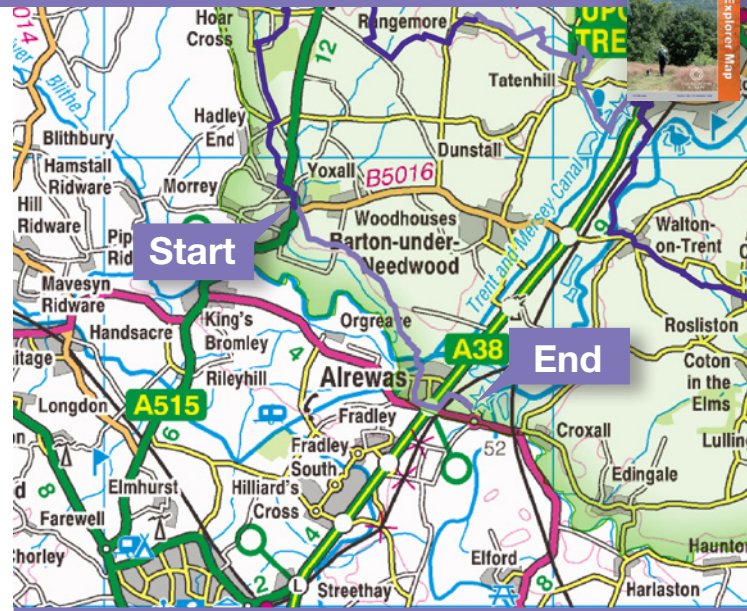


The National Forest Way takes walkers on a 75-mile journey through a transforming landscape, from the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to Beacon Hill Country Park in Leicestershire.

On the way, you will discover the area's evolution from a rural landscape, through industrialisation and its decline, to the modern-day creation of a new forest, where 21st-century life is threaded through a mosaic of green spaces and settlements.

The trail leads through young and ancient woodlands, market towns and the industrial heritage of this changing landscape.

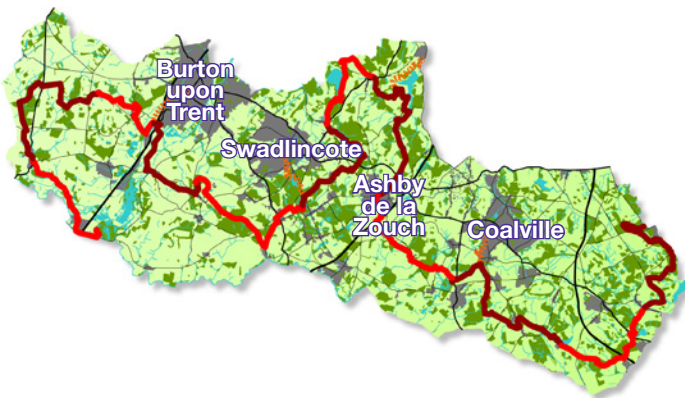


## Stage 12: Yoxall to the National Memorial Arboretum

Length: 5 miles / 8 kilometres



Route directions: Westbound



### About this stage

**Start:** Yoxall (DE13 8NQ)

**End:** National Memorial Arboretum (DE13 7AR)

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

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



To find out more, visit:  
[www.nationalforestway.co.uk](http://www.nationalforestway.co.uk)

### The National Forest Company

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Enquiries: [www.nationalforestway.co.uk/contact](http://www.nationalforestway.co.uk/contact)

Website: [www.nationalforest.org](http://www.nationalforest.org)

