

The National Forest Way

This leaflet can be used in conjunction with
OS Explorer 245 (The National Forest)



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.

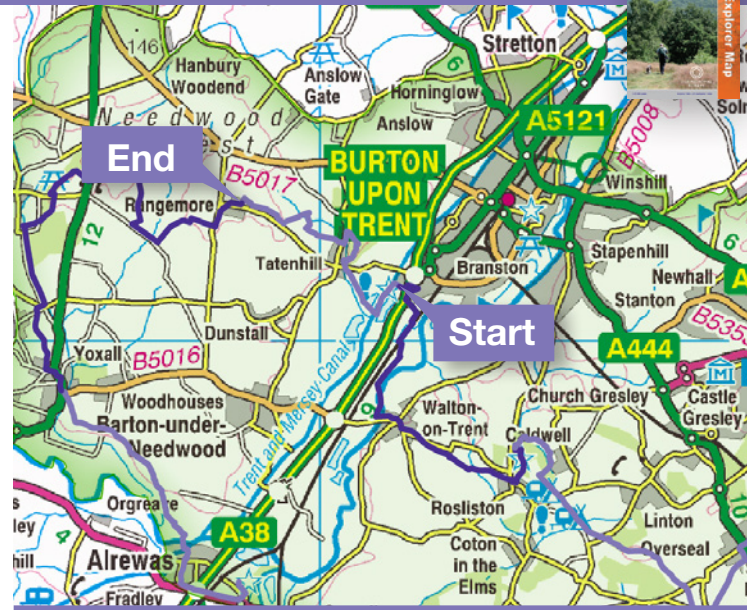


The National Forest Way was created by a partnership of the National Forest Company, Derbyshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council and Staffordshire County Council, with the generous support of Fisher German.



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

Version 2 (July 2015)



About this stage

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

This stage takes you beside the Trent & Mersey Canal before crossing the valley floor to meet Battlestead Hill. From the top of the hill, you can enjoy a panorama of The National Forest and the Trent Valley below, before dropping back down into the pretty village of Tatenhill.

The National Forest Company

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Stage 10:

