



THE NATIONAL FOREST

& BEYOND
2015



GREAT PLACES TO STAY, HIDDEN TREASURES, ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS ACROSS PARTS OF
DERBYSHIRE, LEICESTERSHIRE & STAFFORDSHIRE

A large, dark tree stands on the left side of the frame, its trunk and branches silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset. The sun is positioned high in the upper right, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene with a warm, orange glow. In the lower right, a deer with a spotted coat is grazing on the grass. A wooden fence is partially visible on the far right. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

WELCOME TO...

THE NATIONAL FOREST & BEYOND



We're creating a new forest for the nation and we can't wait for you to see it. Over the following pages, you'll find a host of things to see and do in and around our 200 square miles – a vibrant and varied landscape that takes in ancient forest and newly planted woodland, wildflower meadows and rugged, rocky uplands. You'll find reminders of the region's industrial heritage, atmospheric castles and mighty manor houses, bluebell woods and country parks home to herds of deer. This guide will give you a taste of what the National Forest & Beyond has to offer, but we can only squeeze in so much. If you want the full picture, you'll have to come and experience it for yourself.



PHOTOS: (l to r) Bradgate Park, English oak, Calke Abbey, common blue butterfly, National Forest Adventure Farm.

What is THE NATIONAL FOREST?



The National Forest is one of Britain's boldest environmental projects, creating a forest for the nation across 200 square miles of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

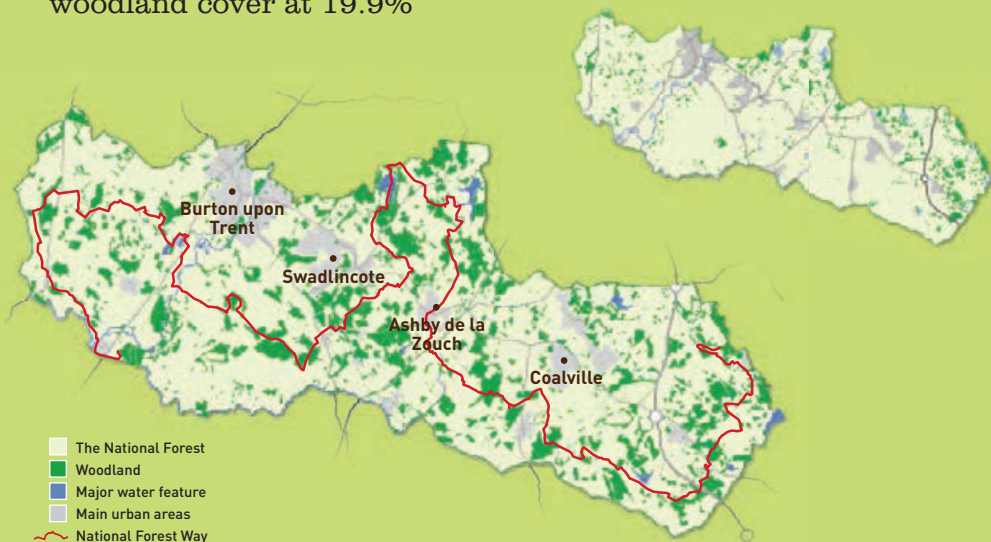
Since the early 1990s, the National Forest Company and its partners have transformed one of the least wooded parts of the country. More than 8 million trees have been planted, trebling the woodland cover and regenerating former industrial areas to create thriving woodlands and flourishing habitats for wildlife, and a beautiful landscape for everyone to enjoy.

Help create this 'forest in the making' through our Plant a Tree scheme. You will be invited to a special tree planting day and receive a certificate. This makes a great gift! For more information contact the National Forest Company on 01283 551 211 or visit the website www.nationalforest.org



The National Forest at
31 March 2014 with
woodland cover at 19.9%

Pre National Forest
woodland cover 1991





06



14



26



18



46

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Walk this WAY

Walkers now have another compelling reason to visit the National Forest & Beyond. Grab your boots and explore our new National Forest Way, a 75-mile trail that offers an inspiring ground-level view of our varied and ever-changing landscape.



As you like it

Don't be put off by that potentially daunting distance. Hardcore hikers may wish to take on the challenge of the entire 75 miles all in one go, but this is a walking experience designed to be savoured in tasty, bite-sized chunks. Divided into 12 sections measuring between four and eight miles (which can be walked in either direction), the National Forest Way is open to everyone.

A day on the Way

There's no such thing as a typical walk on our Way. Just like the Forest itself, the National Forest Way can't be easily summed up. It's a kaleidoscopic journey through landscapes that encompass ancient woodlands and thousands of newly planted trees, lush grassy meadows and bountiful lakes and rivers. A day on the Way can begin in the former Leicestershire coalfield where the growing Forest is healing old industrial scars and end amid the jagged rocky outcrops and brooding uplands of Charnwood.

A walk on the National Forest Way gives you the time and space to appreciate what's been achieved so far in creating The National Forest and what is still to come.

To start planning your journey on the National Forest Way, download trail leaflets and maps at www.nationalforestway.co.uk



Where to walk...

... for changing landscapes

Thornton Reservoir to Sence Valley Forest Park

Once a sooty hotbed of the region's coal industry, this especially symbolic stretch of the Way now illustrates the Forest's ongoing transformation. Today, Sence Valley Forest Park is home to 100,000 trees, three lakes and abundant wildlife. Not bad for a former opencast mine.

... for widescreen views

Beacon Hill Country Park to Bradgate Park

Climb to the 245m summit of Beacon Hill – the second-highest point in Leicestershire – for panoramic vistas of heath and grassland dotted with sheep, cattle and alpaca. There are similarly impressive sights at Old John Tower, an 18th-century folly perched at the highest point of rugged and rocky Bradgate Park.

... for ancient woodland

Rangemore to Yoxall

Not all our trees are newcomers. This section of the Way takes you on a woody wander through 13th-century Needwood Forest including Jackson's Bank, just one of the historic woodlands scattered throughout the Forest.

... for history and heritage

Ashby de la Zouch to Ticknall

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Ticknall was a bustling hub of lime quarries and potteries. It's much quieter nowadays, but the perfectly preserved village still has plenty of reminders of its industrial heritage. Nearby Calke Abbey tells the story of a country house in decline in an authentic, arresting way.

... for wildlife and water

Ticknall to Hartshorne

Traverse the boardwalks through Hartshorne Bog for marshy displays of wetland flowers. Then wander the shores of Foremark Reservoir, a watery habitat for more than 200 species of bird, plus more than 300 species of moths and butterflies.



BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Dot Morson of the Overseal Health Walkers group gives a local view on the National Forest Way.

We are chipping away at the National Forest Way, walking the route monthly. We are enjoying the changing scenes, sharing the heritage and natural history en route. The area around Rosliston Forestry Centre is an excellent place to understand the changing landscape of South Derbyshire. Created 20 years ago the Centre has developed into a well used and rapidly growing facility. It is always busy with dog walkers, cyclists and folks out for fresh air. Greenheart Lake's edges are softened now that marginal plants are flourishing. Walking through fields of maize and oilseed rape we come to Penguin Wood. The central part of the woodland has been planted with wildflowers. It changes colour through the seasons, from the pink of red campion in spring to white of wild carrot then the blues of vipers bugloss and cornflower in the late summer. We hope to continue walking short stretches of the route. It will probably take us three years to complete the challenge. So far we have enjoyed every step of the way.





REASONS to love the National Forest Way

In July 2014 local walker Hazel McDowell traversed all 75 miles of the National Forest Way from west to east in six days. She wrote about her journey online, becoming the very first National Forest Way blogger in the process. We asked Hazel to pick out a few highlights – it was quite a challenge to narrow them down, but here are 10 of her best experiences.



1) Morning coffee in the gardens at **Wychnor Park Country Club** – superb views over the Staffordshire countryside towards Lichfield and its cathedral. **[Stage 12]**

2) Magnificent **Battlestead Hill** – I could feel the natural history of the place as I strode past the huge beech tree at the heart of the mature woodland. Big views from the ridgetop path captured the diversity of the National Forest & Beyond as well as its heritage – farmland, wooded hills, the River Trent, gravel pits, the sheds and factories of Beer Town, the Trent and Mersey Canal and the Midland Railway. **[Stage 10]**

3) Crossing the river plain between **Branston** and **Walton on Trent** was a feast of butterflies, dragonflies, bees and wildflowers. It was wonderful to enjoy the peace and to see nature overflowing. I had the place to myself apart from the cheery waves from an occasional train driver. **[Stage 9]**

4) The woodlands, old and new, between **Rosliston** and **Overseal**. Rosliston Forestry Centre was another beautifully peaceful place – just me and the rabbits this time. **[Stage 8]**

5) The medieval spring at **Blackfordby** – a refreshing dip revived my tired feet. A wonderfully restful spot to stop, stare and soak up the atmosphere of this pretty village. **[Stage 7]**

6) **Carver's Rocks** – a marooned outcrop of Gritstone more usually found in the Peak District. In the morning light they loomed above me – a magical moment. **[Stage 6]**



THE NATIONAL
FOREST WAY

For more information visit:

www.nationalforestway.co.uk



7) Delicious tea and scones at **Calke Abbey** – elegant Downton Abbey treats for the civilised walker. (Stage 5)

8) **Dimminsdale** was a lush, green oasis. Moss-covered branches, deep reflective pools, stony crags and abundant ferns. Quite simply, a delightful woodland. (Stage 5)

9) **Martinshaw Wood** – more beautiful woodland. Tranquil and inviting, with dappled sunlight filtering through the canopy of mature trees. (Stage 2)

10) The summit of **Beacon Hill** – almost the end of the trail. A fabulous 360-degree view greets walkers when they reach the trig point. A splendid, uplifting finale. (Stage 1)



If you want to get the full picture of Hazel's Way experience visit her blog at



alocalsummerstroll.blogspot.co.uk




PHOTOS: (l to r) Stag at Calke Park, boots on stile, Beacon Hill, Nuthatch, Bradgate Park, Calke Park, navigating the Way.





Our GREAT outdoors



The National Forest & Beyond is packed with places to explore and things to do. Navigate leafy trails on foot or by bike, take to the water at marinas and reservoirs, spot woodland wildlife. You can even add to the Forest by planting your own trees.

FOREST FACTFILE: Our great outdoors

Six great outdoorsy experiences:

- 1) Meet the Old Man of Calke. The National Forest may be a youngster, but this majestic oak tree in the grounds of **Calke Abbey** is thought to be around 1,200 years old.
- 2) Set sail for the largest inland marina in Europe and take a waterside stroll on the buzzing new Boardwalk at **Mercia Marina**. There's more watery fun at **Barton Marina**, while anglers and wildlife watchers should head to **Branston Waterpark**.
- 3) Have a flutter at the **Midlands Grand National** at Uttoxeter Racecourse. Try not to lose your shirt at one of the biggest race meetings of the year.
- 4) See the light at the six **Noon Columns** dotted around the Forest. Slats cut into these 3m-plus oak sculptures allow rays of sunshine through at 'true' noon each day.
- 5) Watch wildlife. Download our free **Where to See Wildlife in the National Forest** guide for tips on spotting foxes, deer, badgers, bats and butterflies.
- 6) Make a Royal appointment to visit the **Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Wood**, one of 19 woodlands in the Forest owned by the Woodland Trust.



Naturally
colourful –
all year
round



Swathes of bluebells pop up from the forest floor at the **Outwoods**.



Kaleidoscopic blooms in the wildflower meadows at the **National Memorial Arboretum**.



Dazzling displays of deep reds and burnished golds glow at **Bluebell Arboretum and Nursery**.



The whole cycle starts again with carpets of sparkling snowdrops at **Dimmingsdale Nature Reserve**.

PHOTOS: (l to r) Calke Abbey, goldfinch, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Mercia Marina, wildlife watching, Hicks Lodge: The National Forest Cycle Centre, National Forest Way stage 8.

The wheel thing

Get on your bike at **Hicks Lodge: The National Forest Cycle Centre** and explore the Forest on gentle trails or pulse-pounding single-track routes. You can also saddle up at top cycle destinations like **Rosliston Forestry Centre**, **Conkers Circuit** and the **Ashby Wolds Heritage Trail**.

Park life

The 830-acre **Bradgate Park** – home to huge herds of red and fallow deer – is a rugged landscape of rocky outcrops and ancient oaks that's a haven for walkers and wildlife spotters. But don't take our word for it – it was named one of the Top 10 Parks in the UK in the 2014 TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards.

Growing success

Help create this forest for the nation through the **Plant a Tree** scheme – either for yourself or as a gift. You'll be invited to return to the Forest for a special tree-planting day to plant a young 'whip' that will grow into a permanent reminder of your visit.

Easy access

Outdoor experiences in the National Forest & Beyond are open to everyone. With gentle gradients, surfaced trails and disabled parking, the **Conkers Circuit** offers an accessible route into the heart of the Forest. Or hire a Trampler mobility scooter to explore the **Outwoods** in Charnwood Forest.

Where it's at

Ashby Wolds Heritage Trail
www.leics.gov.uk/ashbywolds

Barton Marina
www.bartonmarina.com

Beacon Hill Country Park
www.leicscountryparks.org.uk

Bluebell Arboretum and Nursery
www.bluebellnursery.com

Bradgate Park
www.bradgatepark.org

Branston Water Park
www.nationalforest.org/visit

Calke Abbey
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/calke-abbey

Conkers Circuit
www.nationalforestcharitabletrust.co.uk/vision/conkerscircuit.php

Dimmingsdale Nature Reserve
www.lrw.org.uk/nature-reserves/dimmingsdale

Hicks Lodge: The National Forest Cycle Centre
www.forestry.gov.uk/hicks lodge

Melbourne: Walkers are Welcome town
www.melbournefootpathsgroup.wordpress.com

Mercia Marina
www.merciamarina.co.uk

Midlands Grand National
www.uttoxeter-racecourse.co.uk/midlandsgrandnational

National Forest Walking Festival
www.thenationalforestwalkingfestival.org.uk

National Forest Way
www.nationalforestway.co.uk

National Memorial Arboretum
www.thenma.org.uk

Noon Columns
www.nationalforest.org/involved/noon

Outwoods
www.chnwood.gov.uk/pages/outwoodsinformation

Plant a Tree
www.nationalforest.org/sponsor/plantatree

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Wood
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods

Rosliston Forestry Centre
www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk

Sence Valley Forest Park
www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/EnglandDerbyshireTheNationalForest

Walking Guides
www.visitnationalforest.co.uk/walks

Where to See Wildlife in the National Forest
www.visitnationalforest.co.uk/woods

Best foot forward



Whether you're looking for a hardcore hike or a gentle stroll, the National Forest & Beyond is made for walking. Here's why:

- Hundreds of miles of paths and trails criss-cross the region, an amazing maze of tranquil woodland, picture-perfect villages and remnants of ancient and industrial history. Our 20 free **Walking Guides**, downloadable from our website, offer inspiration for walks long and short.
- Walkers are very welcome here – quite literally in the case of **Melbourne**, a hiking epicentre that's Derbyshire's first official 'Walkers Are Welcome' town.
- We like to make an event of things – join a guided walk as part of the **National Forest Walking Festival**, held every May.

