

Longparish, Dead Man's Plack



HAMPSHIRE
COUNTRYSIDE
SERVICE

Distance: 1.3 miles

Start: Village Hall

Longparish consists of numerous hamlets, including Forton, Middleton, Longparish Station, West Aston and East Aston, lying along the west bank of the clear braided waters of the River Test. The valley is about half a mile wide, flanked by low ridges, with Harewood Forest to the north and west.

The village has many attractive thatched cottages and St Nicholas Church, which dates from the 13th century. An excellent network of footpaths including part of the Test Way links the settlements and provides some memorable views of the old cottages, the landscape and of the river.

The low lying fields of the valley are used for grazing livestock, while the rising ground is used for arable crops such as barley, wheat and oilseed rape. Small spinneys and areas specially planted provide cover for game birds and other wildlife.

Harewood Forest, in Saxon and Norman times a royal hunting forest, is now managed for forestry, hunting and wildlife. Harewood Forest was used in World War II for storing and marshalling ammunition which was then taken by rail to Southampton, so many rides were concreted and are still used for forestry operations.

Directions

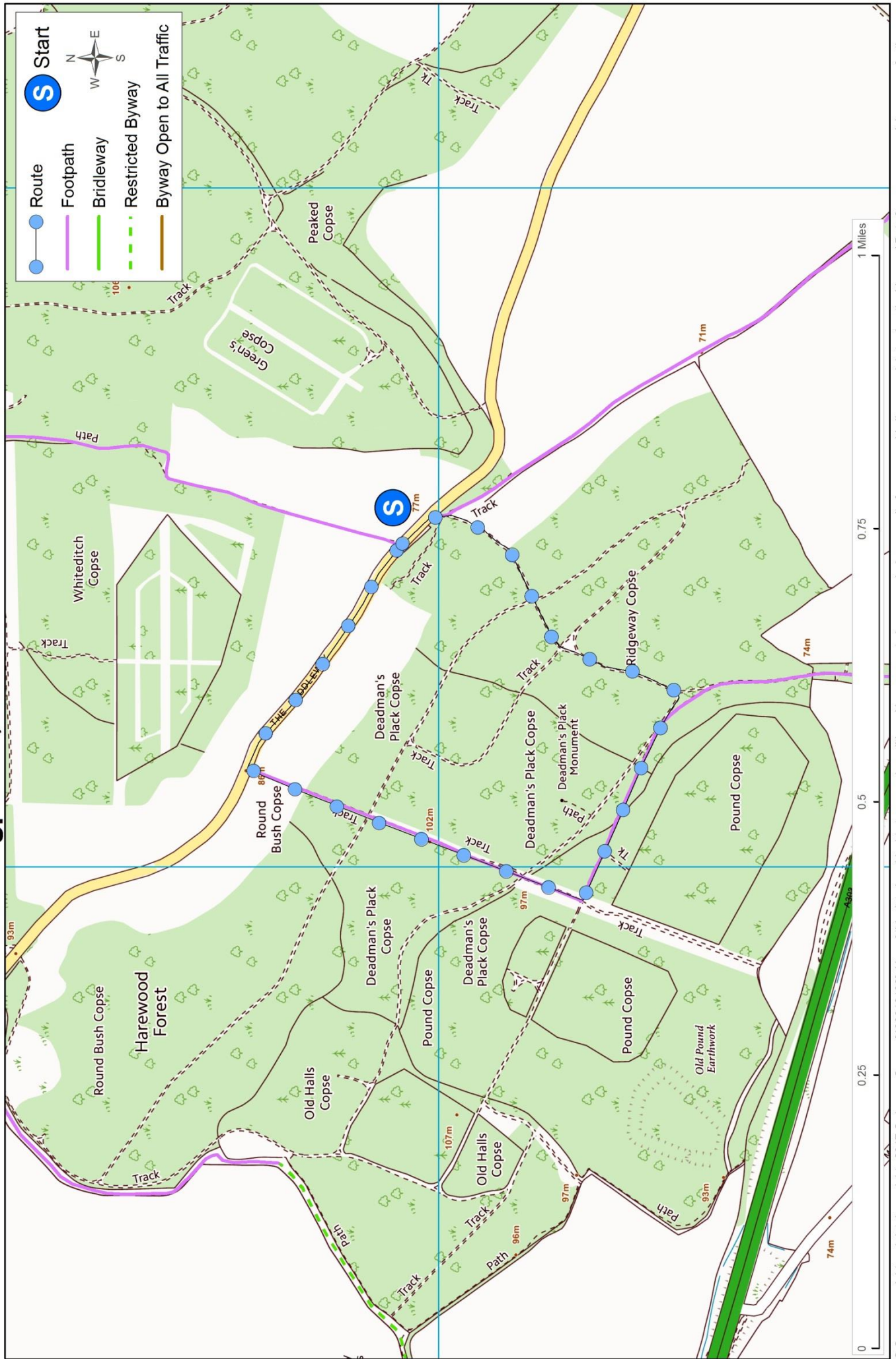
Park in the car park by the village hall. Turn right in Forton to join the Broadney path up to the Middleway. Although the next section is along the road and you need to heed the traffic, it brings rewarding views.

Follow the marked path through the roadside hedge, across a field and into the forest. Watch for the permissive path sign on the left.

After a short walk the large monument erected by Col. Iremonger in 1826 to commemorate a Saxon royal murder is seen on the left. For more information on this fascinating story of royal love, intrigue and treachery look at the Longparish website www.longparish.org.uk.

Follow the path back to the Middleway.

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