

Changing Landscapes in The National Forest

If you own or manage land within The National Forest, you could help to contribute to the ongoing transformation of the landscape. To help you achieve this, the National Forest Company offers a range of schemes to support landowners to create new forest sites.

The **Changing Landscapes Scheme** is designed to encourage tree planting and the creation of wildlife habitats within the Forest. It is one of the most generous woodland planting schemes in the country, covering all the costs involved in creating new landscapes that include woodland, encourage wildlife and create areas for people to enjoy.



The **500 to 2000 Trees Scheme** covers the planting of between 500 and 2,000 trees; sufficient to create a woodland of up to one hectare (2½ acres) in size. The scheme is ideal for creating small copses or to establish shelterbelts that link wildlife habitats.

With the **One Acre Woods Scheme**, the National Forest Company is looking for landowners of all types to create one acre woodlands within the Forest.

The **Programme Development Fund** is available to the owners and managers of key strategic sites, organisations, charities, local authorities, companies or individuals within the Forest area. There is a range of funds, which provide up to 50% of the cost of works relating to site development, access & conservation (e.g. orchards and hedgerows), heritage, communities, partnerships and management.

With all of these different schemes, whatever your plans, there should be one that can help you. For more information, visit our website.

www.nationalforest.org



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



The National Forest Company

Enterprise Glade, Bath Yard, Moira,
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 6BA
01283 551211
enquiries@nationalforest.org
www.nationalforest.org

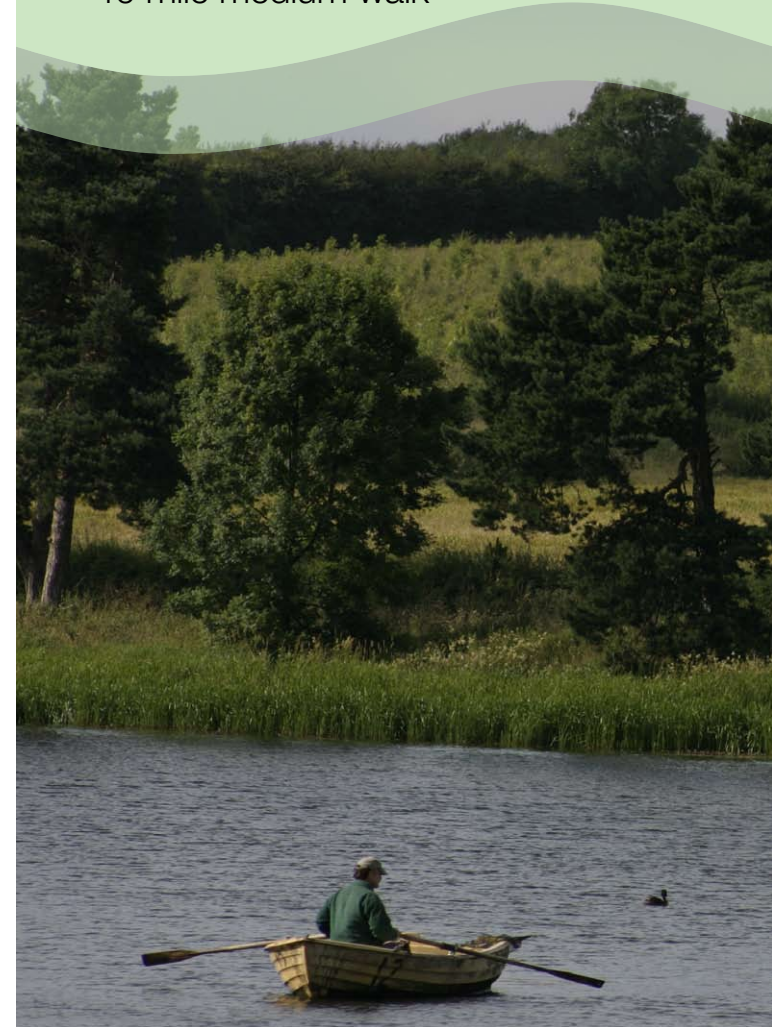
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Coal tips to country parks

10 mile medium walk



Coal tips to country parks

This is a 10 mile walk, which passes through the villages of Thornton and Bagworth, over former coal mining sites which have now been transformed into woodlands and country parks, and past the picturesque Thornton reservoir, and past the picturesque Thornton reservoir.

