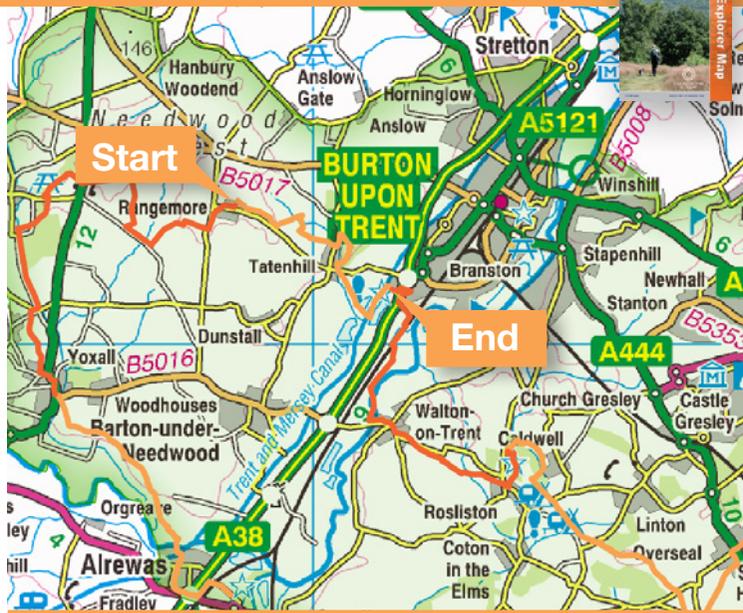


The National Forest Way takes walkers on a 75-mile journey through a transforming landscape, from the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to Beacon Hill Country Park in Leicestershire.

On the way, you will discover the area's evolution from a rural landscape, through industrialisation and its decline, to the modern-day creation of a new forest, where 21st-century life is threaded through a mosaic of green spaces and settlements.

The trail leads through young and ancient woodlands, market towns and the industrial heritage of this changing landscape.



Stage 10: Rangemore to Branston

Length: 4 miles / 6½ kilometres



About this stage

Start: Rangemore (DE13 9RW)
End: Branston Water Park (DE14 3HD)

This stage takes you through attractive undulating farmland, alongside new woodland and on to Battlestead Hill, via the pretty village of Tatenhill. From the top of the hill, you can enjoy a panorama of The National Forest and the Trent Valley below.

The National Forest Way was created by a partnership of the National Forest Company, Derbyshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council and Staffordshire County Council, with the generous support of Fisher German.



To find out more, visit:
www.nationalforestway.co.uk

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



THE NATIONAL FOREST

Telephone: 01283 551211
Enquiries: www.nationalforestway.co.uk/contact
Website: www.nationalforest.org

Photos: Jacqui Rock, Martin Vaughan and NFC

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Rangemore to Branston

1 Turn left out of the car park onto Tatenhill Lane. Walk along the road until you reach the junction with Chapel Lane on your left. Follow Chapel Lane for about 150m, where you should find a footpath on your right that passes between two houses.