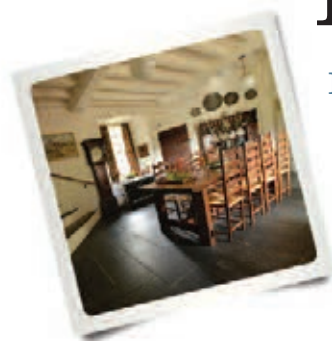


THE NATIONAL FOREST WAY by numbers





At HOME with HISTORY



Heritage writer Neil Jones pays a visit to some of the National Forest & Beyond's historic houses – including Stoneywell*, the National Trust's newly opened Arts and Crafts cottage – to discover a homely heritage featuring everything from medieval luxury to aristocratic eccentricity.



I crest a gentle slope and, suddenly, there it is down a winding path: a hobbit, stone-built cottage growing from a rocky outcrop. Its curious zigzag of slate rooflines and giant chimneystack are half hidden by banks of heather, and I'm gripped by a childlike sense of adventure. I'm not the only one. A surreptitious look at my fellow visitors reveals a similarly awakened glint in eyes.

'Everyone working here has fallen in love with Stoneywell,' says visitor guide Gill Tyler as she welcomes us to the hideaway at Ulverscroft in the Charnwood Forest. Built as a summer home in 1899 by locally born architect-designer Ernest Gimson, the Grade II*-listed cottage is an incredibly rare surviving example of an Arts and Crafts home still with its original contents and family records.

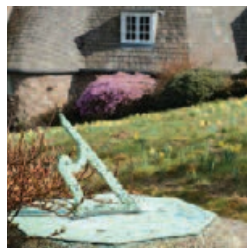


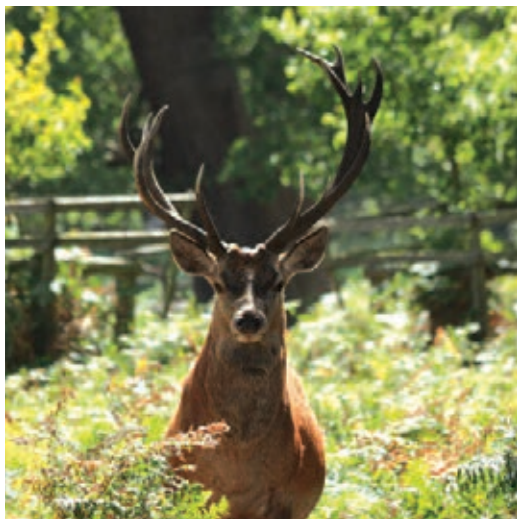
True to the movement's ideals of craftsmanship and authentic living, simplicity and nature-inspired designs, it couldn't have a more harmonious backdrop than its four acres of gardens beside 11 acres of protected Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) woodland.

We're immediately immersed in echoes of family fun and the charm of Arts and Crafts furnishings, from ladderback chairs to homely bookshelves.

Light-filled rooms, helter-skeltering up twisting stairs over seven levels, are presented as they were in the 1950s when the Gimsons lived here. We smile at their Swallows and Amazons books, play with the wind-up train, snuggle on the chimney seat.

All the while Gill regales us with anecdotes of cottage life, like the family legend of the raging bull that stuck its horns through the fireplace lintel, and never-ending outdoor games of hide-and-seek. It's glint-in-the-eye time again as we tumble out into the garden – dazzling with daffodils and bluebells in spring, crunchy with leaves in autumn – to the tree swing, to picnic or wander the woodland walk. Only the promise of cake in the tearoom in the old laundry lures us back.





Changing rooms



A few miles – and several centuries – away I spend the afternoon at Donington le Heath Manor House. Once home to the family of well-to-do lawyer, Robert de Herle, it was later owned by one of the Gunpowder Plotters and ‘modernised’ in the early 17th century.

Walking into the glow of the kitchen, I get the feeling its residents have just popped out for a minute.

There’s a roasting spit, food is laid out, and I browse the secrets of pottage and furmenty in a recipe book.

‘In the 17th century a room like this was important both for food preparation and as a semi-formal reception, like a farmhouse kitchen today,’ says heritage development manager Richard Knox. ‘It was the heart of the home, cosy with a fire and something bubbling on top. People probably spent a lot of time here.’

I play detective, spotting the changing fashions in domestic life through the years around the house – like the Great Chamber’s large mullioned windows, added when gazing on pleasant views became all the rage. Recreated flower and herb gardens, an orchard and maze now provide perfect period vistas. The National Forest has also done its bit by planting woodland that seems entirely appropriate.

Next day, I take a tour of Ashby de la Zouch Castle, a 12th-century manor house transformed into a castle in the 15th century by King Edward IV’s powerful chamberlain, William, Lord Hastings. Now it’s a

PHOTOS: (l to r) Calke Abbey lime avenue, stag in Calke Park, Ashby de la Zouch Castle, Donington le Heath Manor House, Calke Abbey.



mighty ruin managed by English Heritage, but what rich stories these stones tell.

‘When Hastings was here, it would have been luxury living from top to bottom... his power statement,’ says castle manager Daphne Hewitt as we admire the soaring storeys of the Great Tower, the architectural centrepiece. ‘They had terrific, elaborate tapestries hung on the walls to keep the draughts out. There was also a portcullis for defence.’

Remains of vast fireplaces and kitchens conjure up images of great feasts, while the tower gives superb views of prominent earthworks – the traces of once-magnificent Tudor gardens, with two brick banqueting towers still in place. These folks knew how to party.

Ultimate shabby chic

Calke Abbey at Ticknall brings a complete contrast. Far from flaunting their wealth to the outside world, successive baronets of the Harpur Crewe family who lived here from 1622 to 1985 preferred solitude, idiosyncratic hobbies and collecting.

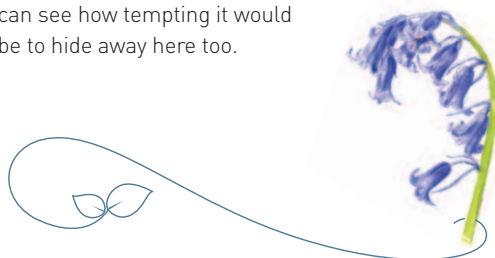
‘They were hoarders, they didn’t throw anything away,’ says volunteer guide Ann Potterton as I step into the twilit Entrance Hall. When the National Trust took over the stately pile it left the flaking paintwork and overgrown courtyards to illustrate the dramatic decline of so many country houses in the 20th century.

Taking shabby chic to the limit, Calke Abbey is an amazing world of faded glory and gently ticking clocks, yet bursting with the character of its eccentric baronets and their collections of stuffed birds, rocks, minerals, paintings, books and toys.

In the gardens and beautiful ancient parkland, where many trees are descended from the original wildwood that once covered Britain, you

can see how tempting it would be to hide away here too.

“Walking into the glow of the kitchen, I get the feeling its residents have just popped out for a minute.”



FOREST FACTFILE: Past masters

We're much more than woodland. From ancient kings in their castles to the miners, potters and brewers who toiled in our industries, the National Forest & Beyond tells a human story that spans centuries.

The Forest at work

Though the trees are coming back, our industrial past is still very much in evidence:

- Hear the coal story. Join an ex-miner at **Snibston Discovery Museum** for a guided tour of former colliery buildings, complete with first-hand accounts of a life spent working underground. Dig into artefacts from the Forest's former collieries in the **South Derbyshire Mining Museum at Conkers**. See pictures of the miners at work – plus picks and shovels used to mine the region's 'black gold'.
- Get a taste of the Forest's brewing heritage at the **National Brewery Centre** in Burton upon Trent. Hear real-life stories from former residents of 'Beer Town', learn about the brewing process and even sample a few ales.
- Experience industrial history in action at **Claymills Victorian Pumping Station**. On regular steaming sessions you'll see – and hear – the mighty beam engines bursting into noisy life.
- Explore **Moira Furnace**, a 19th-century ironmaking blast furnace on the banks of the Ashby Canal. This industrial relic still has plenty of life left in it – each year it's the backdrop to the **Moira Furnace Folk Festival** and the **Moira Canal Festival**.
- Visit award-winning **Sharpe's Pottery Museum** for a glimpse into one of South Derbyshire's most prolific historic industries. Head inside the huge 19th-century kiln and learn about innovations in sanitation in the Toilet Story exhibition.



CONNECTIONS

Explore the life and death of King Richard III. Visit **Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre** to find out more about how he met his violent end. Then head to the award-winning **King Richard III Visitor Centre** in Leicester – located on the spot where his remains were discovered in 2012 – to see his final resting place and learn about the work that went into unearthing him. For real Royal historians, Stay Play Explore even offers **Richard III Short Breaks**.



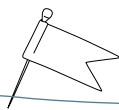
A walk to remember

The **National Memorial Arboretum** is a spiritually uplifting place for reflection and remembrance. With riverside walks and wildflower meadows, it is a lasting, living tribute, to those who have died in both military and civilian service.

PHOTOS: (l to r) National Brewery Centre, mining archive, Claymills Victorian Pumping Station, National Memorial Arboretum, Moira Furnace, Bosworth Battlefield, Wildflower meadow at the National Memorial Arboretum, Battlefield Line.



Where it's at



Ashby Canal
www.ashbycanal.org.uk

Ashby de la Zouch Castle
www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/ashby-de-la-zouch-castle

Battlefield Line
www.battlefieldline.co.uk

Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre
www.bosworthbattlefield.com

Calke Abbey
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/calke-abbey

Claymills Victorian Pumping Station
www.claymills.org.uk

Conkers
www.visitconkers.com

Donington le Heath Manor House
www.doningtonleheath.com

Grace Dieu Priory
www.gracedieupriory.org.uk

Great Central Railway
www.gcrailway.co.uk

King Richard III Visitor Centre
www.kriii.com

Melbourne Festival of the Creative and Performing Arts
www.melbournefestival.co.uk

Melbourne Hall and Gardens
www.melbournehall.com

Moira Canal Festival
www.moiracanalfestival.co.uk

Moira Furnace
www.moirafurnace.org

Moira Furnace Folk Festival
www.moirafurnacefolkfestival.co.uk

National Brewery Centre
www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk

National Memorial Arboretum
www.thenma.org.uk

Richard III Short Breaks
www.stayplayexplore.co.uk/KingRichardIII.aspx

Sharpe's Pottery Museum
www.sharpspotterymuseum.org.uk

Snibston Discovery Museum
www.snibston.com

Stoneywell
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stoneywell

Sudbury Hall and the National Museum of Childhood
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sudbury-hall-and-museum-of-childhood

Through the keyhole

Turn to pages 14–17 to peek inside some of our fascinating historic homes



Alternative history

Three historic places with unusual stories to tell:

- Join a spooky ghost walk among the ruins of **Grace Dieu Priory**. Keep your eyes peeled for a spine-chilling glimpse of the infamous White Lady.
- It's playtime at **Sudbury Hall and the National Museum of Childhood**. Fuel your nostalgia with a huge collection of old toys, including tin cars, wooden dolls and clockwork marvels.
- Drop into **Melbourne Hall and Gardens**, an immaculately preserved stately home. Culture Vultures should time their visit with the annual **Melbourne Festival of the Creative and Performing Arts**.

The past in motion

Our travel and transport heritage offers some moving experiences:

- Relive the golden age of steam on the **Great Central Railway**. This double-track main line is the only place in the world where you'll see two full-sized steam engines passing each other.
- Climb on board a narrowboat for a trip down a restored section of the **Ashby Canal**. Once used to transport coal in the region's industrial heyday, it's now purely for pleasure.
- Travel back in time on the **Battlefield Line**. Ride a 19th-century locomotive through lush, rolling countryside to the site of the Battle of Bosworth. True train enthusiasts can even experience life as a driver for a day.





All TOGETHER now

Bike rides, bug hunts, campfires and canvas. For Guardian travel writing competition winner Graham Hood and family, a glamorous camping break in the National Forest & Beyond is an irresistible blend of thrills and tranquillity.



I sit outside our tent and watch the early morning sun chasing off a fine July mist. Vague shapes emerge revealing hedgerows, trees and a hare loping into a head-high cornfield. I feel that we are on an English safari. By the time our daughters appear for breakfast, the air is warm as toast. It is a day that starts gently, hinting of adventures to come.

We are luxuriously lodged at the Dandelion Hideaway, a glamorous camping site nestled in the Leicestershire fields on the fringe of The National Forest.

Our family three-roomed tent is a study in country-chic design with quirky-comfy furniture, wooden floors and huge beds topped with cloud-like duvets and intricate patchwork quilts.

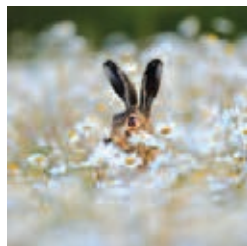
Sharon, the mother hen at the Hideaway, had introduced us to our wood-burning stove with genuine affection. 'This is the soul of the tent,' she smiled. We bask in the warmth and wait for the stove-top kettle to boil as our two girls flit and chase like butterflies around the field. They return with fresh eggs from the on-site hen house. Free-range eggs collected by free-range teenagers.

Sharon visibly loves the countryside around here. Her simple advice is 'Just get out and discover.' And we do. A steam train ride in a 1930s carriage on the Battlefield Line transports us to the past and more precisely to Shackerston Station. The higgledy-piggledy station café offers tea, Victorian ambience and indulgent cakes, which the girls – in full Famous Five mode – describe as 'spiffing'.

“Our family three-roomed tent is a study in country-chic design with quirky-comfy furniture, wooden floors and huge beds topped with cloud-like duvets and intricate patchwork quilts.”

Rousing rides

In its heyday the train chuffed its way north through to the village of Moira, now at the heart of The National Forest, providing vital links for the former mining works. The miners are now supplanted by gaggles of cheery cyclists at Hicks Lodge: The



National Forest Cycle Centre, where before I have even locked the car, the girls are eyeing up the hire bikes, trails and snacks in the café. Their energy is irresistible and within minutes we have been kitted-out, instructed and released onto the newly landscaped forest trails. Youthful enthusiasm ensures we cover every centimetre of track before parental exhaustion sees my wife and I happy to retire from pedalling, leaving the girls on bikes to swoop, squeal and relish this freedom like fledgling birds leaving the nest.

Enjoying a reviving lemonade, back in the café our youngest daughter is drawn to a photo on the wall, showing a vast opencast mine with monstrous diggers. 'Oh, that photo was taken in 2001,' says a guy serving in the café 'Just over there,' he adds, pointing to a tree-covered hillock. 'The year I was born!' exclaims Sophia, as it dawns on her that this transformed landscape is only as old as she is.

Since the 1990s over eight million trees have been planted to create The National Forest, knitting together a vast patchwork of fields, villages, industry and communities, all framed by woodland. Looking at a map my wife suggests that the Forest boundary looks a bit like a squashed oak leaf, but we're not so sure. We decide that some family woodland education is needed.



