

## Opening Times

Free admission. Open daily.

## Parking

**Donisthorpe Woodland Centre (DWC)** on Church Street, Donisthorpe provides most direct access; please check with DWC (01530 272203) for opening times. The car park is open from 9am to 4pm and has three disabled parking bays.

## St. John the Evangelist Church, Donisthorpe:

A surfaced car park next to the church. Please note: care should be taken crossing the road to access the Woodland Park.

**Moira Furnace:** It is also possible to park at the Furnace and walk along the Ashby Canal towpath to Donisthorpe Woodlands. The car park is flat and has several disabled bays. However, parking at the Furnace requires visitors to access a short but steep path to the canal towpath, which may not be suitable for manual wheelchair users.

## Trails

The paths around Donisthorpe Woodlands are very varied, in both their condition and gradient. Some routes are suitable for visitors with disabilities, but other routes have gradients well over 1:20.

This guide indicates a more wheelchair-friendly circular route around the Park, as marked on the map. However, while the paths on this route are well maintained and surfaced with crushed stone, gradients vary and manual wheelchair users may struggle in places marked as  or above on the map.

Other paths through the centre of the Woodland Park can be very steep and are, at present, more uneven than the circular route.

## Facilities

Information boards and seats are located around the Park. Picnic tables can be found close to the Woodland Centre car park. DWC is accessible to all, and has a restaurant, bar (please ring for opening times) and toilet facilities (including disabled). More facilities can be found at Moira Furnace, including a tearoom, craft units and disabled toilets.



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# Donisthorpe Woodland Park

Access for All

## Location

Donisthorpe Woodland Park, Church Street,  
Donisthorpe, North West Leicestershire, DE12 7RH.

## Leicestershire County Council:

[www.leics.gov.uk](http://www.leics.gov.uk) 0116 305 6918

## The National Forest Company

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Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 6BA  
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*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of printing. However, the National Forest Company cannot be held responsible for any error, omission or subsequent changes.*

*Photography: Christopher Beech.*

This guide is available in large print. Call 01283 551211



# Donisthorpe Woodland Park

Donisthorpe Woodland Park was created on the site of the former Donisthorpe Colliery, which opened in 1857 and closed, 133 years later, in 1990. Leicestershire County Council acquired the land from British Coal in 1995 and reclamation works took place over the next few years, in partnership with the National Forest Company, English Partnerships and the Forestry Commission. Two thirds of the site were planted with native oak, ash, poplar, grey alder and Corsican pine; in total around 74,000 trees.

The Bramborough Brook flows through the centre of Donisthorpe Woodland Park, and the line of the restored Ashby Canal defines its eastern edge. The Park also includes a section of the 3.7 mile (6km) Ashby Wouds Heritage Trail that runs between Spring Cottage and Measham, following the line of the Ashby and Nuneaton joint railway. The railway operated from 1873 to 1931, and served to transport coal from local pits to London and Oxford.

The canal footpath also links the Park to the Moira Furnace Museum (an early 19<sup>th</sup> century iron blast furnace with interactive displays) and the adjoining lime kilns. There are also boat trips along the Ashby Canal from Donisthorpe Woodland Park, through Moira lock to the Conkers Waterside Centre and back.

Today the 30 hectare (76 acre) Woodland Park has several surfaced paths suitable for all abilities, meandering around this beautifully transformed site. Interpretation boards chart how the land was restored to create a picturesque new landscape, for all to discover and enjoy.

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|  Car Park               |  Picnic Table         |
|  Disabled Access Toilet |  Interpretation Board |
|  Gradient (Shallow)     |  Surfaced Paths       |
|  Gradient (Steep)       |  Circular route       |
|  Seat                   |  Woodland             |

