

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.



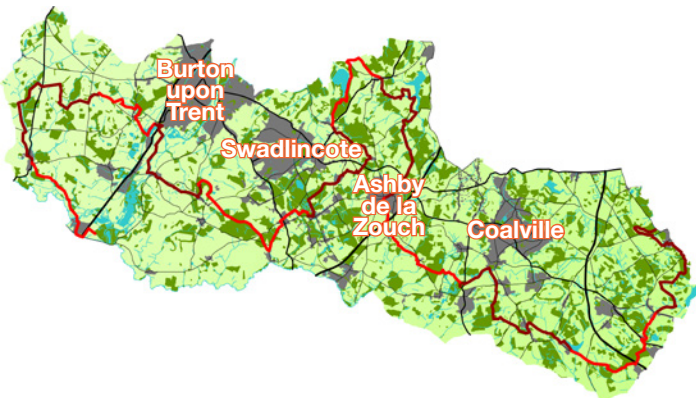
Stage 9:

Branston to Rosliston

Length: 5½ miles / 9 kilometres



Route directions: Eastbound



About this stage

Start: Branston Water Park (DE14 3HD)
End: Rosliston Forestry Centre (DE12 8JX)

This stage takes you through open farmland and the floodplain of the River Trent. The Trent will be your companion for a while as you enter the flat plains of mineral workings and skylark country. Rosliston Forestry Centre provides plenty of opportunities to get active or just sit back and relax with a cuppa and a cake.

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

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Branston to Rosliston

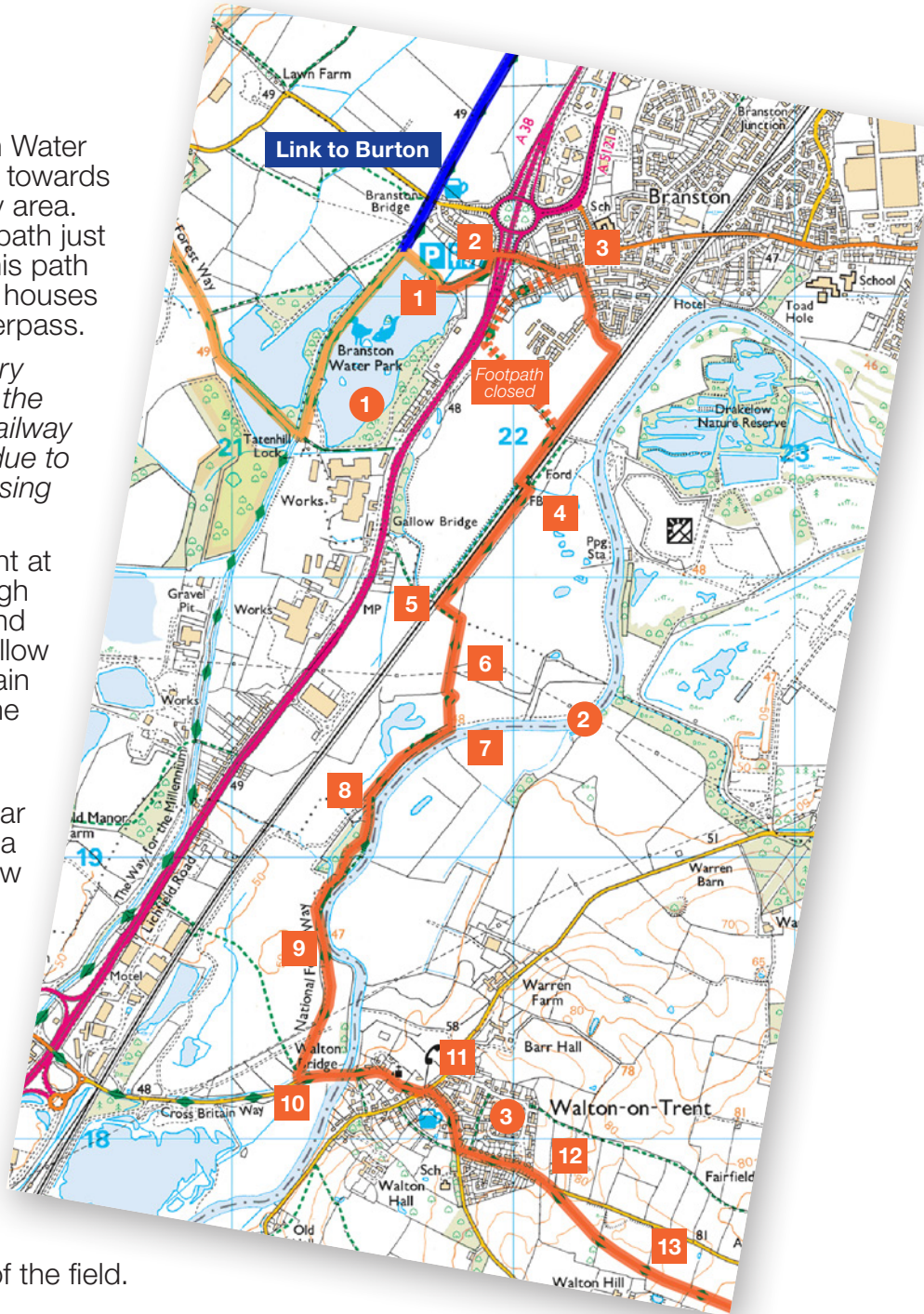
1 From the car park at Branston Water Park, walk away from the lake towards the exit and the children's play area. Bear left to follow the tarmac path just before the play area. Follow this path through the trees towards the houses until you reach a subway underpass.

Please note: There is a temporary footpath diversion in place on the public footpath between the railway line and the Gate Inn. This is due to the construction of a new housing development.

