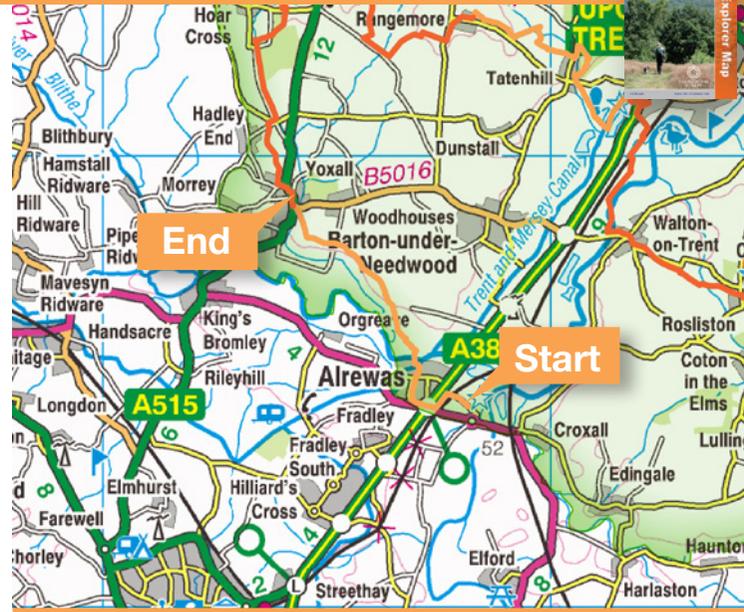


The National Forest Way takes walkers on a 75-mile journey through a transforming landscape, from the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to Beacon Hill Country Park in Leicestershire.

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 12: National Memorial Arboretum to Yoxall

Length: 5 miles / 8 kilometres



Route directions: Eastbound



About this stage

Start: National Memorial Arboretum (DE13 7AR)
End: Yoxall (DE13 8NQ)

On this stage, the route is never far from the River Swarbourne. You will enjoy views over the Trent Valley towards Lichfield with its prominent cathedral, passing through young woodlands and open river meadows. Visit the villages of Yoxall and Alrewas and the National Memorial Arboretum, a place of reflection and remembrance.

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

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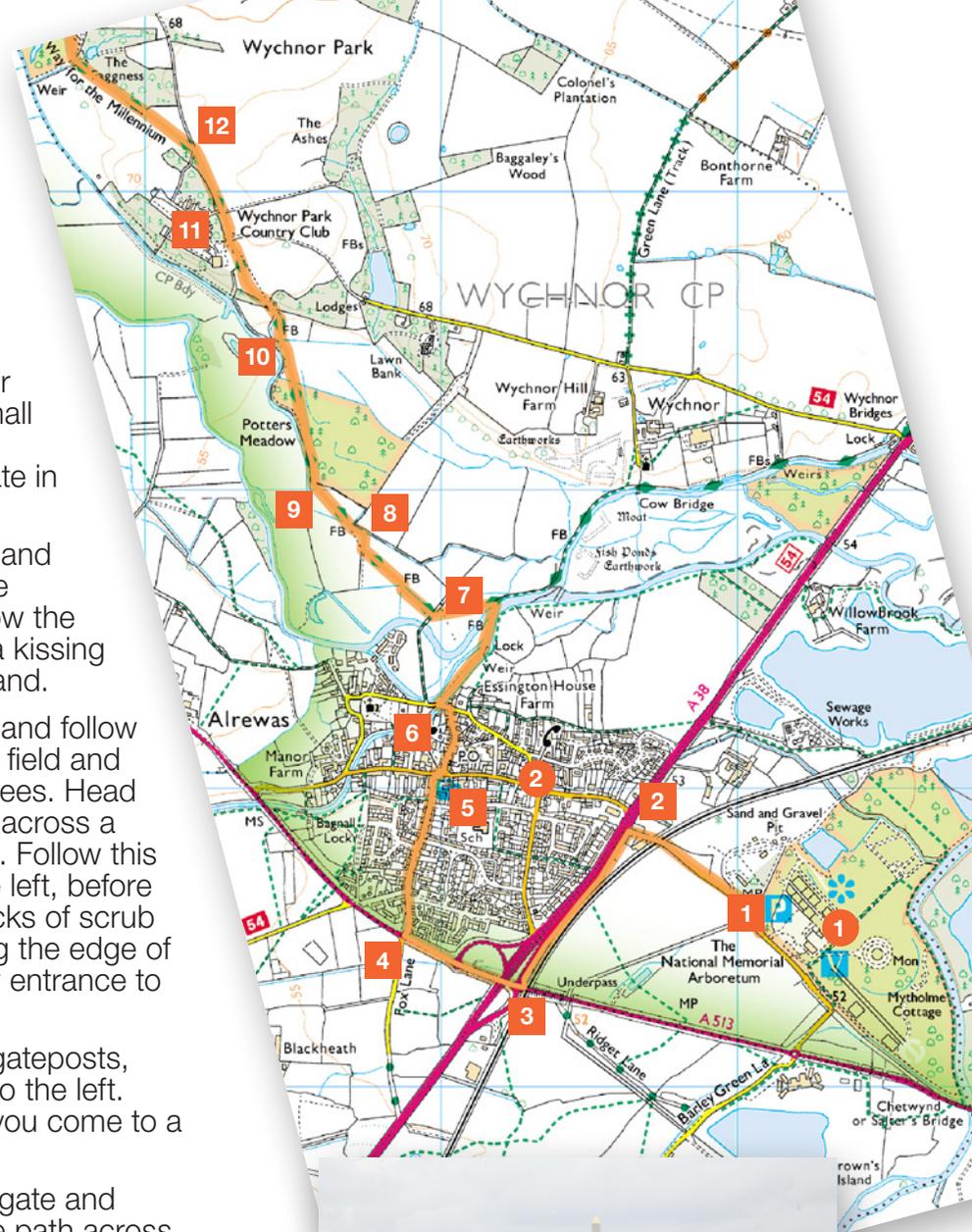
Photos: Jacqui Rock, Christopher Beech and
Martin Vaughan

