



04 GLOUCESTERSHIRE BEECHENHURST

SOUTH WEST

► Distance: 9½ miles/16km ► Time: 4 hours ► Grade: Moderate



SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 30

The creeping shades of autumn
in the Forest of Dean.



PHOTO JULIE ROYLE



CHOSEN BY... JULIE ROYLE

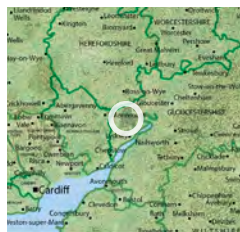
The Forest of Dean contains some of our loveliest and most accessible woodlands, but it is surprising how much of this beauty and access is linked to the forest's industrial heritage. For instance, Beechenhurst Visitor Centre was built on the site of a colliery, the Family Cycle Trail was once a mineral railway and the Sculpture Trail is an intriguing collection of artworks inspired mainly by industrial heritage. Cannop Ponds were constructed to power a waterwheel at Parkend Ironworks and Woorgreens Nature Reserve occupies the site of a vast open-cast mine

which closed in 1980. Today, Cannop Ponds are a popular attraction and the adjoining Cannop Bridge Nature Reserve is truly delightful, while Woorgreens is one of the most diverse parts of the forest, with woodland, plantation, wetland, heathland and a beautiful lake.

1 Start

Take path behind Visitor Centre heading north-west, signed to Family Cycle Trail (FCT). Join FCT and turn L towards Cannop Ponds. Soon after crossing Speech House Road look for unsigned path into trees on R. Follow it past nature reserve and ponds, occasionally having to rejoin FCT but soon returning to path.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking

Beechenhurst Visitor Centre, on B4226 Speech House Road, grid ref SO614120

Is it for me? Good paths and tracks in woodland, wetland and heathland
Stiles 1

PLANNING

Nearest town Cinderford

Refreshments

Beechenhurst Café, permanent catering van at Cannop Ponds, Speech House Hotel

Public toilets

Beechenhurst

Public transport

Bus 30 Gloucester-Broadwell via

Beechenhurst, Mon-Sat

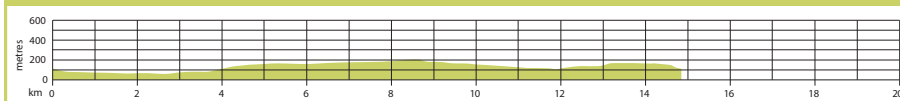
Maps OS Explorer OL14; Landranger 162

2 miles/3.2km

At end of second pond turn L on Gloucestershire Way. Rejoin FCT, turn L, then R towards Mallards Pike, then L



GRADIENT PROFILE



04 GLOUCESTERSHIRE
BEECHENHURST► OS Explorer map OL14 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

through gate onto footpath (Gloucestershire Way/Beechenhurst Trail). Turn L at unsigned crosspaths then straight on at next junction (waymarked). Ignore gate on L. Turn R at next junction, then straight on at two more. Fork R at next waymarked junction, leaving Gloucestershire Way. Shortly fork R again and proceed to road.

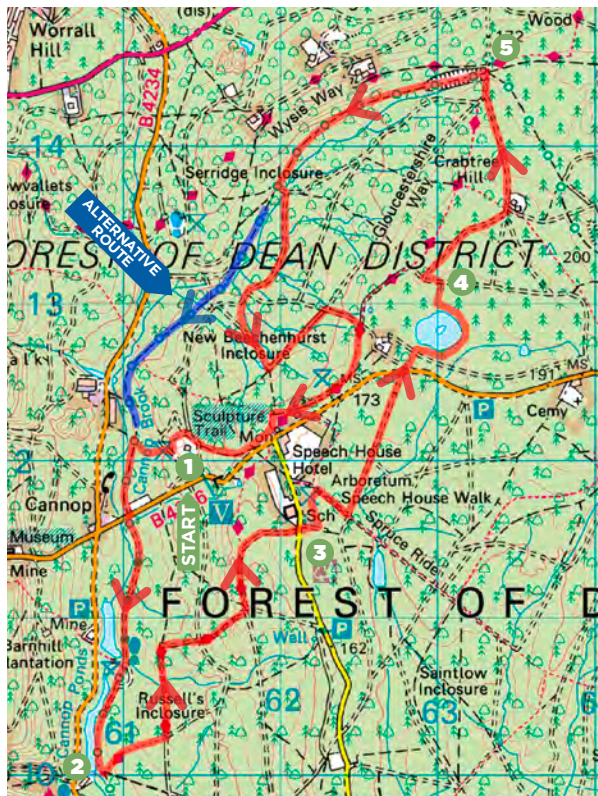
3 3½ miles/5.6km

Cross road, turn L then take path into trees. Follow it to wide path and turn R. After passing through gate turn L. Follow path to track and turn R. Go L at next crosspaths and then straight on to Speech House Road. Cross over, turn R, pass forest road then turn L through parking area and straight on along footpath into Woorgreens Nature Reserve. Walk to Woorgreens Lake and turn R around shore. When a little over halfway round, and having crossed three footbridges, take second path on R, reached by two steps down then another footbridge. Walk across marshy heath studded with pools.

4 5¼ miles/8.4km

Turn L on track, then take next R and proceed to major junction on Crabtree Hill next to 1896 inclosure marker (in ground on R). Turn second L on surfaced road through broadleaved woodland. Keep straight on at all junctions,

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2017 ORDNANCE SURVEY MEDIA 000177



passing Hicksters Ways Bat Roost shortly before reaching former Drybrook Road Station.

5 6¼ miles/10km

Turn L, rejoining FCT, which you can follow all the way back to Beechenhurst, shortening the described route by about a mile. However, it's fun to explore part of the Sculpture Trail. Join it after about 15 minutes at gate on L and follow waymarks to visit 10 sculptures.

Towards end of Sculpture Trail, it follows powerlines to a T-junction above the valley. Leave trail and descend L to Beechenhurst. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey

© Country Walking November 2017

DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING