



Tel: 01283 551211 Fax: 01283 552844  
 Internet: www.visitsnationalforest.co.uk  
 Email: discover@nationalforest.org

The National Forest Company, Bath Lane, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 6BD.

If you would like more information on the National Forest please contact:

what to do first!

Each year there's more to enjoy. The challenge is deciding

cycling and horse riding in the fresh air.

Already there are more than 400 woodlands of varied scale and character, blending ancient woodland with new planting

been created in the UK for more than one thousand years.

boundaries from 6% to a third. Nothing quite like this has

England. The aim is to increase woodland cover within its

planted trees will create a unique forest in the Heart of

trees have been planted and a further 25 million newly

multi-purpose forest for everyone to enjoy. Already 6 million

Derbyshire and Leicestershire. Its aim is to create a new

The National Forest covers 200 square miles of Staffordshire,

### THE NATIONAL FOREST A FOREST IN THE MAKING!



Tree Planting



Stapenhill Gardens

and work to improve public access to the countryside.

sources of grant aid, work to help create the National Forest

woodlands, wetlands and meadows. We also provide advice on

play areas to locally important wildlife havens including

space in East Staffordshire, from town parks, playing fields and

We are responsible for looking after hundreds of areas of open

### THE PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE

- Please keep to the paths on farmland
- Keep dogs on a lead at all times and always clean up after your dog
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home with you
- Take special care on country roads
- Guard against all risk of fire



Views across Washlands

As with any form of exercise, it is important to build up gradually. Start off with the short route if you are not used to walking the longer distances. If you haven't exercised for some time and/or you have a health condition that might be aggravated by exercise, then check with your G.P. before continuing with these walk routes.

for 20-30 minutes without becoming breathless.

control. Ideally you should be aiming to walk at a brisk pace

Regular slow, long distance exercise is the best for weight

can help you to feel good and relieve the symptoms of stress.

type exercise, like walking, the body releases chemicals that

lungs, and improving your aerobic fitness. Through aerobic

steady, rhythmic pace, you will be exercising the heart and

Walking is ideal for the build up of stamina. By maintaining a

### HEALTH AND FITNESS FOCUS

Useful Maps  
 Landranger Series Derby and Burton upon Trent Sheet 128  
 Explorer Series 245

good views across Burton and its surrounding countryside.

high points and some flights of steps, but is rewarded with

in built up areas. The walk does incorporate some climbing to

The walk is relatively short with a certain amount of walking

### EASE OF USE

refreshments and your own level of fitness.

undertoo, time spent at points of interest, taking

The time is approximate and may vary with conditions

Woodlands and Washlands circuit - 3 miles (5km) 1 3/4 hours.

## The Route

### CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

Care has been taken to try and make the routes enjoyable, free from obstruction and easy to follow. Path conditions vary with the season and it is recommended that strong waterproof footwear is worn and that waterproof clothing is available should the weather try to catch you out.

### WAYMARKING

Each route has been waymarked with a distinctive disc, at any point where the direction of the path may be confusing. Look out for any accompanying signs as you follow the routes.

### REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments are available from Burton town centre, from the kiosk at the end of the Ferry Bridge, or from the shops in Stapenhill. The walk also passes close to, the Punch Bowl, The Boat House and The Elms public houses.

You may wish to take a picnic to enjoy in the orchard at Tower Woods. Picnic tables have been specially provided.

### EASY WALKS IN EAST STAFFORDSHIRE

This is one of a series of leaflets outlining easy walks for you to try in East Staffordshire. If you are not confident about walking in the countryside and using public footpaths, why not try these walks out as an introduction. The paths have been clearly marked with distinctive arrows and a selection of routes provided allowing you a choice of distances to walk.

Punchbowl Arch



Burton Mail Centenary Woodland



Stapenhill Cemetery



### WOODLANDS AND WASHLANDS STARTING POINT

Watson Street Car Park: Access by car is from the A5121, Branston Road. Bus routes 12 and 112 from Burton Town Centre.

Watson Street car park is reached by turning into Watson Street from Branston Road (look out for the brown tourism sign) and continue under a 2m height barrier at the bottom of Watson Street, taking you onto a roadway to the car park.

