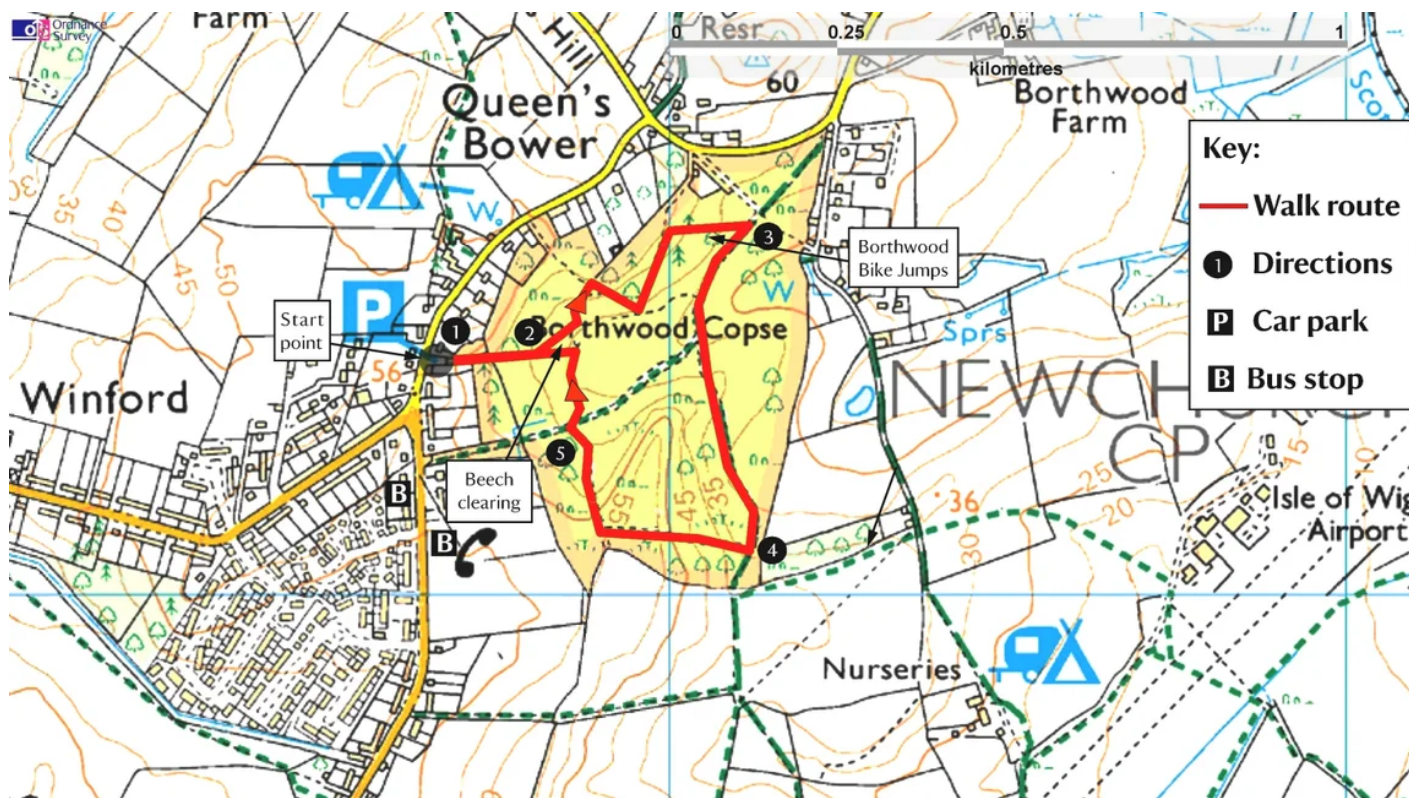


ISLE OF WIGHT

Borthwood Copse red squirrel walk

This short atmospheric walk in a secluded part of the island takes you through woods that are home to a special resident of the Isle of Wight, the red squirrel. It is a particularly beautiful place to be when the trees take on their autumn colours in October and early November. In spring the woodland floor is carpeted with bluebells.



Information

Address: Borthwood Copse, Alverstone Road, Winford, Isle of Wight.

OS map: Landranger 196, Explorer OL29

Activity: Walking

Easy: There are no gates or stiles but paths can be uneven and sometimes muddy. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs are always welcome, but please keep them on a lead around wildlife and livestock, and take any dog waste home with you. There is a dog waste bin in the car park.

Full trail: Miles: 1.2 (km: 1.92)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 45 mins

Terrain

The total ascent is 30m (100ft). There are no gates or stiles but paths can be uneven and sometimes muddy. Some of the undergrowth is fairly thick but the paths are well used. They are not wide enough for easy use of a wheelchair. There are no signposts so it is easy to miss a path; however the wood is only 24 hectares (60 acres) in size so it is hard to get lost.

Total steps: 5

Start point: Parish Council car park, off Alverstone Rd on Winford to Alverstone road, grid ref: SZ566843

1. Enter the wood and start to descend. The path soon reaches a cathedral-like clearing of beech trees with fallen logs offering good places to sit.
2. Bear left immediately on entering the clearing and take a rising path, the left-most of two paths leaving the clearing at the same point. Pass through a holly thicket on the way to the top where it begins to open out near the edge of the wood. Bear right to descend again just before some house gardens. Bear left at a junction, following the line of the boundary of the gardens and soon the path broadens out in a clearing by an oak tree. Follow this track onwards and downwards, bearing right at a junction to meet an even wider crossing track 25yds (25m) further on.
3. Turn right and follow this main track almost to the edge of the wood, ignoring all side paths. Over its length, the path rises gently through a gully, then falls, and rises again.
4. Eventually you will see a field through the trees to the left. Just before a right bend that leads to a stile 90yds (80 m) away and out of the wood, turn right along a narrow westerly path which follows the line of the edge of the wood. It rises gently, emerging shortly after another holly thicket close to a fence into a field on the left. Turn sharp right here and follow the path downwards, past yet more holly, to a crossing track.
5. Cross the track and continue ahead into the beech wood clearing. Bear left along the edge of the clearing and rejoin the original path. Turn left back to the car park.

End point: Parish Council car park, off Alverstone Rd on Winford to Alverstone road, grid ref: SZ566843