



THE NATIONAL
FOREST
& Beyond

Planning an event



Choose The National Forest & Beyond

Planning an event?

Choose The National Forest & Beyond

Its central location in the country and excellent road network makes The National Forest an ideal and easily accessible destination for events. And there is a real variety of facilities across the destination that can accommodate most events.

But it is sometimes difficult for event organisers to find out what facilities are in an area.

This guide is designed to help potential organisers find the right site for their event and signpost to organisations who can help. It covers venues across the 200 square miles of The National Forest and those just outside its boundary in the area of The National Forest & Beyond.

Tourist Information

If you have any queries or need any further help in finding the right venue contact The Tourist Information Centres:

Ashby de la Zouch, North Street, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 1HU
Tel: 01530 411 767, Email: ashby.tic@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Swadlincote, Sharpe's Pottery Museum, West Street, Swadlincote, DE11 9DG
Tel: 01283 222 848, Email: tic@sharpespotterymuseum.org.uk

East Staffordshire Borough Council, The Maltsters, Wetmore Road, DE14 1LS
Tel: 01283 508592, Email: tourism@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Event organiser guides

North West Leicestershire District Council and South Derbyshire District Council have both produced guides that provide practical help in organising events. These include details of the licences needed, health and safety considerations, examples of risk assessments and site plans, guidance on event promotion and sources of funding, pre-planning considerations and useful contacts.

You can download a copy of these from:

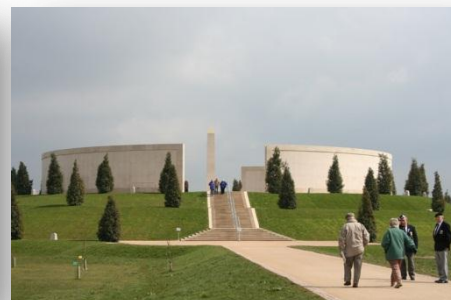
www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/events_guidance
www.south-derbys.gov.uk/cet



Calke Abbey



Twycross Zoo



National Memorial Arboretum

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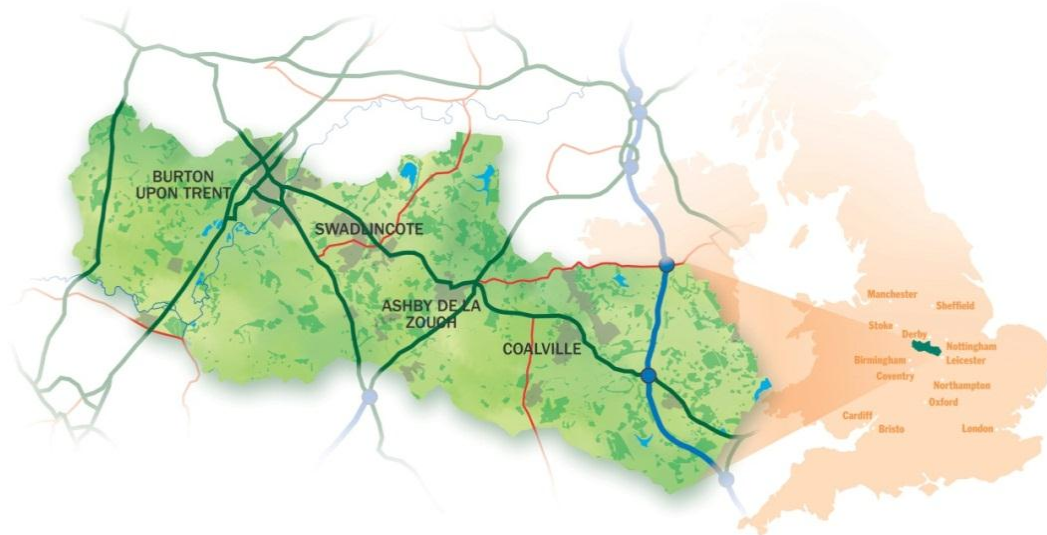
Buildings Farm

1 What and where is The National Forest?

The National Forest is one of England's most ambitious environmental projects. Across parts of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire, 200 square miles are being transformed, blending ancient woodland with new planting to create a new national Forest. There is a wealth of choice for great days out or short breaks with bustling attractions, gentle walking and brilliant activities.

