

Find out more about Leigh Woods

You can log onto

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-leighwoods

www.forestry.gov.uk/website/recreation.nsf

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/nnr/1006008.aspx

Dogs welcome

Your dog is welcome in these woods, but please be respectful of other visitors by keeping them under control and keeping paths clear of mess.

Grazing cattle

The southern part of the site is grazed, look out for the information signs letting you know if the cattle are on site and what to do.

For disabled visitors

There are three trails in the woods with varying degrees of difficulty. The Purple Trail is suitable for disabled visitors and families with prams.

When we close

The woods are open all year round.

Please help us

Keep the woods tidy and take any rubbish home.

Public Transport

Bus Routes are numbers 357, 358, 359 from the City Centre to Portishead, via Hotwells Road.

National Cycle Network

Our Blue Trail goes through our woods and connects to the Bristol to Pill cycle path (Towpath).

Get more involved with the National Trust

The National Trust is a charity that looks after hundreds of extraordinary places, for ever, for everyone. You can volunteer, give us a legacy, or join our campaigns.

Call 0844 800 1895 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Leigh Woods today

There's no charge to visit, and plenty of paths provide access to very varied forest scenery. Even if you only wish to take a short walk you can quickly find yourself immersed in woodland, or explore further to find secluded spots and discover beautiful views.

Today you can enjoy many of the locally handcrafted wooden sculptures and carvings that celebrate the woodland's history and place in the community. See if you can find our Dragon Seat and Centenary Bench as you explore the woods.



National Trust



Forestry Commission England

Marvel at breathtaking views and explore beautiful walks

Welcome to Leigh Woods

Walk or cycle the 3 waymarked trails, from 1.2km to 2.5km.

See Red Devon Cattle grazing on pasture amongst this rich and diverse woodland.

Discover the many rare and unique plants.

Walk within the ramparts of an Iron Age Hillfort.

**For alternative formats,
please call us on 0117 9731645
or email
leighwoods@nationaltrust.org.uk**



What makes Leigh Woods special.



Wildlife and nature

You can find native trees and flowering plants at Leigh Woods some of which only occur here, such as the rare Wilmott's Whitebeam and the Bristol Rock-Cress (pictured above). These unique species are part of what makes Leigh Woods a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a National Nature Reserve (NNR). It's also home to fascinating animal life. On your visit today you might spot a peregrine falcon hovering over the gorge, or large Red Devon cattle grazing.



A space to have fun

Let your imagination run wild playing outdoors. You can choose from a variety of way marked trails according to your ability, and enjoy walking, running or bike rides. We also have a permanent orienteering route. Look out for our natural play area with logs to climb over and places to build dens. Ideal for picnics, walking your dog or just a place for peace and quiet and to enjoy the beautiful views.

Hidden history

Rich in memories from the Iron Age family home, through to the 19th century landscape design and the introduction of tree species such as the Giant Redwood, Weymouth Pine and Noble Fir. Leigh Woods was also key in supplying wood for the second world war effort, and played an important role helping people through a time of great conflict.



Woodland

Leigh Woods is by far the largest block of woodland in the Bristol area. Scattered 'veteran' trees give clues to hundreds of years constant woodland cover found in parts of the wood. From the formal lines of copper beech on the Coronation Avenue entrance, to the ancient woods towards the gorge, every feature has its own unique past human connection and historical explanation. Coppice, historic landscape, ancient woodland and 20th century plantation, combine and make a mosaic of woodland within a woodland. With open access throughout, Leigh Woods is very much a woodland for people.

Landscapes and habitats from a bygone England.

Welcome to Leigh Woods, a woodland with an amazing history that offers wonderful views of the Avon Gorge. Discover rare plants and trees, as well as unusual sculptures, as you explore this beautiful nature reserve today.

In 1909 George Wills gave 80 acres of Leigh Woods to the National Trust to protect the land from housing development and secure public access.

A further 300 acres was purchased by Forestry Commission in 1949, described at the time as 'devastated woodland' having been largely felled during World War II.

