



Medium  
5.4 miles  
(8.7km)

# Parklands & woodlands

A rural walk around the Melbourne Parklands taking in superb views, historic houses and ancient woodlands.



# Exploring the National Forest

Located right in the heart of the country, the National Forest embraces 200 square miles of the Midlands. It spans parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire, and aims to link the two ancient forests of Charnwood and Needwood.

After centuries of coal mining and clay extraction, the closure of the pits in the 1980s left a scarred and derelict landscape. Now, more than a quarter of a century later, millions of trees have been planted, breathing life into the landscape and its communities – turning a landscape from black to green. This bold regeneration shows how trees can transform not only the landscape, but also, vitally, people's lives and the local economy.



To find out more about the National Forest and how you can get involved, visit:

[nationalforest.org](http://nationalforest.org)

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The National Forest Company  
Charity No. 1166563

National Forest Company, Enterprise  
Glade, Bath Yard, Moira, Swadlincote,  
Derbyshire, DE12 6BA



THE NATIONAL  
FOREST

# Walking in the National Forest



There are hundreds of miles of paths and trails to explore in the National Forest, and plenty of places accessible for all ages and abilities. Grab your walking boots, your trainers or your dog and head out into the woods for a walk or a run, or try your hand at orienteering or geocaching.

Follow gentle trails through vibrant young woodlands and nature-rich ancient forests. Discover more about the area's heritage or just let a canal towpath take you to the nearest pub lunch.



## Walking highlights



### Staunton Harold Reservoir

Constructed in 1964 and owned and managed by Severn Trent, this popular recreational spot is a haven for wildlife. The site, which also includes the Spring Wood and Dimminsdale nature reserves, is carefully managed to help support a rich variety of flora and fauna.



### Calke Abbey & deer park

Built for the Harpur family in 1703, Calke Abbey (the Unstately Home) has remained virtually unaltered since the death of the last baronet, Sir Vauncey Harpur Crewe in 1924. Owned and managed by the National Trust it is set in beautiful parkland, much of which is a National Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest.  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/calke-abbey](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/calke-abbey)

### Robin Wood

This complex of woodlands, owned and managed by Forestry England, are gradually being transitioned to traditional broadleaf woodland with stands of beech. There is a spectacular display of bluebells here in early spring.



© NFC



### Off route highlight

**Melbourne** is an attractive Georgian market town boasting a host of famous 'sons', including the pioneer of modern travel, Thomas Cook. Named as Mileburne in the Domesday Book, it has an imposing 12th-century church; the scant remains of a 14th-century castle; and the grand 18th-century Melbourne Hall and gardens.

