

Opening Times

Free admission. Open daily from dawn till dusk.

Parking

There are various car parks for the Trent Washlands site, but the Burton Library car park, on Meadowside Drive, provides the best direct access. The tarmac surfaced car park is Pay and Display (free for blue badge holders), flat and has lots of disabled parking bays next to the library.

Further parking, with designated spaces for disabled visitors can be found at the Meadowside Leisure Centre, the car park next to the Market Square (near Burton College) and on Watson Street. The car park on Stapenhill Road (free) also links to the Washlands via a surfaced riverside path to Stapenhill Gardens and on to the old Ferry Bridge. Accessible ramps off the Ferry Bridge provide access to the southern Washlands.

Trails

All paths are flat and surfaced with tarmac. Ramps off the Meadowside Leisure Centre and Burton Library provide easy access to the Washlands. There are various circular routes around the site, and plenty of benches for resting. Access is also provided to the River Trent, Burton Mail Centenary Woodland and Stapenhill Gardens via fairly level surfaced paths with no roads or traffic to deal with.

Please note: The Washlands area is a river floodplain and may therefore be inaccessible at times of high river levels.

Facilities

Accessible toilets can be found in the Market Square, at Meadowside Leisure Centre, Burton Library and Stapenhill Gardens (requires a RADAR key). Picnic tables are found across the site. A Viking Long Boat play area is located close to the library. Follow the Sculpture Trail or the Trim Trail (from the Meadowside Leisure Centre), and visit the Garden of Remembrance (beside Friar's Walk) and the Abbot's Garden (accessible to all).

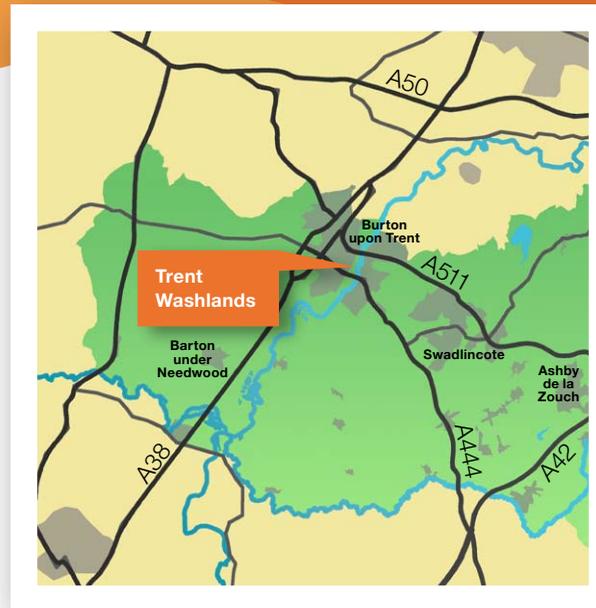
The café at Burton Library has outdoor seating with wonderful views over the Washlands.



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Location

Trent Washlands, Meadowside Drive entrance, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 1TL.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of printing. However, the National Forest Company cannot be held responsible for any error, omission or subsequent changes.