Woody wonders

So we head to Rosliston Forestry Centre, one of the first National Forest woodlands to be planted. The buzz in the air may be the bees in the herb garden or the busy hum of people at play as over-60s Nordic walkers glide past young pond-dippers, children in the playground making dens and mums on fitness walks with pushchairs. This, it appears, is re-generation for every generation.

Our ambition at Rosliston is to 'wise-up' to trees, as we don't know a willow from a walnut. The self-guided Tree Trail offers arboreal enlightenment. As we beaver around studying native species of trees, we learn more about their uses, myths and legends. As it happens, *Fraxinus Excelsior* is not a Harry Potter curse, but the scientific name for the ash tree – and you can make a sort-of-coffee drink out of roasted acorns from the oak.

We return to the Hideaway happily tired and enjoy the simple pleasure of baked potatoes topped with Leicestershire Red Sparkenhoe cheese, followed by marshmallows on sticks round a communal fire. We are re-discovering a more natural, languid rhythm and are lulled to sleep by the sound of silence.

“Our ambition at Rosliston is to ‘wise-up’ to trees, as we don’t know a willow from a walnut.”

Action stations

The next day, friends visit from Birmingham, less than an hour away. We begin our day at the National Memorial Arboretum. Cheery Wendy on reception greets us, 'Want a Bug Explore Backpack?' she asks, as we have missed the weekly Wildlife Wednesday family activity. The girls take the packs and scurry off to explore the site and find mini-beasts in the 150 acres of woodlands, wetlands, reed beds and sculpted memorials. Wendy explains that the Arboretum has been created on reclaimed gravel workings and is now a haven for wildlife. 'You might be lucky enough to spot otters, or at least their tracks, beside the river, or herons, dragonflies and even hares among the saplings and memorials.'

PHOTOS: (l to r) Conkers assault course, bug hunting, butterfly catching, Conkers, small heath butterfly.



As well as being the national centre for reflection and remembrance, the Arboretum is alive with activity and nature, creating an environment that both respects the past and equally celebrates the vividness of life.

We leave uplifted in spirit and probably with a few bugs in our hair too!

Things are a bit more bonkers at Conkers. We encounter a two-metre badger called Ernest who tags along on the mini-train that trundles through the heart of the site. Hidden among the multitude of attractions is an impressively adventurous 18-stage assault course. Our daughters scamper upwards like squirrels, appearing fleetingly to throw out a sunny wave, peeping among the leaves of the lower canopy.

Back at the Hideaway a pewter moon climbs the hedge-line into the night sky. We talk about our

adventures over our first ever game of candle-lit Scrabble. No electricity means no distractions and the girls win the game convincingly, fuelled by hot chocolate warmed on the wood-burning stove.

The fresh air, activity and simplicity of outdoor life seems to have sharpened senses and energies.

I blow out the candles, leaving the sharp moonlight to cast shadows into the tent. The scent of wax and wood-smoke lingers as the girls busy themselves for bed. I can hear their gentle plotting. 'Next time, let's bring a bunch of friends,' suggests the youngest. 'And get mum and dad to sleep in another tent,' adds her sister. Good plan, I think – and next time we'll collect the eggs.



FOREST FACTFILE: Generation games

Families are waking up to what's happening in the National Forest & Beyond. Be a zookeeper for the day, climb an oak tree, explore leafy woods or travel back in time at one of our fascinating museums. Our family breaks come in all shapes and sizes, from simple woody pleasures to entertaining and engaging heritage attractions.

The max factor

Action-packed activities for little (and big) adventurers:

- Become Tarzan on the new high ropes course at **Conkers** due to open summer 2015. Or indulge your inner action hero on the assault course.
- Enjoy some high-octane thrills at **Donington Park Racing Circuit**. Watch superbikes and sports cars race around the oldest park circuit in England.
- Feed your need for speed at **Swadlincote Ski and Snowboard Centre**. Ride the slopes on bouncy sno-tubes or tackle the 500m Cresta Run toboggan track.
- Wheely explore the Forest from **Hicks Lodge: The National Forest Cycle Centre**. Hire bikes or bring your own. Ride gentle, family friendly routes or rugged off-road tracks. Keep pedalling for more at **Rosliston Forestry Centre**, **Conkers Circuit** and the **Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail**.
- Make a splash in the outdoor lido at **Hood Park Leisure Centre** – a fun family attraction dating back to the 1930s.
- Fulfil footy fantasies at **St George's Park**

National Football Centre. Book a tour in advance to see the starry autograph wall and replica Wembley pitch.



The fun doesn't stop on rainy days. Visit the indoor play barn at the **National Forest Adventure Farm**, a 3000 sq/m wonderland of sliding and climbing adventure. In the summer months, the whole family can navigate the Maize Maze, featuring three miles of twisting pathways, plus bridges and viewing towers. Kids will also be captivated at **Snibston Discovery Museum**, an interactive exploration of the region's mining history.





Wild things

Where to go for some animal magic:

- Be a zookeeper for a day. Go behind the scenes at **Twycross Zoo** to help feed and care for the animals.
- Go batty on a nature walk at **Rosliston Forestry Centre** or **Sence Valley Forest Park**. Head out at dusk armed with a special detector to hear the ultrasonic squeaks of rare bats.
- Watch the birdies at **Branston Water Park**. This 40-acre lake is a haven for our feathered friends – don't forget your binoculars.
- If you go down on the farm today at **Highfields Happy Hens** you'll see fluffy chicks, pygmy goats and lots of other animals.



Take a break

A family holiday to the National Forest & Beyond doesn't have to cost the earth. **Stay Play Explore** offers affordable breaks combining four-star accommodation with a range of great things to do. Choose from visits to attractions like **Twycross Zoo** and **Snibston Discovery Museum** or activities like tobogganing, cycling and outdoor pursuits.

Find your own way

During the summer holidays, the National Trust's **Calke Abbey**'s grounds are transformed into Calke Explore, a wild and woody playground of secret paths and hidden hideaways designed for young explorers.



50,000

That's the number of trees at the **National Memorial Arboretum** in Alrewas. Don't worry, we don't expect you to count them all. Pick up a Kid's Guidebook and see how many different types you can spot.

Branch out with a range of fun family activities at the **National Forest Wood Fair** at Beacon Hill County Park, held every August bank holiday.

- Hear stories from the Wild Man of the Woods
- Make your own eco art from natural forest materials
- Clip on a harness and climb a majestic oak tree
- Get a bird's eye view from the tree surgeon's platform



Where it's at



Ashby Wouds Heritage Trail
www.leics.gov.uk/ashbywouds

Battlefield line
www.battlefieldline.co.uk

Branston Water Park
www.nationalforest.org/visit

Calke Abbey
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/calke-abbey

Conkers
www.visitconkers.com

Conkers Circuit
www.nationalforestcharitabletrust.co.uk/vision/conkerscircuit.php

Donington Park Racing Circuit
www.donington-park.co.uk

Hicks Lodge: The National Forest Cycle Centre
www.forestry.gov.uk/hicks lodge

Highfields Happy Hens
www.highfieldshappyhens.co.uk

Hood Park Leisure Centre
www.nwleics.gov.uk/hoodparklc

National Forest Adventure Farm
www.adventurefarm.co.uk

National Forest Wood Fair
www.nationalforestwoodfair.co.uk

National Memorial Arboretum
www.thenma.org.uk

Rosliston Forestry Centre
www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk

Sence Valley Forest Park
www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/Engl andDerbyshireTheNationalForest

Snibston Discovery Museum
www.snibston.com

St George's Park
www.thefa.com/st-georges-park

Stay Play Explore
www.stayplayexplore.co.uk

Swadlincote Ski and Snowboard Centre
www.jnlswadlincote.co.uk

Twycross Zoo
www.twycrosszoo.org





Savour THE flavour

The National Forest & Beyond is bursting with local flavour. You'll find refined restaurants serving classy cuisine, welcoming country inns, farm shops stacked with delicious fresh produce – plus brilliant beer and wine from our very own vineyards and breweries. Here's a taste of what's on offer.





FOREST FACTFILE: Savour the flavour



Down on the farm



Go straight to the source for some field-fresh food at **Betty's Farm and Shop** in Willington. Alongside eggs from the farm's flock of free-range hens, the shop sells a huge

selection of tempting produce with minimal food miles on the clock – 70% of it is sourced from within 15 miles. There's more local goodness on offer at **The Cattows Farm Shop** in Heather. Take your pick from seasonal fruit and veg like plump red strawberries and savoy cabbage, plus highly sought after asparagus spears, available between April and June. Pop into the award-winning tea room to taste some of the produce in delicious home-cooked meals and snacks.

Food with a view

As the name suggests, **Lakeside Bistro** in Moira serves up lovely watery vistas alongside its menu of tasty locally sourced treats. Set on the banks of Shortheath Water fishing lake, it's the ideal spot for a morning coffee, light lunch or hearty evening meal. Keen (and hungry) anglers will be pleased to learn that the bistro even delivers food straight to the water's edge.



Raising the bar

Fancy a pint? Here are a few traditional taverns where you'll find cool drinks and warm welcomes:

- There's a lot going on at **The Three Horseshoes** in Breedon on the Hill. Alongside good drinks and great local food, you'll find a farm shop and **The BitterSweet Chocolate Company**.
- With a rotating cast of real ales and an extensive wine list, **The Curzon Arms** in Woodhouse Eaves is the perfect spot to wet your whistle. There's also a tempting menu of classic British pub grub.
- After a walk around Thornton Reservoir, recharge your batteries at **The Reservoir Inn**. Muddy boots are welcome in an airy bar offering tasty light bites, with the restaurant providing a more refined eating experience.
- It's beer heaven at **The John Thompson Inn** in Ingleby, home to the longest established microbrewery in the UK. Enjoy a huge selection of ales in a cosy, oak-beamed bar on the banks of the River Trent.
- You don't have to drink beer. Head to **The Winery** in Burton upon Trent and take your pick from a cellar stocked with more than 100 different wines. The restaurant offers similar variety, with five distinct dining areas to choose from.



PHOTOS: [l to r] Ashby de la Zouch Farmers' Market, dining in the National Forest & Beyond, Sealwood Cottage Vineyard, The Cattows Farm Shop, The BitterSweet Chocolate Company, fine dining.

Beer's the thing



Get a taste of the Forest's brewing heritage at one of our thriving microbreweries. **Burton Bridge Brewery** in Burton upon Trent has been crafting fine ales since 1982 – you'll find them in pubs all over the region. For a behind the scenes view, take a tour of the William Worthington microbrewery at the **National Brewery Centre**.



Where it's at



Betty's Farm and Shop
www.bettysfarmshop.co.uk
Burton Bridge Brewery
www.burtonbridgebrewery.co.uk
Lakeside Bistro
www.shorthathwater.co.uk/bistro.php
Marco's New York Italian
www.yewlodgehotel.co.uk
National Brewery Centre
www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk
Sealwood Cottage Vineyard
www.sealwoodcottage.co.uk
The Bay Tree
www.baytreerestaurant.com
The BitterSweet Chocolate Company
www.bittersweetchocolates.co.uk

The Cattows Farm Shop
www.thecattowsfarmshop.co.uk
The Curzon Arms
www.thecurzonarms.com
The John Thompson Inn & Brewery
www.johnthompsoninn.com
The Mill Wheel
www.themillwheel.co.uk
The Priest House Hotel
www.handpickedhotels.co.uk/hotels/priest-house
The Reservoir Inn
www.thereservoirinnthornton.co.uk
The Three Horseshoes
www.thehorseshoes.com
The Winery
www.thewineryburton.co.uk

Star quality

New for 2015, **Marco's New York Italian** restaurant at the Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth is celebrity chef Marco Pierre White's latest project. Drop in for a relaxed lunch or dinner, light bite or even a round of cocktails. It's the Forest's very own taste of the Big Apple.



4,200



That's the number of vines at **Sealwood Cottage Vineyard** in Linton. Join a behind-the-scenes tour to see the wine's journey from grape to bottle – then try some for yourself.

Treat yourself

If you're in the mood for something special, why not try one of the Forest's mouth-watering AA Rosette restaurants?



- **The Bay Tree**, Melbourne – Offering what it calls 'new world cuisine', this smart and stylish eatery combines the best British ingredients with exotic twists of flavour.
- **The Mill Wheel**, Hartshorne – Contemporary style meets traditional charm at this welcoming inn. Tuck into comfort food favourites like home-baked pies and beef bourguignon, all made with the finest local ingredients.
- **The Priest House Hotel**, Castle Donington – Innovative eating in a classic country house setting. Tickle your palate with dishes like crab-stuffed lemon sole and roast turbot with oxtail tortellini.



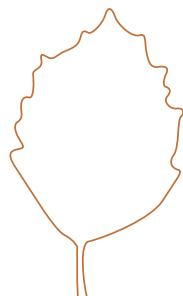


Making MEMORIES

There's a host of crafty and creative things to see and do in the National Forest & Beyond. Learn outdoor survival tricks of the trade, build your own coracle, decorate pottery, brush up your cooking skills or simply hit the shops to find the perfect gift or souvenir of your visit.

Do-it-yourself

Get hands-on with the Forest. Nestled in lush and leafy woodland, **Greenwood Days** in Spring Wood near Staunton Harold runs dozens of courses in traditional woodcraft skills, from basket making to willow weaving. It's the perfect way to experience the Forest. You'll leave with some great memories and new skills – plus a handmade memento of your time in the woods.



Why not try one of these?

The marksman

If you've ever dreamed of being Robin Hood, why not make your own longbow from a springy branch of ash?

The musician

Fashion a dulcimer or cigar box guitar, then gather



round the campfire for a lesson in playing your new instrument.

The homebody

Add some woodland charm to your house or garden by building traditional Windsor chairs, woven willow and hazel seats or sturdy, three-legged stools.



The paddler

Craft a traditional coracle – once the vehicle of choice for forest fishermen – then take it for a test drive on the lake at Staunton Harold Hall.



Fair play

Our annual **National Forest Wood Fair**, held every August bank holiday at Beacon Hill Country Park, is a wonderfully woody celebration of Forest life:

- Learn the secrets of wood carving and turning in classes led by master craftsmen. You can even buy your own woodworking tools to practise once you get home.
- Mix things up by brewing traditional woodland potions from herbs and plants found in the Forest.
- Watch a demonstration of chainsaw carving. See the sawdust fly as revved-up sculptors craft fantastical creations with their whirring blades.
- Cheer on the axe men in the lumberjack show, where mighty feats of woodcutting and forest skills take centre stage.
- Get your hands on some craft. Browse wooden items from bird boxes to rustic furniture and take home a handmade reminder of your visit.



FOREST FACTFILE: Making memories

Ditch the home comforts

Learn how to live off the land on a bushcraft course at **Field Sport UK** or **Woodland Survival Crafts**, both near Asbhy de la Zouch. Fancy yourself as Bear Grylls or Ray Mears? Then here's your chance to have a go.

- It's matchless – quite literally. Find out how to build a warming fire using a variety of traditional techniques.



- Construct your own wilderness shelter using only natural materials found in the forest.
- If you've got the stomach for it, take a game butchery course. Learn how to pluck a pheasant or skin and butcher a deer or rabbit, before cooking your meat over an open fire.
- Take the vegetarian option and forage for mushrooms, berries and other edible plants.