## Be a responsible visitor to the National Forest

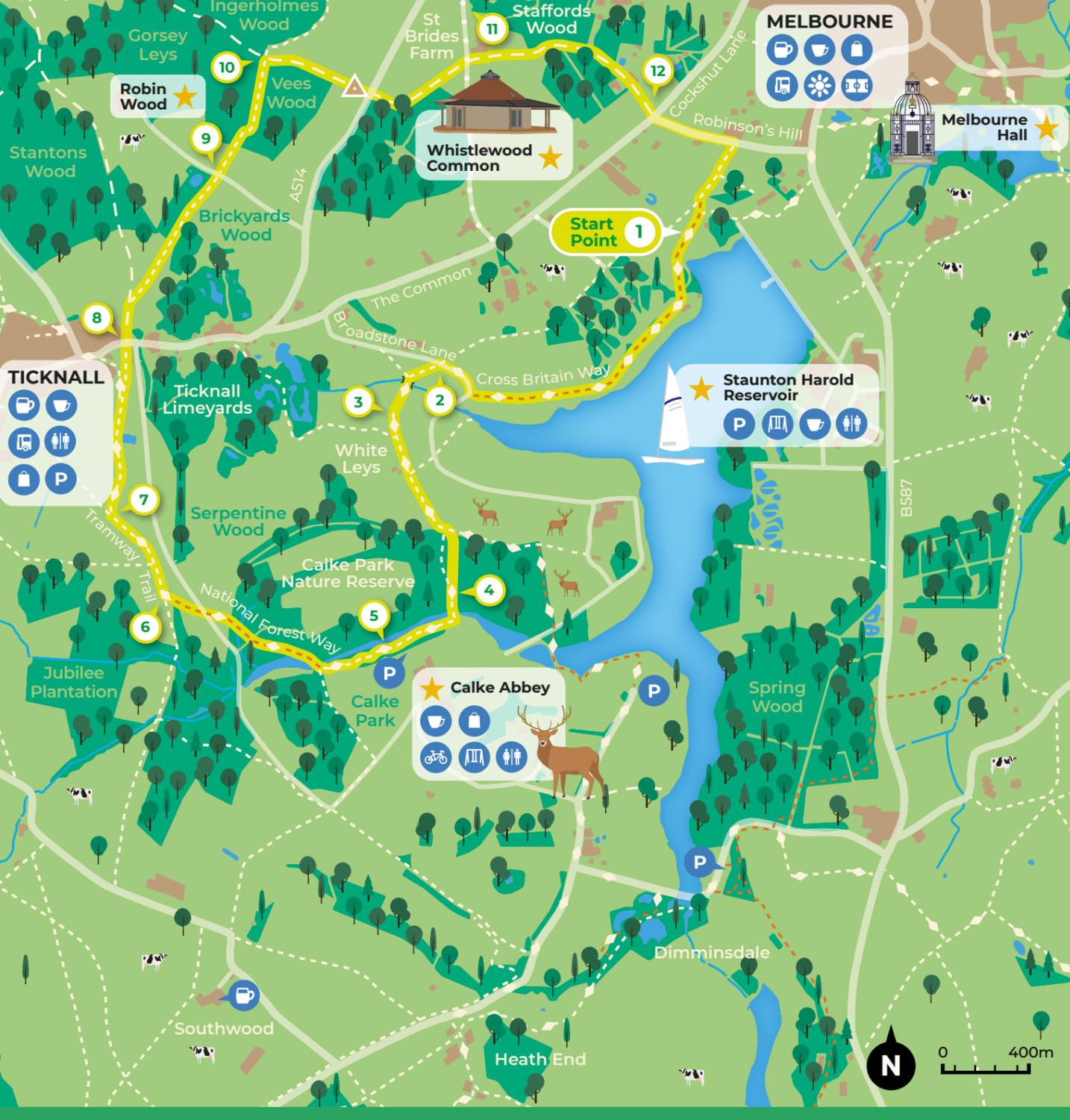


To get the most out of your visit, please follow some simple rules:

**Respect other people** · Consider other people enjoying the outdoors · Leave gates and property as you find them and follow marked paths

**Protect the natural environment** · Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home · Keep dogs under effective control

**Enjoy the outdoors** · Plan ahead and be prepared · Follow advice and local signs



# Parklands & woodlands

**Medium length**

**Distance:** 5.4 miles (8.7km)

**Time:** Allow 2.5 hours.

**Path type:** Unsurfaced paths, tracks, farmland and tarmacked sections. Stiles. Sturdy footwear recommended.

**Use with map OS Explorer**

**245 The National Forest**

**Start at:** Staunton Harold Reservoir car park (charges apply)

**Address:** Calke Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire, DE73 8DL

**OS Grid Ref:** SK376244

**Latitude:** 52.815937 **Longitude:** -1.4421129

**what3words:** /// remotes.dusty.pampered

**Alternative start:**

**Start at: Point 5,** Calke Abbey main car park (charges apply, National Trust members free)

**Address:** off Main Street, Ticknall, Derbyshire DE73 7LE

**OS Grid Ref:** SK365227

**Latitude:** 52.801502 **Longitude:** -1.4591914

**what3words:** /// downcast.curls.fall

## Map Key

	Trail route		Parking
	Footpath		Bus stop
	Bridleway		Pub
	Road		Café
	Woodlands		Shopping
	Rivers and ponds		Public toilets
	Buildings		Play area
	Trig point		Gardens
	Route marker		Sports ground
	Point of interest		Bike hire

**1** From the car park, walk downhill to join the surfaced path that follows the edge of the reservoir. At the Sailing club, join the tarmac track and follow it for 1km to a gate on to Broadstone Lane. Turn right onto the lane and head uphill.

