

The National Forest Way

This leaflet can be used in conjunction with OS Explorer 245 (The National Forest)

The National Forest Way takes walkers on a 75-mile journey through a transforming landscape, from the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to Beacon Hill Country Park in Leicestershire.

On the way, you will discover the area's evolution from a rural landscape, through industrialisation and its decline, to the modern-day creation of a new forest, where 21st-century life is threaded through a mosaic of green spaces and settlements.

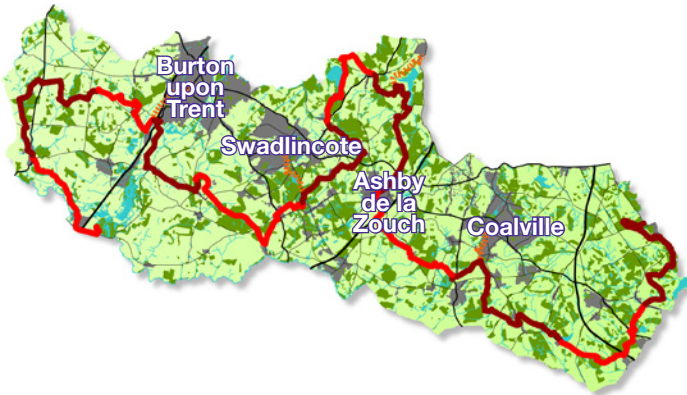
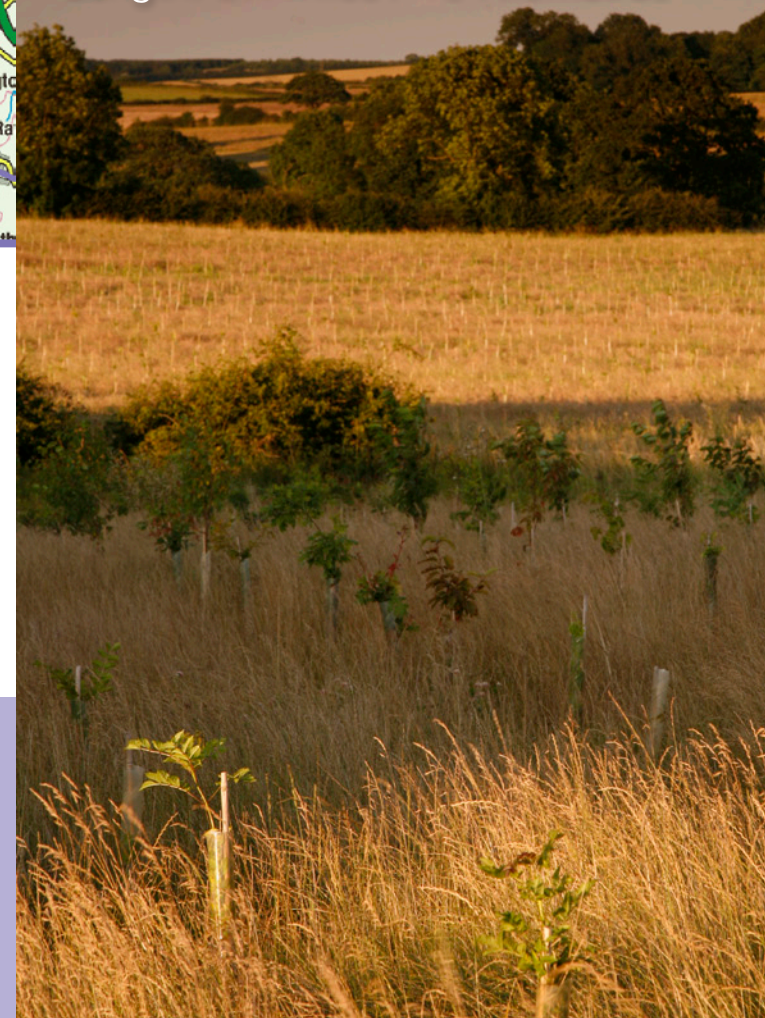
The trail leads through young and ancient woodlands, market towns and the industrial heritage of this changing landscape.