Arts alive

Head to the pretty town of Melbourne for its annual **Festival of the Creative and Performing Arts**, held every September. For an unusual perspective on our creative side, follow the Art and Architecture Trail to homes and businesses across the town that serve as temporary exhibition galleries for more than 100 artists. It's backed up by a soundtrack of live concerts including everything from choral music and opera to world music and acoustic folk. There's also the vibrant **Ashby Arts Festival**, held every May. Take your pick from a packed programme of events taking in theatre, film, music, photography, poetry and painting.



Cook up a storm

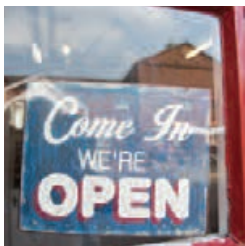
Sharpen your culinary skills with a course at **Seasoned Cookery School**. Whether you're an amateur Masterchef or a novice who doesn't know a crêpe pan from a casserole dish, you'll find dozens of inspirational kitchen classes in everything from Thai cuisine to brilliant baking. Or indulge your sweet tooth at **The BitterSweet Chocolate Company** by making your own tasty treats in the Chocolate Heaven Workshop. Don't fill up before you get started – sampling the goodies is actively encouraged.





Pot luck

Board **The Mug Tug**, a 70ft narrowboat permanently moored at **Barton Marina**, and decorate pottery with your own illustrations. It's cracking crafty fun for amateur artists of all ages. You can brush up your art skills at the **Paint a Pot Craft Studio**, creating one-of-a-kind designs on everything from plant pots to egg cups. It's one of many artsy attractions to be found in **Ferrers Centre for Arts and Crafts** at Staunton Harold. This inspirational collection of workshops, galleries and studios is a crafty paradise, boasting everything from blacksmiths and photographers to upholsterers and model makers.



Where it's at



Ashby Arts Festival
www.ashbyartsfestival.co.uk

Barton Marina
www.bartonmarina.co.uk

Chapman's Nurseries
www.chapmans-nurseries.co.uk

Coalville Market
www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/coalville_market

Ferrers Centre for Arts and Crafts
www.ferrerscentre.co.uk

Field Sport UK
www.fieldsportuk.co.uk

Greenwood Days
www.greenwood-days.co.uk

Melbourne Festival of the Creative and Performing Arts
www.melbournefestival.co.uk

Mercia Marina
www.merciamarina.co.uk
National Forest Wood Fair
www.nationalforestwoodfair.co.uk

Paint a Pot Craft Studio
www.paintapotcraftstudio.co.uk

Seasoned Cookery School
www.seasonedcourses.com

The BitterSweet Chocolate Company
www.bittersweetchocolates.co.uk

The Mug Tug
www.themugtug.co.uk

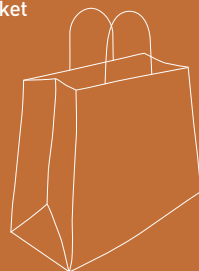
The Octagon Shopping Centre
www.theoctagoncentre.co.uk

Woodland Survival Crafts
www.woodlandcraftsurvival.co.uk



From hand-crafted souvenirs to fresh local produce, you'll find plenty of opportunities for some retail therapy in the National Forest & Beyond:

- Pick up field-fresh produce straight from the source at one of our regular farmers' markets. Take your pick from **Ashby de la Zouch** (third Saturday of the month), **Burton upon Trent** (second Thursday of the month), **Castle Donington** (second Saturday of the month) and **Swadlincote** (last Thursday of the month).
- Browse waterside shops offering designer clothing, contemporary art and indulgent home furnishings at **Barton Marina** and **Mercia Marina**.
- Snap up a bargain at **Coalville Market** (Tuesday, Friday and Saturday). This bustling market is home to more than 40 traders selling everything from fresh fruit and veg to bric-a-brac and boiled sweets.
- Go undercover at **The Octagon Shopping Centre** in Burton upon Trent. You'll find a host of big high-street names alongside independent retailers, all under one roof.
- Indulge your green fingers at **Chapman's Nurseries** in Rosliston. Spruce up your garden with a huge range of bedding plants and take a breather in the cosy Topiary Tearoom.
- Wander the historic market towns of **Ashby de la Zouch**, **Melbourne** and **Tutbury** to find streets lined with independent shops and quirky boutiques.





major
EVENTS

Why not plan a short break around a particular highlight in the calendar – check out our website for more ideas and inspiration

www.visitnationalforest.co.uk



Here's a taste of **WHAT'S HAPPENING** in 2015!

There's never a dull moment here in the National Forest & Beyond.

Here's the lowdown on a packed programme of festivals and events taking place throughout the year.



February

Snowdrop displays, contact the Tourist Information Centres.

13th – 15th February

The International Festival of Beer,
The National Brewery Centre,
www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk

March

14th March

Midlands Grand National,
Uttoxeter Racecourse,
www.uttoxeter-racecourse.co.uk

22nd March

2015 ALDI Ashby 20 Road Race,
Ashby de la Zouch,
www.ashby20.co.uk

April

11th – 12th April

BASC Gamekeepers' Fair, Catton Hall,
www.bascgamekeepersfair.co.uk

May

3rd May

Classic Car Show, Catton Hall,
www.transtar-promotions.co.uk

16th – 17th May

Moira Canal Festival, Moira Furnace,
www.moiracanalfestival.co.uk

16th – 28th May

The National Forest Walking Festival,
www.thenationalforestwalkingfestival.co.uk

17th May

Festival of Transport, Swadlincote,
www.south-derbys.gov.uk

21st – 24th May

Bearded Theory Festival, Catton Hall,
www.beardedtheory.co.uk

23rd May

Food Gusto Ashby Food & Drink Festival, Ashby de la Zouch,
www.foodgusto.co.uk

23rd – 25th May

The Bushcraft Show, Beehive Farm,
www.thebushcraftshow.co.uk

23rd – 30th May

Ashby Arts Festival, Ashby de la Zouch,
www.ashbyartsfestival.co.uk

June

6th June

Ashby Fake Festival, Ashby de la Zouch,
www.fakefestivals.co.uk

12th – 14th June

Download Festival, Castle Donington,
www.downloadfestival.co.uk

19th – 22nd June

Lainfest Music Festival, Twycross,
www.lainfest.co.uk

20th – 21st June

The Vintage Years' Festival,
The National Brewery Centre,
www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk

26th – 28th June

National Forest Folk Festival, Moira,
www.affc.demon.co.uk

27th June

Xstatic Summer Festival, Catton Hall,
www.xstaticfestival.co.uk

27th – 28th June

Festival of Leisure, Swadlincote,
www.south-derbys.gov.uk

28th June

Derbyshire County Show,
Elvaston Castle,
www.derbyshirecountyshow.org.uk

July

July – September selected dates

Maize Maze, National Forest Adventure Farm,
www.adventurefarm.co.uk

12th July

Ashby Show, Heather,
www.ashbyshow.com

17th – 18th July

Jazz and Beer Festival,
The National Brewery Centre,
www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk

August

6th – 9th August

Bloodstock Open Air Festival, Catton Hall,
www.bloodstock.uk.com

7th – 9th August

Strawberry Fields Festival, Heather,
www.strawberryfieldsfestival.co.uk

14th – 16th August

Moira Furnace Folk Festival, Moira,
www.moirafurnacefolkfestival.co.uk

22nd – 23rd August

Bosworth Battle Re-enactment Weekend,
www.bosworthbattlefield.com

28th – 30th August

Moto GP Donington Park,
Castle Donington,
www.donington-park.co.uk

31st August

National Forest Wood Fair,
Beacon Hill Country Park,
www.nationalforestwoodfair.co.uk

September

7th September

Abbotts Bromley Horn Dance,
www.abbotsbromley.com/horn_dance

18th – 22nd September

Statutes Fair, Ashby de la Zouch.

19th – 20th September

Melbourne Festival of the Creative and Performing Arts, Melbourne,
www.melbournefestival.co.uk

October

October – November selected dates

Screamfest, National Forest Adventure Farm,
www.adventurefarm.co.uk

2nd – 3rd October

The Third Annual SIBA Beer Festival including the National Barrel Rolling Competition (Saturday 3rd),
The National Brewery Centre,
www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk

November

27th November

Christmas Lights Switch On,
Swadlincote,
www.south-derbys.gov.uk

27th November

Sharpe's Pottery Christmas Fayre,
Swadlincote,
www.sharpespottery.com

For Halloween, Bonfire and Christmas events, contact the Tourist Information Centres.

Welcome to the **ATTRACTIONS**



Choose from a huge range of indoor and outdoor attractions including atmospheric castles, magnificent manor houses and reminders of the Forest's industrial past. Explore leafy country parks and enjoy have-a-go activities like bushcraft courses and coracle making. Whatever you choose, you'll find plenty of fun in our Forest.

key ALL VENUES

- | | |
|--|--|
| Accepts major credit cards | Licensed for weddings |
| Activities tailored to The National Curriculum | Open all year |
| Baby changing facilities | Open fire/log burner |
| Car parking | Picnic area |
| Children's play area | Restaurant/Café |
| Children welcome | Suitable for group visits |
| Coach parking | WC Toilets |
| Conference facilities | Walking trails |
| Cycle hire | Welcome host award |
| Cycle trails | Wheelchair access |
| Disabled parking | key FOOD & DRINK VENUES ONLY |
| Disabled toilets | Advance booking advisable |
| Dogs allowed | Beer garden/outside seating |
| Dogs allowed on leads only | Bring your own drinks |
| Fishing | Children's facilities |
| Free WiFi connection | Live evening entertainment |
| Gift shop | Special dietary requirements catered for |
| Horse riding trail | |
| Information centre | |
| Licensed | |



New: near the National Forest Way.
 Indicates venues within walking distance of the long distance walking trail.



Visitor Attraction
 Quality Assessment
 Scheme



Tripadvisor
 Certificate of
 Excellence



Green
 Flag
 Award



Food
 Hygiene
 Rating

A1 Map Grid
 Reference



Field Sport UK

3

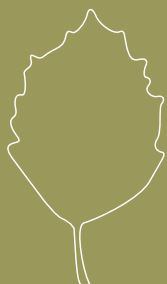


Field Sport UK offer a range of outdoor activities including clay pigeon shooting, archery, air rifle / pistol shooting, bushcraft, catapults and game butchery in Leicestershire. Our outdoor activity days are fantastic fun for corporate entertainment, stag and hen parties, entertaining clients, motivating staff, social get-togethers or birthday parties. Activities By Appointment Only. No previous experience required, full instruction provided by our dedicated instructors. Opening Times / Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Melbourne Road, Lount, Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire LE65 1RS
01283 763350
info@fieldsportuk.co.uk
www.fieldsportuk.co.uk



FOREST EXPERIENCES & OUTDOOR LEISURE



Bluebell Arboretum and Nursery

1 Fantastic collection of rare trees in an educational, well labelled arboretum. Admire beautiful bark in winter, enjoy spring & summer flowering trees and sensational autumn colours! Adjacent specialist tree nursery. Opening Times: Mar - Oct: Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun & Bank Hol 10.30am - 4.30pm (Easter Sun closed). Nov - Feb: Mon - Sat 9am - 4pm (Christmas Eve - 2nd Jan closed). Admission Prices: Adults £5, Concession £4, Children free. Annwell Lane, Smisby, nr Ashby de la Zouch Derbyshire LE65 2TA
Tel: 01530 413700
sales@bluebellnursery.com
www.bluebellnursery.com



Forest Four Wheel Drive

4

Fun at 5mph. Off road instruction either in our Land Rover or your own vehicle. Learn how to tackle humps, hollows, side-slopes, mud, ruts and water. Opening Times: Daily 9am - 5pm. Admission Prices: Contact for details. Money Hill Farm, Stretton en le Field Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 8AE
Tel: 07711 496532 or 01283 762248
robert@forest4wd.co.uk
www.forest4wd.co.uk



F5

Bradgate Park and Swithland Wood Country Park

2 830 acres of grass, bracken, rocky outcrops, majestic trees, deer herd, river and folly 'Old John Tower'. Bradgate House ruins - birthplace of Lady Jane Grey. Swithland Wood - 146 acres of ancient woodland. Opening Times: Daily 8am - sunset. Admission Prices: Car park charges apply. Estate Office, Deer Barn Buildings, Bradgate Park, Newtown Linford, Leicester LE6 0HE
Tel: 0116 2362713
www.bradgatepark.org
estate-office@bradgatepark.org



Greenwood Days

5

Traditional crafts courses in an idyllic woodland setting from 1-10 days include chair-making, willow basketry and sculpture, longbow making, coracles. Birthday parties, corporate events, family days and individual tuition available. Opening Times / Admission Prices: Contact for details. Ferrers Centre for Arts & Crafts Staunton Harold, Leicestershire LE65 1RU
Tel: 01332 864529
peter@greenwooddays.co.uk
www.greenwooddays.co.uk



Hicks Lodge: The National Forest Cycle Centre

6 A wonderful facility for all ages and abilities to develop off-road cycling skills, on safe traffic-free cycle trails. Cycle hire available. Also on site is a children's play area, walking trails and a cafe.

Opening Times: Site open daily 8am - 8pm.
Cafe: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm, with late night on Thurs until 9pm. Weekends 9am - 6pm.
Admission: Free, but car parking charges apply.

Willesley Woodside, Moira, Swadlincote
Derbyshire LE65 2UP
Tel: 01530 274533
info_nationalforest@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
www.forestry.gov.uk/hicks lodge



Mercia Marina Circular Walks

9 Mercia Marina has introduced 3 circular walks starting from the marina, with each one going around the neighbouring villages of Findern, Willington & Repton. The three new walks are designed specifically to encourage families and children's interest in the countryside and wildlife. Download a copy of the circular walks map from our website. Free admission and parking for all.

Mercia Marina, Findern Lane
Willington DE65 6DW
Tel: 01283 703332
info@merciamarina.co.uk
www.merciamarina.co.uk



Leicestershire County Council Country Parks

7



Leicestershire County Council Country Parks Service looks after almost 20 country parks, woodlands and nature reserves covering an area of over 600 hectares (1500 acres) across Leicestershire. These include: Beacon Hill Country Park, Market Bosworth Country Park and Watermead Country Park North. Why not join our Country Parks Volunteering groups working throughout the year on fun and exciting practical conservation tasks. Opening Times: Contact for details.
Admission Prices: Car park charges apply.

Leicestershire County Council, Country Parks Service
County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RE
Tel: 0116 3056920
countryparks@leics.gov.uk
www.leicscountryparks.org.uk



National Forest Llama Treks

10 Enjoy the beautiful countryside accompanied by our friendly llamas. A delicious 3 course picnic is provided. Special diets catered for. We offer from 1 hour to full day sessions. You feel calmer when you walk with a llama. Booking is essential. Opening Times: By booking only. Admission Prices: Contact for details.