In less than twenty years, one of the least wooded parts of the country has been transformed. Around **8 million trees** have been planted, trebling the woodland cover and creating habitats for wildlife and a beautiful landscape for people to enjoy. The ultimate goal is for woodland to cover around a third of the Forest area and to link the ancient forests of Charnwood and Needwood.

Its central location and range of facilities makes it perfect for events.



2 Finding the right venue

The following tables list each venue together with suitability for specified events and a rough indication of capacity. This is followed by more detail on each venue, a summary of some existing events that take place there and a link to a website.

The venues are separated into the three categories of events:

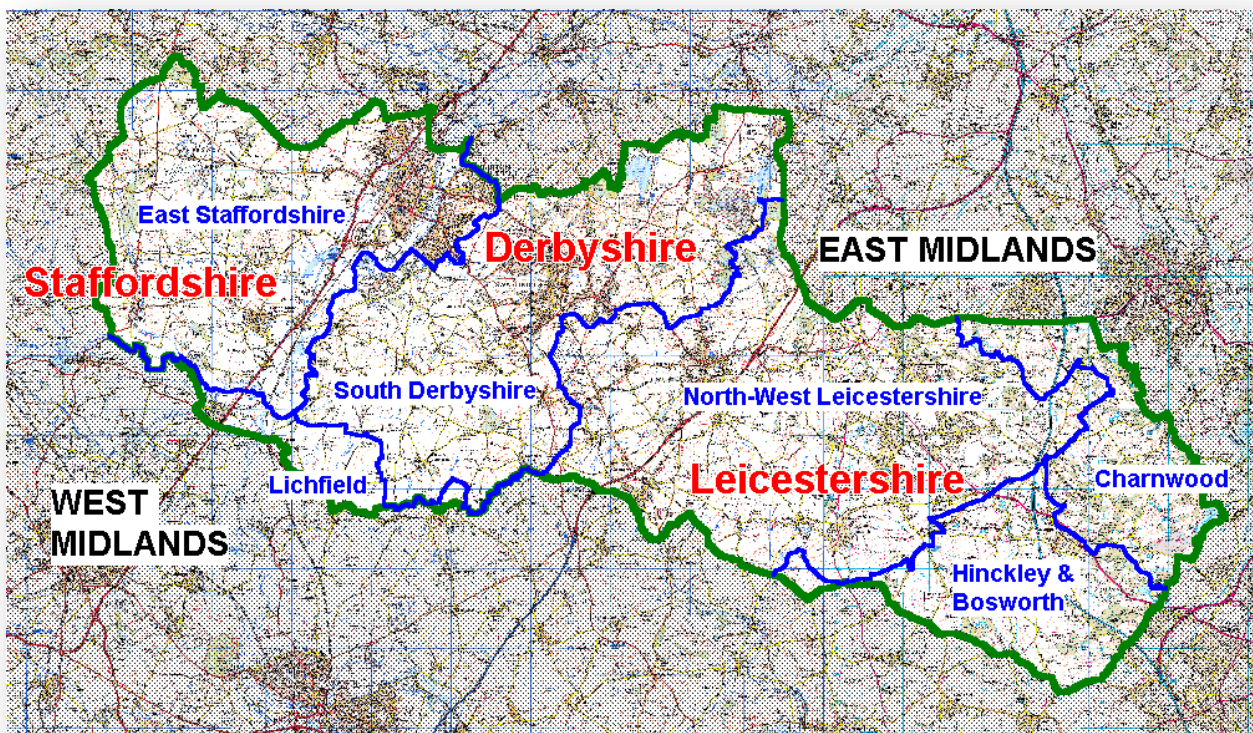
- Business conferences and meetings
- Sports and leisure
- Music, theatre and arts

Several venues feature in more than one category. For example many can provide facilities for sports and leisure events as well as business conferences.

You are advised to contact venues directly to check exact facilities and availability.