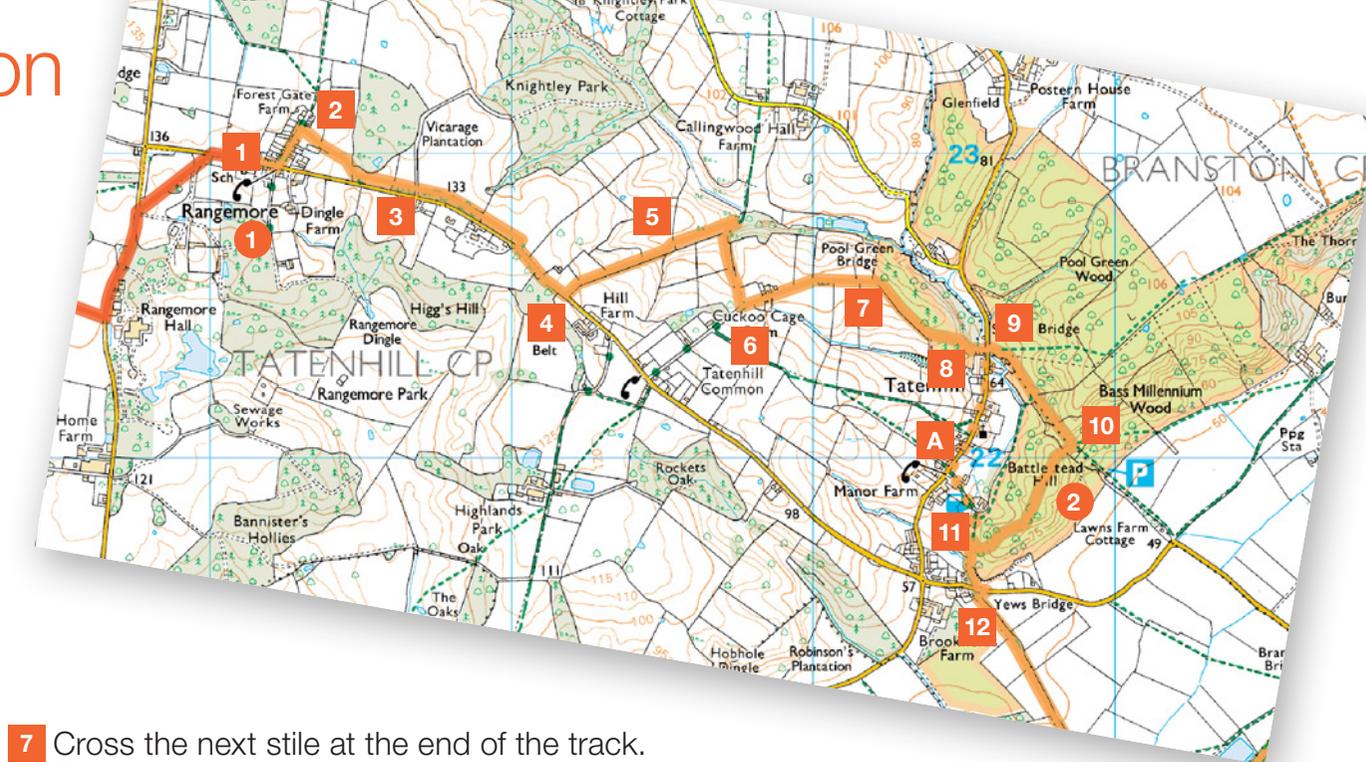
2 Follow this path over a stile and into a field. The path now heads diagonally right for three fields across stiles and a footbridge. When you reach a stile leading out onto the road, ignore this and keep walking ahead to a gate leading into some woodland.

3 Go through the gate, and walk straight on through the woodland. Keep going straight on when you reach a track with stiles and gates on either side. After you leave the woods, walk to either side of the pond to a gate onto the road. Head through the gate and turn left. Follow the road for about 175m, past Little Lambs Childcare, to a stile on your left.

4 Cross the stile and walk through the field, keeping close to the hedge on your right. Go straight on when you come to a double set of gates and, at the next stile, go straight on through the next field to the stile in the corner. Cross this stile and head straight on through the field, passing through the gate at the bottom of the field.

5 Towards the end of the next field, you should find a horse jump on your right with a gate next to it. Go through the gate and follow the path as it goes uphill through another gate.

6 At the top of the hill, you will find a stile and metal gate. Cross the stile onto Cuckoo Cage Lane and turn left. Follow the lane past some houses and over a stile, after which the track runs between two hedges. When the path splits, keep left to cross another stile.



7 Cross the next stile at the end of the track. The path widens a little and there should be a plantation woodland on your left, with a hedge continuing on your right. At the corner of the woodland, turn left to continue walking around the edge of the plantation. Keep following the path as it leaves the plantation and goes downhill towards some houses.

