

...a forest in the making

EXPLORE The National Forest ON HORSEBACK

In the very Heart of England, across parts of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire, some 200 square miles of town and countryside is being transformed, blending ancient woodland with new planting to create a new multi-purpose forest for the nation on a scale not seen in this country for a thousand years.



HORSE
RIDING
guide



how
to find
US



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Be Safe

- Wear protective headgear to the current BSI standard. Make sure that it fits correctly and is secure.
- Check your tack before you set off.
- Wear reflective clothing if riding on roads and in poor light conditions.
- Read & learn from the British Horse Society "Riding and Road Safety Manual" (available from the BHS).

Be Helpful

- Report any problems which you find to the site owner or to the National Forest Company. Report problems on a dedicated bridgeway to the relevant County Council.

Be Courteous

- Thank motorists who are courteous to you when you are riding on roads.
- Be aware of other users who may be on the site or bridgeway.
- Respect the land on which you are riding.
- If conditions are unsuitable and the landowner has to close a permissive route, please respect this decision.

Further Contacts

Federation of East Midlands Bridleways Association
123 Park Road,
Loughborough,
Leics LE11 3AE
Tel: 01509 215619

British Horse Society

Stoneleigh Deer Park,
Kenilworth,
Warks CV8 2XZ
Tel: 08701 202 244
Fax: 01926 707 800
www.bhs.org.uk

As well as off-road riding, there are a number of licensed riding centres within the Forest area. A full listing can be obtained from the British Horse Society or from your local authority.



When Riding in The National Forest

29 NORWOOD

Site Description: 6.42 ha new woodland near Ticknall
Routes: Grass route around perimeter of site
Parking: No parking available
Facilities: No additional facilities available
Permit Required? No
Bridgeway Links: Good links to neighbouring sites - Nut Wood, Stantons Wood, Smith's Wood and rest of network

32 PARK FARM, IBSTOCK

Site Description: 32 ha new woodland on the edge of Ibstock
Routes: 800 m of grassed routes through site linking to existing unclassified County Highway
Parking: No parking available
Facilities: No additional facilities available
Permit Required? Key required from landowner on 01530 260455. Cost £50 per annum
Bridgeway Links: Links to existing unclassified County Highway and thus to adjacent Grange Wood and other byways and bridgeways

35 GRANGWOOD, IBSTOCK

Site Description: 62 ha woodland on the edge of Ibstock
Routes: Network of routes through woodland, including gallops
Parking: No parking available
Facilities: No additional facilities available
Permit Required? Yes, annually for the gallops. Contact Andrew Moseley on 07968 011481
Bridgeway Links: Good external links via bridgeways and byways



37 THE PARTINGS WOOD and SHILCRAFT

Site Description: 50 ha of new woodland near Stanton under Bardon
Routes: Grassed rides and 2 water splashes
Parking: No parking available
Facilities: No additional facilities available
Permit Required? Annual permit with key available for both sites from Mrs Wright on 01530 242443. Cost £35 per annum for adults, discount for under 16s
Bridgeway Links: The two woods are linked with access to Shilcraft through Partings



36 CUCKOO GAP

Site Description: 24 ha new woodland planting on former farmland near Swannington
Routes: Byway (a Sustrans cycle route) from Robin Hood pub to A511 bisects site and has 2 dead end bridgeways leading off. Grass rides around edges of 2 planting blocks
Parking: Car park only with no access to riding routes from there
Facilities: Angling pools
Permit Required? Yes, for the grass rides. Contact landowner Mr Adcock on 01530 836712
Bridgeway Links: Short road link at Swannington to small network on other side of road. Cycle track and verge links to Thornborough Road and bridgeway behind golf course

38 VALE FARM

Site Description: 20.26 ha new woodland adjacent to the M1 at Copt Oak
Routes: Grass tracks through the new woodland on designated routes
Parking: No parking available
Facilities: No additional facilities available except hitching rails
Permit Required? Yes, free of charge from the landowner at Vale Farm, Charley Road, Charley, Loughborough
Bridgeway Links: No external bridgeway links

43 HOLLOW OAK WOOD

Site Description: 11.7 ha of new woodland adjacent to Old Woodlands near Newtown Unthank
Routes: 740 m of grass track with links to existing bridgeways
Parking: No parking available
Facilities: No additional facilities available
Permit Required? No, the site has open, permissive access (closed one day per annum except for Public Rights of Way)
Bridgeway Links: Excellent links to nearby Ratby sites, including Peartree, Martinshaw, etc

44 OLD WOODLANDS

Site Description: 10.1 ha of new woodland near Newtown Unthank in Leicestershire
Routes: 1.1 km of grass track linking to existing bridgeway network
Parking: No parking available
Facilities: No additional facilities
Permit Required? No
Bridgeway Links: Excellent links to nearby Ratby sites, including Peartree, etc