The walk can be done as one 10 mile circuit or as two loops of 5 and 6 miles.

- 1 From the car park, cross the access road and enter through the kissing gate. Bear left along the path beside the fishing pools before crossing Heath Road into Royal Tigers Wood.
- 2 Walk into an open glade and follow the grass path on the right into Centenary Wood. Continue on the winding path through the wood, which eventually passes a large pylon. Just before the road, join the Leicestershire Round footpath on the left and follow it out of the wood and past the church.
- 3 Turn left up Main Street and then right on to Station Road. After about half a mile, turn right on to Park Lane. Follow the bridleway to the railway.
- 4 Cross the railway bridge and turn right on the route of the Bagworth Incline, now a green lane that is rich in wildlife. Follow the path for half a mile.
- 5 At the end of the incline, go over two stiles and then cross the driveway (which leads to Bagworth Park Farm) to join the footpath opposite. Follow the footpath signs to a cross path and turn left over the stile. Take the footpath opposite towards the pylon and into Thornton Plantation.
- 6 Follow the footpath through the Plantation and exit on to Stanton Lane and ahead onto Thornton's Main Street.
- 7 At this point you can either continue on the 10-mile route, or take a shortcut for the five-mile route.

For the longer route, walk down Main Street to the school and turn left to follow the Leicestershire Round footpath to Thornton Reservoir. The directions for the rest of the route start at 1 on the route described at the bottom of the sheet.

For the shorter route, continue along Main Street for about half a mile. Where the road forks, take the right fork onto Merrylees Road and then follow 8 below.



- 8 Walk to the last house on the right and turn right on to the footpath. Follow this past the houses and downhill to the railway line. Carefully cross the railway, follow the path past the pond and turn right on to the path leading into Bagworth Heath Woods. Follow the path through the Country Park to the car park.

This 6-mile loop can be walked separately. Parking is available along Main Street in Thornton.

- 1 Take the path to the right of the primary school. Pass through the kissing gate and follow the footpath to Thornton Reservoir. Turn left and follow the surfaced path along the side of the reservoir until you get to Reservoir Road.
- 2 Turn left on to the road. After about 50m turn left over the stile and proceed straight up the grassy hill. Head for the right hand corner of the field and cross the stile. Cross the next field to a stile, which takes you onto Thornton Lane.
- 3 Turn left and, after about 150m, take the public footpath to the right. Follow the path for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to a waymarker at a T-junction of paths.
- 4 Take the path to the right and follow it for 500m to another T-junction close to Old Hays Farm. Turn left towards Ratby Burroughs Wood, cross the next stile into the wood, turn right and go through the metal gate which is on your left.
- 5 Follow the grassy path straight on and take the desire line to the memorial stone for the Bali Bombings. Turn right into the woods, follow the path uphill and continue out the other side of the woods and then cross the grassy open space to the stile.
- 6 Turn right along the track for approximately 100m, then turn left through the metal gate and follow the grassy path, (keeping to the left hand side) through the woods until you reach the small bridge with metal tubular sides.
- 7 Turn right and follow the bridleway, passing through Crow Wood and Polebrook Wood. Eventually you will reach a fingerpost marking National Cycle Network route 63. Turn left here and continue on to Thornton Lane.
- 8 Cross over the road and head for the gap in the hedge opposite. Cross the stile and turn right (keeping the hedge to your right). Follow the footpath until you reach Merrylees Road.

To rejoin the main route, follow the instructions from **8** above. Otherwise, turn right and follow the road back into Thornton and on to the primary school where you began this loop.



Points of interest along the walk:

1 Bagworth Heath Woods

Created on the site of the former Desford Colliery, this 80ha country park includes lakes that were formed by mining subsidence and a woodland demonstrating different tree species and types of planting.



2 Centenary Wood

Bagworth Parish Council celebrated its 100th anniversary by raising funds to plant Centenary Wood.

