

Points of interest along the walk:

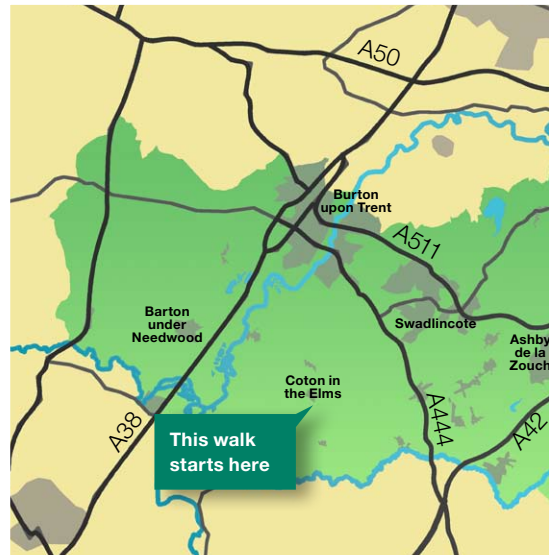
- 1 Coton Wood** was planted by the Woodland Trust in 1994. Covering 30ha of former farmland, the main species growing there are oak, ash, field maple, hawthorn, cherry and other native trees and shrubs.
- 2 Grangewood** is a 40ha woodland planted in 1997 with native trees and shrubs. Walking, riding (by permit) and fishing are all available on the site.



- 3 Top Tree** and **Long Close Woods** cover 80ha and were planted by the Woodland Trust in 1996. An area has been left next to Grangewood Ancient Wood to enable natural regeneration of the existing wood. Walking, riding (by permit) and cycling are all available on site.
- 4 Foxley Wood** is a 28ha woodland planted by the Woodland Trust in 1996. An area has been set aside for educational use and includes an all-abilities path and pond. Two benches designed by a local artist are provided.
- 7 Rosliston** is mentioned in the Domesday Book as **Redlauestun** meaning "farm of Hrolf". Until 1875, Rosliston was part of the parish of Walton.
- 8** The name **Coton-in-the-Elms** is derived from "all the cottages in the elms". Sadly, following the outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s, few of the elms which gave the village its name remain.