Photos: Jacqui Rock, Christopher Beech and  
Martin Vaughan

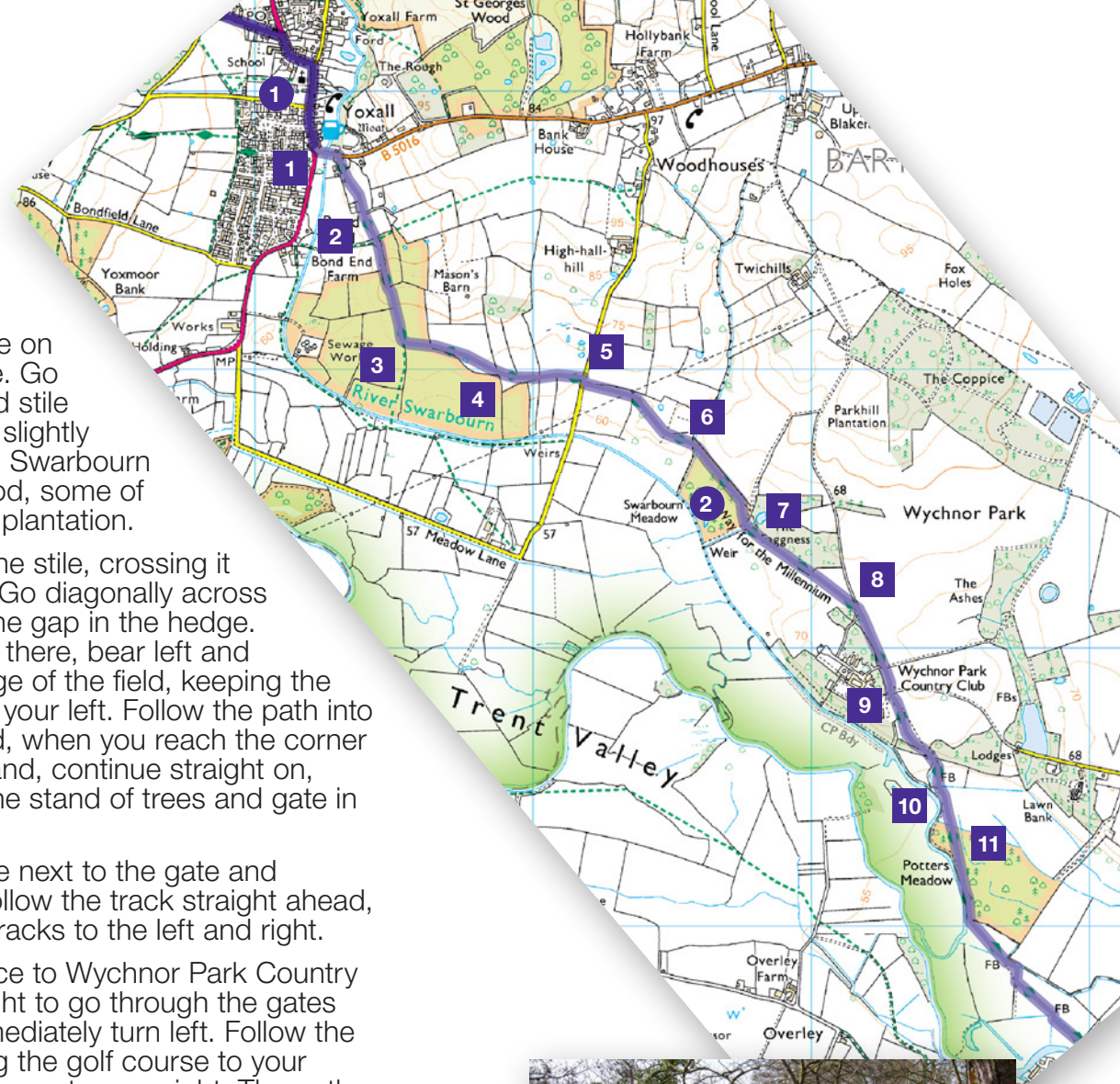
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# Yoxall to the National Memorial Arboretum

- 1** From the bus stop next to the Crown Inn, turn off the main road and onto Town Hill towards Barton under Needwood. Just after crossing the stream, turn right onto Browns Lane between two houses. Follow the lane for about 200m, past houses and fields, until it bends sharply to the left.
- 2** Don't follow the lane left, but instead continue straight ahead onto the footpath. Follow the footpath ahead, ignoring the crossroads with another path, and into a sunken green lane. At the end of the green lane, the path opens into fields.
- 3** There are two gates and stiles. Take the one on the left and follow the footpath, keeping the hedge on your left. Head towards the stile on the field boundary and cross it.
- 4** The next stile is in the corner of the field. Cross it and continue straight across the next field. Head towards stile in the corner of the field. Ignore the gates and hedges on your right. Go through the next gate and along the grassy lane with hedges either side to the road.
- 5** Cross Meadow Lane and go over the stile and into a field. Keep to the hedge and walk towards the pylon in the corner of the field. At the pylon, bear right and head towards the gap in the row of trees which cross this field. From here, bear left towards the gap in the hedge and the finger post. Keeping slightly left, cross the field with the big old oak tree on your right, and keep straight on from there towards the finger post and stile in the hedge.

- 6** Cross the stile and take care over the sleeper bridge on the other side. Go over a second stile and continue slightly uphill through Swarbour Meadow Wood, some of which is new plantation.
- 7** Continue to the stile, crossing it onto a track. Go diagonally across the track to the gap in the hedge. Walk through there, bear left and follow the edge of the field, keeping the woodland on your left. Follow the path into the wood and, when you reach the corner of the woodland, continue straight on, heading for the stand of trees and gate in the distance.
- 8** Cross the stile next to the gate and continue to follow the track straight ahead, ignoring the tracks to the left and right.
- 9** At the entrance to Wychnor Park Country Club, bear right to go through the gates and then immediately turn left. Follow the track, keeping the golf course to your left and the house to your right. The path narrows and drops down, leaving the golf course behind. Take the track on your right to pass between two areas of scrub. Immediately after the scrub, you will find a junction of paths. Take the path to the left, which then curves to the right after about 30m.



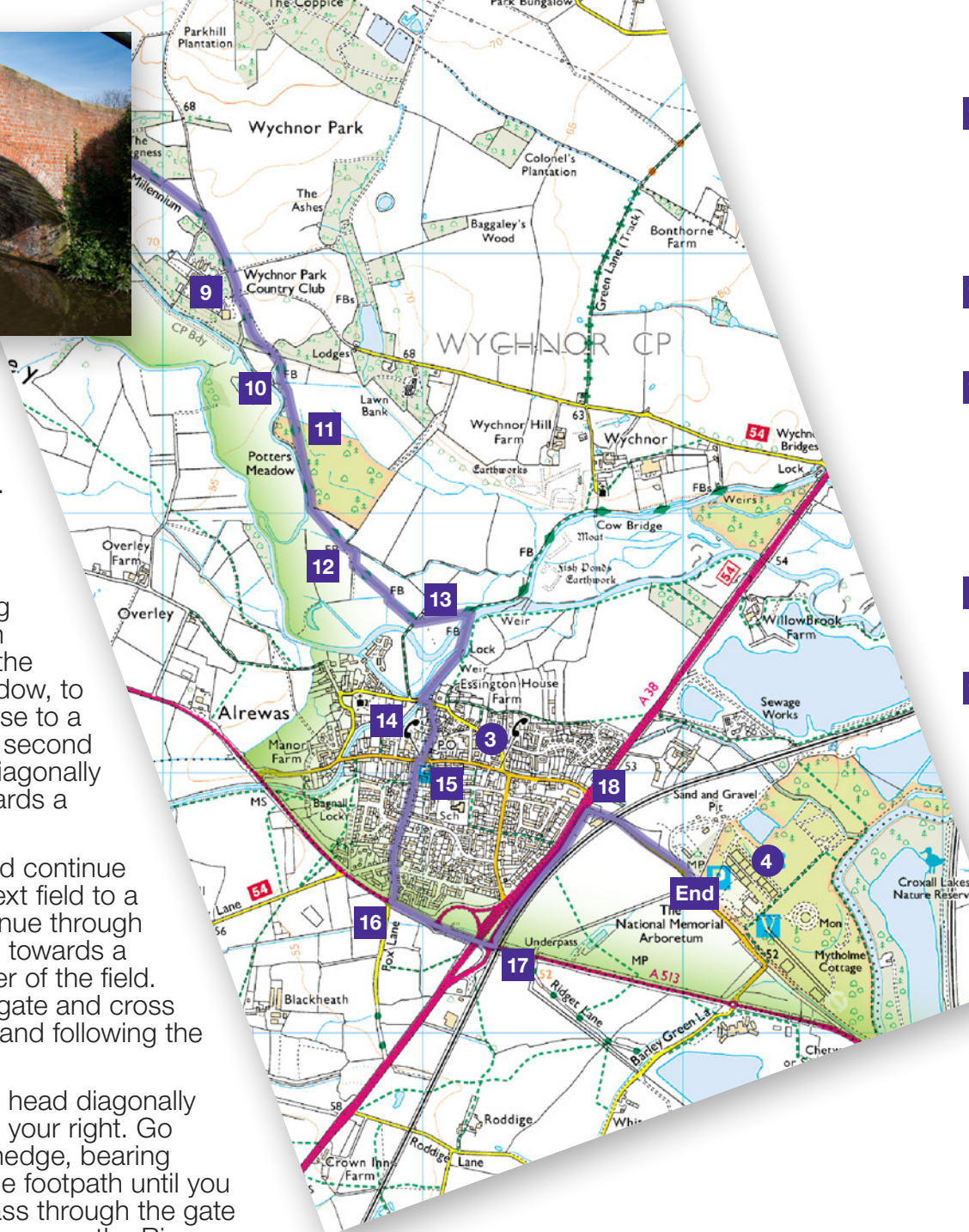


**10** At the end of the field, you will come to a footbridge and kissing gate, which you need to go through. Then continue walking up the edge of the next field to a kissing gate.

**11** Pass through the kissing gate and follow the path straight ahead through the woodland, Potters Meadow, to another kissing gate close to a stream. Go through the second kissing gate and bear diagonally left across the field towards a footbridge.

**12** Cross the footbridge and continue diagonally across the next field to a gap in the hedge. Continue through the gap on the diagonal towards a kissing gate in the corner of the field. Go through the kissing gate and cross the bridge, keeping left and following the fence to a stile.

**13** Cross the stile and then head diagonally left, ignoring the path to your right. Go through the gap in the hedge, bearing slightly left and follow the footpath until you reach a kissing gate. Pass through the gate and turn left onto a bridge over the River Trent. After the bridge, continue along the towpath to the edge of Alrewas.



**14** Turn left along Church Road and, after crossing the canal, take a right turn onto Post Office Road. Follow this until the road forks either side of a large oak tree, when you should take the right-hand fork onto Main Street.