Photography: NFC

This guide is available in large print. Call 01283 551211

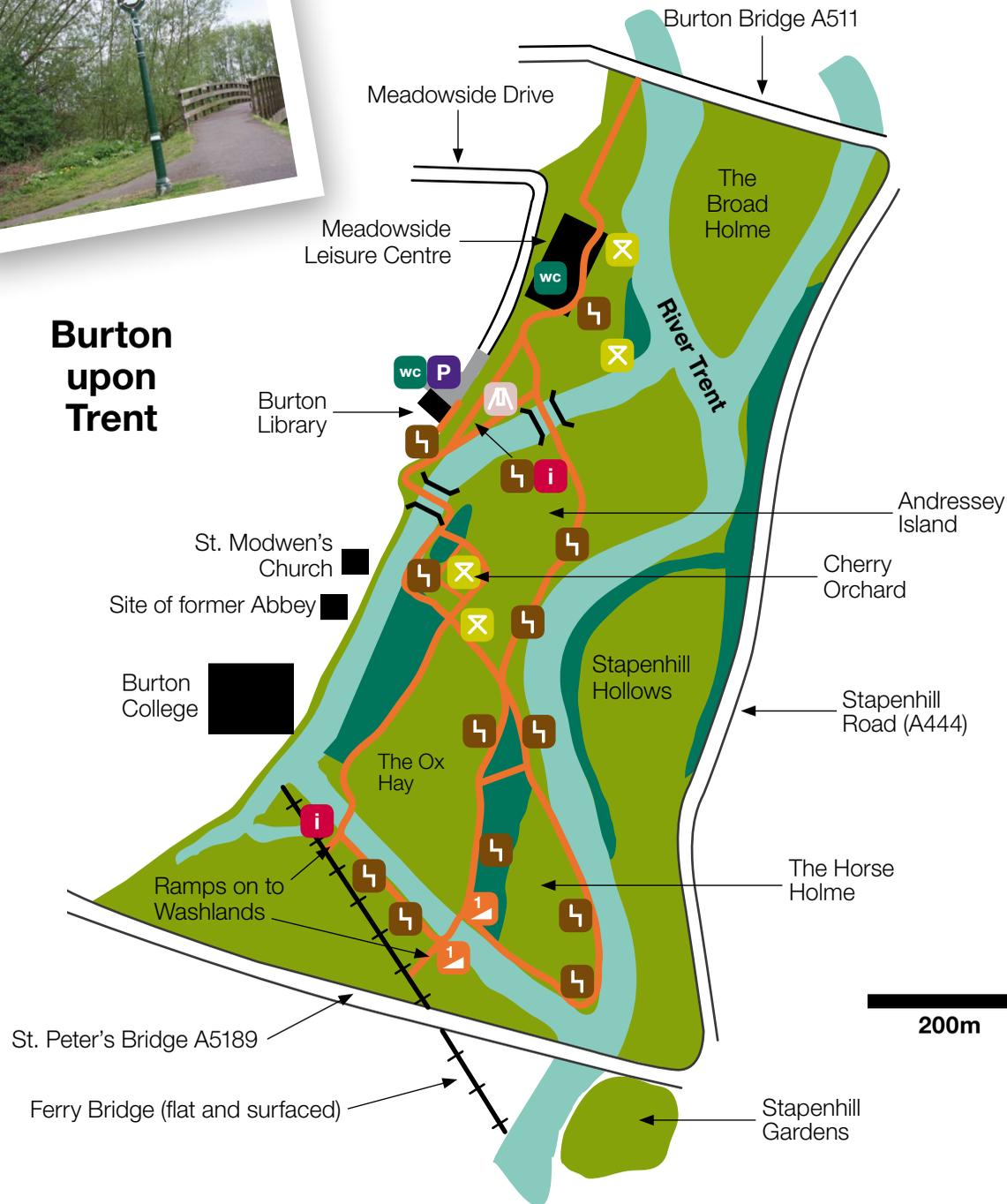
Trent Washlands

Access for All





Burton upon Trent



- Car Park
- Seat
- Disabled Access toilet
- Picnic table
- Play area
- Woodland
- Information board

Trent Washlands

The Trent Washlands comprise a large area of the River Trent floodplain close to Burton upon Trent that stretches roughly from the Burton Bridge to St. Peter's Bridge. The area has a long and illustrious history, dating back to the 7th century, when St. Modwen built a chapel and settlement dedicated to St. Andrew on Andressey Island. Invading Danes later destroyed the chapel; today only the Cherry Orchard and yew tree mark the site where it once stood. In 1002 to 1004 AD a Saxon Earl called Wulfic Spot established a Benedictine Abbey on the Banks of the River Trent, where the Market Hall, Technical College and Memorial Grounds now stand. St. Modwen was in turn honoured when a shrine was built in her name at the Abbey. Over the years, the shrine was visited by many famous pilgrims, including William the Conqueror.

Regular flooding of the Washlands enriched the meadow soils, creating exceptional grazing areas for sheep. This enabled Burton to develop an international reputation for the Monks fine wool, and by 1315 AD the monks of Burton Abbey had expanded their wool trade to include the renowned Italian markets. The industrious monks also collected water from wells in the Washlands area for brewing ale, an important industry that still continues to this day.

East Staffordshire Borough Council now manages the Washlands to provide an area of public open space for recreation. Spend a peaceful day exploring the meandering paths across the site, and look out for a great diversity of wildlife, including herons, dragonflies and damselflies. The grasslands are now managed as traditional hay meadows, and in spring are a sight to behold, covered in marsh marigold, cowslip and cuckoo flower. For the more energetic, canoeing, rowing and angling also take place on the river through membership of a local club.