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National Memorial Arboretum to Yoxall

- 1** Starting from the National Memorial Arboretum turn right onto the pavement. Follow the pavement for about 400m before carefully crossing the railway. After another 100m, you will reach the A38 dual carriageway.
- 2** Turn left and carefully follow the pavement alongside the A38 for about 500m until it follows the sliproad uphill to where it meets the A513.
- 3** Turn right and carefully cross the slip road to take the bridge over the A38 (signposted to Kings Bromley). Cross the slip road of the second roundabout and continue to follow the A513 for 150m until you reach a turning on your right into Alrewas.
- 4** Turn off the A513 and onto Fox Lane and follow it for 500m until it reaches Main Street.
- 5** Cross the road to pass to the left of the large oak tree at the junction and onto Post Office Road. When this road meets Church Road, turn left.
- 6** Walk over the bridge and then turn right onto the canal towpath. Follow the towpath and cross the bridge across the River Trent. Immediately after the bridge, turn left through a gap in the hedge and then a kissing gate into a field. Follow the footpath across the field to a gap in an old hedge. Pass through the gap and across a green lane to a gap on the other side.
- 7** After passing through the gap, cross the stile ahead of you and follow the path between the fence and the hedge. At the end of this path, turn right over the small concrete bridge and through the kissing gate before bearing left across the field towards a gap in the old hedge line.

- 8** Head through this gap and continue across the field in the same direction, aiming for the corner of the fence ahead of you, where a waymark post should be visible. At the corner of the fence, go across the small concrete bridge then bear left across the field to a kissing gate in the far corner.
- 9** Pass through the kissing gate and onto a grassy path through the trees in Potters Meadow. Follow the footpath through the trees to a kissing gate at the edge of the woodland.
- 10** Pass through the kissing gate and follow the footpath ahead across the field and along the edge of a block of trees. Head through the next kissing gate, across a bridge and onto a grassy path. Follow this path around as it bends to the left, before turning right between two blocks of scrub and then left again. Walk along the edge of the golf course to the gateway entrance to Wychnor Park Country Club.
- 11** Turn right, between the brick gateposts, then follow the surfaced lane to the left. Continue along this lane until you come to a gate across the road.
- 12** Take the stile to the left of the gate and then bear slightly left along the path across the field towards the corner of the wood ahead. When you reach its edge, follow the waymarked path through the wood. As the path leaves the wood, bear diagonally right to walk along the field edge, keeping the wood on your right. At the end of the field, pass through a gap in the hedge and onto a track.





13 Cross the track, over a stile and into Swarbourm Meadows Wood. Bear right, following the grassy path up through the planted area. Follow the edge of the field to pass over a stile, a footbridge and a second stile.

14 Walk to the right of an old split oak tree and head for a gap in the hedge. Carry on straight ahead towards a gap in the line of old oak trees, with an electricity pylon visible beyond. Pass through the gap and head directly for the pylon.

