

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

 @NatForestCo

 @the.national.forest

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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



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FOREST



Medium
8 miles
(13km)

Best kept villages

A walk around some of the prettiest villages in the Mease Lowlands.





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



Lullington

Lullington is the most southerly village in Derbyshire. The Colville Arms is named after Charles Robert Colville, former Lord of the Manor and MP for Lullington in the mid 1800s. The village cricket ground has seen matches played here for over 150 years, and is surrounded by Lullington Wood – a young native woodland incorporating mature parkland trees.



Netherseal

The Domesday Book records Netherseal as being a wooded area on the edge of the Ashby Wolds, with the trading routes of Walton Way and Salt Way running through the parish. Sir Nigel Gresley, railway engineer, is buried in the graveyard next to the school. Gresley designed The Mallard which holds the world speed record for steam locomotives, achieving 126mph in 1938.

Coton in the Elms

Coton in the Elms derives its name from "*all the cottages in the elms*". Some disease-resistant elm trees have been planted at the entrances to the village to replace the many lost through Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s. A location just east of Church Flatts Farm, about one mile southeast of the village, is the furthest place from the sea in the British Isles.



Off route highlight

Rosliston Forestry Centre offers a range of activities for great days out; from quiet walks to action-packed family fun. The mix of woodland and meadow, ponds and play areas offer the perfect playground for visitors of all ages and physical abilities, all year round. Spot the wildlife, join a guided walk or enjoy a short break in one of the lodges.



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



Best kept villages

 **Medium length**

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Time: Allow 4 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: Coton Wood, Lullington Road, Coton-in-the-Elms, DE12 8EP.

OS Grid Ref: SK245148

Latitude: 52.731025

Longitude: -1.6385923

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Map Key

	Trail route		Waypoint
	Footpath		Point of interest
	Bridleway		Parking
	Permissive paths		Bus stop
	Road		Pub
	Woodlands		Café
	Rivers and ponds		Shop
	Buildings		Public toilets
	Trig point		Camping

1 Starting from **Coton Wood** car park, enter the wood through the metal kissing gate and follow the public footpath along the grassy path ahead. At a junction of tracks, veer right through a gap. Follow the grass path, keeping the mature hedge on your left, until you reach a stile into a field. Cross the stile and continue ahead on the 'coffin path', a raised path in an avenue of hawthorn trees, over a bridge and ahead to another stile.

2 The steeple of Lullington Church is visible on the horizon as you walk up the field. In the third field veer right through a gap into a copse leading to another field. Keep the hedge on your left as you walk towards Lullington.

3 Head right through a large gap in the hedge, towards the church. Look for a stile in the holly hedge on the right, and cross it. This takes you through another field to enter the village on Dag Lane over a stile, just beyond a wooden pylon. Turn right and then left to go past the Colville Arms pub. Turn left at the church and then follow the road (signposted Overseal/Netherseal) to a drive leading to Limes Farm.

4 Turn right into the drive and join the farm track with a fence on your right and then turn left at the end of the fence. Keep the hedge on your right as you walk down the track to a cross a stream just before entering a field. Head diagonally right across the field - the footpath marker post becomes visible as you get closer. Walk uphill to a gap - the hedge is now on your left.

5 Follow the footpath into a large private garden (*please respect the privacy of the owners by walking through quietly with dogs on short leads*) to a stile in the fence after 70m. Follow the arrow on the waymarker diagonally across the field to a stile. Keep the hedge on the left as you cross the lawn to reach the private drive that leads to the road.

6 Cross to the road opposite and follow it for 500m. At the second finger-post on the right (pointing towards Netherseal), follow the footpath over a plank bridge and, aiming for Netherseal church tower, take the footpath along the hedges through the wooden gates. Eventually, cross a track and turn immediately left through a series of gates to reach Main Street.

7 Turn left and walk straight through the village, passing The Seal Inn. Beyond Netherseal Club go left by a footpath sign through a gap, joining the **National Forest Way**. Pass the bowling green and football pitches on your left then walk right, up steps, through a gap in the hedge. Turn left for 170 metres to a marker post. Go diagonally right across the field to a narrow gap in the hedge. Follow the woodland ride to a squeeze stile, then cross the road by a footpath signpost. Use the step stile to walk behind the lodge bungalow and keep the fence on your left. Ahead is the impressive Grangewood Hall. Continue through the field, pass a pond, cross a stile, then a kissing gate leads to the road.

8 Cross the road and continue along the drive of Woodside cottage. Bear left onto the narrow fenced path to the field. Keeping the edge of **Grangewood** on your left, walk for 1km through a series of stiles, chicanes & gates to the end of the mature woodland. Cross a stile on your left into **Top Wood** still following the **National Forest Way**. Turn right and follow the track to a kissing gate meeting the drive near Park Farm, close to a barn conversion.

9 Continue down the drive, turning right after 200m to enter **Top Wood** on the **National Forest Way**. Follow the path parallel with the lane to exit the wood at the junction with High Street. Turn left along the road then turn right to enter **Penguin Wood** through a gap in the hedge by a field gate. Follow the public footpath ahead, continue through **Penguin Wood** and into the field beyond. Enter the large field and continue straight ahead for 400m to a cross of paths (unmarked) in line with an oak tree. Turn left to leave the **National Forest Way** and walk to the road.

10 Turn right and then left to enter **Beehive Woodland**. Continue along the fenced track to a T-junction. Turn right and walk along the public footpath between hedgerows and caravan site to a stile. Turn left over the stile and go across the field, with hedge on your right, to a double metal gate. Cross the next field to the far left corner and through a kissing gate to the left of a row of garages and onto the road.

11 Turn left and bear right to the village centre and along Pessall Brook. At the junction with Church Street turn left towards Lullington, returning to **Coton Wood** car park on your left.