### FURTHER INFORMATION/FEEDBACK

If you have encountered problems on this route, or would like information on other walking opportunities, please write to the address at the bottom of the page. Please also let us know if you enjoy your walk as this helps us to provide similar walks in the future.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Parks and Countryside Service would like to thank all landowners and farmers on the route, and the Burton Civic Society, and the Burton upon Trent Natural History and Archaeological Society for their help producing this leaflet.



### Please Contact us at: Parks and Countryside Service

East Staffordshire Borough Council  
 Health & Environment Services, Midland Grain Warehouse,  
 Derby Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 2JJ  
 or telephone 01283 508730  
 email: parks.countryside@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

### Easy Walks in East Staffordshire

# Woodlands and Washlands



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT



# Easy Walks in East Staffordshire Woodlands & Washlands

Head out of the car park 1 through the metal archway into the Burton Mail Centenary Woodland.

The Burton Mail Centenary Woodland was opened to the public on Saturday May 2nd 1998, the actual date of the paper's centenary.

The woodland was created in partnership with the Borough Council and with the support of Carlsberg Tetley (the then owners of the land) and the National Forest Company. The initial work was to plant over 4500 native trees and shrubs, including Willow, Poplar, Alder, Oak and Ash, to create a floodplain woodland. Floodplain woodland is a rare habitat today as the productive land found in floodplains has typically been cleared of tree cover to allow agricultural use. Surfaced and mown pathways have since been created throughout the area of the woodland, which you are free to explore if you wish.

Turn left after crossing the footbridge into the woodland and follow the surfaced pathway bending round to your right to meet a further wooden bridge crossing the drainage ditch on the old hedge boundary. Cross the bridge and exit the woodland into the open field on your left, follow the mown pathways across the field to meet the tarmac path. Continue along the tarmac path following the river towards the large metal footbridge crossing the river. Cross a wooden footbridge and continue under the bridge to climb a set of steps onto the bridge to then cross.

The Ferry Bridge was opened in 1889 removing the need to cross the River Trent by boat. The longer iron walkway was completed soon after the bridge, further easing the journey across wet marshlands. The total cost for the work of £10,000 was met by Lord Burton.

St. Peter's Church, which can be seen on your left, was originally founded by St Modwen. The present church dates back to 1881.

After crossing the Ferry Bridge turn left into Stapenhill Gardens 2.

Before turning left you will see in front of you a stone archway with The Punch Bowl and Hills Brewery inscribed on it. This is all that remains of the old Punch Bowl Public House after it was demolished in the 1930's, Hills was a brewery in the town in the 18th century.

Follow the path climbing round to the right keeping the brick wall alongside you to the right. You are now following the line of the Jerrams Lane. Continue straight ahead through the alleyway to reach the road. Cross at the pedestrian crossing and follow the pavement to the left.

On your left you can see gates leading in to Stapenhill Gardens. The gardens were opened to the public in 1931, prior to this they were the private gardens of Stapenhill House, which was demolished before the gardens were opened.

Follow the pavement round to your right into St. Peter's Street. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and continue on the other side of the road crossing Spring Terrace Road and bearing left off the main road into Woods Lane. Continue along the pavement passing a supermarket on your right. 3 Cross the road turning right into Holme Farm Avenue and follow the pavement straight ahead to pass through the alleyway into Cricketers Close.

Continue straight ahead to enter East Staffordshire Borough Council's Red Hill Site. 4.

The site and the surrounding area was originally farmed before housing was developed. The pond that you will see on entering the site was man made and used as a watering pond for grazing animals. The pond would have collected run off from the surrounding hill sides, but is now drying up as the new roads, roofs and man made drains takeaway most of the rainfall.

Bearing left through the site following the fence line above the pond. Continue along the path passing between a wall and hedge before climbing a flight of steps to join a path, which continues to the left.

Red Hill is a good point to think about the growing National Forest, which links Burton in Staffordshire with Derbyshire and Leicestershire. Views reach across the Brizlincote Valley.



Scalpcliffe Hill can be seen across the Brizlincote Valley with an area of mature woodland on its west facing slopes. The site has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve by the Borough of East Staffordshire to help conserve this ancient woodland and its wildlife. On the skyline between Scalpcliffe and the water tower lies Tower Woods - a new woodland created with funds from the National Forest Company. Red Hill itself has significant areas of new woodland and all these sites are helping to bring the forest and wildlife into town, as part of the Urban Forest Strategy for Burton.