**15** Cross over to Fox Lane and follow it for about 500m until you reach a junction with the A513.

**16** Follow the pavement left to run alongside the A513 (signposted to Tamworth). Carefully cross the slip road at the roundabout to continue straight ahead and over the A38 dual carriageway. Cross the next slip road, taking care to check for traffic coming from the left.

**17** Turn left and carefully follow the pavement alongside the sliproad and the follow the path beside the A38 for about 450m.

**18** Turn right at the houses and onto Croxall Road. After 100m, cross the railway with care at the level crossing and then walk along the pavement for 400m, past the quarry and on to the National Memorial Arboretum, where the National Forest Way ends.



## Parking

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

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

## Public transport

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

For detailed information on bus routes and times, call **Traveline** on 0871 200 22 33 (charges apply).

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

## How to use this leaflet

The maps in this leaflet are based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:25,000 scale Explorer maps and are presented at the correct scale if printed on A4 paper.

- 1 Square symbols on the maps link with the route directions that are provided alongside the map.
- 1 Circular symbols represent key points of interest along the route of the trail.

## 1 Yoxall

Yoxall is an attractive Needwood village situated on the River Swarbourn. The main street features several timber-framed buildings dating from the 14th century and a number of fine 18th-century farmhouses in red brick.



## 2 Swarbourn Meadow

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



## 3 Alrewas

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



## 4 The National Memorial Arboretum

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



## About The National Forest

The National Forest is one of Britain's boldest environmentally-led regeneration projects: the creation of a new forest across 200 square miles of parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire, linking the ancient forests of Needwood and Charnwood.

Over the last twenty years, The National Forest has trebled forest cover within its boundary, creating habitats for wildlife, a woodland economy and a beautiful landscape for everyone to enjoy.

