

# Reservoirs & Oaklands

The **Reservoirs & Oaklands** walks link the two largest reservoirs in The National Forest: Staunton Harold Reservoir and Foremark Reservoir. Walking through the undulating Calke Uplands, there are superb views across the Trent Valley to Derby and beyond to the foothills of the Peak District. Along the routes, historic villages and parklands combine with new National Forest woodlands to create a truly varied experience.



Both routes pass through one of the gems of The National Forest: **Calke Park**, near Ticknall. Built for the Harpur family in 1703, **Calke Abbey** is owned and managed by the National Trust, it is set in beautiful parkland containing ponds, ancient oaks and open pasture. The park contains a herd of over one hundred fallow and red deer. The large parkland trees scattered throughout the park are mainly oaks and these 'veteran' oaks are nationally important for the invertebrates that thrive on them.

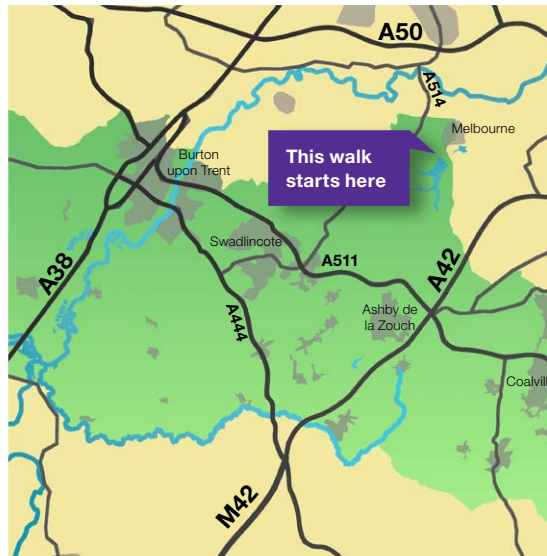
## How to use this leaflet

These were originally published as two separate walks: the **Reservoirs Walk** and **Oaks & Oaklands**. Both routes start at the visitor centre at Staunton Harold Reservoir and, for much of their lengths, the two routes overlap. This leaflet describes both routes, with the **Reservoirs Walk** presented in its entirety and the **Oaks & Oaklands** walk presented as an extension.

For the **Oaks & Oaklands** walk, follow the instructions for the **Reservoirs Walk** until the end of stage **3** then switch to instructions for the **Oaks & Oaklands**. These are marked with circular stage numbers **1** to **5**. You will then rejoin the **Reservoirs Walk** at stage **6**.