2 Royal Tigers Wood

Former soldiers from the Royal Leicestershire Regiment raised funds to plant Royal Tigers Wood. It includes tree species from the various countries in which the regiment (formerly the 17th Foot) won some of its important battle honours. A granite memorial stone at the top of the hill to your left bears the regimental cap badge and alongside is a Mercer's oak, grown from an acorn from the tree in Princeton, New Jersey, around which the surrounded 17th Foot routed part of Washington's army in a memorable battle in 1777.

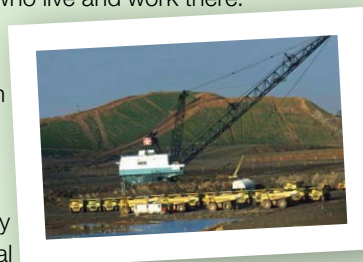
3 Bagworth Church

The new Holy Rood Church replaces the ancient Norman Church which collapsed as a result of mining subsidence. The new church stands on a floating foundation to prevent a recurrence and includes the salvaged Norman arch from the original building.

King Coal

The exploitation of deposits of coal – the famous 'black gold' – has been central to the region's economy for centuries. Not only have the coalfields of South Derbyshire and West Leicestershire played a significant role in the history of British mining, but the industry that developed around them has shaped both the local landscape and the heritage of the people who live and work there.

Although greatly reduced in scale from its heyday in the first half of the twentieth century, coal mining has left a potent legacy, and one which is central to any understanding of the history and heritage of The National Forest.



In the 1980s the blighted post-industrial landscapes of much of The National Forest posed both a problem and an opportunity. With much of the area's core industries in serious decline or at the point of complete extinction, energy was understandably focused on creating new employment options for local people. However, there was also the landscape to consider; and its potential value to enhance the area and play a role in job creation, as well as making the area more attractive to residents, visitors and investors alike. At first this appeared a daunting task – the residue of several centuries of mining could not be eradicated overnight – yet it also presented an unusual occasion to start afresh. The National Forest is just one examples of this new start, as the area strives to create a new identity for itself which both respects and builds on its social and industrial heritage.

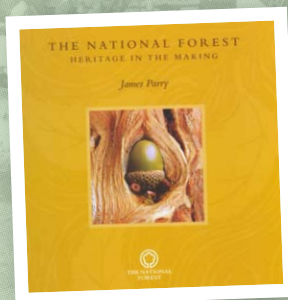
These extracts are taken from:

**The National Forest -
Heritage in the Making**

by James Parry

Available from:

www.nationalforest.org



Points of interest along the walk:

4 Bagworth Incline

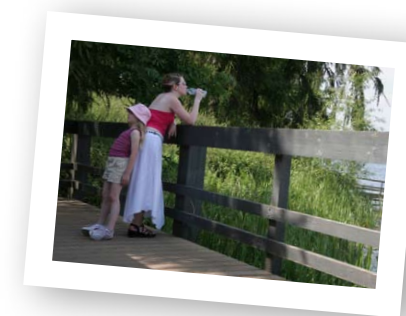
The incline formed part of the Leicester to Swannington railway. The first public railway, this was engineered by George and Robert Stephenson in 1832. The toll-keeper's roundhouse, which stood at the head of the incline, disappeared only a few years ago.

5 Bagworth Park

Bagworth Park farmhouse, built in 1769, stands on the site of Bagworth Moats, a grand house built in 1616 and which was surrounded by an impressive moat served by its own ferry boat. Parts of the overgrown moat are still visible near the house.

1 Thornton Reservoir

Severn Trent Water opened this quiet and attractive water to visitors in 1997. The reservoir offers birdwatching, picnicking and walks connecting to the wider public footpaths network. A sculpture trail developed in partnership with East Midlands Shape is an attractive feature in the mature wood.



5 Old Hayes

The earliest reference to a dwelling at Old Hayes is 1280 and the present farmhouse dates back to 1733. It is a scheduled ancient monument and still retains the original moat, crossed by a bridge with a 15th Century dovecote within. Old Hayes was one of the first Changing Landscape Scheme winners and was planted in 2008/09.