

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.

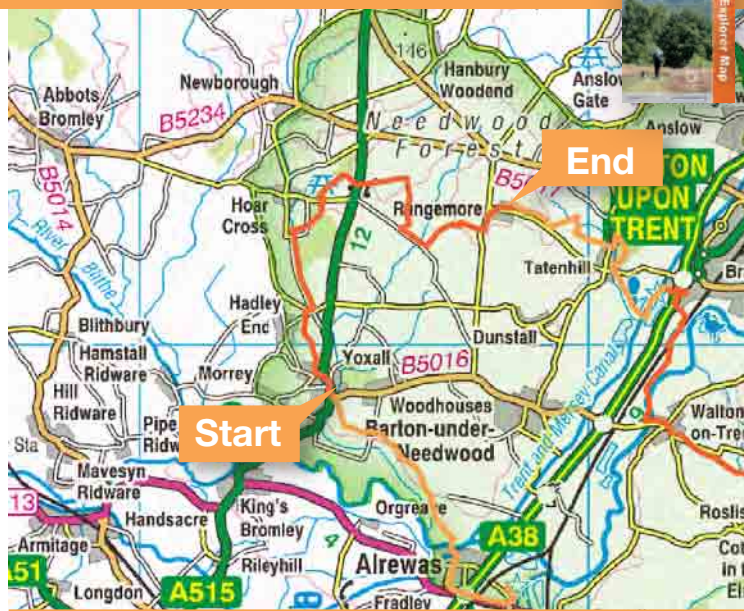
The trail leads through young and ancient woodlands, market towns and the industrial heritage of this changing landscape.



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



About this stage

Start: Yoxall (DE13 8NQ)

End: Rangemore (DE13 9RW)

This stage takes you through the heart of Needwood Forest, former hunting grounds from the 13th century. This well-wooded landscape is threaded by a network of wide straight roads, the original "rides" through the ancient forest. It is a sparsely populated area with a number of stately homes with large estates.

The National Forest Company

Bath Yard, Moira, Swadlincote,
Derbyshire DE12 6BA

Telephone: 01283 551211

Enquiries: www.nationalforestway.co.uk/contact

Website: www.nationalforest.org

Photos: Christopher Beech, Martin Vaughan,
Lesley Hextall and Jacqui Rock

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THE NATIONAL FOREST

Stage 11: Yoxall to Rangemore

Length: 7½ miles / 12 kilometres

Route directions: Eastbound

Yoxall to Rangemore

- 1 Starting from the bus stop by the Crown Inn, walk north along Main Street past the church. Turn left onto Hadley Street by the Post Office and walk for 200m to the junction with School Green.
- 2 Turn right to follow the footpath between a white house and a private drive. Head through the ornate gate to the playing fields and head along the right-hand edge of the field to a stile at the far corner.
- 3 Cross the stile and walk across the next three fields and stiles until you reach a footbridge. Go over the bridge and the stile that follows it, before turning left to follow the hedge as it bears right. Keep following the edge of the field and cross the stile into the next field.
- 4 Before the end of this field, you will find a stile on your left. Cross this into the adjacent field. Walk diagonally across this field aiming to a metal gate and wooden stile in the opposite corner.
- 5 Cross the stile and bear right across the field towards the metal gate, ignoring a footpath which crosses yours. Pass through the gate and follow the clear track through another two gateways.
- 6 Where the track splits, take the one on the left and follow it to the gate and stile in the corner of the field. Cross the stile onto a track and follow this until it reaches a road.

- 7 Turn right onto Dunstall Lane and follow it until you reach a junction where five lanes meet. Take the second turning on the left, towards Woodmill.
- 8 Follow this road for about 1,800m, passing a church on your right and parkland on your left, until you reach the junction by Far Hoar Cross Farm.
- 9 Turn right onto Becks Lane, using the bridge to cross the ford when you reach it. When the lane bends to the left, keep going straight ahead, leaving the road and passing onto a forest track. Ignore the footpath to your right.



10 About 100m along the track, turn left onto the footpath into the woodlands. Follow this path uphill through the woodlands. Where the woodlands end, bear left onto a track into a field. Walk along the edge of the field until you get to the gate onto the road. Turn left onto the road for 75m before turning right into the car park at Jackson's Bank.

11 Walk from the car park towards the picnic area with the Noon Column on your left. Keep to the right of the picnic area, going through a gate and then straight on into the woods. Follow the path ahead as it weaves its way through the woods for about 800m.

12 At the junction with a footpath, you should be able to see a gate off to your right. Turn right and pass through the gate into a field. Walk along the edge of the field, keeping the hedge on your left, until you reach a road.

13 Cross the road to a wooden gate, slightly to your left. Pass through the gate and follow the path, through Crossplain Wood and along the edge of the airfield, for about 1,000m to a stile on your right.

14 Cross the stile, then bear right through the shelterbelt. At the next stile, cross into a field and walk through it keeping the hedge on your left. Keep going straight on through the next gateway. After the next stile, bear left to walk across the field. Cross the next stile and head diagonally right towards another stile onto the road.