260 Lichfield Road (A38N),
Barton under Needwood, Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire DE13 8ED
Tel: 01283 711702 or 07970 601373
thellamalady@hotmail.co.uk
www.nationalforestllamatreks.co.uk



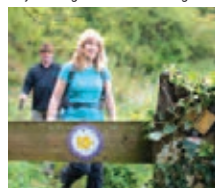
National Forest Way

11

The National Forest Way takes walkers on a journey through a transforming landscape, from the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to Beacon Hill Country Park in Leicestershire (west to east or east to west).

This new long distance walking trail explores the length and breadth of The National Forest. Dip in for a day, wander for a weekend or take on the challenge of the whole 75 miles!

Download maps and route descriptions at
www.nationalforestway.co.uk



Mercia Leisure Trips

8

Canal boat trips along the Trent and Mersey Canal from Mercia Marina, Willington to various destinations between Swarkestone and Burton. Charter and parties welcomed. Opening Times / Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Donovan, Mercia Marina, Findern Lane
Willington, Derby DE65 6DW
Tel: 07922 573023
boattrips@mail.com
www.merciacanalboattrips.co.uk



Shortheath Fishery

12 Well stocked 24 peg lake. Carp (up to 25lb+) many other coarse fish. Toilet facilities (inc. disabled) and disabled pegs. Licensed bistro and self catering accommodation on site.

Opening Times: Summer 6am - 9pm, Winter Dawn til Dusk. Admission Prices: Adults £6 per day, Children/Concessions £5 per day.
Shortheath Water, Shortheath Road, Moira
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 6BW
Tel: 01283 763777
info@shortheathwater.co.uk
www.shortheathwater.co.uk



Swadlincote Ski Slope & Snowboard Centre

13 Family fun Sno-Tubing, Cresta Run Toboggan and Viper Slide. We also offer Ski and Snowboard lessons. The Alpine Lodge is available daily for snacks as well as for private hire. Opening Times: Mon - Fri 11am - 10pm, Sat & Sun 10am - 6pm. Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Sir Herbert Wragg Way, Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE11 8LP
Tel: 01283 217200
jnl-swadlincote@nikegroup.co.uk
www.jnlswadlincote.co.uk



Woodland Trust Woods

16

The Woodland Trust has 18 beautiful sites for you to enjoy free of charge within the National Forest, including our flagship 186 hectare Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood and Willesley Wood. Opening Times: Contact for details. Admission Prices: Free.

Kempton Way, Grantham
Lincolnshire NG31 6LL
Tel: 01476 581111
enquiries@woodlandtrust.org.uk
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods



The Bushcraft Show 2015

14



The Bushcraft Show is a jam-packed, three-day event filled with amazing bushcraft activities that will take you, your friends and family on a bushcraft and survival adventure that you'll never forget. Whether you come for the day or stay for the weekend, you can try your hand at woodland crafts, firefighting, shelter building, tracking, foraging, woodland games and so much more...

Opening Times: Sat 23rd & Sun 24th May 9:30am - 5:30pm (evening entertainment 6pm - 11pm), Bank Hol Mon 25th May 9:30am - 4:30pm. Weekend Ticket holders from 12noon on Fri 22nd May - 8pm on Mon 26th May. Admission Prices: Adults from £12, Concessions from £10.50, Children from £5.50, Family from £18.75.

Beehive Farm Woodland Lakes, Rosliston
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 8HZ
Tel: 0333 4567 123
bethere@thebushcraftshow.co.uk
www.thebushcraftshow.co.uk



FAMILY FUN



CONKERS

17 120 acres of adventure with indoor and outdoor play, live shows and over 100 interactive exhibits. The Discovery and Waterside Centres are linked by CONKERCHOO our very own train!

Opening Times: Easter to Sept 10am - 6pm.
Oct to beginning of Easter 10am - 5pm.
Admission Prices: Please see website.

Rawdon Road, Moira, Nr Ashby de la Zouch
Derbyshire DE12 6GA
Tel: 01283 216633
info@visitconkers.com
www.visitconkers.com



Woodland Survival Crafts

15

Quality Bushcraft courses for adults, families and schools. Approved training for outdoor professionals. Courses held at Spring Wood, Staunton Harold Estate.

Opening Times / Admission Prices:
Contact for details.

2 Hall Farm, Ashby Road, Coleorton
Leicestershire LE67 8FB
Tel: 07736 225035
dave@woodlandssurvivalcrafts.com
www.woodlandssurvivalcrafts.com



Mercia Marina

18 Europe's biggest inland marina with the new Boardwalk is perfect for a day out or relaxing few hours. Wine and dine at the bar & restaurant, explore the farm shop, cafe, beautician and boutique retailers. Free admission & parking for all.

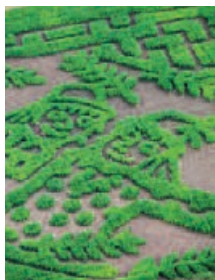
Opening Times: 9am to 5:30pm with other retailer times varying please check our website for opening times.

Mercia Marina, Findern Lane
Willington DE65 6DW
Tel: 01283 703332
info@merciamarina.co.uk
www.merciamarina.co.uk



National Forest Adventure Farm

19



A day of adventure awaits at the National Forest Adventure Farm - whatever the weather! Meet and feed the animals, explore our outdoor Funfield, take a tractor ride and have fun in our huge playbarn. In the Summer, navigate our world famous maize maze. Daily events programme such as animal petting, egg collecting, pig racing, pony grooming and feeding the lambs.

Opening Times: Open every day 10am-6pm except Christmas day, Boxing day and New Years' day.

Admission Prices: See www.adventurefarm.co.uk for prices.

Postern Road, Tatenhill, Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire DE13 9SJ

Tel: 01283 533933

info@adventurefarm.co.uk
www.adventurefarm.co.uk



D3

Snibston Discovery Museum

22

Discover 500 years of technological innovation at this award-winning interactive museum. From the earliest mining tools, proto-type jet engine to the largest fashion display outside London - there is plenty to explore.

Opening Times / Admission Prices:

Contact for details.

Ashby Road, Coalville
Leicestershire LE67 3LN

Tel: 01530 278444

snibston@leics.gov.uk

www.snibston.com



15

The Mug Tug

23

Paint-a-pot studio aboard our 70ft Narrowboat permanently moored at Barton Marina. Ceramic Painting, Decoupage, Baby Hand and Foot Prints, Children's Parties, Hen Parties, Team Building Sessions, Group outings, Mobile Service available. Opening Times: Wed - Sun 10am - 5pm. Open every day during Staffordshire School Holidays.

Admission Prices: Contact for details.

The Promenade, Barton Marina
Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8DZ

Tel: 01283 711341

Lesley@themugtug.co.uk

www.themugtug.co.uk



C4

Paint a Pot Craft Studio

20

Suitable for all the family - paint your own pottery or create a unique gift. We also offer parties for children and adults, clay imprints, commissions and other events.

Please visit our website for current opening times. Admission Prices: £4 studio fee for up to 4 painters plus the cost of whatever items you choose to paint.

Ferrers Centre for Arts & Craft,
Staunton Harold, Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire LE65 1RU

Tel: 01332 695181

www.paintapotcraftstudio.co.uk



H3

Twycross Zoo

24



Set in the beautiful Leicestershire countryside, Twycross Zoo is renowned as a World Primate Centre and has a wide variety of monkeys and all four types of great ape, including the UK's only group of bonobos. Twycross also holds a range of other species including Asian elephants, snow leopards, penguins, meerkats, tapir, and the world's rarest big cat, the Amur leopard.

Opening Times: High season: 10am - 6pm. Low season: 10am - 5pm.

Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Twycross Zoo - East Midland Zoological Society
Burton Road, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 3PX

Tel: 01827 883141

information@twycrosszoo.org

www.twycrosszoo.org



G7

Rosliston Forestry Centre

21

There's something for everyone at Rosliston Forestry Centre - Education Programmes, Birds of Prey, Archery, Woodland laser combat as well as woodland walks, indoor and outdoor play, cycle hire and fishing.

Opening Times: Contact for details.

Free admission. Car park charges apply.

Burton Road, Rosliston, Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 8JX

Tel: 01283 563483

enquiries@roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk

www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk



E4

HERITAGE



Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre & Country Park

28

22nd August 1485 a battle rages, King Richard III is defeated, Henry is crowned and the Tudor dynasty is born. Explore this award-winning exhibition, walk the Bosworth trail and enjoy the Tithe Barn restaurant. Opening Times / Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Sutton Cheney CV13 0AD

Tel: 01455 290429

bosworth@leics.gov.uk

www.bosworthbattlefield.com



H7

Ashby de la Zouch Castle

25

Tour the impressive ruins of this grand medieval manor house set in extensive grounds. Explore the secret tunnel, climb the 24 metre-high Hastings Tower and enjoy superb views over the surrounding countryside. Opening Times / Admission Prices: Contact for details.

South Street, Ashby de la Zouch

Leicestershire LE65 1BR

Tel: 01530 413343

www.english-heritage.org.uk/ashbydelazouch



G4

Catton Estate

29

Catton Hall, built in 1745 has fascinating history, still privately owned and retains its original collection of pictures and furniture. The Grounds are available to hire for events and the Hall for small groups. Opening Times: Every Mon in Aug and all Bank Hol Mons, for tours at 2pm prompt. Groups all year by prior arrangement. Admission Prices: Adults £5, Concessions £4, Under 5s free.

Catton, Walton on Trent

South Derbyshire DE12 8LN

Tel: 01283 716311

estateoffice@catton-hall.com

www.catton-hall.com



D4

Ashby de la Zouch Museum

26

County Museum of the year 2010. Ashby and surrounding villages displays. Regular temporary exhibitions. Large local archive. Excellent research facilities. Education officer. Groups welcome. Town walks. Community room for hire.

Opening Times: Mon - Fri 11am - 1pm

& 2pm - 4pm, Sat 10am - 4pm. Admission

Prices: Adults £1, Concessions/Children 50p.

North Street, Ashby de la Zouch

Leicestershire LE65 1HU

Tel: 01530 560090

enquiries@ashbyngs.plus.com

www.ashbydelazouchmuseum.org.uk



G4

Claymills Victorian Pumping Station

30

Britain's 2nd largest and most complete restored Victorian steam pumping station. Four beam engines (two working) and 27 other working steam engines. Children's activities on steaming days. Opening Times: Thur & Sat 10am - 5pm.

Admission Prices: Admission by donation.

Steaming weekends: Adults £5, Concession £4, Children £2, Family £12.

Meadow Lane, Stretton, Burton upon Trent

Staffordshire DE13 0DA

Tel: 01283 509929

enquiries@claymills.org.uk

www.claymills.org.uk



E2

Battlefield Line Railway

27

Trains run between Shackerstone, Market Bosworth and Shenton Stations with a café at all stations and a gift shop and museum at Shackerstone. Regular special events throughout the year including Santa Trains in December. Opening Times / Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Shackerstone Station, Shackerstone

Leicestershire CV13 6NW

Tel: 01827 880754

enquiries@battlefieldline.co.uk

www.battlefieldline.co.uk



H6

Donington le Heath Manor House

31

Visit this 13th Century manor house and enjoy the 17th Century style garden.

Explore the furnished rooms and discover the history of the house and life in the late Tudor/early Stuart times.

Opening Times: Contact for details.

Admission Prices: Contact for details.

The Manor House Museum, Manor Road

Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 2FW

Tel: 01530 831259

dthmanorhouse@leics.gov.uk

www.doningtonleheath.com



I5

Grace Dieu Priory

32

Ruined Augustinian nunnery, founded 1239-41 by Roesia de Verdon. Recently conserved. Presentations, guided and ghost walks by appointment. Circular walk over stepping stones. Parking at nearby Bulls Head PH. Opening Times: Daily dawn until dusk. Admission Prices: Free.

Off A512 between Shepshed and Thringstone
Tel: 01530 223201

davidwhitt@bernay.demon.co.uk
www.gracedieupriory.org.uk



14

National Brewery Centre

35

The National Brewery Centre incorporates the original Bass Museum. The Museum celebrates the social history of brewing - the real life experiences of the people who helped to build Burton's world-renowned brewing reputation. Opening Times: Contact for details. Admission Prices: Adults £8.95, Concessions £7.95, Children £4.95, Family £21.95.

Horninglow Street, Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire DE14 1NG
Tel: 01283 532880

info@nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk
www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk



E3

Melbourne Hall & Gardens

33

Once the home of Victorian Prime Minister, William Lamb, who as second Viscount Melbourne gave his name to the Australian city. It is now home to Lord and Lady Ralph Kerr and their family.

Opening Times: Hall & Garden: Every afternoon in Aug except first 3 Mons: from 2pm (last entry 4.15pm). Garden: Apr - Sept Wed, Sat, Sun & Bank Hol Mon 1.30pm - 5.30pm. Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Church Square, Melbourne
Derbyshire DE73 8EN

Tel: 01332 862502

melbhall@globalnet.co.uk

www.melbournehall.com

www.melbournehallgardens.com



H2

Moira Furnace Museum

34

A blast from the past. A 19th Century blast furnace, canal and barge trips, craft village, country park and children's play area. Children's parties available. Accredited Museum. Opening Times: Contact for details. Admission Prices: Adults £2, Concession £1, Children £1.

Furnace Lane, Moira, Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6AT

Tel: 01283 224667 or 07976 637858

moirafurnace@hotmail.co.uk

www.moirafurnace.org



F5

National Memorial Arboretum

36



The National Memorial Arboretum is the Nation's year-round centre of Remembrance and home to the Armed Forces Memorial. Its 150-acre site features over 300 memorials for both military and civilian associations, and for individuals. All but one of the native species are represented in the site's 50,000 trees and a diverse range of flora, fauna and habitats combine to enhance this living tribute.

Opening Times: Check website for latest information.

Admission Prices: Free entry although donations are appreciated.

Small car parking charges apply.

Croxall Road, Alrewas
Staffordshire DE13 7AR

Tel: 01283 245100

info@thenma.org.uk

www.thenma.org.uk



C5

Pick up our handy Attractions GUIDE

Great places to visit, hidden treasures, attractions and events across parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Staffordshire.

During your visit pick up our handy Attractions Guide from Ashby de la Zouch and Swadlincote Tourist Information Centres or download it from www.visitnationalforest.co.uk



National Trust, Calke Abbey

37 With peeling paintwork and overgrown courtyards, Calke Abbey tells the story of the dramatic decline of a country house estate.

Calke's house and stables are little restored, with many abandoned areas vividly portraying a period in the 20th century when numerous country houses did not survive to tell their story. Discover the tales of an eccentric family who amassed a vast collection of hidden treasures, including stuffed birds and animals, family portraits and the stunning state bed.

Enjoy the beautiful park and gardens. You can walk around the fragile habitats of Calke Park and its National Nature Reserve and look out for the deer in their enclosure. Find our oak trees that are over 1000 years old. Explore the orangery, experience the chill of the ice house and stroll through the beautiful walled garden. Do you dare walk down the dark Gardener's tunnel?