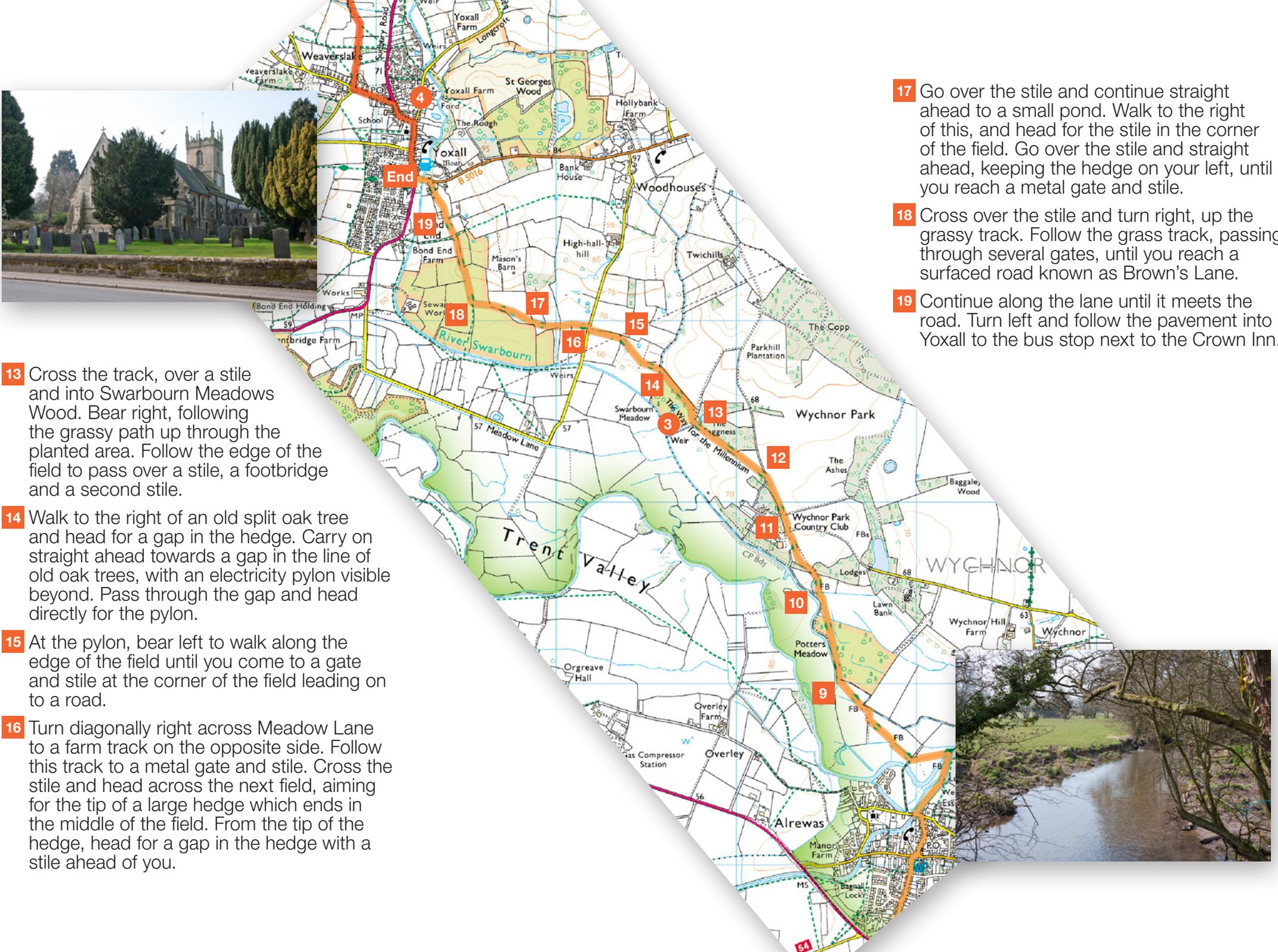
15 At the pylon, bear left to walk along the edge of the field until you come to a gate and stile at the corner of the field leading on to a road.

16 Turn diagonally right across Meadow Lane to a farm track on the opposite side. Follow this track to a metal gate and stile. Cross the stile and head across the next field, aiming for the tip of a large hedge which ends in the middle of the field. From the tip of the hedge, head for a gap in the hedge with a stile ahead of you.

17 Go over the stile and continue straight ahead to a small pond. Walk to the right of this, and head for the stile in the corner of the field. Go over the stile and straight ahead, keeping the hedge on your left, until you reach a metal gate and stile.

18 Cross over the stile and turn right, up the grassy track. Follow the grass track, passing through several gates, until you reach a surfaced road known as Brown's Lane.

19 Continue along the lane until it meets the road. Turn left and follow the pavement into Yoxall to the bus stop next to the Crown Inn.



Parking

Parking is available at Yoxall, Alrewas and the National Memorial Arboretum.

Please note that there is a charge for parking at the National Memorial Arboretum and also be aware of car park closing times before setting off.

Public transport

Yoxall and Alrewas (serving the National Memorial Arboretum) are both on the 7/7A/7E Lichfield-Burton bus route (Mon-Sun). There is a limited direct service to the National Memorial Arboretum (Mon-Sat).

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 The National Memorial Arboretum

The National Memorial Arboretum is a spiritually uplifting place for reflection and remembrance. The site was developed on reclaimed gravel workings and is planted with 50,000 maturing trees. With a wildflower meadow and riverside walks, it is a lasting, living tribute.



2 Alrewas

The name Alrewas derives from alder wash (swamp) due to the Alder trees that used to grow in and around the River Trent floodplain. The Trent and Mersey canal runs through the village where locks and bridges evoke the atmosphere of the canal's heyday. Cut between 1770 and 1777, it was England's first commercial canal.



3 Swarbourn Meadow

Swarbourn Meadow is a rich wildlife habitat beside the River Swarbourn with wet woodland, marshy areas and open water. An otter holt has been installed in a quiet area in the hope that they will colonise the area.



4 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.



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.