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

*Photography: Christopher Beech, Lesley Hextall,  
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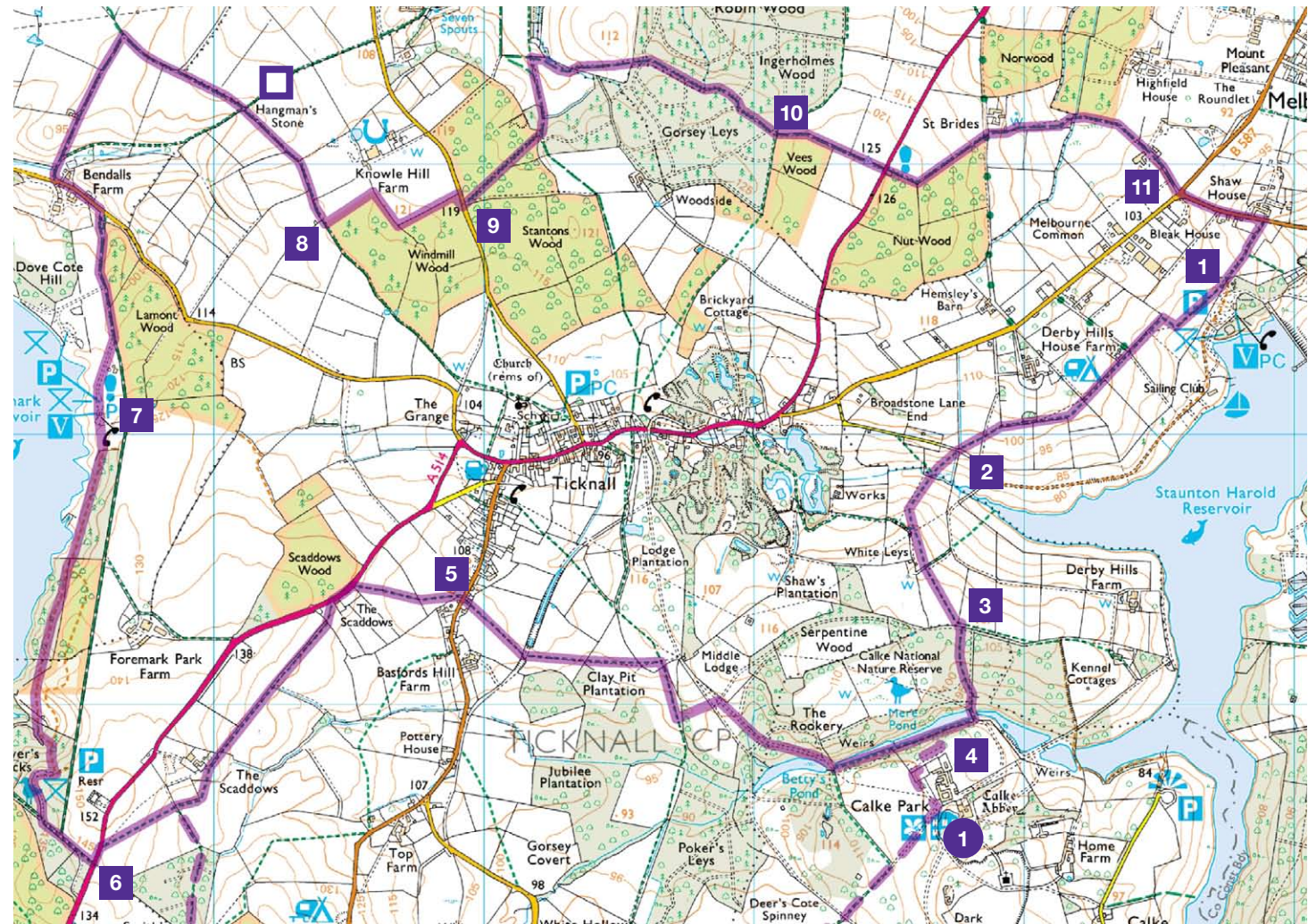
# Reservoirs & Oaklands

10 mile and 12½ mile long walks



# Reservoirs walk

- 1 At the left of the Tower, go through the gap and follow the public footpath across the field towards a cream house. Continue along the footpath until you reach Broadstone Lane.
- 2 Cross the stile and follow the footpath to a dry stone wall. Turn left along the footpath, across a track and over a field to enter **Calke Park** through the gate on your right.
- 3 Turn right and immediately left, then follow the footpath downhill and cross the weir.
- 4 Then turn right to walk alongside the ponds. Cross the stile between the last two ponds, bear right and follow the track to meet the main drive. Turn right to follow the drive. 200m before the lodge, cross the grass to a stile on your left, through a thin strip of trees and a gap in the wall. Turn sharp right, over the stile and left on to the public footpath. Follow the footpath, crossing the route of the old tramway, to the outskirts of **Ticknall**.
- 5 Cross the road and rejoin the public footpath opposite. Follow the footpath diagonally across two fields and then left along the A514. Pass Scaddows Cottage, cross the stile and follow the footpath past The Scaddows to the A514. To access the café and farm shop, go through the gate then walk up the field to a gate to the right of the two-storey building.
- 6 Cross the road and bear left to join the footpath to meet a metalled track, then turn right. At the end of the track, turn left down the steps. Bear left and continue downhill to the finger post. Follow *Woodland Walks*, ignoring the signs for **Scaddows Oaks**, to the **Foremark Reservoir** visitor centre.
- 7 Follow the access road out of the site and turn left on to a wide grass verge alongside the road. Opposite Bendalls Farm, cross over to the bridleway (left fork) and follow it to a T-junction of bridleways. Turn right and follow the bridleway, past **Hangman's Stone** (marked ■ on the map) and on to the edge of **Windmill Wood**.



