

Points of interest along the walk:

1 Managed by the Royal British Legion, the **National Memorial Arboretum** was conceived as a living tribute to people of the 20th Century, a period marked by global conflicts. Planting began in 1997 and there are now over 60 memorials commemorating not only the Armed Forces but also civilian groups and individuals.



3 **Alrewas**: There has been a village at this crossing point of the River Trent since before Roman times. In ancient documents, the village name was written as Allerwas or Alderwasse, which comes from 'aldr' (alder) and 'waesse' (marsh). Alder trees still thrive along the river and canal.

5 The east arch of the tower of St Leonard's Church, **Wychnor** dates back to 1200 AD, and the rest of the building from the 14th century. The lost mediaeval village of Wychnor is on the higher ground opposite the church.

6 A sluice near **Wychnor lock** carries water under the A38 along a channel that served Wychnor forge, which operated from 1764 to 1781.

9 The rich sand and gravel deposits in the Trent Valley have been extracted since the 19th Century. **Barton Quarry**, owned by Hanson Aggregates, covers nearly 300ha. The railway bridge here is a favourite haunt of trainspotters.

11 The **Mythaholme footbridge** was opened in 2004. Mythaholme comes from the Old English meaning the mouth of a river where it runs into another or a confluence of rivers.

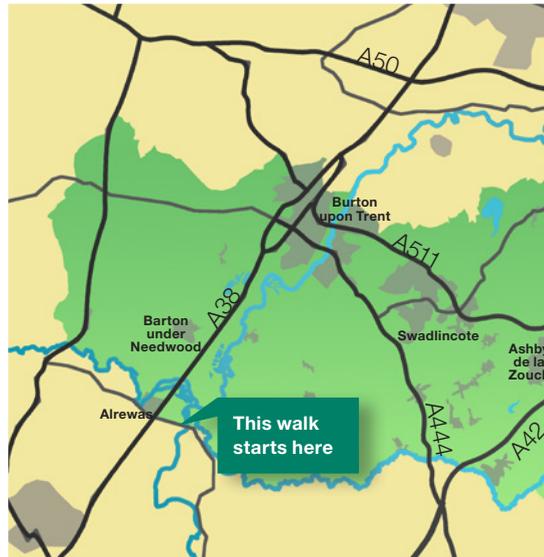
12 If you are very lucky, you may see otters on the river. But even if you don't, look out for other wildlife on this quiet stretch. As the path bends to the right, you look across to **Croxall Lakes Nature Reserve**, which supports a variety of birds and other wildlife.



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This leaflet can be used in conjunction with OS Explorer 245 (The National Forest) and Landranger number 128 (Derby and Burton upon Trent).



The National Forest Company

Enterprise Glade, Bath Yard, Moira,
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 6BA
01283 551211
enquiries@nationalforest.org
www.nationalforest.org