Opening Times: Calke Park and NNR is open daily throughout the year 7.30am - 7.30pm (closed 25 Dec). From 21 Feb - 1 Nov the House is open seven days a week: Sat - Wed 12.30pm - 5pm; on Thu and Fri we run "End of Era" part-house interpretive tours 12.30pm - 4pm; Garden, Restaurant and Shop: Open daily in season 10am - 5pm. In winter (Nov-Feb) the House and Gardens close. Restaurant, Shop and Stableyards open 10am - 4pm. Closed 25 Dec. Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Calke Abbey, Ticknall, Derbyshire DE73 7LE
(for sat nav use DE73 7JF)
Tel: 01332 863822
calkeabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/calke



National Trust



National Trust, Stoneywell

38 New for 2015 discover Stoneywell, the National Trust's first house in Leicestershire. Explore this rare example of Arts and Crafts design, where every turn conjures childhood memories of holiday excitement.

Reminisce as you explore the cottage - which has been restored to how the Gimson family would have known it when they moved in in the early 1950s. Uncover the story behind the bull horns above the fireplace, dash down the winding steps from Olympus, and have a swing in the garden, before adventuring through the woodland beyond. Don't miss our rustic tearoom, where you can enjoy a selection of light refreshments including freshly baked cakes and savoury snacks made from the products in our garden. Pick up a unique souvenir or arts and crafts based gift while you're here.

Opening Times: Please note that booking in advance is essential, either online or by phone.

Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Whitcroft's Lane, Ulverscroft
Leicestershire LE67 9QE
Info-line: 01530 248040
Booking line: 01530 248048
stoneywell@nationaltrust.org.uk
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stoneywell



National Trust



K5

North West Leicestershire Museums

39



Castle Donington Museum
DE74 2JA
Tel: 01332 811 944
www.castledoningtonmuseum.org.uk

Diseworth Heritage Centre
DE74 2QF
Tel: 07785 393 578
www.diseworthcentre.org

Grace Dieu Priory
LE67 5UG
Tel: 01530 223 201
www.gracedieupriory.org.uk

Kegworth Museum
DE74 2DA
Tel: 01509 670 137
www.kegworthmuseum.org.uk

Measham Museum
DE12 7HU
Tel: 01530 411 767
www.meashammuseum.btck.co.uk

Sir John Moore Heritage Centre
DE12 7AH
Tel: 01530 273 629
www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk

Swannington Heritage Trust Mill
LE67 8QW
Tel: 01530 224 768
www.swannington-heritage.co.uk

Whitwick Historical Group Resource Centre
LE67 5HA
Tel: 01530 411 767
www.whitwickhistoricalgroup.org.uk

i

F6, G5, I2, I4, J2

Sharpe's Pottery Museum

40 Explore this award winning pottery site, exhibiting internationally important pottery and sanitary ware, temporary exhibitions and featured artists plus The National Forest story. Visit the cafe, gift shop, information area and playzone.

Opening Times: Mon - Sat 10am - 4.30pm.
Bank Hol Mon 10am - 3pm. Please contact for Christmas opening hours.

Admission Prices: Free.

West Street, Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE11 9DG

Tel: 01283 222600

info@sharpestpotterymuseum.org.uk
www.sharpestpotterymuseum.org.uk



F4

The Magic Attic Archives

41

Local History, Local Heritage from Local Folk. Visit independent archives in The National Forest and discover your family, local history and heritage in friendly and pleasant surroundings. Opening Times:

Mon 7pm - 9.30pm, Tues 2pm - 5pm,
Thurs 2pm - 5pm & 7pm - 9.30pm,
Sat 10am - 1pm. Admission Prices: Free.

Sharpe's Pottery Museum, West Street
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 9DG

Tel: 01283 819020

magicatticarch@googlegmail.com

www.magicattic.org.uk



F4

FOOD, DRINK & SHOPPING



Betty's Farm Shop

42

We are a commercial Free Range Egg Farm with a Farm Shop and Butchery.

We stock lots of local products from the surrounding area and hold regular events. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Opening Times: Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm,
Sun 10am - 3pm.

Castle Way, Willington

Derbyshire DE65 6BW

Tel: 01283 703582

info@bettyfarmshop.co.uk

www.bettyfarmshop.co.uk



F2

Chapmans Nurseries

43

Traditional garden centre with its focus on plants and their needs, log cabin tearoom serving homemade cakes, tea and coffee.

Opening Times: Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm,
Sun 10.30am - 4.30pm.

Burton Road, Rosliston, Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 8JX

Tel: 01283 543546

kevinjenkinson@hotmail.co.uk

www.chapmans-nurseries.co.uk



E4

Coalville Market

44

Coalville market offers good value, quality fresh produce and a friendly service, open Tuesdays (morning only), Fridays and Saturdays with around 40 stalls in Coalville town centre near the Belvoir Shopping Centre. Opening Times: Tue 8am - 2pm, Fri & Sat 8am - 4pm.

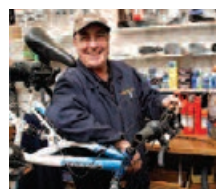
Coalville Market, Coalville

Leicestershire LE67 3EE

Tel: 01530 837785

steven.goode@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/coalville_market



I5

Ferrers Centre

45



Traditional skills mix harmoniously alongside contemporary studios. Set within a beautiful Georgian courtyard, part of the Staunton Harold estate, the Ferrers Centre offers a unique visitor experience. Workshops, Gallery, Tearoom, Deli, Commissions, exhibitions, walks, National Trust Church. Spend a day browsing in the shops, painting a pot, sampling homemade bread at the Deli, or enjoying a cup of tea in the Tearooms.

Opening Times: Tues - Sun 11am - 5pm
(some businesses open on Bank Holidays)
Ferrers Centre, Staunton Harold, Near Ashby de la Zouch,
Leicestershire LE65 1RU
Tel: 01332 864863
info@ferrersframes.co.uk
www.ferrerscentre.co.uk



Lakeside Bistro

47

Family-run licensed bistro peacefully situated overlooking the lake. Breakfasts, coffees, lunch and cream teas. Homemade blackboard specials and puddings. Steaks, fresh fish and Chef's specials served
Fri & Sat evenings. Opening Times: Tues - Sun 9am - 4pm (3pm in winter), Fri & Sat 6.30pm - 9pm, Sun Lunch 12noon - 2pm.

Shortheath Road, Moira, Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6BW
Tel: 01283 763777
info@shortheathwater.co.uk
www.shortheathwater.co.uk



Sealwood Vineyard

48

Visit Sealwood Cottage Vineyard and enjoy views of The National Forest from our Caravan Site or Cottage with a glass of our fine wine! Vineyard Tours, Special Events, Historical Tours of Folly and Group Catering. Opening Times: Wine sales: 8am - 8pm. Vineyard tours: Contact for details. Admission Prices: Contact for details.

Sealwood Lane, Linton, Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6PA
Tel: 01283 761371
vineyard@sealwoodcottage.co.uk
www.sealwoodcottage.co.uk



Jack's of Melbourne

46



Jack's of Melbourne is a small but perfectly formed independent coffee shop in the Georgian market town. We serve delicious homemade cakes and meals, and use Derbyshire suppliers wherever possible. Everything is freshly-prepared and our specials change daily. Excellent coffee and leaf teas are served by trained baristas. Our outside seating area is nestled in a courtyard off the main road.

Opening Times: Mon - Sat 9am - 4pm
(breakfast is served until 11.30am, lunch is served from 11.30am - 3pm, cakes and coffee available all day).

12-14 Derby Road, Melbourne
Derbyshire DE73 8FE
Tel: 01332 864836
info@jacksofmelbourne.co.uk
www.jacksofmelbourne.co.uk



The Bittersweet Chocolate Co

49

Our award winning hand made chocolates can be purchased from our shop inside the Three Horseshoes Inn right next door to our workshop. Chocolate making parties also available by appointment.

Opening Times: Tues - Sat 11.30am - 2.30pm and 5.30pm - 9pm, Sun 12noon - 3pm. Chocolate making workshops by appointment. Admission Prices: Contact for details.

44 - 46 Main Street, Breedon on the Hill
Derby DE73 8AN
Tel: 07968 163706
sales@bittersweetchocolates.co.uk
www.bittersweetchocolates.co.uk



The Octagon Shopping Centre

50

The Octagon Shopping Centre in the heart of Burton upon Trent boasts a range of high street and independent shops, plus a variety of traditional traders on the first floor.

Opening Times: Mon - Sat 9am - 5.30pm, Sun 10am - 4.30pm.

New Street, Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire DE14 3TN
Tel: 01283 515000
peter.hardingham@dtz.com
www.theoctagoncentre.co.uk

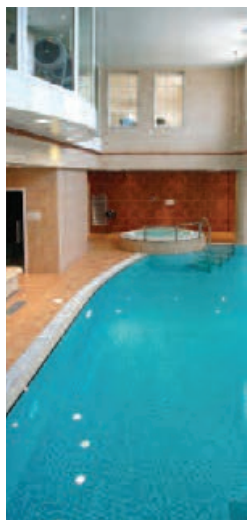




make yourself AT HOME

When it comes to accommodation, the National Forest & Beyond has got it covered. Feel the hospitality in cosy country inns, welcoming guesthouses, smart modern hotels and luxury spas. Alternatively, relax in comfortable self-catering cottages, friendly hostels and glamorous camping canvas cottages. If you want to try something really different, you can even stay on board your own narrowboat.

Many of the accommodation providers featured in this guide have either been independently assessed and awarded a quality rating by VisitEngland or the AA, or participate as part of the National Forest & Beyond Visitor Accommodation Scheme accredited by VisitEngland.


































Where to STAY




colour key

-  Hotels & guest accommodation
-  Self catering
-  Youth hostel
-  Camping & caravanning




key ALL ACCOMMODATION


-  Accepts major credit cards
-  Car parking
-  Children's play area
-  Children welcome
-  Coach parking
-  Conference facilities
-  Disabled parking
-  Disabled toilets
-  Evening meals available
-  Free WiFi connection
-  Garden/Patio area
-  Ground floor bedrooms
-  Hairdryer in all rooms
-  Ironing facilities
-  Licensed
-  Licensed for weddings
-  Online bookable
-  Open all year
-  Pets by arrangement
-  Reductions for children
-  Restaurant/Café
-  Smoking room(s) available
-  Suitable for group visits
-  Swimming pool
-  Tea/coffee making facilities in rooms
-  Toilets
-  TV in room
-  Welcome host award
-  Wheelchair access


key SELF CATERING ONLY

-  Free linen provided
-  Short lets available
-  Washing & drying facilities

key CAMPING & CARAVANING ONLY





-  Electric hook-up
-  Hot showers
-  Parking beside caravan

 **New:** near the National Forest Way. Indicates venues within walking distance of the long distance walking trail.

 The AA  VisitEngland

 **National Accessibility Scheme**
Part-time Wheelchair Users Accessible to a person with restricted walking ability.

VisitEngland Welcome Schemes:

-  Cyclists welcome
-  Families welcome
-  Walkers welcome
-  Pets welcome

 The Green Tourism Business Scheme is the national sustainable tourism award for the UK.

 Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence  Food Hygiene Rating  A1 Map Grid Reference

HOTELS & GUEST ACCOMMODATION



ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

Appleby Magna B & B



1 GUESTHOUSE | 1 S | 1 D | 1 T | £30 PPPN

18th century cottage. Homely, friendly, quiet and comfortable accommodation in historic village 1/2mile from jct.11M42/A42. Will do put u ups in double room for family. Secure cycle storage.

Ferne Cottage, 5 Black Horse Hill
Appleby Magna, Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 7AQ
Tel: 01530 271772
gbirdapplebymag@gmail.com

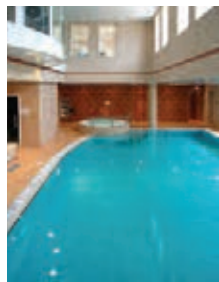


CASTLE DONINGTON/ KEGWORTH

BEST WESTERN PREMIER Yew Lodge Hotel



2 HOTEL | 3 S(EN) | 73 D(EN) | 22 T(EN) | 24 F(EN) | £70 PRPN



The BEST WESTERN PREMIER Yew Lodge Hotel sits at the heart of Kegworth Village close to East Midlands Airport and is perfect for every kind of guest. From holiday makers and families who want to relax in a wonderful hotel, it's the perfect place to stay! We're easily accessible by plane, train and automobile making life easy; however long you're staying with us for. Marco Pierre White's New York Italian Restaurant opens spring 2015.

Packington Hill, Kegworth
Derby DE74 2DF
Tel: 01509 672518
info@yewlodgehotel.co.uk
www.yewlodgehotel.co.uk





You can read reviews on many of the places mentioned in this guide on the website www.tripadvisor.co.uk

DERBY

Nook Cottage



6 B&B | 1 D(EN) | 1 T(EN) | £35 PPNP

Charming beamed cottage, warm friendly welcome. Ideally located for Rolls-Royce, Royal Derby Hospital, Derby City, South Derbyshire, Calke Abbey, Donington Park, Alton Towers, M1, A50, A38 and East Midlands Airport.

5 The Nook, Barrow on Trent
Derbyshire DE73 7NA
Tel: 01332 702050 or 07793 057731
nookcottage@nookcottage.co.uk
www.nookcottage.co.uk



COALVILLE

The Cross Keys Inn

3 GUESTHOUSE | 2 D(EN) | 1 F(EN) | FROM £40 PRPN

Friendly traditional village pub near Donington Park and airport. Home cooked food and cask ales, dogs welcome, two bed & breakfast en-suite rooms in separate annexe.

The Cross Keys Inn, 9 Worthington Lane, Newbold LE67 8PJ
Tel: 01530 224799 / 07720 641705
thecrosskeys.newbold@live.co.uk
thecrosskeys.wix.com/thecrosskeysnewbold



MARKFIELD

Quorn Grange Hotel

7 COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL | 38 D(EN) | 10 F(EN)
FROM £45 PRPN INC BREAKFAST

Discover 'your perfect setting'. Located in rural Quorn, at the edge of the National Forest, Quorn Grange Hotel is the convenient, perfect location for leisure breaks, business travel, meetings and events.

88 Wood Lane, Quorn
Loughborough LE12 8DB
Tel: 01509 412167 / 07903 523746
ian.richards@quorngrangehotel.co.uk
www.quorngrangehotel.co.uk



Ravenstone Guesthouse



4 GUESTHOUSE | 3 S(EN) | 2 D(EN) | 1 T(EN) | £39 PPNP

eriod farm house in Doomsday village, an artist and designers home. Lovely walking country and Sustrans route. Courtyard parking. Meals by arrangement. Call us and discuss requirements.

Church Lane, Ravenstone, Coalville
Leicestershire LE67 2AE
Tel: 01530 810536
annthorne@ravenstone-guesthouse.co.uk
www.ravenstone-guesthouse.co.uk



ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

YHA National Forest



8 YOUTH HOSTEL | 9 D(EN) | 23 F(EN) | £15 PPNP OR £35 PRPN

This modern 4 star YHA, is ideal for families and groups exploring The National Forest. Family and Double rooms as well as dormitory rooms for individuals, all en-suite. Bar/restaurant/coffee shop open daily.

