

## The History of Rockingham Forest

The forest was originally created by William I in the 11th century. The name Forest was given to woodland that a King would declare as land he was entitled to hunt in. This included private land whereby landowners were only permitted to collect fallen and dead wood and the cutting down of trees was strictly forbidden. Rockingham Forest covered a large area, from Stamford in the North, down to Northampton in the South, Oundle in the East and across to Market Harborough in the West. The Forest was one of three major Saxon Woodlands within the historic county of Northamptonshire. Rockingham Forest covered three Counties, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire.

Whilst under the reign of Charles I and subsequently Charles II Rockingham Forest dwindled and eventually the land was sold and leased back to the Lords of the Manors. In 1832, an Act of Parliament then disbanded Rockingham Forest.



### Kings Cliffe airfield and Glenn Miller Memorial

Kings Cliffe Airfield was a World War II Royal Air Force and U.S. Air Force fighter airfield with an impressive record. It was also the spot where Major Glenn Miller and his band put on their last ever Hanger Concert on 3rd of October 1944.

### Kings Cliffe to Nassington railway line (disused)

Nassington Station was closed to passengers along with Wansford and Castor Station in 1957. In 1968 Kings Cliffe Station was closed to goods along with the track that went as far as the private siding into the ironstone quarries. The last train ran to the quarry on the 4th of January 1971.

- Rockingham Forest Park Boundary
- Public bridlway (pedestrians, horses and cyclists)
- Public footpath (pedestrians only)
- Walking and Cycle trails (created by Rockingham Forest Park for guests to enjoy)
- Byway (publically accessible track, too minor to be called a road)
- Road



- Hanger Base 1**  
The site is where a Callendar Hamilton Hanger once stood. Here you can see and take pictures of the Glenn Miller Memorial as this is the exact spot where Glenn Miller and his band did their last performance on the 3rd of October 1944.
- Railway Ramble 2**  
This walk takes you through Great Morton Sale to the dismantled railway underneath the LNWR Railway Bridge. Kings Cliffe Railway Station was opened on the 1st of November 1879 and closed to passengers on the 6th of June 1966. On the 3rd of June 1968, the station was closed to goods along with the track to Nassington Station where a private siding and the line to Yarwell Junction remained in use for the iron ore and limestone quarry until 1971.
- LNWR Railway Bridge 3**  
Sited near the public bridlway that can take you to Apethorpe. This fine structure was built by the London & North Western Railway as part of a short connecting line between Seaton and Wansford. It was opened in 1879 and closed in 1968.
- Sessile Lake 4**  
Sited behind the Holiday Lodge Park, and next to Fair Oak Sale. Sessile Oak is a tall Oak tree, that can be found in semi-natural woodlands in the North and West of the UK. The acorns of a Sessile Oak are not like the traditional English Oak but are directly attached to the outer twigs. Used for barrel and cask-making as it gives wine and spirits a particular flavour.
- Acorn Lake 5**  
The longest lake on the park, is situated East of the lodge park. The Acorn is the nut that comes from the Oak Trees. The acorn is a nut that contains a single seed however there have been some acorns found with two seeds. The nut is contained in a leathery shell and enclosed and borne in a cup shaped cupule. The older the tree the more acorns it produces.
- Oak Lake 6**  
Sited opposite the entrance to the Holiday Park, this lake was created in 1984. The oak is a tree which is part of the beech family. There are approximately 500 species of oak still in existence. The English Oak is an iconic tree. As the oak tree matures it will form a broad and spreading crown with sturdy branches underneath. It will also shorten with age in order to extend its lifespan. The English Oak is the second most common tree in the UK. Commonly found in deciduous woods in Southern and Central Britain, that it has assumed the status of a national emblem.

- North Fields Walk 7**  
This walk takes you around the park taking in Sessile Lake, open country side and around to Holm Lake past Great Byard Sale, looping back to your accommodation.
- South Fields Walk 8**  
Starting at Railway Bridge, borders Little Morton Sale, this walk will take you past Acorn Lake and if you wish to leave the park and take in some of the surrounding villages then this route will take you to the public footpaths to Nassington, Yarwell and Wansford.
- Holm Lake 9**  
This lake you will see on the left of your journey to your lodge. Holm oak was first introduced in the 1500's. The Holm oak is an evergreen broadleaf tree. The acorn on a holm oak are more pointed than those from the traditional English oak and the Sessile oak. Commonly seen around the coastline as they resistant to salty spray from the sea and great windbreakers.

