

plantatree

A gift that grows into
The National Forest

come and join us

The National Forest is a symbol of hope for the nation. It is also very much a child of its time. It reflects the growing awareness of our need to protect and cherish our environment, our desire to pass it on undamaged and even enhanced for future generations.

Each year hundreds of people, from all across the country, help us by planting a tree, or group of trees. **They know their tree will be a part of a forest that is absorbing carbon and reducing the impact of climate change.** They know their forest is a place of beauty for people of all ages to enjoy.

the perfect gift

You do not necessarily need a special reason to plant a tree but it does make a much loved, living gift to celebrate occasions such as:

- Birthdays
- Graduation
- Birth of a baby
- Valentine's Day
- Mother's Day
- Christmas
- Weddings
- Anniversaries
- Retirement
- Father's Day

Planting a tree in memory of a loved one is also an inspirational way of celebrating their life.

To find out more, please
visit our website at:

www.nationalforest.org

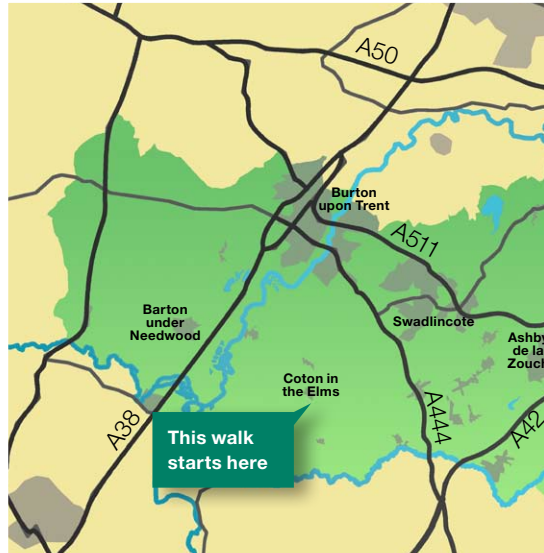


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This leaflet can be used in conjunction with OS Explorer 245 (The National Forest) and Landranger number 128 (Derby and Burton upon Trent).



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Best Kept Villages

9 mile medium walk



Best Kept Villages

This 9 mile walk takes you through some of the prettiest villages in the Mease Lowlands. It links both ancient woodlands and those that have been planted as part of the developing National Forest. Village greens, historic houses and distinctive church spires are all features of this route.

- 1 Starting from the car park, go through the gate opposite the entrance and follow the public footpath along the grass track ahead. At a junction of tracks, veer right through a gap. Follow the grass track, keeping the overgrown hedge on your left, until you reach a stile next to a gate. Cross the stile and continue ahead on the 'coffin route', a raised path and an avenue of hawthorn trees, over a bridge and ahead to a stile into a field.

The steeple of Lullington Church should be visible poking over the horizon as you walk up the field. In the third field, immediately after passing a copse, veer right to a gap in a hedge. Follow the left hand hedge towards Lullington.

Head right, through a wide gap, towards the church. Cross the stile in the holly hedge on your right. This takes you through another field to enter the village.

- 2 Turn right on Dag Lane and then left past the Colville Arms pub. After the church, take the road off to the right. Enter the gate to the cricket ground, opposite the churchyard. Head left into Lullington Wood.

- 3 Continue round the cricket pitch and over the stile at the far end. Exit by the same gate, retrace steps into the village.

- 4 Turn left at the church and then right (signposted Overseal/Netherseal). Turn right into the drive leading to The Limes. Join the footpath and continue along it until you reach a stream.

- 5 Cross to the road opposite and follow it for half a mile. At the second finger post on the right (pointing towards Netherseal), follow the footpath over a plank bridge and, aiming for Netherseal Church tower, take the footpath along the hedges. Eventually, cross a track and then turn left through a series of gates to reach Main Street, Netherseal.



6 Turn left and walk straight on through the village, passing The Holly Bush Inn. Beyond Netherseal Club go left by a footpath sign through a gate. Pass the bowling green and then head right through a gap in hedge. Turn left and keep hedge on your left. Pass through a gap in the hedge in front and continue for 200m to where the hedge swings left. Go diagonally right across the field to a narrow gap in the hedge. Head through the gap, then aim to the right of the cottage, to cross road by a footpath sign.

