



THE FOREST OF BERE

HAMPSHIRE'S FORGOTTEN FOREST

Emily Preston and Steve Wallis

Today the Forest of Bere covers an area of approximately one hundred square miles. It is bounded to the north by the South Downs, to the south (primarily) by coastal towns such as Portsmouth and Fareham, and stretches from Eastleigh in the west to the Sussex border.

Historically it covered a larger area and was one of eleven royal forests in Hampshire. Instead of being woodlands as is often thought, these were hunting areas belonging to the king and under a special administration.

This book looks not only at the history of the Forest of Bere but also the special character that it retains today. Its landscape boasts a patchwork of woods and fields with ancient hedgerows and narrow winding lanes, interspersed with villages and small towns full of personality. The area is easily accessible from nearby urban areas but few of their inhabitants are aware of the Forest and what it has to offer. This book will open the eyes of many to the history and qualities of this precious landscape.

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Emily Preston comes from a family that has farmed in the Forest of Bere for generations and was herself born and raised in Hampshire. She has a degree in Geography from the University of Portsmouth and has developed a career in conservation. Most recently she has managed the Forest of Bere Countryside Project for Hampshire County Council. Her interests include promoting the understanding of the countryside and wildlife conservation, through looking at social history and developing landscape identity.



Steve Wallis was born in Halifax in the former West Riding of Yorkshire in 1963. He gained a degree in Archaeological Studies at Leicester University and has worked mainly in archaeology since then. He spent nearly ten years in Essex, before moving to Dorset to work for Dorset County Council in 1994. He is now a Senior Archaeologist for that organisation. His interests include exploring southern England, photography and writing books and magazine articles.



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FEATURE CHAPTERS AND GALLERY – THE FOREST OF BERE

Feature Chapters:

- Chapter 1 **The History of the Forest of Bere**
- Chapter 2 **Interesting Characters and their Stories**
- Chapter 3 **Forest Industries and Traditions**
- Chapter 4 **Landscape Character**
- Chapter 5 **Towns and Villages**
- Chapter 6 **Places to Visit**



Example of a double page spread.



Old-style road-sign at Newtown.



Cutting the hazel coppice. Much of the harvest will be used as stakes, bean sticks, hurdles or charcoal.



Bluebells near Misingford.



Cottages at Catherington.



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