8 Turn left at the waymark post. You should have a dense hedge on your left and houses below you on your right. As soon as you have passed the houses, look for a stile to your right. Cross this and walk alongside the stream until you reach the road.

9 To follow the National Forest Way, cross the road to the footpath opposite which runs to the left of the houses and onto a broad track heading uphill. Follow the track until you reach a kissing gate. Turn right through the gate and take the path straight ahead for about 175m until you find a fence and stile on your left, signed Battlestead Hill. Cross the stile and bear diagonally right, passing a bench on your left.

A Alternative route

To detour through Tatenhill from Point **9** turn right along the road and walk into the village. Just after you pass the village hall, turn left down a lane marked Private Road. At the end of the lane, look out for a gate on the right set into the hedge. Go through this and walk straight ahead to follow the footpath downhill, through a kissing gate and alongside a stream to the road, where you rejoin the National Forest Way at **11**.

10 Turn right when you see a waymarker at a junction of two paths. Follow this new path past a large tree, downhill and then up again. Walk along the ridge at the top of the hill and keep heading straight on, ignoring paths to the left and right.

11 As the path heads back downhill, take the clear path on your right to a junction with the footpath on the edge of the village. Turn left on to the footpath and follow it downhill, through a kissing gate and alongside a stream to the road.

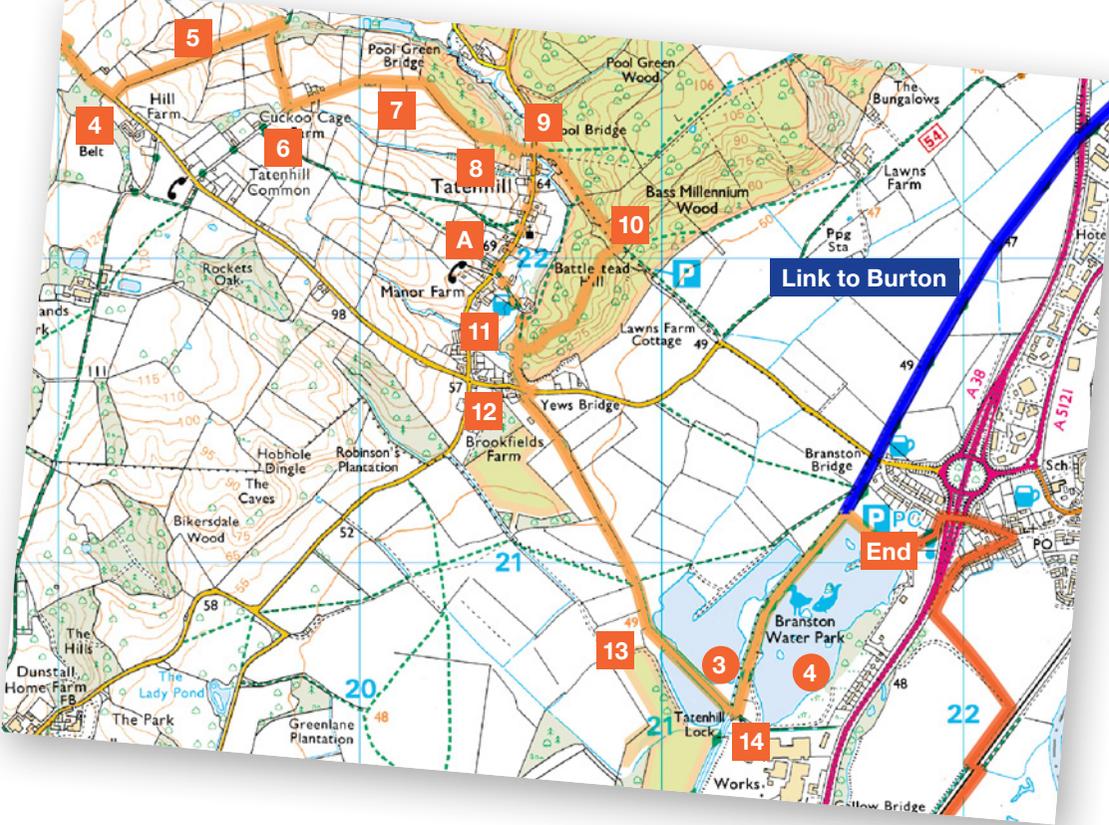
Link to Burton upon Trent

To visit the nearby town of Burton upon Trent, which has a range of shops, pubs and things to do, follow the 2½ mile link below.