2 Enter the subway and turn right at the T-junction. Continue through the subway, under the A38, and out onto Court Farm Lane. Follow the land to its junction with Main Street. Turn left, continue to the junction then turn right at the shops, down Acacia Lane.

3 Go down Acacia Lane and bear left onto the large grassed area just after Hollyhock Way. Follow the unsurfaced path around the open space, keeping the trees to your left. Turn right as you approach the railway line and follow the path. Cross over a stile and continue until you reach the footbridge.

4 Cross the bridge over the railway, head over a stile and then turn right to take the path on the other side of the railway. Follow this path for another 500m to the end of the field.



5 Turn left before the gate in the corner of the field and follow the hedge around the edge of the field as it bears right. In the next corner of the field, head straight on over the wooden bridge, climbing the stiles either side of it.

6 Continue ahead, keeping the hedge on your right. The hedge turns left then right. Take the path through the hedge, crossing a pair of stiles. Turn left and follow the fenced path, with a lagoon on your right, to the River Trent.

7 At the river, turn right to follow the path along the river bank and past a large lagoon on your right.

8 After about 350m, look out for a small wooden bridge that comes after it. Cross the bridge and follow the path alongside the river, through a small woodland and out through a kissing gate into open fields again.

9 At the gateway, the path veers away from the river through a field and out onto the road.

10 Turn left to follow the road towards the river. Cross the Trent using the footbridge and head on past the church into Walton on Trent.

11 In the centre of the village, opposite the White Swan pub, turn left and then immediately right onto Coton Road. After about 200m, the road forks. Take the left-hand fork onto Rosliston Road and walk to the end of the houses.

- 12** At the edge of Walton, turn right to cross a stile into the field beyond. Follow the path diagonally across the field to a stile halfway along the far fence. Cross this stile and head diagonally across the next field.
- 13** Climb the next stile and head straight across the next three fields.

- 14** After the third field, the path turns right and then left to follow the edge of the fourth field. At the corner of this field, follow the path through an area of scrub and then across a wooden bridge.
- 15** Continue straight ahead along the edge of the next field. At the far side, cross the stile and follow the path as it turns left. After about 60m, take the stile in the fence to your right and head diagonally across the next two fields.

- 16** Cross the stile and walk towards the kissing gate ahead of you, leading into Redferns Wood. Head through the gate and cross the wooden bridge that follows it. Bear right to take the path past the pond and on to the edge of this plantation woodland. On leaving the plantation, follow the path as it veers right, keeping the hedge on your right, and head towards the edge of Rosliston.
- 17** Follow the path past the pony paddocks on your left and then on between the houses to reach the road next to the Bulls Head pub. Turn right to follow Burton Road as it bends to the left, becoming Main Street. About 75m after the bend, look out for a footpath heading off to the left.
- 18** Follow this footpath between two houses, past St Mary's church and into a field. Turn right and follow the path around the edge of the field to a gate at the edge of Rosliston Forestry Centre
- 19** Go through the gate and take the path straight ahead of you through Snowdrop Wood. Shortly after you leave this woodland area you will come to a junction of four paths. Follow the path straight ahead, with the stream to your right.
- 20** When you reach a concrete path (near the water treatment works) turn left and walk up towards the visitor centre. At the top of the concrete path is the Hub cafe, turn right in front of this, then left when you can into the visitor centre. The car park is the far side of the visitor centre.



Link to Burton upon Trent

To visit the nearby town of Burton upon Trent, which has a range of shops, pubs and things to do, follow the 2½ mile link below.

To Burton: From the car park at Branston Water park, walk to the Trent & Mersey Canal and turn right to follow the towpath into Burton. After 2,750m you will reach Shobnall Marina. Turn right here onto Shobnall Road and follow it for 500m to the second of two roundabouts. Turn left onto Wellington Road for 400m and then right onto Borough Road. Burton station is 200m on your right.

From Burton: Turn left out of Burton station car park. Follow Borough Road for 200m and then turn left onto Wellington Road. After 400m, turn right at the roundabout and follow Shobnall Road for 500m to the Marina. Turn left onto the Trent & Mersey Canal towpath and follow it for 2,750m to Branston Water Park, where you re-join the National Forest Way.



Points of interest along this stage

1 Branston Water Park

These restored gravel pits feature one of the largest areas of reedbed in Staffordshire, together with wet woodland and wildflower meadows. These valuable habitats attract a wide range of birds, butterflies and other insects.



2 River Trent

The earliest human presence in The National Forest area was probably alongside the River Trent, with primitive stone tools revealing that people lived there as long as 25,000 years ago. Ever since, it has been a focus for settlement, transport and industry. Today it is also a haven for wildlife, with otters, kingfishers and herons all to be found here.

3 Walton on Trent

This attractive village is an ancient crossing point of the River Trent. It was here that King Edward II crossed the river in pursuit of the disaffected Earl of Lancaster. Built in 1974, the bridge over the Trent is the second temporary Bailey bridge to cross it. The first Bailey bridge was built in 1947 to replace the original bridge, built in 1834, which was damaged by floods.

4 Rosliston Forestry Centre

This popular visitor centre was the first to open in The National Forest. You can walk and cycle through the woodlands, spot the wildlife or take part in the Centre's environmental education programme.



Useful Information

Parking

Parking is available at Rosliston Forestry Centre and Branston Water Park. Please note that there may be a charge for parking at either site and also be aware of car park closing times before setting off.

Public transport

Rosliston Forestry Centre is on the 22 Swadlincote-Burton bus route (Mon-Sat). Branston is on the 7/7A/7E Lichfield-Burton bus route (Mon-Sun), the nearest bus stop to Branston Water Park is at St Saviours Church on Main Street). Change at Burton to travel between the start and finish of the stage.

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

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.

To find out more, visit:

www.nationalforestway.co.uk

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.