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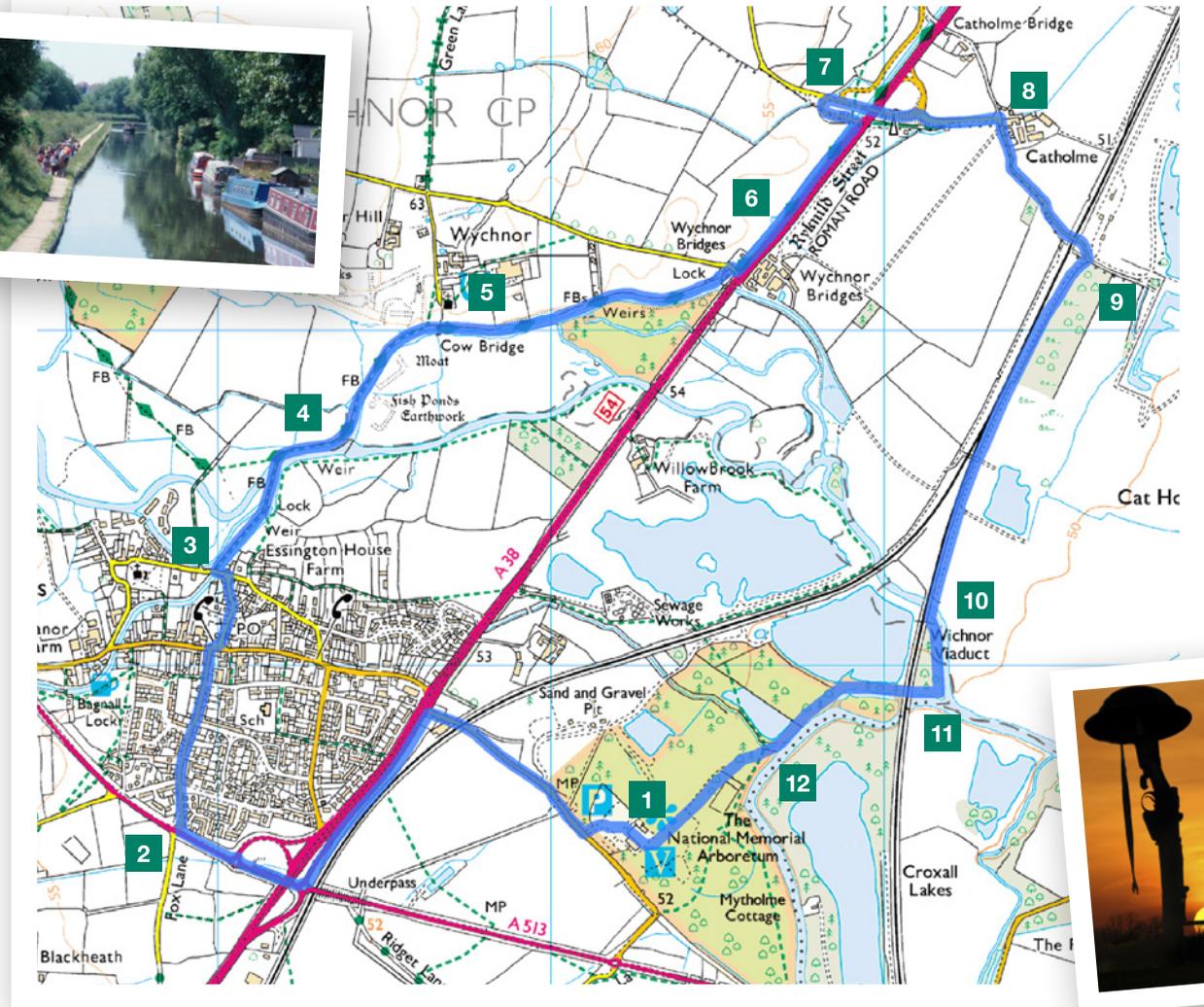
Mythaholme & The National Memorial Arboretum

5½ mile walk



Mythaholme & the NMA

This 4 mile walk explores the history of part of the Trent Valley. It passes mediaeval earthworks, the 18th century canal, 19th and 20th Century mineral workings and the 21st Century National Memorial Arboretum.



- 1 Starting from the Arboretum car park, leave through the main gate and turn right along Croxall Road, past Alrewas quarry, to the A38. Turn left and follow the footpath up to the roundabout. Then turn right (signposted Kings Bromley and Rugeley) along the tarmac footpath. Ignore the first right turn to Alrewas. Carry straight on and turn right into Alrewas along Fox Lane. Cross over Main Street to Post Office Road, passing the war memorial on the right.
- 2 Follow Post Office Road past The Crown Inn to the T-junction.
- 3 Turn left over the canal bridge and then immediately right onto the towpath past Alrewas Lock and cross the black and white metal footbridge over the mill stream.
- 4 Continue along the towpath and over a series of small metal footbridges.
- 5 At Wychnor Church, pass under the access bridge to the boaters car park and continue along the towpath to Wychnor Lock.
- 6 Cross the canal bridge and follow the towpath (with the canal on your left) to pass under a small road bridge.
- 7 Follow the towpath. Immediately after bridge number 41, turn right up the grass bank. Step over the metal crash barrier onto the tarmac footpath. Then turn right and cross the canal bridge. Follow the road to Catholme as it loops to the right and cross the A38 road bridge. After about 100 metres take the lane to the right (signposted Catholme) and follow this as it bends to the left as far as a T-junction before some farm buildings.
- 8 Turn right here (at a wooden fingerpost) and, ignoring any side tracks, follow the track past Barton Quarry and over the railway.

- 9 Turn right at a wooden fingerpost (50m after the railway bridge) and follow the track that runs parallel to the railway line.
- 10 At the end of the track fork right to cross the blue Mythaholme footbridge and turn immediately left to follow the grass path along the River Tame.
- 11 Turn right at the picnic area, with Mac's Woodland on your right. Follow the path with the river on your left, under the railway bridge, past the Special Forces Memorial, the Wind in the Willows Wood and onto the Royal National Lifeboat Institute Memorial.

- 12 From here you can bear right across the grass (with the Shelter on your right) to pick up Millennium Avenue; turn left and follow it back to the main buildings of the Arboretum – your start point.
Alternatively you can follow the grass path along the river to the edge of the Arboretum. From here, turn right at the Royal Army Medical Corps Memorial and follow the grass avenue that joins 'The Beat' and continue straight ahead to the main Arboretum buildings, restaurant and car park.