To Burton: From Point 14, ignore the turning into Branston Water Park and continue alongside the Trent & Mersey Canal towards Burton. After 2,750m you will reach Shobnall Marina. Turn right here onto Shobnall Road and follow it for 500m to the second of two roundabouts. Turn left onto Wellington Road for 400m and then right onto Borough Road. Burton station is 200m on your right.

From Burton: Turn left out of Burton station car park. Follow Borough Road for 200m and then turn left onto Wellington Road. After 400m, turn right at the roundabout and follow Shobnall Road for 500m to the Marina. Turn left onto the Trent & Mersey Canal towpath and follow it for 2,750m to Branston Water Park, where you re-join the National Forest Way.

- 12 Cross the road to the bridgeway on the other side, keeping the stream on your right. Follow the path over a bridge across the stream, then turn left to walk along the clear track. After passing some farm buildings, the path continues alongside the hedge. Follow the bridgeway ahead for about 700m.
- 13 When the path turns right around the edge of a field, look out for a gateway on the left side of the hedge in front of you. Go through this and follow the path through the small woodland, past a small lake on your right, and on to the Trent & Mersey Canal.
- 14 At the canal, use the bridge to cross over and turn left onto the towpath. Follow the towpath for about 800m to enter Branston Water Park on your right. Enter the park and walk on to the car park.



Parking

Parking is available at Branston Water Park, Tatenhill and Rangemore.

Please note that there may be a charge for parking at Branston Water Park and also be aware of car park closing times before setting off.

Note: The car park shown on the map near point **10** is no longer available.

Public transport

Branston is on the 7/7A/7E Lichfield-Burton bus route (Mon-Sun), the nearest bus stop to Branston Water Park is at St Saviours Church on Main Street).

There are no bus services to Rangemore, but the 7/7A/7E also serves Yoxall (the starting/finishing point of stage 11).

For detailed information on bus routes and times, call **Traveline** on 0871 200 22 33 (charges apply).

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

How to use this leaflet

The maps in this leaflet are based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:25,000 scale Explorer maps and are presented at the correct scale if printed on A4 paper.

- 1 Square symbols on the maps link with the route directions that are provided alongside the map.
- 1 Circular symbols represent key points of interest along the route of the trail.

1 Rangemore

Rangemore is located within the ancient Needwood Forest. Rangemore Hall on the outskirts of the village has historical connections to Burton upon Trent's famous Bass brewing dynasty and has welcomed royal visitors. Today the Hall has been converted into exclusive residential apartments.



2 Battlestead Hill

Battlestead Hill is reputed to be the site of a bloody battle between the Angles and Danes. This mature woodland is attractive in all seasons and especially so in spring, when primroses, bluebells and violets carpet the forest floor.



3 Tatenhill Lock

Tatenhill Lock is one of 76 locks on the 93 mile Trent and Mersey Canal, designed by James Brindley and completed in 1777. Today the canal is an attractive and tranquil spot where wildlife and people coexist happily.



4 Branston Water Park

These restored gravel pits feature one of the largest areas of reedbed in Staffordshire, together with wet woodland, open grassland and wildflower meadows. These valuable habitats attract a wide range of birds, butterflies and other insects.



About The National Forest

The National Forest is one of Britain's boldest environmentally-led regeneration projects: the creation of a new forest across 200 square miles of parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire, linking the ancient forests of Needwood and Charnwood.

Over the last twenty years, The National Forest has trebled forest cover within its boundary, creating habitats for wildlife, a woodland economy and a beautiful landscape for everyone to enjoy.