Districts: To provide an indication as to the location of venues within the destination, we have listed the districts:

C	Charnwood, Leicestershire
ES	East Staffordshire
H&B	Hinckley & Bosworth, Leicestershire
L	Lichfield, Staffordshire
NWL	North West Leicestershire
SD	South Derbyshire



2.1 Business conferences and meetings

Venues	District	Large conference halls	Other conference halls	Workshop/meeting rooms	Telephone
Attractions					
Barton Marina	ES		✓		01283 711500
Burton Albion FC Pirelli Stadium	ES	✓	✓	✓	01283 565938
Burton Town Hall	ES	✓	✓	✓	01283 508547/8
Brewhouse	ES	✓	✓	✓	01283 508100
Catton Hall	SD			✓	01283 716311
Champneys			✓	✓	0843 316 2222
Conkers	NWL	✓	✓	✓	01283 216633
Conkers Amphitheatre	NWL	✓			01283 216633
Donington Park	NWL	✓	✓	✓	01332 810048
National Brewery Centre	ES	✓	✓	✓	01283 532880
National Memorial Arboretum	L		✓		01283 792333
Rosliston Forestry Centre	SD		✓	✓	01283 563483
Sharpe's Pottery Museum	SD			✓	01283 222600
Snibston	NWL		✓	✓	01530 278444
Swadlincote Ski & Snowboard Centre	SD		✓	✓	01283 217200
The Pavilion at Branston Golf & Country Club	ES	✓	✓	✓	01283 528314
Tutbury Castle	ES		✓		01283 812129
Twycross Zoo	H&B	✓	✓	✓	01827 880250
Uttoxeter Racecourse	ES	✓	✓	✓	01889 562561
Hotels					
Aspect Hotel	NWL		✓	✓	01530 279500
Best Western Premier Yew Lodge	NWL		✓	✓	01509 672518
Dovecliff Hall Hotel	ES		✓	✓	01283 531818
Ramada Newton Park	SD		✓	✓	01283 704235
Royal Hotel	NWL		✓	✓	01530 412833
Riverside Hotel	ES		✓	✓	01283 511234
Three Queens Hotel	ES			✓	01283 523800
YHA National Forest	NWL		✓	✓	01283 229662

2.2 Sports and leisure

Possible Sporting Events	District	Cycling		Running		Swimming		Other								Tel	
Venues		off road trails	mountain biking	cross country	track	indoor pools	open water	water sports	winter sports	fishing	archery	clay pigeon shooting	horse racing	motor racing	racquet sports	ball sports	
Barton Marina	ES						✓			✓							01283 711500
Beehive Farm	SD									✓							01283 763981
Catton Estate	SD	✓	✓	✓													01283 716311
Conkers Circuit	NWL/SD	✓		✓													01283 229494
Donington Park	NWL													✓			01332 810048
Foremark Reservoir	SD							✓		✓							01332 865081
Garlands	L										✓	✓					01827 722123
National Forest Cycle Centre	NWL	✓	✓														01530 274533
River Trent	ES							✓		✓							07828 144835
Rosliston Forestry Centre	SD	✓								✓	✓						01283 563483
Staunton Harold Reservoir	SD							✓		✓							01332 865081
Swadlincote Ski & Snowboard Centre	SD								✓								01283 217200
Thornton Reservoir	NWL									✓							01332 865081
Trent & Mersey Canal	ES							✓		✓							
Uttoxeter Racecourse	ES												✓				01889 562561

Possible Sporting Events	District	Cycling		Running		Swimming		Other								Tel		
		off road trails	mountain biking	cross country	track	indoor pools	open water	water sports	winter sports	fishing	archery	clay pigeon shooting	horse racing	motor racing	racquet sports		ball sports	
Leisure Centres																		
Etwall	SD					✓										✓	✓	01283 733348
Greenbank	SD					✓										✓	✓	01283 216269
Hermitage	NWL					✓											✓	01530 811215
Hood Park	NWL					✓	✓									✓	✓	01530 811215
Meadowside	ES					✓										✓	✓	01283 508865
Measham	NWL															✓	✓	01530 274061
Shobnall	ES				✓											✓	✓	01283 516180
Uttoxeter						✓										✓	✓	01889 562844