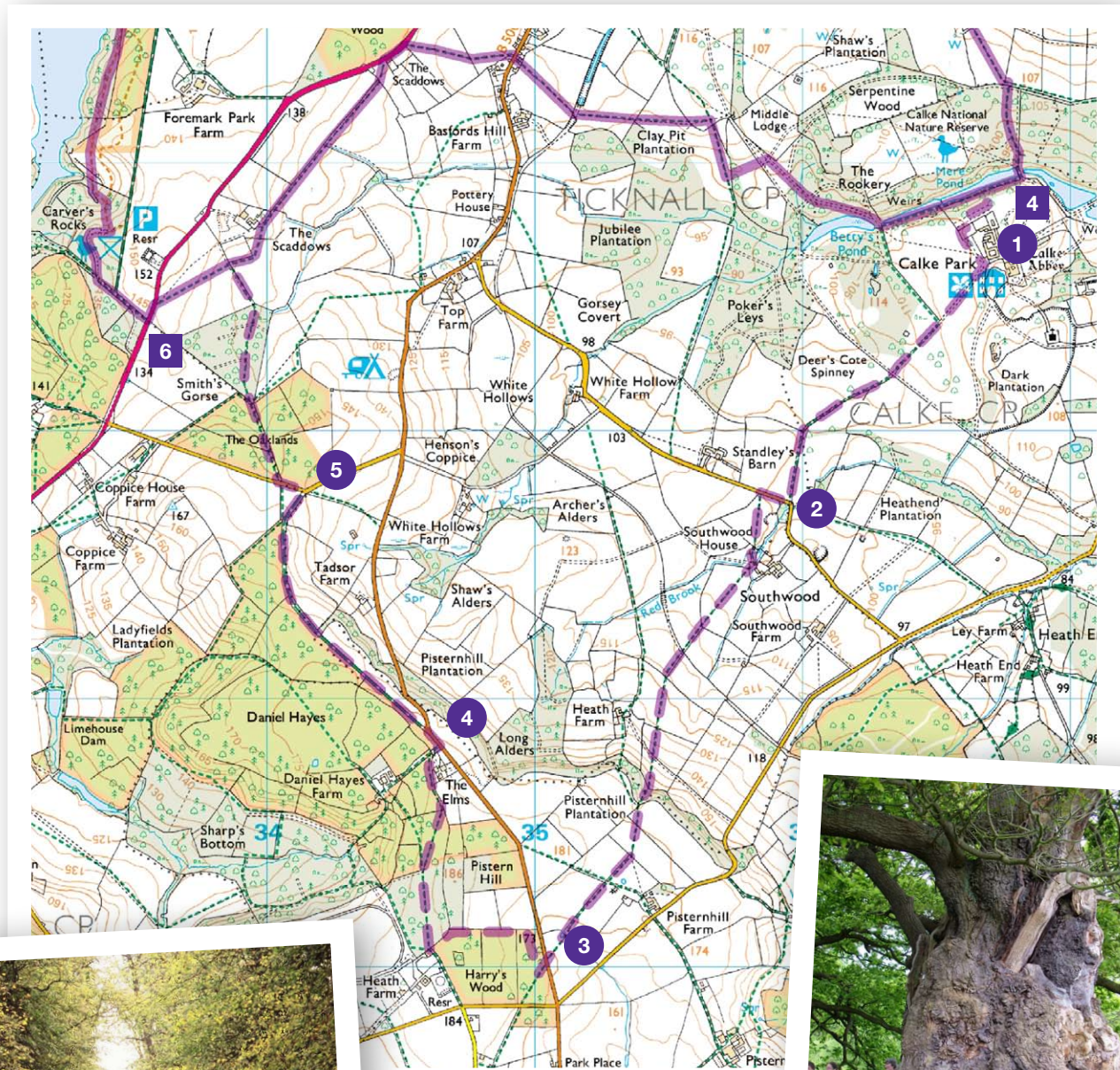
- 8 Follow the deer fence (on your left) all the way round the woodland perimeter until you meet the step stile on the left. Turn right and then left over a stile out on to the lane opposite Stantons Wood. Cross over and through the bridle gates into the wood.
- 9 Take the broad bridleway through the wood, turning left at the T-junction. Follow the bridleway to the next junction of paths, then turn right, to take the bridleway through Gorsey Leys to the edge of **Vee's Wood**.
- 10 Follow the bridleway along the track to the main road. Cross the road with care and continue along the bridleway through the gateway opposite and along the edge of Nut Wood to St Bride's. Cross the farm track and follow the bridleway, past Smith's Wood, to the Ticknall to Melbourne road.
- 11 Cross the road with care and follow Robinson's Hill opposite until you pass the bus stop. Cross over by Shaw House to the footpath leading to the Tower and back to the reservoir car park.

# Oaks & oaklands

Follow the Reservoirs Walk route from the start to point 4.