On reaching the road at the end of the site turn left and continue downhill to a mini roundabout. Now cross the road and turn right into Grafton Road. After approximately 80 meters bear right and immediately left at a farm entrance and continue straight ahead as the track veers right to meet the large metal farm gates. As the path reaches the edge of the 'balancing pond' 5 continue down a flight of steps then up another flight of steps on the far side of the pond, to reach the continuation of the path in the corner of a field. Continue straight ahead along the footpath by the side of the hedge until a kissing gate is reached. Go through the kissing gate and cross the small area of land and through another kissing gate to reach a tarmac path.

Continue straight ahead on this path climbing toward the road 6. Cross the road and continue uphill passing a small play area and then continue upwards to reach the water tower at Tower Road.

Opposite you to the left of the water tower is an area of woodland known as Waterloo Clump. These trees were planted in 1815 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.

This planting by past generations now benefits Burton's wildlife and landscape today and shows the importance of planting trees now for future generations. The water tower was erected in 1904 in order to improve the low pressure of water found in the Winhill area, but has found further use today as a high point on which to place radio and communications aerials.

Now bear left to reach the end of Tower Road and continue down the track turning left at a wooden vehicle barrier taking you into "Tower Woods" 7 just where the track narrows. Tower Woods was planted in 1996. The planting was paid for by a grant from the National Forest Company as part of a successful "Tender Scheme" bid. The trees planted are a mixture of native trees, including Oak, Ash and Field Maple.

Bear right after entering the site and go straight ahead passing just below the play area and continue along the path within the site. At the point at which the path touches the hedge line there is an opportunity to briefly leave the site and take in the views to the north.

On a clear day there are excellent views of Burton in the foreground, the Toyota Factory at Burnaston, and as far north as the Peak District.

Rejoin the track within the site and continue downhill to reach the Community Orchard.

The trees planted in the Community Orchard are old and rare eating varieties of apple and pear. If you visit in the autumn you are welcome to sample the fruit. Views to the west and south look over the flood plain of the River Trent. Views stretch out towards Cannock Chase in the distance, with Scalpcliffe Hill in the right foreground.

Leave the site at the far right hand corner of the Community Orchard and turn left downhill along the track to reach Elms Road. 8. Continue down Elms Road. (If you are confident about finding your way, you may wish to enter the cemetery at a gateway at point 8, before descending through the cemetery, and leaving by the main gates onto Stapenhill Road).

As you proceed down Elms Road you will pass Stapenhill Cemetery on your right. The Cemetery is a haven for wildlife and you are quite likely to see squirrels in some of the mature trees to be found in its grounds. The chapels are in gothic style and were consecrated in 1866. The original land was acquired from the Marquis of Anglesey and cost £13,000.

At the end of Elms Road turn left past the pub, soon to cross Stapenhill Road at the brow of the hill, taking great care, as the road is very busy. Continue straight ahead down a short section of pathway to reach some steps. Descend the steps and bear round to your right soon turning left down a short set of steps to join a lower tarmac path. 9

Nearby is an old covered well said to be linked to St Modwen. This is a good point to look right down the river to see Burton Bridge. The earliest reference to the bridge was in a 12th century survey, whilst the present bridge was built in 1859. The bridge has been the site of two battles, in 1321 and also during the Civil War in 1643.

Now follow the path as it follows the river round to the left.

The mature trees lining the path are of a variety of species including Beech, Weeping Willow, Silver Birch, Weeping Ash, and a row of the tall, thin Poplar, which can be seen on the opposite bank of the river.

You will then pass a small brick park shelter and cross a bridge over a small stream.

At this point you can also make a short diversion to your left to a hedged "arboretum" planted by Burton Civic Society. The arboretum demonstrates a range of trees suitable for use in small gardens.

Continue along the lower tarmac path with the river immediately on your right, to reach Stapenhill Gardens.

The swans which often gather around the banks of the river are celebrated by the sculpted swan planter.

Walk through the gardens to return to the Ferry Cottage at point number 2. Turn right and cross the footbridge, then rejoin the path on your left to return to Watson Street car park.