2.3 Music, theatre and arts

Venues	District	Large scale open air events, concerts and festivals	Open air area for concerts/events (up to 1,000)	Covered arena or indoor area (1,000+ capacity)	Covered arena or indoor area (up to 1,000)	Theatres	Other stage venues	Film festivals	Licensed Venues for Beer Festivals	Telephone
Ashby Castle	NWL		✓							01530 413343
Brewhouse	ES				✓	✓		✓		01283 508100
Burton Town Hall	ES				✓		✓		✓	01283 508548
Calke Estate (NT)	SD	✓	✓							01332 863822
Catton Park	SD	✓	✓							01283 716311
Cattows Farm	NWL	✓								01530 264200
Century Theatre	NWL					✓		✓		01530 278444
Cineworld	ES							✓		0844 8157747
Conkers Amphitheatre	NWL			✓						01283 216633
Conkers Main Hall	NWL				✓					01283 216633
Donington Park	NWL	✓	✓							01332 810048
Kedleston Hall (NT)	SD	✓	✓							01332 842191
National Brewery Centre	ES				✓				✓	01283 532880
Reel Cinema	SD							✓		01283 222848
Rosliston Glade	SD		✓				✓			01283 563483
Sir John Moore Heritage Centre	NWL						✓			01530 273629
Tutbury Castle	ES		✓		✓					01283 812129
Venture Theatre	NWL					✓		✓		01530 411767
Leisure Centres										
Etwall	SD									01283 733348
Greenbank- Swadlincote	SD				✓					01283 216269
Hermitage- Coalville	NWL				✓					01530 811215
Hood Park- Ashby	NWL				✓					01530 811215
Meadowside- Burton	NWL				✓					01530 265836
Measham	ES									01283 508865
Shobnall- Burton	ES	✓			✓					01530 274061
Ibstock	ES	✓					✓			01283 516180
Uttoxeter	ES				✓					01889 562844

Venues	District	Large scale open air events, concerts and festivals	Open air area for concerts/events (up to 1,000)	Covered arena or indoor area (1,000+ capacity)	Covered arena or indoor area (up to 1,000)	Theatres	Other stage venues	Film festivals	Licenced Venues for Beer Festivals	Telephone
Parks										
Bramshall Road	ES	✓	✓							01283 508724
Branston Water Park	ES		✓							01283 508724
Coalville Park	NWL	✓	✓							01530 454652
Eureka Park	SD	✓	✓							01283 595782
Hermitage Recreation ground	NWL									01530 510306
Maurice Lea Memorial Park	SD	✓	✓							01283 595782
Newhall Park	SD									01283 595782
Stapenhill Gardens	ES		✓							01283 508724
Trent Washlands	ES		✓							01283 508724
Whitwick Park	NWL									01530 454652

3 Venues

3.1 Attractions

[Ashby Castle](#) (Ashby de la Zouch) – English Heritage castle ruins and grounds
Existing events held: Clash of the knights, various theatre performances.

[Barton Marina](#) (Barton under Needwood) – Marina with selection of shops, pubs, woodland and lakes.
Existing events held: Premier open water triathlon

[Beehive Farm](#) (Rosliston) – Campsite and events field
Existing events held: Caravan rallies and re-enactments

[Burton Town Hall](#) (Burton upon Trent)
Existing events held: CAMRA real ale festivals

[Calke Estate](#) (Ticknall) – National Trust house and estate
Existing events held: Large music and theatre events, food fairs

[Catton Hall Estate](#) (Walton on Trent) - Historic hall and estate.
Existing events held: Bloodstock music festival, Festival of Fireworks, Gamekeepers Fair, carriage driving championships, thunder run and sleepless in the saddle, classic car fairs.

[Cattows Farm](#) (Heather) – Picturesque countryside location with good access.
Existing events held: Large scale music events, Ashby Show

[Champneys](#) (Measham) - Luxury Health Spa in the Midlands with excellent conference facilities.

