

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 Second World War RAF and U.S. Air Force fighter airfield with an impressive record. It was here, on 3rd October 1944, that Major Glenn Miller and his orchestra played their last airfield hangar concert. He disappeared over the Channel on 15th December 1944.

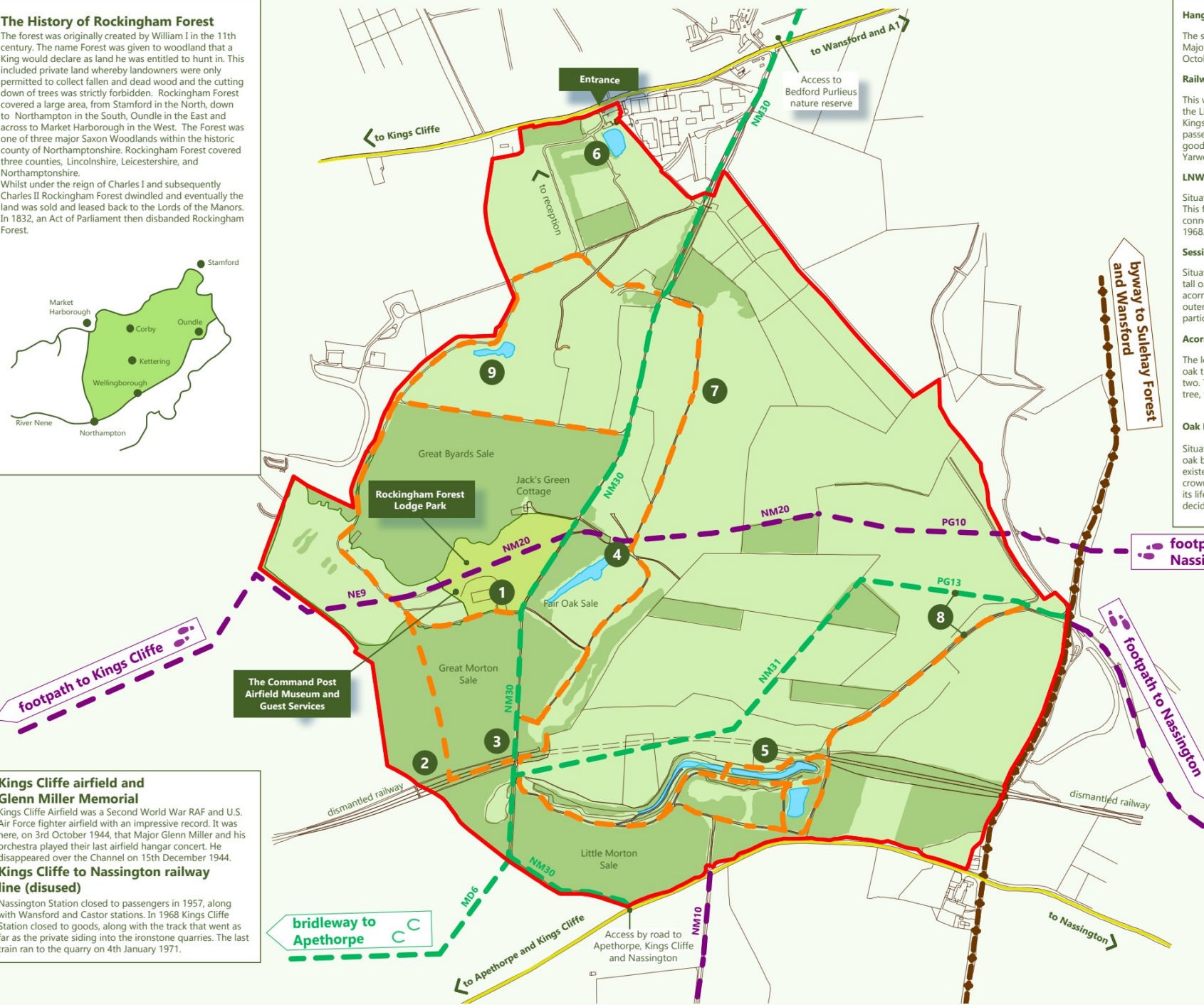
Kings Cliffe to Nassington railway line (disused)

Nassington Station closed to passengers in 1957, along with Wansford and Castor stations. In 1968 Kings Cliffe Station 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 4th January 1971.

Rockingham Forest Park Boundary
Public footpath (pedestrians only)

Public bridleway (pedestrians, horses and cyclists)
Byway (publicly accessible track, too minor to be called a road)

Walking and Cycle trails (created by Rockingham Forest Park for guests to enjoy)
Road



Hangar Base 1

The site where a Callender Hamilton hangar once stood. This is the exact spot where Major Glenn Miller and his orchestra played their last airfield hangar concert, on 3rd October 1944. The Glenn Miller Memorial stands here.

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

Situated near the public bridleway 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

Situated behind the Holiday Lodge Park and next to Fair Oak Sale. The sessile oak is a tall oak that can be found in semi-natural woodlands in the north and west of the UK. Its acorns are not like those of the traditional English oak, but are attached directly to the outer twigs. Its timber is used for barrel and cask-making, as it gives wine and spirits a particular flavour.

Acorn Lake 5

The longest lake in the park, situated east of the lodge park. The acorn is the nut of the oak tree. It usually contains a single seed, though some acorns have been found with two. The nut is held in a leathery shell and borne in a cup-shaped cupule. The older the tree, the more acorns it produces.

Oak Lake 6

Situated opposite the entrance to the Holiday Park, this lake was created in 1984. The oak belongs to the beech family, and there are approximately 500 species still in existence. The English oak is an iconic tree. As it matures it forms a broad, spreading crown with sturdy branches beneath, and it will also shorten with age in order to extend its lifespan. It is the second most common tree in the UK, and is so widespread in the deciduous woods of southern and central Britain that it has become a national emblem.

footpath to Yarwell and Nassington

North Fields Walk 7

This walk takes you around the park, taking in Sessile Lake and open countryside, then round to Holm Lake past Great Byrds Sale before looping back to your accommodation.

South Fields Walk 8

Starting at the Railway Bridge and bordering Little Morton Sale, this walk takes you past Acorn Lake. If you would like to leave the park and see some of the surrounding villages, it also joins 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. The holm oak was first introduced in the 1500s and is an evergreen broadleaf tree. Its acorns are more pointed than those of the traditional English oak and the sessile oak. Holm oaks are commonly seen around the coast, as they resist salty sea spray and make excellent windbreaks.

Rockingham Forest Park

Park Map



0 1/4 mile 1/2 mile 3/4 mile 1 mile