

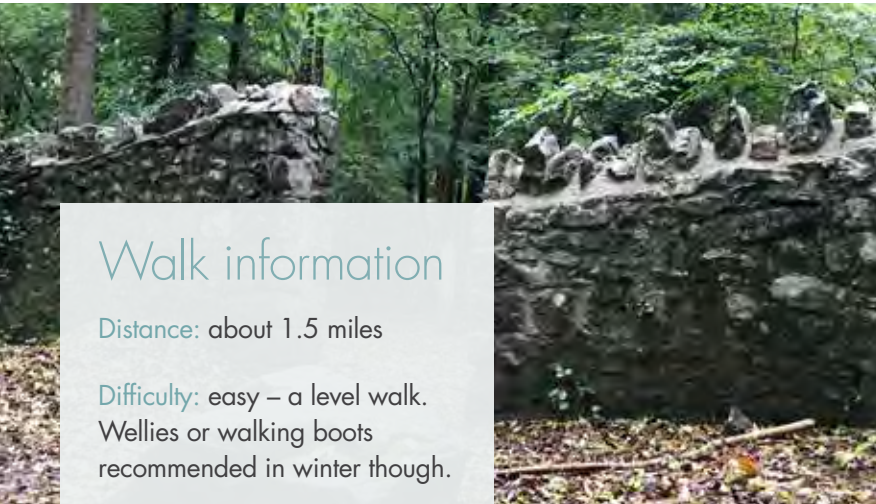


Wander through tranquil woodland

A tranquil wilderness on the edge of North Somerset has been an important spot to local people for hundreds of years.

Leigh Woods National Nature Reserve has ancient woodland and is home to many unusual plants and animals.

Whether you want a peaceful walk to remote parts of the woods, or a short family stroll, there are numerous paths to follow.



Walk information

Distance: about 1.5 miles

Difficulty: easy – a level walk. Wellies or walking boots recommended in winter though.

Duration: the circuit can be completed in about 45 mins.

Map: OS Explorer 154

How to get there

By car: Enter Leigh Woods off the A369 in Abbots Leigh. The entrance is marked with a Forestry Commission sign, just before the gateway arch (if coming from the M5). Drive down the tree lined Coronation Avenue until you reach the parking bays. If these spaces are full, continue on to the main car park.

By bus: First service **X3** and **X4**.

Leigh Woods, which sits alongside Avon Gorge, has long been recognised for its rich, natural environment.

It contains a hillfort, Stokeleigh Camp, which is thought to have been occupied from the third century BC, as well as limestone and celestine quarries which were worked in the 18th and 19th centuries.

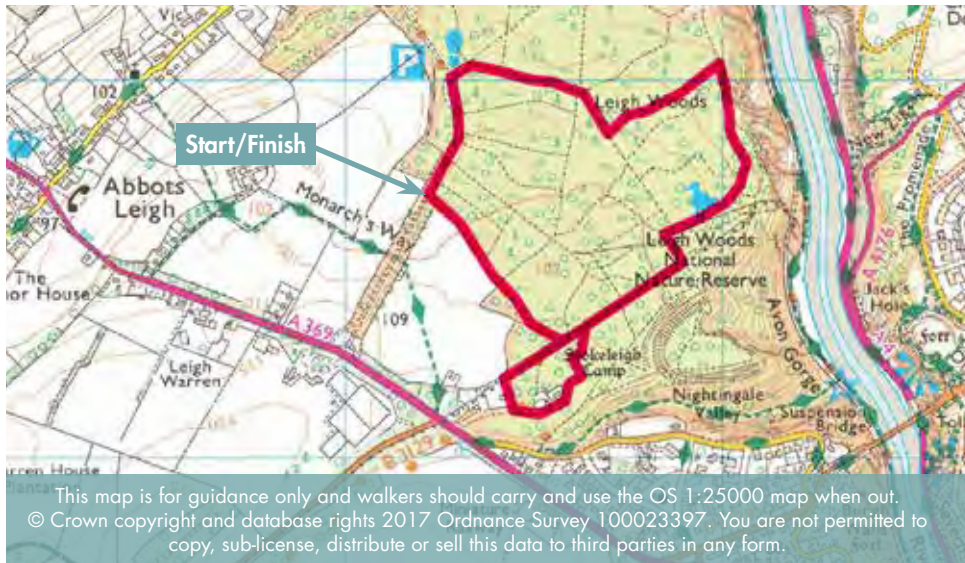
Part of the land was bought by George Wills, of Bristol's Imperial Tobacco, after it was threatened with development. He donated it to the National Trust in 1909 to preserve it as a special place for the public. Other areas of the nature reserve have now been taken over by the Forestry Commission.

During winter, rangers are on site doing works such as veteran tree management, brush cutting brambles, pond clearance, and restoration of wood pasture.

To get around the woodland you can either follow the coloured waymarked routes, or use the network of paths to explore further.

The majority of this walk follows the purple trail through the woods, an all-ability trail suitable for prams and wheelchairs.

From the parking laybys, take the first track at the end of Coronation Avenue which leads into the woods (signposted to Clifton).



This map is for guidance only and walkers should carry and use the OS 1:25000 map when out.
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Keep following this wide path and you will come to the stone boundary wall, built in 1813 to mark the parish boundary between Long Ashton and Abbots Leigh.

Go through the gap in the wall and then turn right, following the signpost to North Road. The boundary wall is now on your right.

This leads to the National Trust office, a small building full of information about everything you can see and do in Leigh Woods.

In front of the office is a carved wooden sofa, and tables and chairs if you want to stop for a picnic. There is also a compost toilet here.

From the office, go past the rangers' buildings and take the wide path into the woods. This leads to a natural play area, a place for dedicated den-building and fallen logs to climb on.

Exit the play area on the opposite side, and follow the purple marker to take the smaller path on your left. This takes you back to the boundary wall.

If you head left just a short way, you'll see more dens and a big swing between two trees.

Return to the boundary wall and then follow it down, with the wall on your left.

After a short while you will see a wooden gate. Go through here and then follow the purple marker to the right, around the curved path, and then onwards through the trees.

Turn right at the junction and continue on. There are regular benches if you need to stop and rest your feet.

You will soon be able to catch glimpses of the gorge and River Avon below through the trees.

Shortly afterwards, take the left-hand turn, following the purple marker again. From here, you can follow the purple markers back towards the main car park, and up to the laybys where you parked.