48 Bath Lane, Moira, Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6BD
Tel: 01283 229662
nationalforest@yha.org.uk
www.yha.org.uk



The Post House Bed and Breakfast



5 B&B | 3 D(EN) | 1 T(EN) | £45-£75 PRPN

Family run B&B each room tastefully furnished with luxury bedding/towels, free WiFi, Flat screen TV. Convenient to attractions in National Forest, close to J13-M42, and J21/22/23-M1 Donington Park, Mallory Park, NEC and Birmingham/EM Airports.

The Courtyard, 120 High Street, Ibstock
Leicestershire LE67 6LJ
Tel: 01530 261610
posthousebandb@hotmail.co.uk
www.posthousebandbibstock@hotmail.co.uk



SELF CATERING



ABBOTS BROMLEY

Blithfield Lakeside Barns



9 SELF CATERING | 6 UNITS | SLEEPS 32 (TOTAL) | £200-£990 PUPW

Beautifully appointed barn conversions on organic dairy farm overlooking Blithfield Reservoir. All have oak beams, wooden floors, fully fitted kitchens and WiFi. One bedroom with four poster bed and Jacuzzi bath.

St Stephen's Hill Farm, Admaston Rugeley, Staffordshire WS15 3NQ
Tel: 01889 500234
blithfieldlakesidebarns@hotmail.co.uk
www.blithfieldlakesidebarns.co.uk



A3

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

Ashby Wells House



10 SELF CATERING | 1 UNIT | SLEEPS 5 | £400-£695 PUPW

Set in the heart of the National Forest this stylish and comfortable house sleeps five. Dogs welcome, well equipped, open fire and wood burner, large garden. Free Wi-Fi and secure cycle shed.

18 Wells Road, Ashby de la Zouch Leicestershire LE65 2QD
Tel: 07889 182648
info@ashbywells.co.uk
www.ashbywells.co.uk



G4

Forest Lodge



11 SELF CATERING LOG CABIN | 1 UNIT | SLEEPS 4 | £600-£700 PUPW

Luxury rural retreat near historic Ashby de la Zouch, tourist attractions and country walks. Relaxing hot tub overlooks natural ponds and beautiful countryside. Rare breed animals and farm shop selling home produce.

Hill Farm, Spring Lane, Packington Leicestershire LE65 1WU
Tel: 01530 411984
hillfarmpackington@hotmail.co.uk



H5

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

Lakeview Lodges



12 SELF CATERING | 2 UNITS | SLEEPS 8 (TOTAL) | £475-£755 PUPW

Spacious, comfortable lodges with home from home facilities overlooking Shorth Heath Water. Lakeside tearoom and fishing on site. Centrally located for The National Forest and many local attractions. Walkers and cyclists welcome.

Shorth Heath Water, Moira, Swadlincote Derbyshire DE12 6BW
Tel: 01283 763777
info@shorthheathwater.co.uk
www.shorthheathwater.co.uk



F5

Normans Barn



13 SELF CATERING | 1 UNIT | SLEEPS 5 | £360 PUPW

Luxurious barn conversion in beautiful surroundings on a working farm overlooking 'Ivanhoe's' valley. Both bedrooms en-suite, one ground floor. 140 acres of woodland walks. Ashby de la Zouch 1 mile, A42 2 miles.

Ingles Hill Farm, Burton Road Ashby de la Zouch Leicestershire LE65 2TE
Tel: 01530 412224
isabel_stanley@hotmail.com
www.normansbarn.co.uk



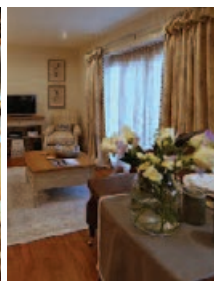
G4

Pudding Cottage



Gold Award

14 SELF CATERING | 1 UNIT | SLEEPS 4 | £695-£895 PUPW



A charming luxurious cottage sprinkled with sophisticated styling and a country home elegance that flows throughout with a twist of romance that creates a delightful retreat.

Nearby Market Bosworth is steeped in history, famous for the War of the Roses, where Richard became the last King to die at battle. The market place is surrounded by shops, cafes and restaurants.

Pudding Cottage, Nr Market Bosworth Leicestershire CV13 0DB
Tel: 01455 292888
sharon@thehideawaycottages.co.uk
www.thehideawaycottages.co.uk



H7

The Dandelion Hideaway

15 SELF CATERING | 6 UNITS | SLEEPS 35 (TOTAL) | £550-£1100 PUPW



The Dandelion Hideaway offers the most luxurious glamping adventure. Gorgeous canvas cottages nestled into the idyllic Leicestershire countryside, offer fun for families and sheer romance for couples. There are delightful interiors, vintage touches and a wonderfully romantic roll top bath in the en-suite bathroom. The kitchen is home to a farmhouse dresser, butler's sink, wood burning Aga-style range, truly charming.

Osbaston House Farm
Osbaston, Nr Market Bosworth
Leicestershire CV13 0HR
Tel: 01455 292888
glamping@thedandelionhideaway.co.uk
www.thedandelionhideaway.co.uk



Leicester & Leicestershire Awards for Excellence 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

17

Woodlandhills Court

18 SELF CATERING | 4 UNITS | SLEEPS 12 (TOTAL) | £350-£400 PUPW

The accommodation comprises of two 2 bedroom cottages, two 1 bedroom cottages. Each cottage has an open plan kitchen, lounge and dining area. 3 cottages have wet-room showers.

Ivy House Farm, Stanton by Bridge
Derby DE73 7HT
Tel: 01332 864619
david.kiddkidd@btinternet.com
www.woodlandhills.court.co.uk



H2

SWADLINCOTE

Rosliston Forest Lodges

19 SELF CATERING | 6 UNITS | SLEEPS 48 (TOTAL) | £345-£875 PUPW

Set in the grounds of Rosliston Forestry Centre, fully equipped, accessible lodges, each with their own secluded plot, offer a relaxing woodland stay. There's cycling, fishing, archery, orienteering and falconry available onsite.

Rosliston Forestry Centre, Burton Road
Rosliston, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 8JX
Tel: 01283 563 483
enquiries@roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk
www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk



E4

Upper Rectory Farm Cottages

16 SELF CATERING | 7 UNITS | SLEEPS 30 (TOTAL) | £350-£1365 PUPW

Skyllarks and buzzards soar above these delightful multi-award winning cottages set amid the waving cornfields. They are luxuriously furnished, ensuite throughout, with fabulous views and great walks.

Snaresstone Road, Appleby Magna
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 7AJ
Tel: 01827 880448
info@upperrectoryfarmcottages.co.uk
www.upperrectoryfarmcottages.co.uk



G6

Seal Brook Farm Cottages

20 SELF CATERING | 2 UNITS | SLEEPS 12 (TOTAL) | £309-£992 PUPW

Situated in a quiet hamlet, yet within easy reach of attractions, shops, pubs and motorways. Cosy yet spacious properties with tasteful decor. Ample off-road parking.

Lullington Road, Grangewood
Derbyshire DE12 8BH
Tel: 01827 373236
info@sealbrookfarmcottages.co.uk
www.sealbrookfarmcottages.co.uk



E5

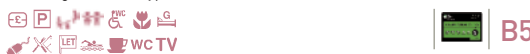
LICHFIELD

Kingfisher Holiday Park

17 HOLIDAY PARK | 6 UNITS | SLEEPS 30 (TOTAL) | £295-£545 PUPW

Picturesque junction of 2 major canals, lots of boating activity. Excellent Café, tennis court, crown green bowling and tropical indoor swimming pool, fishing, play area, games room and nature reserve.

Fradley Junction, Alrewas
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire DE13 7DN
Tel: 01283 790407
mail@kingfisherholidaypark.com
www.kingfisherholidaypark.com



B5

The Little Retreat

21 SELF CATERING | 1 UNIT | SLEEPS 2-5 | £248-£295 PUPW

The Little retreat is a cosy, well maintained, high standard holiday home ideal for exploring The National Forest. Will appeal to walkers, cyclists and families. Excellent facilities available all year.

58 Main Street, Linton, Swadlincote,
Derbyshire DE12 6PZ
Tel: 01283 762186
desnorraine@yahoo.co.uk



E4

Aqua Narrowboats

**22 SELF CATERING NARROWBOAT HIRE | £765-£1525 PUPW
2 BOATS 2+2 BERTH | 2 BOATS 4+2 BERTH**

Relax on board our luxury, fully equipped narrowboats. Cruise in style to many local canalside attractions, enjoy the scenic countryside views and good pub food on route. Full tuition given.

Mercia Marina, Findern Lane
Willington, Derbyshire DE65 6DW
Tel: 01283 701041
info@aquanarrowboats.co.uk
www.aquanarrowboats.co.uk



F1

Mercia Marina Lodges

**23 HOLIDAY PARK | 4 UNITS | SLEEPS 20 (TOTAL)
£414-£830 PUPW**

An ambient and tranquil setting, perfect for a romantic getaway, family vacation, dog friendly break or long term stay. While away summer evenings on the terrace, or winter nights curled up by the fire.

Findern Lane, Willington
Derbyshire DE65 6DW
Tel: 01283 703332
info@merciamarina.co.uk
www.merciamarinalodges.co.uk



F1

Knowle Hill Caravan Site

Camping &
Caravanning Club

25 CARAVAN SITE | 5 PITCHES | FROM £6 PER PITCH PER NIGHT

Stanton's Wood has a five van site entirely surrounded by trees. Very secluded. Open May - October. Ideal site for walkers or people who enjoy solitude.

Knowle Hill Farm, Ingleby Lane
Ticknall, Derby DE73 7JQ
Tel: 07768 010251



G2

How TO BOOK



You can book your accommodation directly or through the Tourist Information Centres (TICs) which can give you more information on the quality inspection schemes:



Ashby de la Zouch, 01530 411 767
Swadlincote, 01283 222 848

CAMPING & CARAVANNING



ASHBY DE LA ZOUCHE

Ingles Hill Farm Caravan Site

Caravan Club

24 CARAVAN SITE | 5 PITCHES | FROM £10 PER PITCH PER NIGHT

Landscaped caravan club certificated location overlooking 'Ivanhoe's' valley. 5 hardstandings. Rally field accommodates small rallies/tents. 140 acres of woodland walks. Easy access, NEC, Donington Racetrack/Airport, Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, Calke Abbey.

Burton Road, Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire LE65 2TE
Tel: 01530 412 224
isabel_stanley@hotmail.com
www.ingleshillcaravansite.co.uk



G4

LUXURY LODGES



Our luxury lodges, each with their own secluded plot, offer a relaxing woodland stay.

On the inside you'll find a luxury hideout where you can eat, sleep and lounge to your heart's content. The quiet location allows you unwind and enjoy some me time. Or if you prefer an active lifestyle there's fishing, archery, orienteering, falconry, and cycling all available to pre-book onsite.



Telephone 01283 563483

Forest Lodge Booking Hotline 01283 519119

Email enquiries@roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk

Website www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk

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of four*

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High & Low
Ropes Adventure



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Terms and Conditions: Just fill in your email address
and hand this voucher into the reception team at
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voucher. This voucher cannot be used in conjunction
with any other offer or voucher and is only valid for
general admission during 2015 and does not include
High and Low Rope Adventure. The lowest price
entry will be free. We will only use your email
address for marketing purposes.

Cafes,
picnic areas
& free car parking

Book online:

www.visitconkers.com

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South Derbyshire DE12 6GA

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Tel: 01283 216 633

facebook

www.facebook.com/visitconkers



@ConkersCentre

* Price quoted is for a Gift Aid Ticket for 2 adults and 2
children and does not include the new High and Low
Ropes Adventure. Please visit our website for details.

** Except Christmas Day & Boxing Day



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t: 01283 532 880
www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk
The National Brewery Centre
Harninglow Street, Burton upon Trent
DE14 1NG

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ENGLISH HERITAGE
ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH CASTLE

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Forestry Commission England

Hicks Lodge
The National Forest cycle centre

Look out for our family activity trails



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Designed for the whole family:
purpose built off-road cycle trails,
bike hire, cafe & play area!
forestry.gov.uk/hicks lodge

Find us at the heart of The National Forest, near Swadlincote. **LE65 2UP**. Tel: 01530 274533.
Email: info_nationalforest@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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is something for everyone at the
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National Memorial Arboretum

Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffs. DE13 7AR

T: 01283 245 100 E: info@thenma.org.uk

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Plan your visit: www.thenma.org.uk

Stay connected on Facebook and Twitter



THE NATIONAL FOREST WALKING FESTIVAL

16TH-28TH MAY 2015

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B&B's to Forest Lodges

Beautiful places to explore



www.thenationalforestwalkingfestival.org.uk



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to be part of the
National Forest

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TRUST

19 of our woods
are found here, all
free to visit at any
time. What will you
discover today?

woodlandtrust.org.uk

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 204204 and in Scotland no. SC037693

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 Tatenhill, Burton upon Trent, DE13 9SJ. 01283 533 933

FROM 11 JULY

Swadlincote
 Tourist Information Centre

Visit Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre to find the hidden gems within The National Forest

You will find us located within Sharpe's Pottery Museum, West Street, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 9DG

Open Mon-Sat 10am - 4.30pm,
 Spring/Summer Bank Holidays 10am - 3pm

Tel: **01283 222848**
tlic@sharpepotterymuseum.org.uk
www.south-derbys.gov.uk/swadlincotefic

Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre
 @swadlincoteTIC

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

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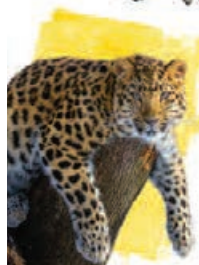
Twycross Zoo - World Primate Centre - Saving animals from extinction



Twycross Zoo
World Primate Centre

This year we have lots of new arrivals at the zoo. We have over 500 animals from almost 150 species including all four types of great ape - gorilla, chimpanzee, bonobo and orang utan.

- Free to enter visitor centre with restaurant and gift shop
- Daily talks and animal feeds
- Free Nature Reserve



www.twycrosszoo.org 0844 474 1777
Burton Road, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 3PX



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Come take a stroll along the new Boardwalk, it's the perfect place for a day out or relaxing few hours. Wine and dine at the bar & restaurant overlooking the lake, explore the farm shop with cafe, try one of the latest beauty treatments and browse the boutique retailers, gift shop & childrenswear store.