Stage 7:

Hartshorne to Moira

Length: 6¼ miles / 10 Kilometres



About this stage

Start: Hartshorne Village Hall (DE11 7BE)
End: Conkers Waterside, Moira (DE12 6BA)

This stage takes you through pastoral countryside, lying cheek by jowl alongside the scars left by two centuries of coal and clay extraction. Here you will see the greatest transformation in The National Forest: tree planting has truly turned the land from black to green.

The National Forest Way was created by a partnership of the National Forest Company, Derbyshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council and Staffordshire County Council, with the generous support of Fisher German.



To find out more, visit:
www.nationalforestway.co.uk

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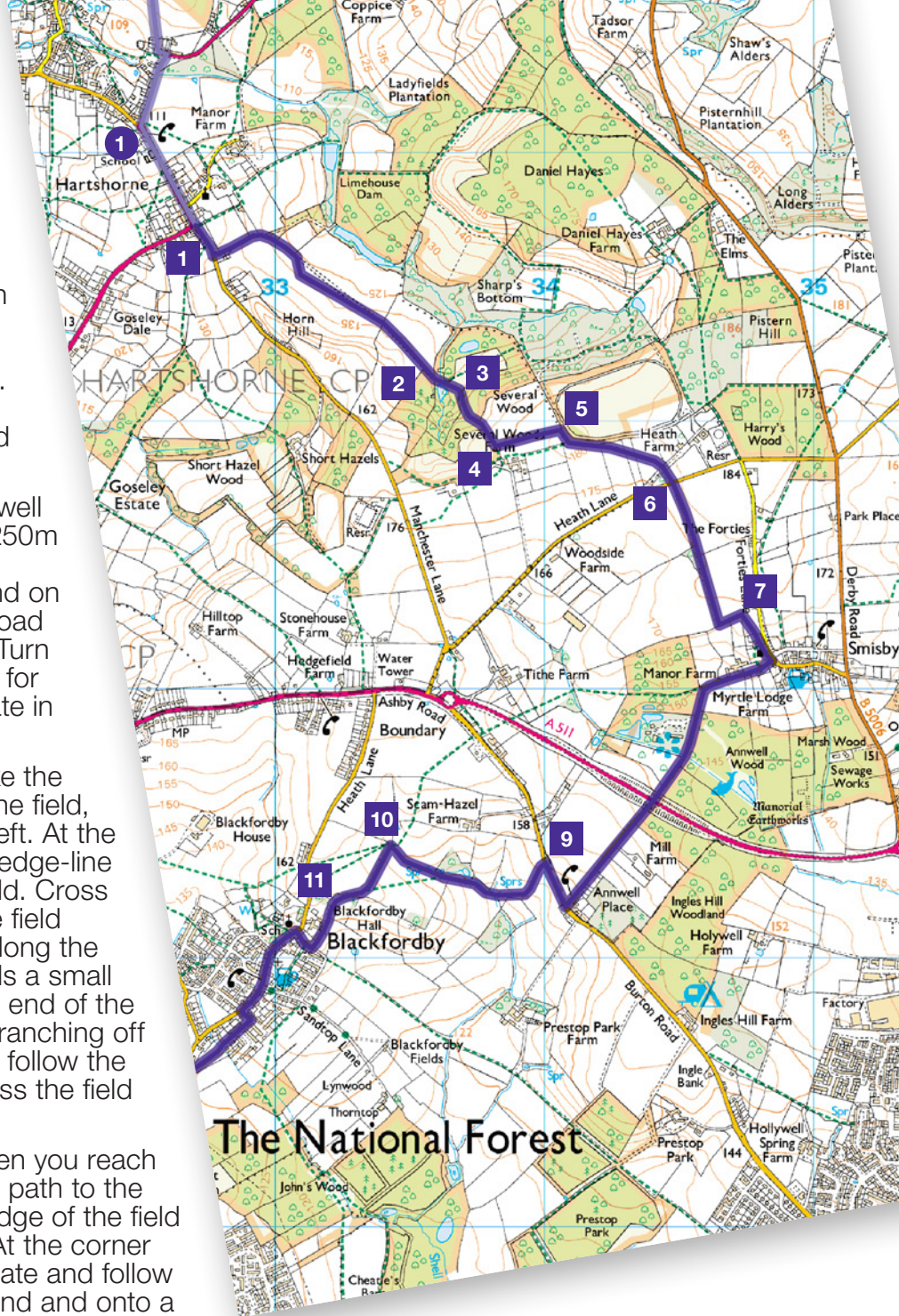
Photos: Jacqui Rock and NFC