- 1 After 4, climb the steps and walk through the car park. Follow the access road, taking the right fork to veer away from the buildings. Where the access road turns sharp right, go straight ahead through a gate in the wall and follow the public footpath to the road.
- 2 Turn right on the road and, after 100m, cross a stile on the left onto a public footpath. Follow this through a gate to the right of the farm buildings and then on for another half a mile to Pisternhill Plantation. Enter the plantation via the stile and then follow the footpath through a gully before leaving the wood over another stile. Follow the footpath to the left for about half a mile until you reach the Smisby to Ticknall road. Cross with care and enter **Harry's Wood** via the footbridge.
- 3 Turn right and follow the edge of the woodland before veering left through the hedge and head uphill to the far corner to exit over a stile by a large shed. Turn right and follow the footpath through Tower Wood and on to **Hayes Park Wood**. After a deer gate, head diagonally right along the footpath, past The Elms and out on to the road.
- 4 Turn left and walk the short distance to the bridleway. Follow the bridleway for its entire length, enjoying the views across Derbyshire and the Trent Valley. At Coal Lane, turn left for approximately 100 yards and enter **The Oaklands** through the gate on your right.
- 5 Follow the public footpath through the Oaklands and into Smith's Gorse. After leaving the woodland, follow the hedge to a T-junction of footpaths. Turn left and take the footpath to the main road. Cross the road with care. You have now rejoined the **Reservoirs Walk** at 6.

Now follow the remainder of the Reservoirs Walk from point 6 to the end.



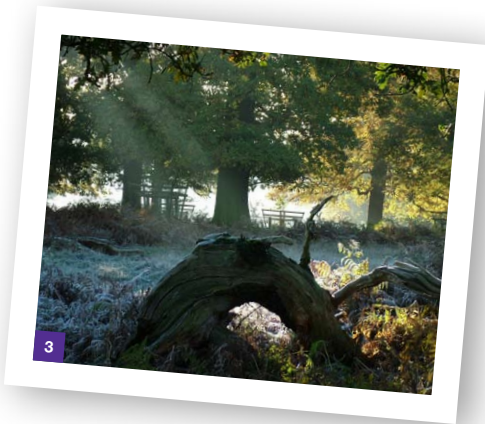
# Features of interest

## Reservoirs Walk

- 1 Staunton Harold Reservoir** was built by Severn Trent water in 1964. Water activities include a sailing club and coarse fishery. The southern area is home to a wide variety of water birds in the winter.



- 3** The 300ha of beautiful parkland in **Calke Park**, a National Nature Reserve, contains ponds, ancient oaks and open pasture grazed by rare Portland sheep, longhorn cattle and red and fallow deer.



- 5 Ticknall** was first recorded in the early years of the 11th century. Much of the land in the older part of the village was owned by the Harpurs of Calke and many reminders of the family can be found in the village. Of particular interest are the alms houses, churchyard and the old lock-up (village gaol).

- 6 Scaddows Oaks** includes a community woodland in which people have planted trees which they have grown from seed.



- 7** The water from **Foremark Reservoir** forms part of the supply network to the East Midlands. The surrounding woodlands are managed for public access, wildlife conservation and natural beauty.

- 8 Hangmans Stone** was derived from the tale of a local sheep stealer who, having killed a sheep, carried it home in a sack tied to his back with a length of rope. Pausing for a rest, he placed the sack on top of the stone. The sack slipped, the rope moved upwards and the man was hanged - not by the law but by the sheep he had stolen.

- 9 Windmill Wood** was planted in 2000 and named after a windmill - demolished in the 1600s - which stood at the highest point of the site. Sweet chestnut and wild cherry on the high point provide a focus of colour.

- 10 Vee's Wood** was planted in 2000 and has a strong nature conservation focus, with pools, hedges, bat and bird boxes, a deer hide and an orchard with traditional varieties of fruit.

- 11 Smiths Wood** was planted in 2000 with a focus on recreation. Mountain biking, horse riding, fishing and walking are all available. Nature conservation areas include bird and bat boxes and a pool.



## Oaks & Oaklands

- 1 Calke Abbey** was built for the Harpur family in 1703. Often called "*The House That Time Forgot*", it has remained virtually unaltered since the death of the last baronet, Sir Vauincey Harpur Crewe in 1924.
- 3 Harry's Wood** was planted in 2002/3 and includes feature species such as red oak, evergreen holm oak, walnut and black poplar.
- 4 Hayes Park Wood** covers 105ha and was created in 2002/3. New woodland blends with existing Ancient Woodland and meadows, ponds, reedbeds and hedgerows. A mediaeval water ram and deer ditches have been restored and public access includes walking, riding and an orienteering course.
- 5 The Oaklands** was planted in 2002/3 with mixed conifers and broadleaves, with an area of open parkland and two new ponds.