[Cineworld](#) (Burton upon Trent) – cinema

[Reel Cinema](#) (Swadlincote) - cinema

[Conkers and Conkers covered amphitheatre](#) (Moir) – Family attraction at the heart of the Forest.
Existing events held: National Forest Folk Festival, numerous music concerts

[Conkers Circuit](#) (Moir) – 4.5 mile off-road circuit that can be linked to Ashy Woulds Heritage Trail and Ashby Canal.
Existing events held: National Forest 10K

[Donington Park](#) (Castle Donington) - Racetrack and Grand Prix Museum.
Existing events held: Download Festival, World Superbikes.

[Foremark Reservoir](#) (Milton) – Severn Trent owned reservoir that allows sailing, windsurfing and fishing

[Garlands Clay Pigeon](#) (Edingale) – shooting ground

[Kedleston Hall](#) (Kedleston) – National Trust estate

Existing events held: Open air theatre and concerts, food fairs

Leisure centres

- [Etwall](#) Leisure Centre (Etwall) - 25m swimming pool, 6 court sports hall, fitness suite, squash courts.
- [Greenbank](#) Leisure Centre (Swadlincote) - 25m swimming pool, fitness suite, 2 squash courts, 6 court sports hall, bar and café.
- [Hermitage Leisure Centre](#) (Coalville) -25m swimming pool, 6 court sports hall, 4 squash courts, fitness suite all-weather area, 9 hole short course golf course, mini golf course, putting green, and fishing lake.
- [Ibstock](#) Leisure Complex (Ibstock) - 25m swimming pool, 5 court sports hall, fitness suite, grass Pitches, multi-purpose school hall with stage.
- Hermitage Leisure Centre (Coalville) - indoor swimming pool, 6 court sports hall, 4 squash courts, fitness suite, bar and café.
- [Hood Park](#) Leisure Centre (Ashby de la Zouch) – indoor and outdoor swimming pools, 4 court sports hall, 2 squash courts, fitness suite, bar and café.
- [Meadowside](#) Leisure Centre (Burton upon Trent) - 25m swimming pool, sports hall, 2 fitness studios, squash courts, café and meeting room.
- [Measham Leisure Centre](#) (Measham) - 2 court sports hall, fitness suite, grass and Astro Turf pitches and bar.
- [Shobnall](#) Leisure Centre (Burton upon Trent) – 8-lane 400 metre floodlit synthetic running track, 2 long/triple jump runways and sandpits, pole vault, discuss cage and shot circle, field event facilities including high jump, hammer/discus and shot circles, officials room with P.A system, 6 grass pitches, 6 tennis courts, 18 hole pitch and putt course and 9 hole crazy golf course, crown green bowling, 7 netball courts and a skate park.
- [Uttoxeter](#) leisure Centre (Uttoxeter) - indoor pool, sports hall, squash courts,

[National Brewery Centre](#) (Burton upon Trent) – Attraction that focuses on beer, brewing and Burton.

Existing events held: Comedy nights, jazz nights, beer festivals

[National Forest Cycle Centre](#) (Hicks Lodge, Moira) – 8 miles of off-road trails suitable for families

Existing events held: Duathlon

[National Memorial Arboretum](#) (Alrewas) – Attraction dedicated to military or civilian organisations as a living tribute.

Existing events held: Remembrance events

[River Trent](#) (Burton upon Trent) – River used by rowing and canoeing clubs

Existing events held: Burton Regatta

[Rosliston Forestry Centre and Rosliston Glade](#) (Rosliston) – Attraction with woodlands, open space and activities. The Glade events arena, set within the woodland, has full stage facilities

Existing events held: Numerous theatre and music events, weddings

[Sharpe's Pottery Museum](#) (Swadlincote) – Museum set within the old pottery, also has conference room

Existing events held: Various concerts within the kiln

[Sir John Moore Heritage Centre](#) (Appleby Magna) – Set in this former school

Existing events held: Various theatre and music events

[Snibston](#) (Coalville) – Set on a former coalmine, attraction has galleries relating to the industrial history of the area and how science has changed lives. Offers conference rooms.