Hartshorne to Moira

- 1** From Hartshorne Village Hall, walk up Manchester Lane for about 70m to where a track leaves the road to your left. Follow this track past a house and on for 300m as it bends to the right. At the end of the track, follow the footpath across the next two fields to the corner of a hedgerow.
- 2** Continue ahead along the footpath through a small area of woodland. At the far side of this woodland, cross a small bridge before passing a pond on your right. Take the footpath along the edge of the next field until you reach a stile on your right.
- 3** Cross the stile and follow the footpath straight ahead on the grass path opposite, ignoring paths to the left or right. Continue along the footpath as it bears left and then keep going straight ahead up the hill towards some farm buildings.
- 4** Just before the farm buildings, take the stile to your left. Follow the path along the top of a field for 250m, passing the farm buildings on your right. At the end of the field, turn right and then walk for about 50m to the edge of another large field.
- 5** Turn left to walk along the edge of the large field to the stile in its corner. Cross the stile and walk diagonally across the next field to another stile about halfway along the opposite hedge. Continue diagonally across the third field to a stile onto a driveway. Cross the drive, over another stile and through a small woodland to the road.
- 6** Cross the road to a stile opposite and into the field beyond. Follow the footpath straight ahead through a large field towards the distant church tower. Cross a stile into the next field and follow the edge of this field to its end, where the footpath turns left. After about 100m, you will reach a stile on your right.

- 7** Go over the stile and bear left across the field to a metal gate in the far hedge. Pass through the gate and walk to the left of the house to a stile leading on to a path between two hedges. At the end of this path, go over the stile and into the churchyard. Walk across the churchyard to the right of the church and down the path to the road.
- 8** Turn right to walk along Annwell Lane. Follow the road for 1,250m past the Bluebell Nursery & Arboretum, over the A511 and on to the junction with Ashby Road next to the Tap House pub. Turn right and follow Ashby Road for about 175m to a footpath gate in the hedge to your left.
- 9** Go through the gate and take the footpath along the edge of the field, keeping the hedge on your left. At the waymarker post, leave the hedge-line and bear right across the field. Cross the bridge at the edge of the field and then turn right to walk along the edge of the next field towards a small plantation of trees. At the far end of the plantation, ignore the path branching off to your right and continue to follow the footpath straight ahead across the field to the far side.
- 10** A number of paths meet when you reach the end of the field. Take the path to the left, continuing around the edge of the field towards a small woodland. At the corner of the field, go through the gate and follow the path through the woodland and onto a track at the far side. This track will take you to Ashby Lane, opposite some houses.



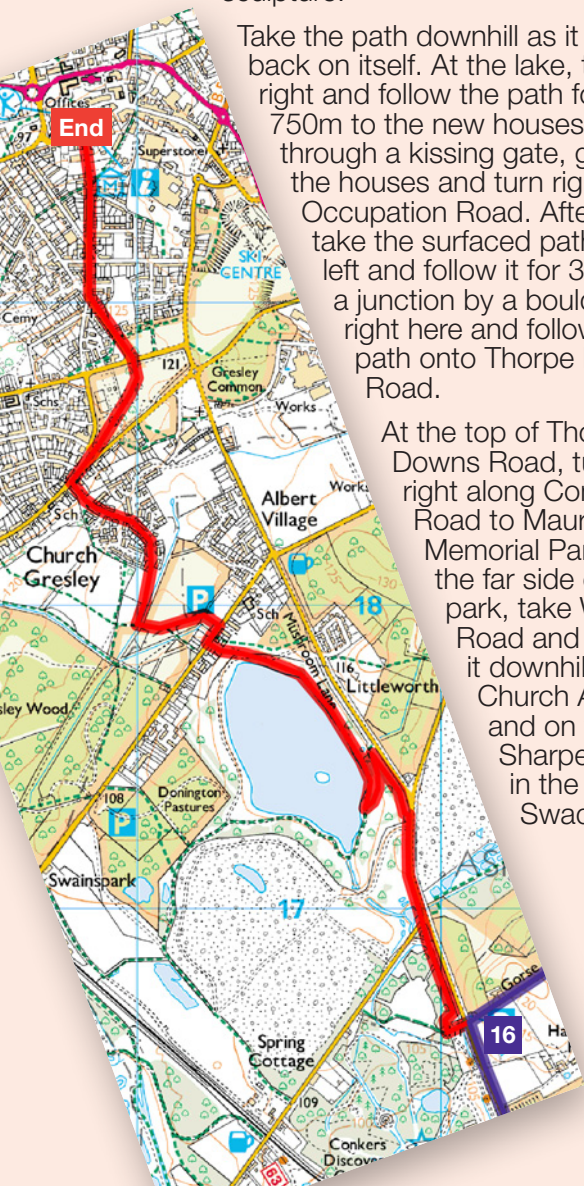
Link into Swadlincote

To visit the nearby town of Swadlincote, follow the 2¾ mile link below.

From Point 16, cross the road and take the bridleway ahead to the surfaced track. Turn right to follow this for 325m before turning right to cross the road. Follow the road for 350m and, immediately after crossing a bridge, turn left onto the surfaced path next to the mining sculpture.

Take the path downhill as it turns back on itself. At the lake, turn right and follow the path for 750m to the new houses. Pass through a kissing gate, go past the houses and turn right onto Occupation Road. After 40m, take the surfaced path to the left and follow it for 300m to a junction by a boulder. Turn right here and follow the path onto Thorpe Downs Road.

At the top of Thorpe Downs Road, turn right along Common Road to Maurice Lea Memorial Park. On the far side of the park, take Wilmot Road and follow it downhill onto Church Avenue and on to Sharpes Pottery in the centre of Swadlincote.



11 Turn right along Ashby Lane and follow it to the Black Lion pub, where the lane meets the main road through Blackfordby. Turn left at the pub and walk down Main Street for about 375m, ignoring Sandtop Lane, to the turning on your left for Sandtop Close.

12 Turn left onto Sandtop Close and then almost immediately right onto Thorntop Close. Follow this straight ahead to the end of the cul-de-sac, where a footpath continues ahead between the houses. Follow this footpath across a bridge and a stile to then walk between two fences through the next field to the road.

13 Cross the road to a stile on the opposite side. Go over the stile and across the small field to where the path forks. Take the right-hand fork to follow the fence for 300m along the edge of the next two fields. At the kissing gate, follow the footpath diagonally across a third field to Boothorpe Lane.