39 BEACON HILL

Site Description: Country park owned by Leicestershire County Council. Heathland, woodland and rocky outcrops
Routes: Extensive network of permissive horse tracks including sanded track round Native Tree Collection and a new link to Dean's Lane
Parking: Good parking at Lower and Upper car parks. Charge
Facilities: Toilets
Permit Required? No
Bridgeway Links: Link to nearby Broombriggs Farm and road links to bridgeway to Loughborough and Woodhouse Eaves

40 BROOMBRIGGS FARM

Site Description: 62 ha typical working Charnwood farm owned by Leicestershire County Council
Routes: Separate horse tracks around grazing fields
Parking: Box parking at Beacon Hill
Facilities: None
Permit Required? No
Bridgeway Links: Bridgeway from Mill Lane, Woodhouse Eaves to Beacon Hill entrance runs partly through the farm. Other bridgeways reached via Meadow Lane, Woodhouse Eaves

41 GREY LODGE WOOD

Site Description: 9.8 ha of new woodland adjacent to the M1 and Martinshaw Wood near Ratby
Routes: 250 m of grass track through site to link Martinshaw with Cow Lane bridgeway
Parking: No parking available
Facilities: No additional facilities
Permit Required? No
Bridgeway Links: Road crossing to Cow Lane bridgeway and thence to Ratby bridgeway network but no direct link to Martinshaw yet. Links as for Ratby and Peartree sites

45 BRADGATE PARK

Site Description: 340 ha country park and deer park of woodland and heathland managed by the Bradgate Park Trust
Routes: Concessionary tracks laid out across the park linking Newtown Linford, Hunt's Hill and Hallgates. Access by large kissing gate at Hunt's Hill; special box gates at other 2 entrances. Park closed to riders at weekends, Bank Holidays and on Wed and Thurs afternoons or when ground conditions are unsuitable (at the discretion of the Land Agent and Ranger)
Parking: Good box parking available at all 3 entrances (charge)
Facilities: Toilets. Small visitor centre and shop at Newtown Linford
Permit Required? No, but please adhere to the restrictions on time of use
Bridgeway Links: External links to Swithland Woods and Swithland from Hallgates

42 RATBY BURROUGHS and PEARTREE WOOD

Site Description: 2 Woodland Trust sites adjacent to each other and to mature Martinshaw Woods. The two new sites comprise nearly 50 ha of new woodland on former farmland
Routes: Network of bridgeways in Ratby Burroughs extended by a surfaced route through Peartree Farm which give a direct link across Markfield Lane to Martinshaw Wood, Grey Lodge Wood and back to Cow Lane entrance to the bridgeway network
Parking: No box parking
Facilities: No additional facilities available
Permit Required? No, but riding is limited to waymarked permissive routes and existing public bridgeways
Bridgeway Links: Direct links to Old Woodlands and Hollow Oak Wood; bridgeway links from Ratby to Glenfield; Cow Lane to Groby and road links to Thornton and Merrylees

33 STAUNTON HAROLD

Site Description: 800 ha private estate of farmland and extensive woodland, both high forest and new woodland
Routes: 7.5 km of internal roads and tracks, mostly traffic free
Parking: Ferrers Centre Car park at Staunton Harold and on Concrete Road off B587 Melbourne Road between Lount and Newbold Coleorton (Start of The Beaumont Way)
Facilities: None on Concrete Road but extensive facilities at Ferrers Centre
Permit Required? Yes. Contact Edward Blunt, Hall Farm, Coleorton LE67 8FB Tel 01530 563896
Bridgeway Links: The Beaumont Way bridgeway lies within the estate. A hunting gate off the Way links to a route through Lount Nature Reserve to Melbourne Road



30 NUT WOOD

Site Description: 22.4 ha of new woodland near Melbourne in South Derbyshire
Routes: 1.3 km grass routes around the western and southern edge of wood using new and existing tracks
Parking: No parking available
Facilities: No additional facilities
Permit Required? No
Bridgeway Links: Direct links to nearby Robin Wood and thus to Ticknall

31 SMITH'S WOOD

Site Description: 16.91 ha new woodland near Melbourne
Routes: Grass track around the outside perimeter of the site
Parking: No box parking
Facilities: Mountain bike course and angling
Permit Required? No
Bridgeway Links: Adjacent bridgeway links to Nut Wood, Norwood, Stantons Wood and surrounding areas

34 SENCE VALLEY FOREST PARK

Site Description: 60 ha country park created on former mining land near Heather
Routes: Bridgeway from Heather to A447 and permissive tracks linking to byway across north end of site. 170 m of grassed tracks, separated from disabled access routes. 1350 m of surfaced tracks which also provide a route for walkers
Parking: Car parking only due to overhead barriers at site entrance
Facilities: Toilets, bird hide, wildlife pools and an angling pool
Permit Required? No
Bridgeway Links: Bridgeway link to Heather. Byway to Heather - Ravenstone Lane and across A447 past Blackberry Farm to Richmond Road and links to Ibstock, Ellistown and Donington-le-Heath