Existing events held: Miners Gala, Transport Festival

[Staunton Harold Reservoir](#) (Melbourne) - Severn Trent owned reservoir that allows sailing, windsurfing and fishing

[Swadlincote Ski & Snowboard Centre](#) (Swadlincote) – Offers skiing, snowboarding or sno-tubing on Perma-Snow slope. Also toboggan run and conference room (Alpine Restaurant)

Existing events held: Bavarian Nights

Theatres

[Venture Theatre](#) (Ashby de la Zouch)

[Century Theatre](#) (Coalville)

[Brewhouse Arts Theatre](#) (Burton upon Trent)

[Thornton Reservoir](#) (Thornton) – Severn Trent owned reservoir that allows fishing

[Trent & Mersey Canal](#) (Willington through Burton upon Trent to Alrewas) –

Canoeing and fishing on the canal

Existing events held: International Waterways Festival

[Twycross Zoo](#) (Twycross) – Home to more than 1,000 animals. Modern zoo with state of the art conference facilities.

Existing events held: Business events

[Uttoxeter Racecourse](#) (Uttoxeter) - Racecourse

Existing events held: Midlands Grand National

3.2 Parks and open spaces

There are a number of parks and public open spaces across the destination, managed by the district or borough councils. These include small community parks, which we have not listed in this guide, along with larger spaces that would be more suitable for events.

East Staffordshire

[Bramshall Road Park](#) (Uttoxeter) - play area, bowls, tennis courts, skate park, multi-use games area, benches, dogs allowed, disabled access, toilets. Open all year.

[Stapenhill Gardens](#) (Burton upon Trent) - popular park, consisting of formal gardens, open grassland and woodland plus a popular play area. The site acts as a focal point for the community, with events held around the swan.

[Trent Washlands](#) (Burton upon Trent) – open space beside River Trent.

Contact: Green Spaces Development Team, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent, DE14 2EB
Tel. 01283 508724, Email: greenspaces@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

North West Leicestershire

[Hermitage Recreation Ground](#) (Coalville) - all weather area, 9 hole short course golf course, mini golf course, putting green, and fishing lake.

[Coalville Park](#) (Coalville) - tennis courts, playground, open space.

[Whitwick Park](#) (Whitwick) - tennis courts, playground, football pitches, bowling green, open space.

Contact: North West Leicestershire District Council, Council Offices, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ.
Tel: 01530 454545, E-mail: customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

South Derbyshire

[Eureka Park](#) (Swadlincote) - cricket pitch, football pitch, netball courts, tennis courts, crown green bowls, playground, multi-use games area, crazy golf, trim trail adventure walk, changing facilities and toilets.

[Maurice Lea Memorial Park](#) (Church Gresley) - Flat and crown bowling greens, tennis courts, football pitch, netball courts, basketball court, multi-use games area, play area, putting green, changing facilities and toilets.
Existing events held: Festival of Leisure

[Newhall Park](#) (Newhall) - bowling green, playground, football pitch, multi-use games area including basketball, five-a-side football and tennis courts, changing facilities.

South Derbyshire District Council, Grounds & Facilities, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 0AH
Tel: 01283 595782, E-mail: grounds@south-derbys.gov.uk

3.3 Hotels and accommodation

[Aspect Hotel](#) (Appleby Magna) – 81-bed hotel

Situated in the heart of the Leicestershire countryside with easy access to most major motorway networks. This modern 3 star hotel is an ideal base for exploring the many local attractions in the area.

[Best Western Premier Yew Lodge](#) (Kegworth) 101-bed hotel

A family-owned hotel part of the Best Western consortium. Superbly appointed executive bedrooms, the award-winning Orchard restaurant and Reeds, our stunning health club and spa, awaits all guests.

[Dovecliff hall Hotel](#) (Burton upon Trent) – 15-bed hotel

Dovecliff Hall Hotel is an elegant Georgian House dating back to 1790, which sits in seven acres of glorious gardens adjacent to the River Dove.

[Mercure Burton upon Trent Newton Park](#) (Newton Solney) – 50-bed hotel

Set in 8 acres of landscaped grounds and gardens and formally a private residence, this beautiful hotel is located in the picturesque village of Newton Solney on the edge of The National Forest. WiFi connection available.