Follow the line of the way-mark keeping hedge and fence on your left. Ahead you will see the impressive Grangewood Hall. Continue on the headland to pass a large pond and reach a stile in the field corner leading on to the road.

7 Cross the road and continue up the drive of Woodside Cottage and bear left onto narrow fenced path to the field. Keep the edge of Grange Wood on your left and walk through a series of stiles and 'cut throughs' to the end of the mature woodland. Go left over a stile into Top Wood. Turn right and follow the grass track to a stile and gate close to a barn conversion. Cross the stile to meet the track near Park Farm.

8 As you continue straight ahead down track to surfaced road pass Top Wood on your right. Turn left to Botany Bay. At T-junction go right and after a few yards turn left by the house into Beehive Wood.

9 Continue straight ahead and ignore first cross track. At next crossing turn right, shortly at a clearing on your right continue downhill with glimpses of a fishing pond on the right; then onto a rough parking area and down gravel track towards road. Before exit to road go left through metal gate into field. Turn right to follow hedge parallel to road to pass lake on left. Continue along grass track then turn next left, signed to Coton.



Continue ahead along the fenced track to T-junction. Turn right and walk along right of way between hedgerows and caravan site to stile. Turn left over stile and go across the field, with the hedge on your right, to a double metal gate. Cross next field to far left corner and through a gate to the left of a row of garages and onto the road.

10 Turn left and bear right to the village centre and along Pessall Brook. A host of ducks will follow you down the street if you offer a few crusts. On meeting Church Street at the junction turn left back to Coton Wood car park.



Points of interest along the walk:

1 Coton Wood was planted by the Woodland Trust in 1994. Planted on former farmland, the main species are oak, ash, field maple, hawthorn, cherry and other native species.

Before the graveyard at Coton was begun, the dead were carried to Lullington for burial along this route through the "Devil's Arches".

2 Lullington has the distinction of being the most southerly village in Derbyshire. The Colville Arms is named after Charles Robert Colville, former Lord of the Manor and MP for Lullington in the mid 1800s.



3 Lullington Wood was planted in the grounds of Lullington Park Cricket Club in 1998. Old parkland trees have been retained and views to no fewer than seven church spires are enhanced by appropriate planting of native species. Information boards on site explain how Charles Colville planned to build a hall here in 1850 but got no further than laying the foundations and terraces before he changed his mind and altered an existing building in the village to create a grand hall. The foundations can still be seen to this day.

6 Netherseal was recorded in the Domesday Book as being a wooded area on the edge of the Ashby Woulds and the trading routes, the Walton Way and the Salt Way ran through the parish.

Sir Nigel Gresley, designer of The Mallard steam locomotive, which held the world speed record of 126mph in 1938, is buried in the churchyard.



7 Grangewood and Potters Wood are what is known as replanted ancient woodlands cover. Covering 70 ha, they have characteristic flora including bluebells and anemones. There is no public access to the privately owned woods but a public footpath runs through north western corner.



8 Top Tree Wood and Long Close Wood were planted by the Woodland Trust in 1996. With a combined area of over 80ha, they consist mainly of native broadleaved trees with a larch "nurse" crop and an area has been left next to Grangewood to enable natural regeneration of trees from the ancient woodland into the surrounding area. Walkers, cyclists and riders can use Top Tree and Long Close Woods

9 Beehive Farm and Wood was planted in three phases between 1996 and 2002. In an impressive example of diversification, the landowner has dug three lakes for fishing, provided trails for a range of users. There is also a camping and caravanning site, children's farm and playground. Old farm buildings have been converted into a tea room, craft workshops and business units.



10 The village of **Coton in the Elms** derives its name from "all the cottages in the elms". However, as a result of Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s few of the elms which gave rise to this name remain.

About one mile southeast of the village, just east of Church Flatts Farm, is the furthest place from the sea in the British Isles (grid reference SK257144).