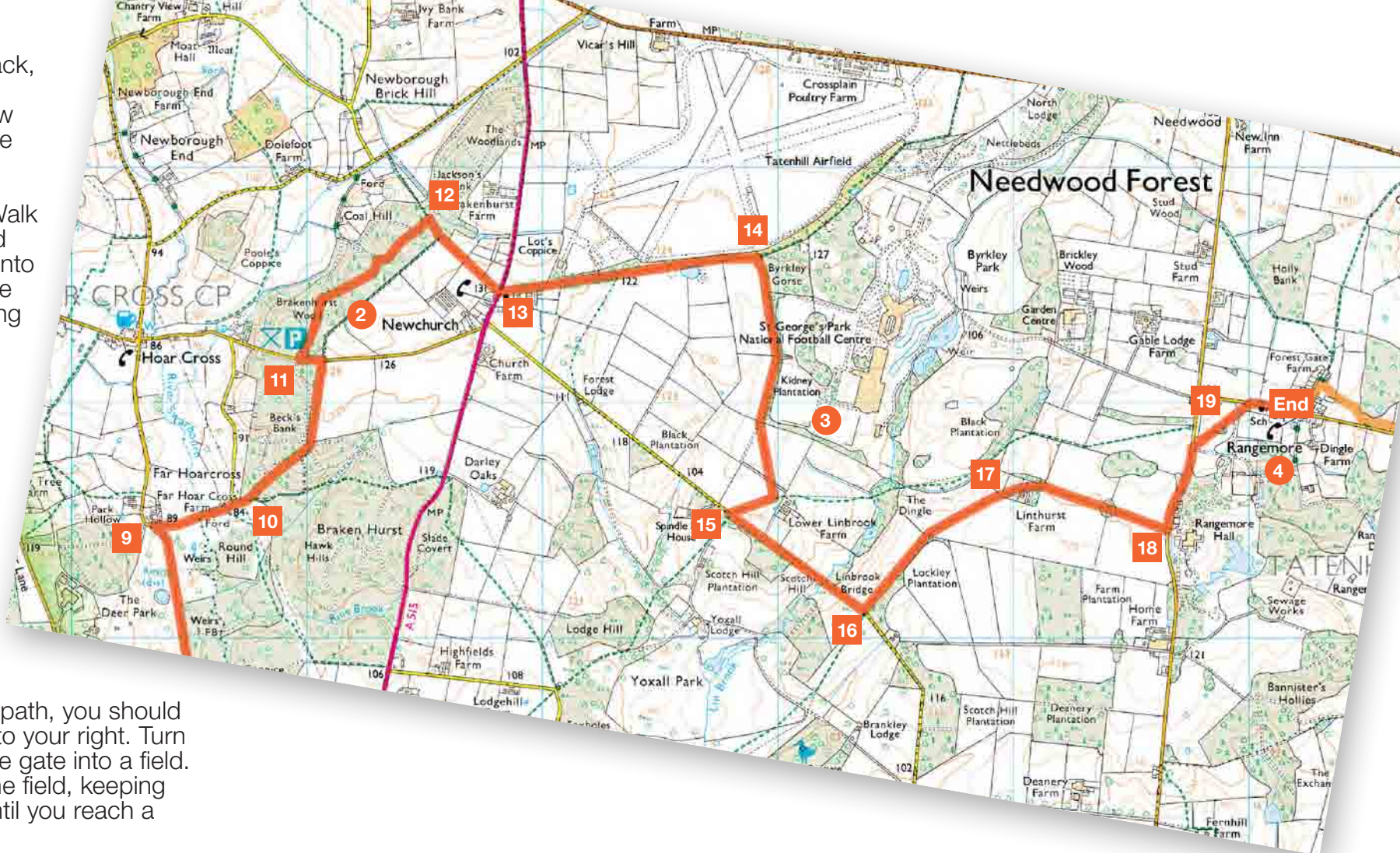
15 Turn left to follow the road for 700m, passing Lower Linbrook Farm on your left.

16 Take the first footpath to the left and follow the track through a gate. When the path widens into a field, keep to the right-hand side of the field.

17 Cross the stile and walk diagonally left across the pony paddock to the next stile. Once over this stile keep left as the path passes a house and a row of garages. Continue to follow this driveway straight ahead until you reach the road.

18 At the road, turn left and follow it with care for about 350m, until you see a footpath and stile on your right. Cross the stile and walk diagonally across the field, keeping to the left of a small copse of trees.

19 When you reach the stile and gate at the opposite side of the field, cross the stile and walk ahead through the trees before turning left on the path. At the gate onto Tatenhill Lane, turn right and walk towards Rangemore village. The car park is on your left, opposite the school.



Parking

Parking is available at Rangemore, Yoxall and Jacksons Bank.

Please be aware of car park closing times before setting off.

Public transport

Yoxall is on the 7/7A/7E Lichfield-Burton bus route (Mon-Sun).

There are no bus services to Rangemore, but the 7/7A/7E also serves Branston (the starting/finishing point of stage 10).

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 Yoxall

Yoxall is an attractive Needwood village situated on the River Swarbourn. The main street features several timber framed buildings dating from the 14th century and a number of fine 18th century farmhouses in red brick.



2 Jackson's Bank

This woodland is owned by the Duchy of Lancaster and is a valuable nature conservation site. Coniferous planting is being replaced by native broadleaf trees and the wood is home to bluebell, wood anemone, wild garlic and wood spurge.



3 Byrkely Park

Byrkley Park estate was originally part of Needwood, at a time when wolf, wild boar and fallow deer roamed the forest. The Lodge was eventually demolished in 1953. The magnificent grounds are now home to St. George's Park National Football Centre, opened by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in October 2012.



4 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 hosted royal visitors. Today the Hall has been converted into exclusive residential apartments.



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.