[Riverside Hotel](#) (Branston) – 22-bed hotel

The Riverside Hotel Branston Burton Upon Trent Near Derby, sits in the Staffordshire village of Branston on the banks of the River Trent on the outskirts of Burton Upon Trent with easy access to Derby via the A38 and Uttoxeter via the A50

[Royal Hotel](#) (Ashby) - 34-bed hotel

Situated in the Historic Town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch within a stunning Grade II Regency listed building, the Royal Hotel has good conference facilities and coach parking.

[Three Queens Hotel](#) (Burton upon Trent) – 38-bed hotel

Privately owned hotel offering real friendly service, high quality rooms and suites with a restaurant specialising in local produce.

[Upper Rectory Farm Cottages](#), (Appleby Magna) – 26 self-catering units

Skylarks and buzzards soar above these delightful, multi-award winning cottages set amid the waving cornfields. They are luxuriously furnished, en-suite throughout, with free WiFi, great walks and fabulous views. Just come and hear the silence!

[YHA National Forest](#) (Moir) - 32-bed hostel

YHA National Forest, next to Conkers, is ideal for families and groups. Family and double rooms available, all en-suite, as well as a self-catering kitchen, bar, restaurant and coffee shop.

4 Existing events

There are a number of major events that take place annually, these are listed below. For dates of forthcoming events log on to www.visitnationalforest.co.uk/events

January

CAMRA National Winter Ale Festival, Burton upon Trent, 01283 711 611

March

Midlands Grand National, Uttoxeter Racecourse, 01283 562 561

May

Classic Car Show, Catton Hall, 01283 716 311

Moira Canal Festival, Moira Furnace, 01530 411 767

June

British Motorcycle Grand Prix, Donington Park, 01332 810 048

Derbyshire County Show, Elvaston Castle, 01332 793 068

Download Festival, Castle Donington, 01332 810 048

Heart of the Forest Festival, Measham, 01530 270 275

July

National Forest Folk Festival, Conkers Amphitheatre, 07881 558 158

Ashby Show, Measham, 01283 229 225

Elvaston Steam Rally, Elvaston Castle, 01332 793 068

August

Open Air Music Concert, Catton Hall, 01283 716 311

Calke open air events, Calke Abbey, 01909 511 061

National Forest Wood Fair, Beacon Hill, 01283 551 211

September

Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, Abbots Bromley, 01283 840 224

Ashby de la Zouch Statutes, Ashby de la Zouch, 01530 411 767

Shackerstone Steam & Canal Festival, Shackerstone, 01827 880 754

Melbourne Festival, Melbourne, 01283 222 848

National Forest 10K, Moira, 01283 551 211

October

Burton Statutes Fair, Burton upon Trent, 01543 372 820

5 How to get here & finding your way around

Centrally located in the country, the National Forest & Beyond is easily accessible from the M1, M6, M42/A42, A50, A511 and A38.

By bus

Information on bus and coach timetables is available from:

Traveline Tel: 0871 200 2233, Website: www.traveline.org.uk

National Express Tel: 08705 808 080, Website: www.nationalexpress.com

By rail

There are ten railway stations serving the area.

National Rail Enquiries, Tel: 08457 48 49 50, Website: www.nationalrail.co.uk

By air

East Midlands Airport is located within the National Forest & Beyond area. Tel: 0871 919 9000, Website: www.eastmidlandsairport.com

Coventry and Birmingham airports can be reached within an hour's drive time. Websites: www.coventryairport.co.uk and www.bhx.co.uk

An excellent website that provides times and details of trains, buses and other public transport along with driving instructions is www.transportdirect.info

Maps & guides

Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps 245 (The National Forest), 246 (Loughborough), 233 (Leicester) and 259 (Derby) cover the whole National Forest & Beyond area.

For more help

If you need any further help in finding the right venue contact The Tourist Information Centres:

Ashby de la Zouch, North Street, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 1HU

Tel: 01530 411 767, Email: ashby.tic@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Swadlincote, Sharpe's Pottery Museum, West Street, Swadlincote, DE11 9DG

Tel: 01283 222 848, Email: tic@sharpepotterymuseum.org.uk

East Staffordshire Borough Council, The Maltsters, Wetmore Road, DE14 1LS

Tel: 01283 508592, Email: tourism@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk