

Blackwater Trails

Two easy woodland walks with an impressive collection of ancient trees.

Stimulate your senses on these short trails around the Forestry England's Blackwater Arboretum, with its small but nationally important collection of trees from all over the world and the impressive Blackwater Tall Trees Trail.

Sensory information boards along the trails provide fascinating facts about the tallest, heaviest and toughest trees in the world. This walk takes you past majestic conifers planted in the 1850s, some of the oldest Douglas fir trees in Britain and includes views of two

enormous redwoods. Blackwater has some of the oldest and most striking firs in all of the New Forest. These impressive trees were planted in the 1850s to create Rhinefield Ornamental Drive.

Both trails can be followed using the sensory information boards from the car park. Just follow these boards round the trails to enjoy an easy to follow route for all. There are regular seats with backs to rest on along this route.

Trail Overview

Just follow the waymarker posts and sensory boards to enjoy two easy to follow routes for all.

Start/finish: Blackwater car park. Grid reference SU 268 047 what3words.com/taxi.submit.formation

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer OL 22 New Forest.

Distance: Arboretum Trail, 0.7 miles (1.1 km) Tall Trees Trail, 1.4 miles (2.3 km).

Duration: Both under 1 hour.

Local facilities: Blackwater car park has space for 50 cars with two spaces reserved for disabled visitors. It has toilets and disabled access toilets, picnic tables, bike racks and an information point.

Tall Trees Trail

Directions

T1 Arrival

Blackwater Arboretum car park has accessible parking and accessible toilet facilities in addition to an information point and picnic tables. Please take all your rubbish home and follow the New Forest Code whilst out and about

(T2) Under Oak Archway

To start your stroll go under the first oak archway, cross over the Rhinefield Ornamental Drive and continue up the gravel track for few metres before turning right along a path signed 'Tall Trees Trail'

T3 The Tall Trees Trail

Follow this trail as it winds through a fascinating array of huge trees, including a couple of giant redwoods! Go over a small wooden bridge and follow the pinecone waymarker posts along the trail which keeps parallel to the road



T4 Back down the other side!

The trail continues towards Brock Hill Car Park. Just before you reach the car park the trail bends right and crosses the road. After crossing head right, following the pinecone waymarkers. The trail winds back to the car park.

Accessibility: The path is a fairly smooth gravelled surface and is level with frequent resting places and no gates. The narrowest width along the route is 1.1m at the chicane barriers where the trail crosses the road. There is one bridge which is 1.5m wide with handrails and 1m wide anti-slip covering (grid reference: SU 267 047).

Arboretum Trail

Directions

A1 Arrival

Blackwater Arboretum car park has accessible parking and accessible toilet facilities in addition to an information point and picnic tables. Please take all your rubbish home and follow the New Forest Code whilst out and about

(A2) The Two Oak Arches

To start your stroll under the first oak archway, cross over the Rhinefield Ornamental Drive and continue up the gravel track for a short distance to a second oak archway where the trail begins. You can go either left or right to walk in a large circle enjoying the variety of beautiful trees growing here



A3 Heading back

To head back simply retrace your steps back through the two oak archways back to the car park.

Accessibility: This short circular trail has a fairly smooth gravelled surface with one very gentle slope from the car park to the start of the trail. The remainder of the trail is level with frequent resting places and is accessed via a gate which has a low, soft catch. The narrowest width along the route is 1.1m at the entrance gate to the Arboretum; this is also the only gate along the route.