National Trust, Forestry Commission and Natural England now care for this special woodland in partnership.

Different types of management are needed across the various woods to best integrate and conserve the special character of Leigh Woods. Today an ancient breed of cattle help to improve and maintain the woodland environment by grazing... it's e-cow-logical! This is just one of the techniques we use to care for this special woodland.

Don't miss my favourite Leigh Woods moment:

... Watching the winter sunrise beam across the beautiful wood pasture.

Bill Morris
Head Warden, National Trust



Seasonal highlights

Spring forward

Visit Paradise bottom to look down on the colourful natural display of bluebells in competition with ramsons, where ancient woodland follows the stream.

Summer sunshine

Offering a good chance to see butterflies such as the Speckled Wood, Ringlet and Marbled White or the day flying Burnet Moth.

Autumn colours

Many of the plantation trees such as beech and red oak offer up the most vibrant shades of orange before releasing their leaves, particularly if the season is sunny with cold nights.

Winter wonderland

Still need some colour over the dark winter months? The Arboretum features many exotic evergreen trees which keep their foliage throughout winter.

Waymarked trails

Look out for these coloured posts.



Leigh Woods has lots of different paths suitable for a wide variety of people. Choose the trail that suits you. All trails pass through the Car Park.

Purple Trail **2.5km**
(approx 1.5 miles)
Walking: 45mins (approx)
Ideal for families with prams.

MOSTLY LEVEL PATHS

Red Trail **1.2km**
(approx .7 miles)
Walking: 30mins (approx)
Ideal for a short walk.

SOME GENTLE SLOPES

Cycle Route **2.25km**
(approx 1.4 miles)
Walking: 40mins (approx)
Ideal for cyclists and walkers.

STEEP SLOPES

Make the most of your visit



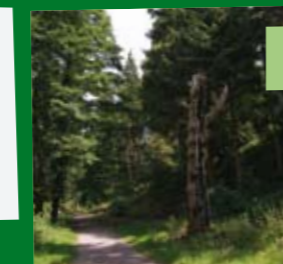
1 Coronation Avenue
Planted in 1953, the striking Copper Beech that line Coronation Avenue actually continue all the way to the Avon Gorge.



4 Stokeleigh 'Iron-Age' Camp
The largest and best preserved of three Iron Age hillforts that guard the approach along the River Avon, sited at key vantage points either side of the Gorge. (illustration shows how it used to look)



2 Jubilee Oak
Planted to mark the 50th anniversary of the gift by George Wills of part of Leigh Woods to the National Trust. Can you find the tree planted in 2009 to mark the centenary?



5 Arboretum
This tree collection was started, in the 19th century, with newly discovered conifers from the Americas. Those that remain are now of great size and character.



3 The Centenary Bench
Covered in stunning carvings that are inspired by the history and wildlife around, it celebrates the gift of this part of Leigh Woods to the National Trust by George Wills.



6 Paradise Bottom
You can sit inside 'A Seat with a View' and take in the stunning view across the Avon Gorge, find an example of the largest tree in the world, the Giant Redwood and see the unusual Fulham Oak which retains its leaves all year around.

KEY

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| P Car park | Paths (hard surface) |
| Picnic table | Other paths |
| S Sculpture | Stream and ponds |
| Viewpoint | Parish wall |
| Green wood barn | NT office |
| Bus stops | Waymarked trails |
| Quarries | River Avon trail |

don't forget...



Greenwood Barn
This is a great example of traditional building techniques, and was made using unseasoned greenwood harvested here at Leigh Woods.



The outstanding views
Fantastic views of the Avon Gorge, the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Cabot Tower.



Walk and cycle
Whether it's an autumn stroll or a summer cycle, there is an extensive network of paths including three way marked routes for you to enjoy.

Leigh Woods

A wilderness of beauty and tranquillity set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Avon Gorge and Brunel's world famous suspension bridge.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-leighwoods
www.forestry.gov.uk or call (01594) 810983
www.naturalengland.org.uk

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In partnership with

