

# 03 WILTSHIRE SAVERNAKE FOREST

► Distance: **8.8km/5½ miles** ► Time: **2½ hours** ► Grade: **Easy**



Photo: Mark Bauer/Alamy

Visit Savernake Forest in autumn for the ultimate experience in colour.



## CHOSEN BY... NICK CHANNER

This walk follows part of Savernake Forest's Grand Avenue, planned by Capability Brown who was also responsible for the forest you see today, a vast wooded area comprising broad-leaved trees, tall pines, pollarded oaks and glorious beeches. Jane Seymour was introduced to Henry VIII while he was out hunting deer in the forest with her father back in 1535.

## 1 Start

With your back to the main road walk ahead through the car park and picnic area. Pass a sign for 'barbecue hearth site 1' and avoid a turning on the L at the sign for 'barbecue 7'. Keep ahead through the trees, passing a sign 'barbecue hearth site 8 100 yards (91m) left'. Pass a barrier to reach a junction and turn L. Avoid Church Walk, a bridleway, and keep ahead in a northerly direction beside wooden fencing. Pass a barrier and continue to A4.

## 2 1.6km/1 mile

Turn R along the grassy verge and keep R to join Grand Avenue. Follow the drive between rows of beech trees, pass a turning to Braydon Oak and head uphill, passing a spacious grass clearing ringed by trees on the R. Beyond the clearing the route reaches Eight Walks where eight tracks converge.

## 3 4km/2½ miles

Take the first track on the R (Great Lodge Drive) and follow it through sprawling parkland. Pass the entrance to Thornhill Nursery and then drop downhill. When the drive sweeps L, keep ahead beside a barrier and uphill on a footpath. About 110m before the main road take a footpath on the L and follow it to Cadley church, formerly a place of worship and now a private house. Return to path junction near the A346, turn L, then R to follow Church Walk.

## 4 6.4km/4 miles

On reaching a fork by a grass clearing, keep L and follow the path uphill to merge with another forest trail. Continue uphill and keep L at the next fork. The A346 is close by on the L. Cross over a track to follow a wide grass path back to the start. **CW**



Look out for toadstools and mushrooms on the forest floor.

Photo: Trevor Payne/Alamy

## Don't miss...



Savernake is the only privately owned forest in Britain, having passed through 31 generations of the same family since the 11th-century.

## PLAN YOUR WALK



### Route

**Start/parking** Car park at Postern Hill in the north-west corner of Savernake Forest, grid ref SU197682

**Is it for me?** Paths and tracks; several short, easy climbs

**Stiles** None

### Planning

**Nearest town** Marlborough

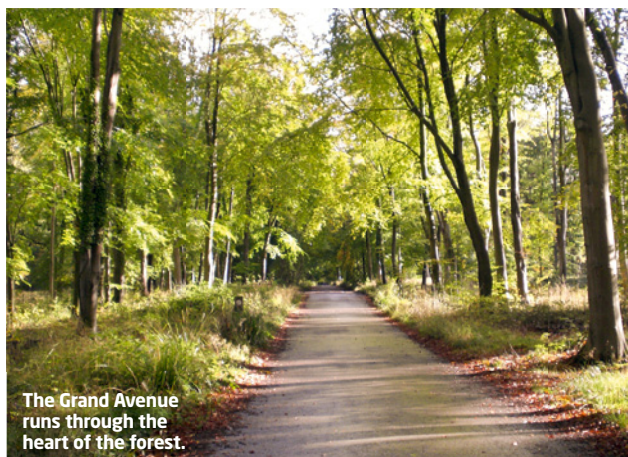
**Refreshments** None

**Public toilets** Savernake Forest

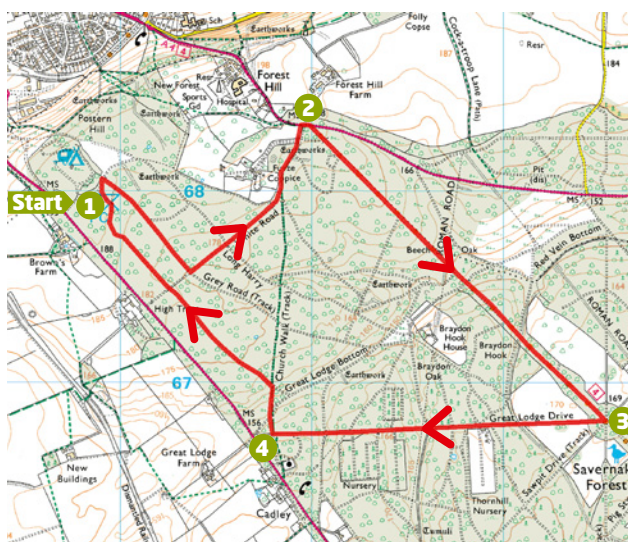
**Public transport** Wilts & Dorset operate service 19 from Marlborough to Pewsey, passing Postern Hill

**Maps** Ordnance Survey Explorer 157; Landranger 173 & 174

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The Grand Avenue runs through the heart of the forest.



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► Route available to download and print at: [lfto.com/routes](http://lfto.com/routes)  
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