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

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Spires & stiles

9 mile medium walk

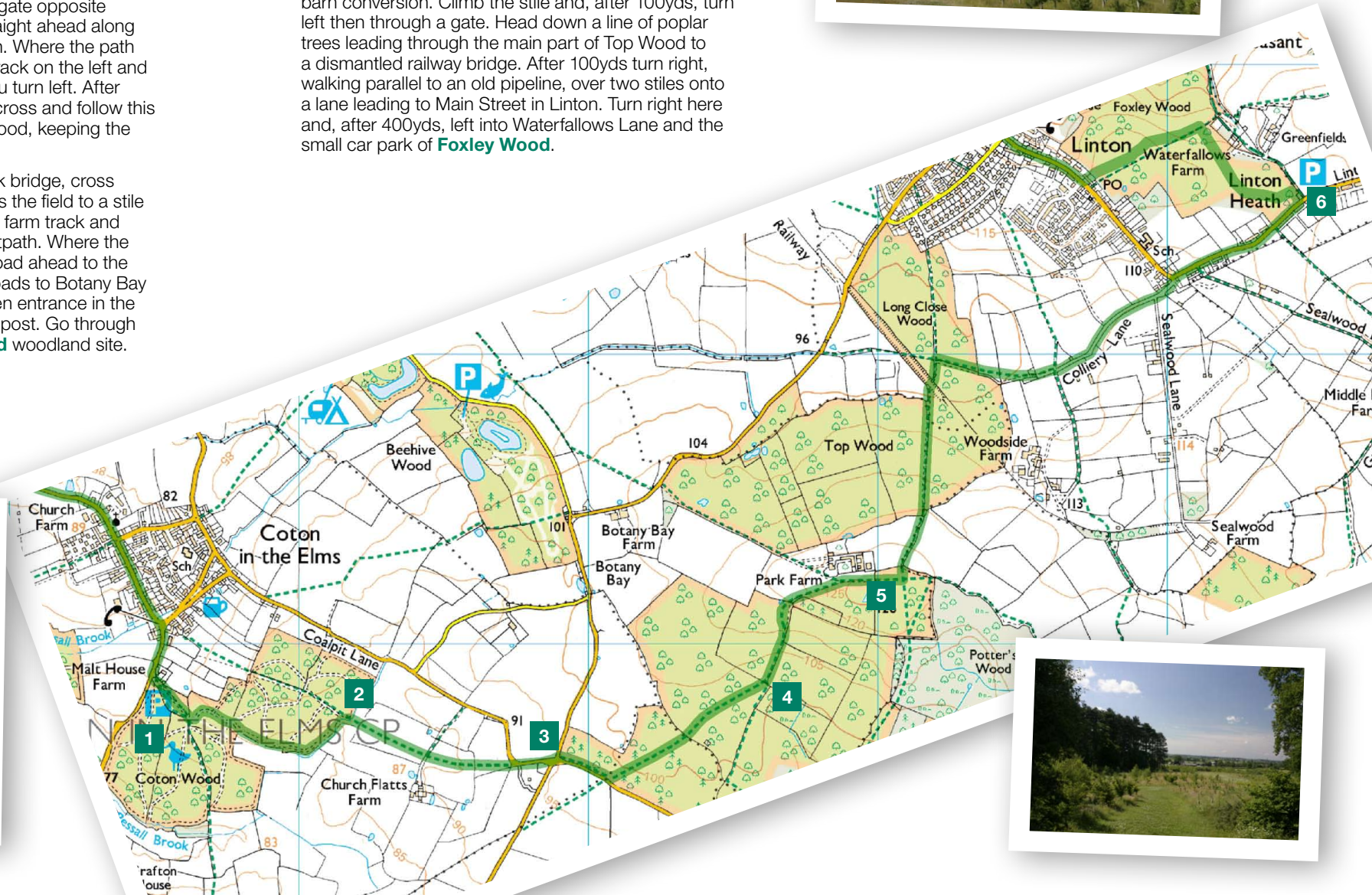


Spires & Stiles

This 9 mile route passes through the pleasant farmland of the Mease Lowlands in South Derbyshire and links six National Forest sites. The landscape feels very rural with large cropped fields, intact hedgerows and scattered game coverts linked with a good network of field paths and rural lanes. Tall church spires and isolated field ponds are distinctive features of the area.

- 1 Starting at **Coton Wood**, take the gate opposite the car park entrance and walk straight ahead along the broad, well-defined central path. Where the path divides, keep left. Ignore the next track on the left and walk on to the T-junction, where you turn left. After 20yds, turn right where the tracks cross and follow this path around the perimeter of the wood, keeping the hedge on your right.
- 2 When you come to a stile and plank bridge, cross them and follow the footpath across the field to a stile in the middle of the hedge. Cross a farm track and another stile to continue on the footpath. Where the footpath meets a road, follow the road ahead to the crossroads. On the corner of the roads to Botany Bay and Grangewood, there is a wooden entrance in the hedge marked by a footpath finger post. Go through this entrance into the **Grangewood** woodland site.

- 3 Follow the footpath along the inside of the hedge, turning left after 200yds onto a wide grass track. Continue along the footpath and through a gap in a hedge. Continue on for 350m until you reach some mature trees at the corner of an older plantation. Pass through a gap in the hedge to enter **Top Wood** (marked by a Woodland Trust sign).
- 4 Take the footpath uphill alongside the hedge and cross the triangular stile. Follow the edge of the wood through paddocks until you meet a farm track.
- 5 Turn right, up the track then onto the footpath past a barn conversion. Climb the stile and, after 100yds, turn left then through a gate. Head down a line of poplar trees leading through the main part of Top Wood to a dismantled railway bridge. After 100yds turn right, walking parallel to an old pipeline, over two stiles onto a lane leading to Main Street in Linton. Turn right here and, after 400yds, left into Waterfalls Lane and the small car park of **Foxley Wood**.



Rosliston Forestry Centre



Rosliston Forestry Centre was one of the first woodlands planted as part of The National Forest. The land changed from farm to forestry between 1994 and 1996 when 120,000 conifer and native broadleaf trees were planted.

The 154-acre site was previously a mixed farm with crops, cattle and sheep grazing the land. It was also criss-crossed with footpaths well-trodden by miners on their way to work in local collieries that are now long since gone.

The Centre is now owned by South Derbyshire District Council and woodland by the Forestry Commission.

There are plenty of waymarked walks around the site and a regular programme of health walks with a series of themed walks taking place during the summer. Why not include a visit to the Sensory Garden and a stop off at the wildlife hide?

The fence-surrounded play area for young children contains a series of interesting wooden equipment as well as traditional swings.



For more adventurous youngsters a separate adventure play area offers a climbing tower, rope wall and aerial glide. You can also visit the new natural play area, with sand, stepping stones and lots of exciting opportunities to use your imagination and have great fun.

The Hub restaurant offers a wide range of food and drinks. Visitors are more than welcome to bring their own food and there are plenty of permanent picnic tables with seating in various areas of the site.

Adult and children's cycles are available for hire. Get on your bike for anything from just an hour to a whole day. You can use the surfaced "two hours paths" or, for the more adventurous, try the grassy routes around the perimeter.



Rosliston's Birds of Prey Experiences provide an opportunity to spend time with kings of the skies such as hawks, falcon and owls. Choose sessions from just one hour to a full day. Demonstrations and corporate packages area available. All birds of prey activities must be booked in advance.

Lasers Games: Whether it's laser clay shooting, laser inflatable archery or combat laser in the woods, there's plenty of opportunity to get active in the forest. Drop in 'have a go' sessions are available throughout the year, as well as group bookings available. Ring to check availability.



Accommodation is also available in the form of six forest lodges. Hidden away in their own area of woodland, the lodges are built from sustainably sourced timber and are fully equipped. They offer a great base for a walking holiday in The National Forest.

For bookings or any other information about the Forestry Centre call **01283 563483** or visit **www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk**