

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

 @NatForestCo

Photos © Darren Cresswell Photography

11/25

The National Forest Company
Charity No. 1166563

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



THE NATIONAL
FOREST




THE NATIONAL
FOREST



Medium
5.4 miles
(8.7km)

Parklands & woodlands

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





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 by Severn Trent Water is managed by the National Trust and is a popular recreational spot as well as 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

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		Point of interest
	Footpath		Parking
	Bridleway		Bus stop
	Permissive path		Pub
	Road		Café
	Woodlands		Shop
	Rivers and ponds		Public toilets
	Buildings		Play area
	Trig point		Gardens
	Waypoint		Sports ground
			Bike hire

1 From the reservoir 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 to a stile, over the track and another stile, and across the field on to the edge of **Calke Park**. Enter the Calke estate 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 (*admire the 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 your 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. Go downhill and follow the bridleway between hedges to a gate into Stafford's Wood. Continue straight, uphill along the bridleway, and through a yard onto a track. Keep ahead until you arrive at Cockshutt 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.