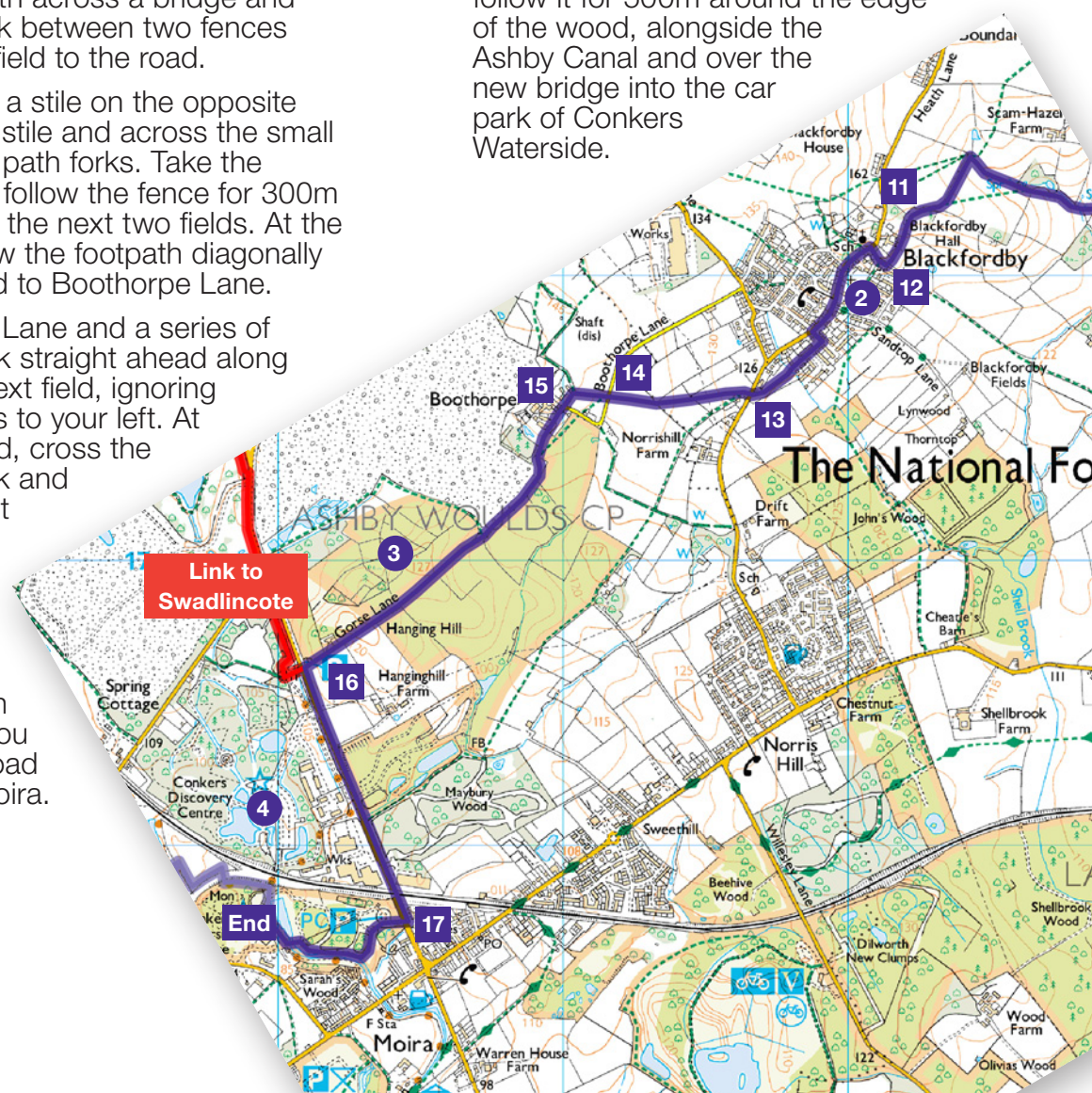
14 Cross Boothorpe Lane and a series of three stiles to walk straight ahead along the edge of the next field, ignoring the path that forks to your left. At the end of the field, cross the stile onto the track and turn left to follow it past the houses.

15 At the end of the houses continue along the track, through an S-bend and on for 1,000m until you reach Rawdon Road on the edge of Moira.

16 Turn left to follow the pavement alongside Rawdon Road for 1,000m, under the railway bridge, before crossing the road to enter Sarah's Wood through the decorative gates.

Along the way, if you wish to visit Conkers Discovery, turn right at the brown tourism sign and follow the drive downhill towards the car park.

17 Just before the car park, take the surfaced path through the gate to your left and follow it for 500m around the edge of the wood, alongside the Ashby Canal and over the new bridge into the car park of Conkers Waterside.