Please visit our website for event listings



merciamarina.co.uk

Mercia Marina Findern Lane Willington DE65 6DW
 Telephone 01283 703332

Luxury Holiday Lodges



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Pet friendly



Wheelchair access



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Willington
Derbyshire
DE65 6DW
01283 703332



Accommodation AT A GLANCE



HOTELS & GUEST ACCOMMODATION

ABBOTS BROMLEY

Buttercross Bed & Breakfast,
01283 262997
Colton House, 01889 578580
Marsh Farm Bed & Breakfast,
01283 840323
The Olde Peculiar,
01543 491891
The Old Rectory, 01543 490792
Woodshoot Bed & Breakfast,
07802 737676

ASHBOURNE

Cross Farm, 01335 324668
Manor House Farm,
01889 590415
Mona Villas, 01335 343773
The Black Cow, 01332 824297
The Crown Inn, 01889 591430
The Dog & Partridge Inn,
01335 343183

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

1 Appleby B & B 01530 271772

Appleby Inn Hotel,
01530 270463
Best Western Appleby Park
Hotel, 01530 279500
Cedars, 01530 412017
Champneys Springs Health
Resort, 01530 273873
Flagstaff Island Brewers Fayre
& Premier Inn, 01530 561210
Forest Court, 01530 413604
Measham House Farm,
01530 270465
Sheepy Lodge, 01827 881564
The Clockmakers House,
01530 417 974
The Odd House, 01530 270223
The Queens Head Hotel,
01530 412780
The Railway Tavern,
01530 589545
The Royal Hotel, 01530 412833

BURTON UPON TRENT

Amber House, 01283 792154
Beech Inn, 01283 561811
Burton on Trent Central
Premier Inn, 0871 5279280
Burton on Trent East
Premier Inn, 0871 5278176
Dovecliff Hall Hotel,
01283 531818
East Lodge, 01283 712412

BURTON UPON TRENT

Graill Court Hotel,
01283 741155
Hilton at St. George's Park,
01283 240444
Hoar Cross Hall Spa Hotel,
01283 575671
Holiday Inn Express Burton on
Trent, 01283 504300
Holly Tree Cottage,
01283 791120
Keepers Cottage Lodge,
01283 223868
Lock House Bed & Breakfast
01283 712988
Mercure Burton upon Trent
Newton Park Hotel,
0844 8159018
Newton House Bed &
Breakfast, 01283 701918
Old Bakers Cottage Bed &
Breakfast, 01283 575303
Premier Inn Burton upon Trent
Central, 0871 5279280
Premier Inn Burton upon Trent
East, 0871 5278176
Redmoor Accommodation,
01283 531977
Riverside Hotel, 01283 511234
The Delter, 01283 535115
The Edgecote, 01283 568966
The Unicorn Inn, 01283 703324
Three Queens Hotel & Lodge,
01283 523800
Travelodge - A38 Northbound,
0871 9846069
Travelodge - A38 Southbound,
0871 9846068
Travelodge - Burton upon
Trent Central, 0871 984 6273
Wendy's Bed & Breakfast,
07929 075298

CASTLE DONINGTON/ KEGWORTH

2 Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel 01509 672518

Breedon Hall, 01332 864935
Burleigh Court, 01509 228112
Castletown House,
01332 812018
Church View Hotel,
01332 853440
Coach House, 01509 552839
Days Inn Donington,
01332 799666
Donington Cottage,
01332 810618
Donington Manor Hotel,
01332 810253
Donington Park Farmhouse
Hotel, 01332 862409
Donington Park Travel Lodge,
0871 9846073

CASTLE DONINGTON/ KEGWORTH

Express by Holiday Inn,
01509 678000
Falcon Inn, 01509 842416
Gilburn B&B, 01509 600462
Hilton East Midlands Airport,
01509 674000
Kegworth Hotel & Conference
Centre, 01509 672427
Kegworth House,
01509 672575
Lady Gate Guest House,
01332 811565
Morton Guest House,
01332 812415
Priest House, 01332 810649
Radisson Blu East Midlands
Airport, 01509 670575
Scot's Corner Guest House,
01332 811226
Spring Cottage, 01332 814289
The Link Hotel, 01509 211800
The Royal Oak, 01509 843694
The Tudor Hotel, 01332 810875
Travelodge East Midlands
Airport, 0871 9846073
Thistle Hotel East Midlands
Airport, 0871 3769015

COALVILLE

Broadlawns Guest House,
01530 836724
Charnwood Arms,
01530 813644

3 Cross Keys Inn 01530 224799

Hermitage Park Hotel,
01530 814814
Hillfield House, 01530 833395
Queens Head Hotel,
01530 222359

4 Ravenstone Guest House 01530 810536

5 The Post House 01530 261610

LICHFIELD

Common Farm Bed &
Breakfast, 01543 472228
Netherstowe House,
01543 254270
Oak Tree Farm Hotel,
01827 56807
Premier Inn North East (A38)
Hotel, 0871 5278602
Wychnor Park Country Club,
01283 791391

MARKFIELD

Bybrook Farm B&B,
0116 2357788
Curtain Cottage,
01509 891361
Fieldhead Hotel,
01530 245454
Horseshoe Cottage Farm,
0116 2350038
Keepers Lodge, 01509 891167
Quorn Country Hotel,
01509 415050

6 Quorn Grange Hotel & Restaurant 01509 412167

Rothley Court Hotel,
0116 2374141
The Hunting Lodge,
01509 412337
The Mountsorrel,
01509 412627
Travel Lodge Markfield,
0871 9846083

MELBOURNE

Burdett House, 01332 862105
Derby House Bed & Breakfast,
01332 694565
Harpur's of Melbourne,
01332 862134
The Coach House,
01332 862338
The Harding Arms,
01332 863808
The Melbourne Arms Hotel,
01332 864949
The Stables, 01332 862768
The Staff of Life, 01332 862479

SWADLINCOTE

Badgers Rest Guest House,
01283 543229
Campville Cottage,
01283 760265
Manor Farm B&B,
01283 760340
The Bulls Head, 01283 215299
The Mill Wheel, 01283 550335
The Old Band Room,
01283 762805
The Old Schoolhouse,
01283 761665

TUTBURY

DoveVale Bed & Breakfast,
01283 815996
Hilton House Hotel,
01283 732304
The Castle Hotel,
01283 813396
The Lavender Patch,
07815 956626

UTTOXETER

Bank House Hotel,
01889 566922
Bowmore House,
01889 564452
Forest Hills Guest House,
01283 820447
High View Cottage,
01889 568183
The Bulls Head Inn,
01538 702307
The Grange, 01889 502021
The Smithfield Hotel,
01889 358334
White Hart Hotel,
01889 562437

WILLINGTON

Beechbrook House,
01283 703376
Bonehill Farm,
01332 513553
Bridge Barn Executive Suites,
01332 589314
Crewe & Harpur Arms,
01332 700641
DoveVale.co.uk, 01283 815996
Foremark Cottages,
01283 707471
Holden House B & B,
01332 792379
Ibis Budget Hotel Derby,
01283 701816
Ivy House Farm B&B,
01332 863152
Mickleover Court Hotel,
01332 521234

7 Nook Cottage B&B 01332 702050

Smithy Farm Bed and
Breakfast, 01283 701851
The Barn Retreat,
01283 732338 / 07879 635259
The Blenheim House Hotel,
01283 732254
The Boot Inn,
01283 704795
The Bubble Inn Hotel,
01283 707468

YOUTH HOSTEL

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

8 YHA National Forest 01283 229662

SELF CATERING

ABBOTS BROMLEY

9 Blithfield Lakeside Barns 01889 500458

Ingestre Lodges, 01889 271013
Stable Cottage, 01543 491579
The Creamery at Manor Farm,
01543 493223

ASHBOURNE

Ashfield Cottage,
01335 324279
Dove Farm Cottages,
01335 324357
Granary Court Holiday
Cottages, 01283 820917
Holly Tree Garden,
01335 330190
Keepers Cottage,
01889 590415
Moore's Cottage Farm,
01335 346121
Somersal Farm, 01283 840252
Swallows Loft, 01889 590464
The Chop House,
01283 732377
The Grooms Quarters,
01335 324549
The Old Barn, 01889 590848
The Old Barn at Common End
Farm, 01335 342342

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

10 Ashby Wells House 07889 182648

Deerpark Lodge, 01332 864433

11 Forest Lodge 01530 411984

12 Lakeview Lodges 01283 763777

13 Norman's Barn 01530 412224

14 Pudding Cottage 01455 292888

Smithy Studio, 01530 560166

15 The Dandelion Hideaway 01455 292888

16 Upper Rectory Farm Cottages 01827 880448

BURTON UPON TRENT

Anglo Welsh Ltd,
0117 3041122

17 Kingfisher Holiday Park 01283 790407

Newborough Cottages,
01283 575200
Orgreave Lodge, 01283 791555

CASTLE DONINGTON/ KEGWORTH

DBS Serviced Apartments,
01332 810900
Hire a Canalboat Ltd,
0800 3893022
Old Boot Garden Cottages,
07972 921637

LICHFIELD

Old Haybarn Appartments,
01543 418378

MARKFIELD

The Coach House at Quorn
Lodge, 01509 214466

MELBOURNE

Incy Wincy Cottage,
01332 864064
National Trust Calke Abbey
Holiday Cottages,
0844 8002070
Ramsley Fields Apartments,
01332 862139
River View Lodges,
01332 862469

SWADLINCOTE

50 Mill Street, 01283 761999
Cadborough Cottage,
07831 719565
Grangefields Pine Lodge,
01283 761445
Home Farm Cottage,
01283 703267
Park View Barn & Spinney
View Barn, 01283 760872

21 Rosliston Forest Lodges 01283 563483

22 Seal Brook Farm Cottages 01827 373236

Sealwood Cottage,
01283 761371
Swainswood Leisure Park,
01283 762762

23 The Little Retreat 01283 762186

TUTBURY

Oaklands Country Lodges,
01283 730283

UTTOXETER

Aldersbrook Cottage,
01889 590253
Windy Arbour, 01889 591013
Woodland Views Holiday
Cottages, 01283 820012

WILLINGTON

18 Aqua Narrowboats 01283 701041

Avante/Classic Narrow Boats,
01283 707400
Beechwood Park,
07973 562689
Cherry Lodge, 01283 703332
Derbyshire Holidays,
01332 840564
Landmark Trust Knowle Hill &
Swarkestone Pavilion,
01628 825925

19 Mercia Marina Luxury Waterside Lodges 01283 703332

Stables Lodge, 01332 510000
Stenson Lodge, 01332 840564
The Duck House,
01283 732303

20 Woodland Hills Court 01332 864619

CAMPING & CARAVANNING

ASHBOURNE

Common End Farm,
01335 342342
Dishfields Farm Caravan Park
01283 732347

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

Conkers, National Forest
Camping & Caravanning Club
Site, 01283 224925
Hill Farm, 01530 411984

24 Ingles Hill Farm Caravan Site 01530 412224

Measham House Farm,
01530 270465

BURTON UPON TRENT

Cross Farm, 01283 812868
Willowbrook Farm,
01283 790217

CASTLE DONINGTON/ KEGWORTH

Donington Park Farmhouse
Caravan & Camping Site,
01332 862409
Kings Mills Caravan Park,
01332 810304
Tonge Station Caravan Site,
01332 865161

COALVILLE

Battleflute Lodge Farm,
01530 230312
Lower Grange Farm,
01530 838074
The Belper Arms,
01530 270530

LICHFIELD

Cleat Hill farm Caravan Site,
01827 373218

MELBOURNE

Dovesite Caravan Park,
01332 863566
25 Knowle Hill Caravan Site
07768 010251

SWADLINCOTE

Beehive Farm Woodland
Lakes, 01283 763981
Sealwood Cottage Camping
and Caravanning Site,
01283 761371

UTTOXETER

Forestside Farm, 01283 820353
Uttoxeter Racecourse Site
Caravan Club Site,
01889 564172

WILLINGTON

Beechwood Park,
07973 562689
Hay Lane Caravan &
Campsite, 01283 585275
Hill Farm Camping &
Caravanning, 01332 705165
Shardlow Marina Caravan
Park, 01332 792832



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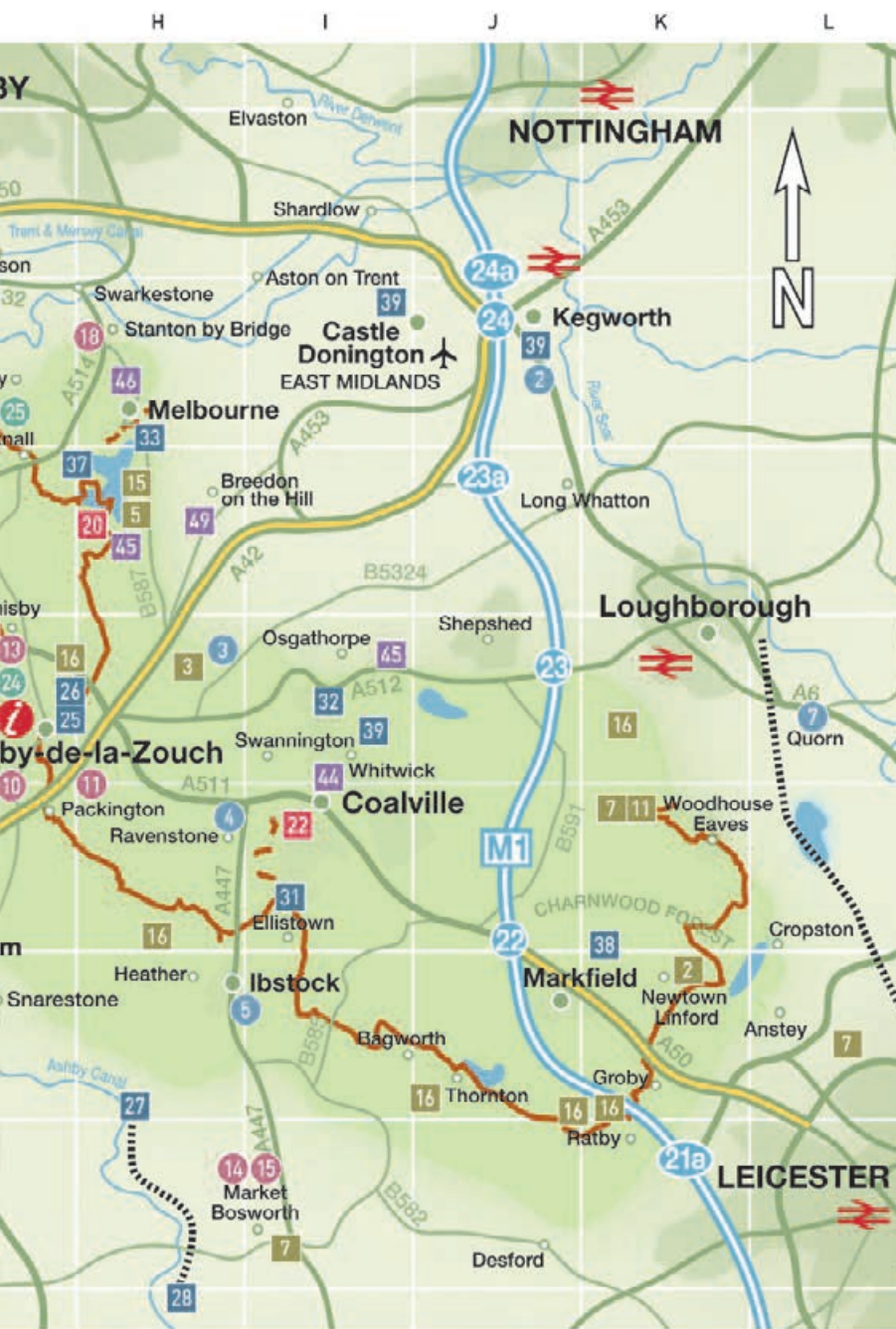


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Email: ashby.tic@nleicestershire.gov.uk

Swadlincote, Sharpe's Pottery Museum, West Street,
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