Branston to Rangemore

Length: 4 miles / 6½ kilometres



Route directions: Westbound

Branston to Rangemore

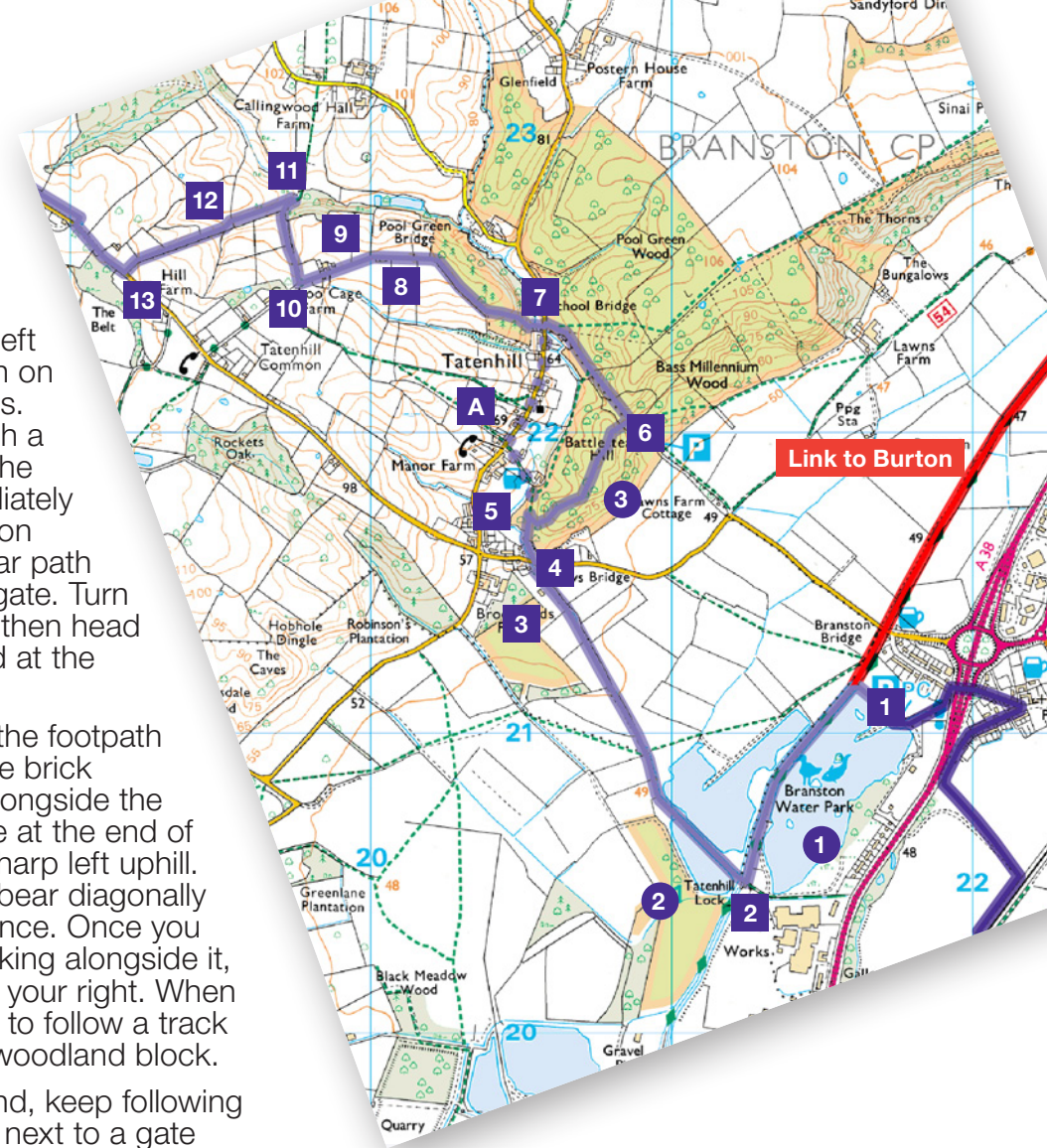
- 1** Leave Branston Water Park car park, keeping the lake on your left, and walk towards the Trent & Mersey Canal. When you reach the canal, turn left and follow the towpath for about 800m until you reach a bridge over the canal.
- 2** Turn right to cross the bridge, then carry straight on to take the path to the right of the lake. Follow this path through some woods, between the lakes, until you reach a gate. Pass through the gate and then follow the clear track through a further two gateways.
- 3** When you reach some farm buildings, with houses to your right, look out for a bridge on your right. Cross this bridge and follow the path as it turns left, running alongside a stream and ending at the road into Tatenhill.
- 4** Cross the road to the footpath on the other side and follow the path with the stream below you on the left. Go through the gate, then bear right on the path, away from the stream.
- 5** After about 100m, take the clear path off to the right and follow it uphill. The path will bear left to bring you to the top of the hill. Follow the path straight ahead as it passes several benches and ends up in a woodland.

A Alternative route

Instead of turning right at Point **5**, keep to the path at the base of the hill. When you reach a small lane to your left, follow the lane into Tatenhill. At the road, turn right and follow Main Street for about 400m, where the houses end. Turn left onto the footpath by a small brick bridge to re-join the main route at Point **7**.

- 6** When you reach the woods, the path dips down and then up again beside a large tree. Turn left here and keep to the path on the left through the woods. After a while you will reach a fence with a stile. Cross the stile and turn right immediately after it. Then keep going on straight ahead on the clear path until you reach a kissing gate. Turn left through the gate and then head downhill towards the road at the other end of Tatenhill.
- 7** Cross the road and take the footpath to the left-hand side of the brick bridge. Follow the path alongside the stream and cross the stile at the end of this path before turning sharp left uphill. At the end of the hedge, bear diagonally right uphill towards the fence. Once you reach the fence keep walking alongside it, with Parkside Coppice to your right. When the fence ends, turn right to follow a track between a hedge and a woodland block.
- 8** At the end of the woodland, keep following the track, crossing a stile next to a gate when you reach it. Ignore the path to the right as it goes around the hedge. You should now be walking between two tall hedges.
- 9** Keep following the track after the next stile as it bears slightly left. At the end of the track, cross the stile and walk along a lane between the houses keeping an eye out for the stile and footpath on the right after the last house.