**2** After about 175m, take the public footpath on your left. Go over the stile and follow the footpath downhill, past a pond and over a footbridge before heading uphill across a field to a stone wall and large ash tree.

**3** Turn left and follow the clearly defined footpath across a field, over a track to White Leys, then cross another field to the edge of Calke Park. Enter Calke Park through a wooden gate and turn left. After 20m, turn right to pick up the **National Forest Way** and go downhill, keeping the fence to your left. *Look out for deer in the deer-park enclosure.*

**4** At the foot of the hill, go through the gate and follow the path around the edge of the pond. Keep ahead at the path fork and go up the steps, with the pond on your right. *You can turn left up the steps to the car park (signed **National Forest Way**) to access all the National Trust facilities, or return to your car if this was your starting point.*

**5** Go along this path, down the steps and go through the gate. Keep the pond on your left and take the left fork in the path. Follow the path past veteran trees, cross a gravel track and continue straight ahead. Go through a gate in the fence and out onto the meadow. Cross the main drive and head diagonally uphill to a gap in the stone wall.

**6** Turn right on the surfaced track and follow it uphill. Go through the gate and continue along the surfaced path (*part of the Ticknall Tramway*) until you reach a gate by a pond.

*Off to the left is the Tramway Trail, a cycling and walking path. It traces part of the route of a horse-drawn tramway built in 1802, to carry lime quarried from Ticknall limeyards to Ashby de la Zouch and the canal at Willesley. You can see the entrance to one of the limeyard tunnels, which runs below the path you are standing on.*

**7** Go through the gate ahead and continue down the field, heading for the bottom right-hand corner. Go through a gate in the hedge and continue ahead to a stile in the fence by the road.

**8** Cross the road (with care) and walk onto the village green, with the Tramway Arch to your right. Go across the green and through the right-hand gate into a paddock. Cross the paddock and through another gate before taking the footpath to the right. Go through a gate, across the field to a stile in the far hedge, beyond power lines. Cross the stile and follow the footpath along the deer fence to a farm access track.

**9** Cross the track and follow the footpath over the field to mature woodland ahead. The footpath runs straight on along the edge of Robin Wood, although this path can be waterlogged in winter. Alternatively, keep to the right of the mature wood and take the permissive path alongside a younger plantation keeping the deer fence on the right.

**10** When you reach a surfaced track, by a mobile phone mast, turn right and follow the track to the road. *Enjoy extensive views over the Trent Valley on a clear day, and look for the trig point in the hedge.* Carefully cross the road and follow the bridleway along the field edge as it skirts the wood, and downhill towards St Bride's Farm.

**11** Cross the farm track by St. Bride's buildings and on to a fenced path, downhill to go through a gate on the left. Follow the bridleway to another gate. You are now entering Stafford's Wood. Continue uphill along the bridleway, through a gate and through a yard onto a track. Keep ahead until you arrive at Cockshut Lane.

**12** Cross the road with care to Robinson's Hill opposite and follow the road downhill past the bus stop. Cross over by Shaw House and pick up the footpath on your right leading back to the Tower and the reservoir car park.

*The windmill dates back to 1798 when it was built by Lord Melbourne at a cost of £250 to mill grain. It was a 'Tower' windmill and would have had a domed top (with sails attached) revolving to take advantage of the wind direction. By the late 19th century it became derelict and although there was an attempt to turn it into an observation tower, the building proved unsuitable and the conversion was never completed.*