The park was designated as a nature reserve in 2003.
- The wildflower meadows and veteran oak and ash trees are of particular importance.

## Quedgeley LNR & Maximus Woods

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Once the grounds of Quedgeley House this is an important wooded green space in the centre of Quedgeley.

### Access

Small car park situated off of Curtis Hayward Drive, [GL2 4WL](#), [pens.month.scope](#)

Circular walk available.

### Highlights

- Variety of habitats including woodland, pond, grassland and a formal arboretum featuring a variety of trees and shrubs including butcher's broom.



KEY:



By Car



By Bus



By Train



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By Bike



Kissing Gate



Dogs On Lead



No Dogs



Cafe



Toilets





Photo: Kingfisher. © Jon Hawkins

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## Haresfield Beacon National Trust



This Cotswold landscape combines mixed woodland and open grassland, offering expansive views towards the Brecon Beacons. It also features numerous archaeological sites, including barrows, a hillfort and a cross dyke.

### Access

National Trust pay and display car park, [GL6 6PP](#), [cassettes.workroom.debater](#)

Part of the Cotswolds Way National Trail.

### Highlights

- Bluebells and spring flower displays in Standish Wood.
- Veteran beech trees (over 200 years old) in Shortwood.



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## Slad Valley



Explore this picturesque valley, associated with author Laurie Lee's account of life there as told through the best-selling book *Cider with Rosie*.

### Access

Start from Uplands, [GL5 1XT](#), [commented.observers.natural](#), heading along Folly Lane into local community woodland (Folly Wood) and on to Frith Wood.

### Highlights

- Part of the Laurie Lee Wildlife Way. Lunch at The Woolpack.
- Stunning views across to Swift's Hill.
- Limestone grassland wildflowers, ancient beech wood, rare woodland flowers and the rare bulin snail.



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## Toadsmoor Woods



Explore this varied walk with woodland, pretty streams, a succession of ponds, steep climbs and valley views.

### Access

Parking by Toadsmoor Garage, [GL5 2UL](#), [obliging.improving.become](#)

### Highlights

- Picturesque wooded landscape and a mix of woodland and waterbirds: grey wagtail, kingfisher, siskin, woodpeckers, nuthatch and treecreeper.
- In spring, carpets of snowdrops and ancient woodland spring flowers such as bluebells and wood anemones.



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## High Wood



Explore part of the wooded valley, formed by the Miry Brook, just a short walk from the centre of Nailsworth town.

### Access

Served by a network of pathways at the west end of Newmarket Road, [GL6 0RP](#), [script.bullion.lunching](#)

Local cafes and public toilets in Nailsworth.

### Highlights

- Ancient woodland spring flowers such as bluebells and wood anemones.
- Mixed beech and oak woodland with former coppice understorey.

KEY:



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By Train



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By Bike



Kissing Gate



Dogs On Lead



No Dogs



Cafe



Toilets



Illustrations: Southern hawker dragonfly (top left), Common newt (bottom right). © Abi Stubbs





Severn Treescapes is a Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Wildlife Trusts' partnership project working across the three counties.

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Frith Wood, Slad Valley (Woodland scenes), Highnam Woods (Wood anemones) & Robinswood Hill (Robinswood view) by Nathan Millar, Lassington Wood & Haresfield Beacon (Bluebells) by Laura Mort, Alney Island (Heron), Plock Court (Purple loosestrife), Giant sequoia, Chosen Hill (Woodland canopy), Quedgeley LNR (Fly agaric), Toadsmoor Wood (Great tit on maple) & High Wood (Beech branch) by Shutterstock, Kingfisher by Jon Hawkins.

Photo opposite: Queens Wood Arboretum, Hereford (Autumn) by Caitlin Chilman.



# Severn Treescapes

*Wye to Wyre, connecting nature and people*

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