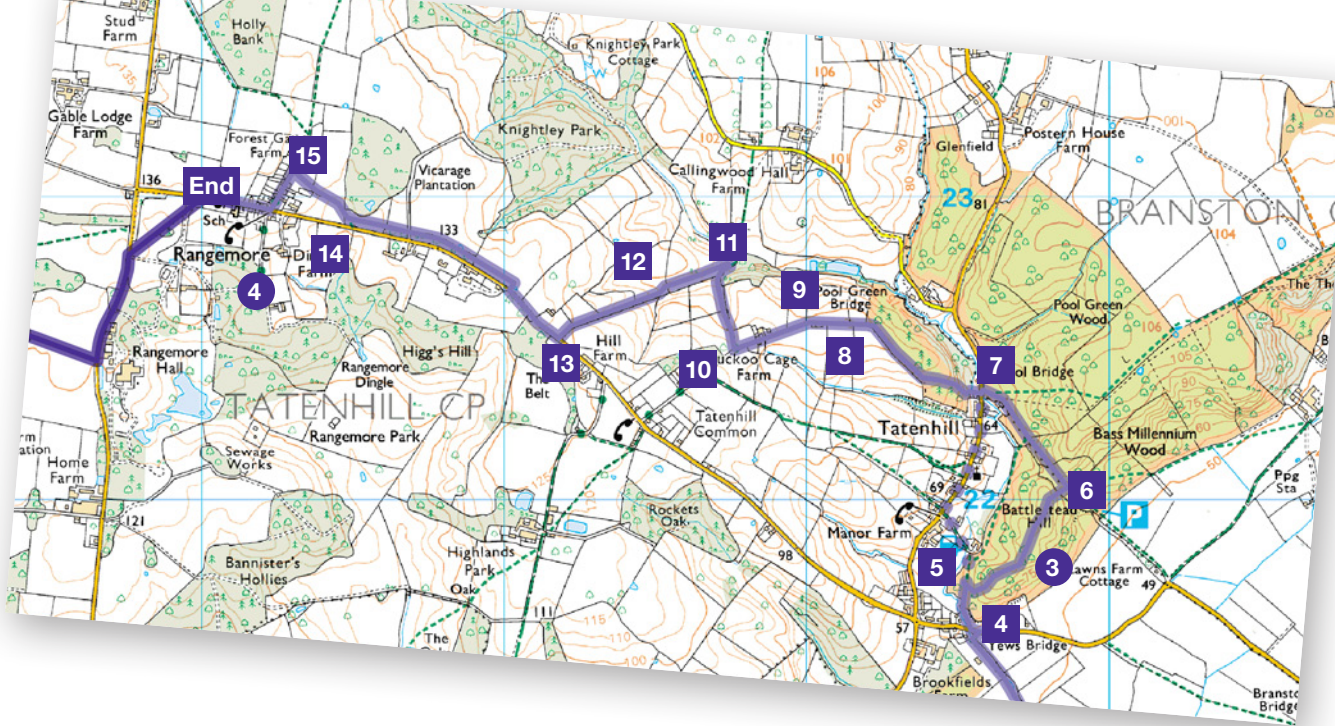
- 10** Turn right, off the lane, and onto the footpath through a field. Walk downhill, keeping the hedge on your right and heading straight on when you come to another gateway.



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 **1**, walk to the Trent & Mersey Canal and turn right to follow the towpath into 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.