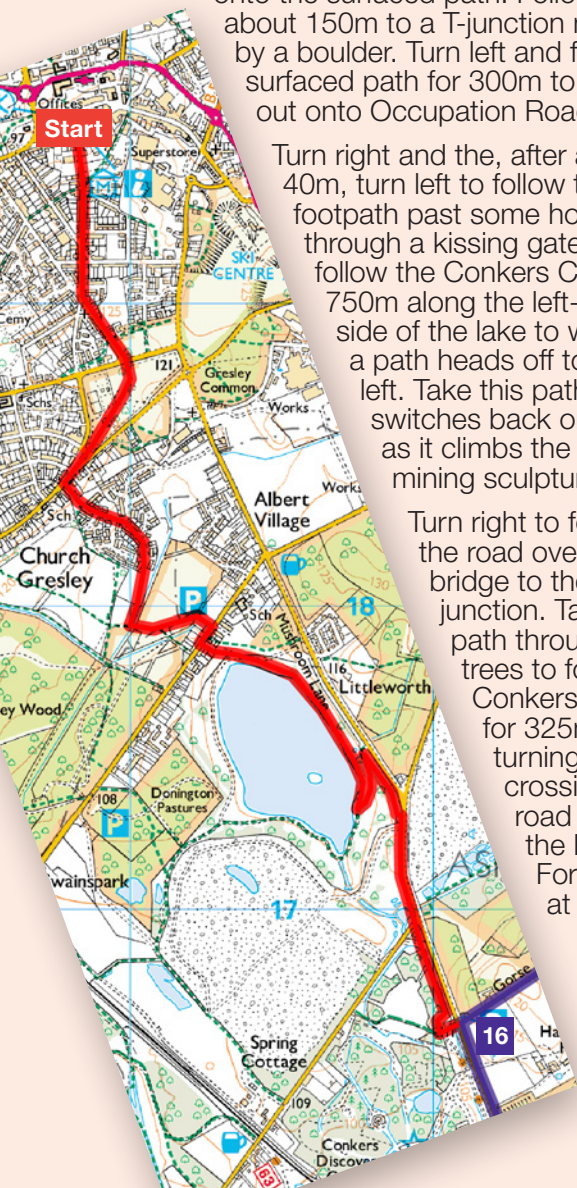


To reach the National Forest Way from the nearby town of Swadlincote, follow the 2¾ mile link below.

From Swadlincote: Starting at Sharpes Pottery, head uphill along Alexandra Road until you reach Maurice Lea Memorial Park. Head through the park and onto Common Road. Turn right and, after about 100m, left onto Thorpe Downs Road. Follow this to the bottom and continue onto the surfaced path. Follow this for about 150m to a T-junction marked by a boulder. Turn left and follow the surfaced path for 300m to come out onto Occupation Road.

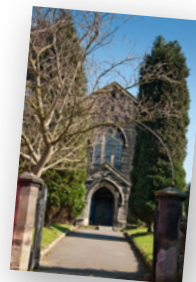
Turn right and then, after about 40m, turn left to follow the footpath past some houses and through a kissing gate. Now follow the Conkers Circuit for 750m along the left-hand side of the lake to where a path heads off to the left. Take this path, which switches back on itself as it climbs the hill to the mining sculpture.

Turn right to follow the road over a bridge to the next junction. Take the path through the trees to follow the Conkers Circuit for 325m, before turning left and crossing the road to rejoin the National Forest Way at Point 16.



1 Hartshorne

Hartshorne village is set amongst pleasant hilly farmland. The church of St Peter contains the family tomb of the Dethick family, one of whom went to Cleves to find a fourth wife for Henry VIII.



3 Feanedock Wood

From the top of Feanedock Wood you can enjoy a panoramic view over the transforming Forest landscape. The active landfill site will in time be restored to create new wildlife habitats and open access woodlands.



2 Blackfordby Spring

At the bottom of the hill in the village of Blackfordby look out for a natural spring dating back to the 11th century. Legend has it that the water has never frozen over.



4 Conkers

Conkers was one of the earliest visitor attractions to be developed in The National Forest. Built on a former deep coal mine, you can now explore 120 acres of woodland, enjoy adventure play and over 100 indoor interactive exhibits.



Useful Information

Parking

Parking is available in Hartshorne and at Conkers in Moira.

Please be aware of car park closing times before setting off.

Public transport

Hartshorne is on the 61 Derby–Melbourne–Swadlincote bus route (Mon–Sun).

Moira is on the 9A Coalville–Burton bus route (Mon–Sat).

Change at Swadlincote to travel between the start and finish of the stage.

For detailed information on bus routes and times, call **Traveline** on 0871 200 22 33 (charges apply).

How to use this leaflet

The maps in this leaflet are based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:25,000 scale Explorer maps and are presented at the correct scale if printed on A4 paper.

- 1 Square symbols on the maps link with the route directions that are provided alongside the map.
- 1 Circular symbols represent key points of interest along the route of the trail.

To find out more, visit:
www.nationalforestway.co.uk

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