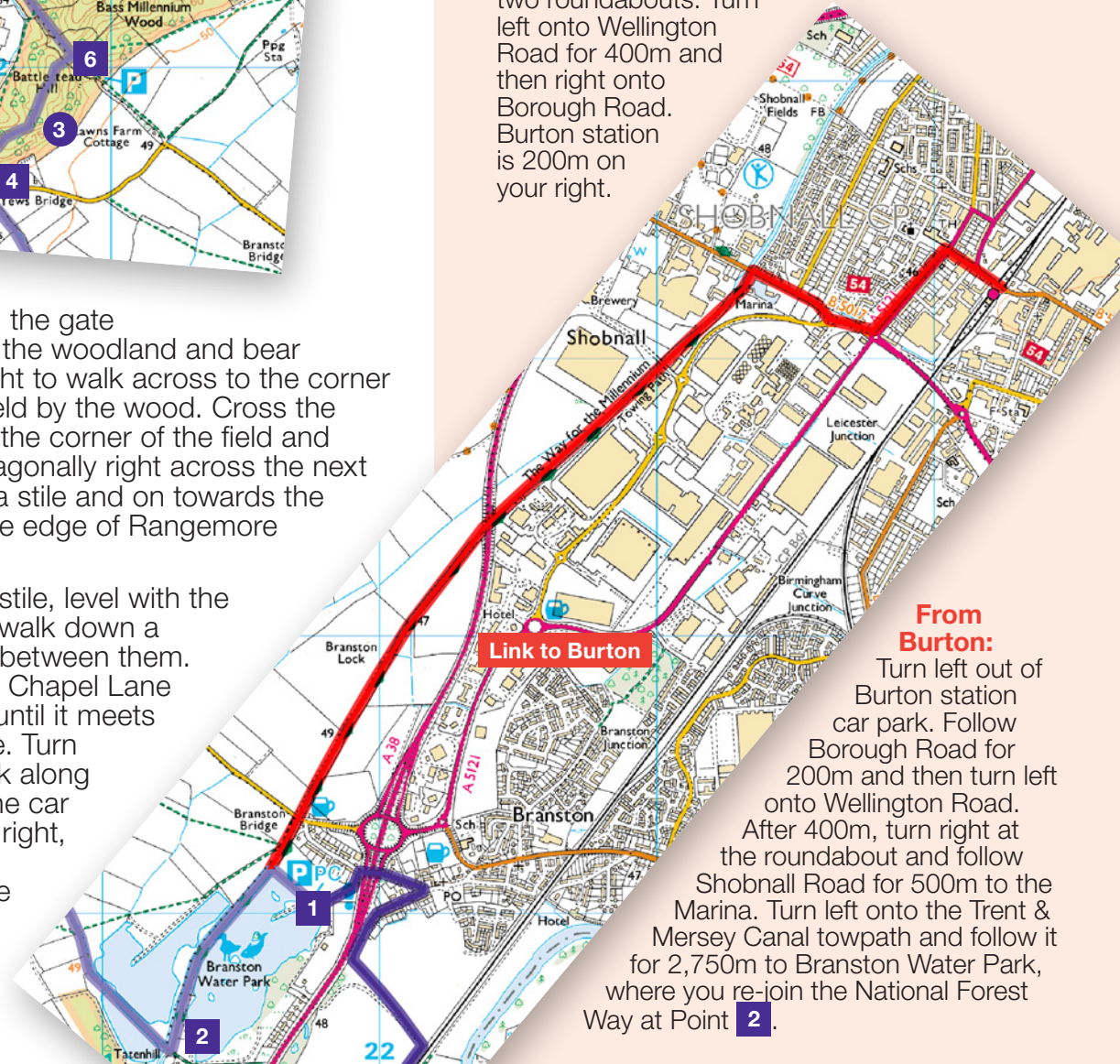
11 At the gate next to the horse jump at the bottom of the hill, go through it and turn left to walk along the valley bottom with hills rising either side of you.

12 Carry straight on through the next gateway follow the path uphill until you reach a stile at the top left-hand corner of the field. Cross this stile and walk across the next field, keeping the hedge on your left. Keep going straight on as this path goes over another stile, through a gateway and on to the road.

13 Cross the stile by the road and turn right to walk along the road for about 200m. Before the large coach house on the left, you will see a gateway on the right-hand side of the road that leads onto a permissive path. Head through the gate and turn left to follow the path past a pond and into some woodland. Carry on following the path as it crosses a track with fences and stiles either side.

14 Pass through the gate at the end of the woodland and bear diagonally right to walk across to the corner of the next field by the wood. Cross the footbridge in the corner of the field and then head diagonally right across the next field, across a stile and on towards the houses on the edge of Rangemore village.

15 Cross a final stile, level with the houses, and walk down a passageway between them. Turn left onto Chapel Lane and follow it until it meets Tatenhill Lane. Turn right and walk along the road to the car park on your right, opposite the school, where this stage ends.



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 at Point **2**.

Useful Information

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 **6** 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.

Points of interest along this stage

1 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.



3 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.



2 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 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.



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.

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.

