

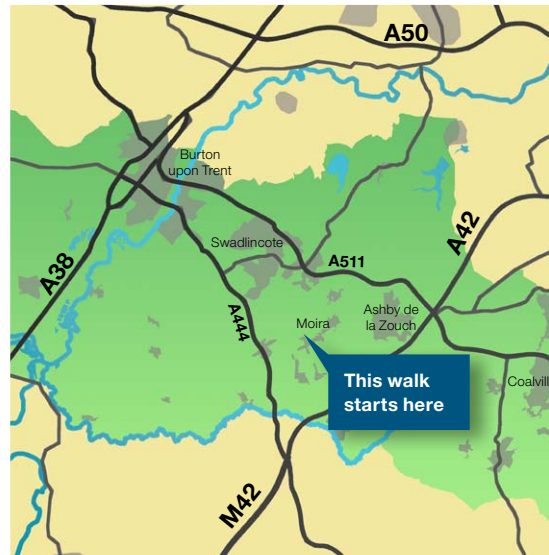
## Points of interest along the walk:

- 1 Themed around woodland life, Conkers Discovery Centre is brilliant for families. There are more than 100 indoor and outdoor activities at this lively interactive discovery centre.
- 2 The Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail runs along the former line of the Ashby & Nuneaton Joint Railway, which transported coal from local pits to London and Oxford until 1931.
- 3 The Ashby Canal carried coal from the pits before the railway was built. However, mining subsidence caused the canal to close in the 1940s. Due to the efforts of the Ashby Canal Trust, the canal has now been restored as far as Conkers Waterside.
- 4 Stonepit Field is an area of scrub and grassland which has developed with little intervention. It now provides habitat for heathland species. The bare soils provide basking areas for sand wasps and beetles.
- 6 The green lane to Newfield Colliery follows the line of the tramway built to link it with the canal wharf. The colliery closed a century ago and wildlife has reclaimed the site. Heathland plants are regenerating and the birch woodland is self-set. The pool is home to a variety of water plants and fish and Sphagnum moss can be found in the margins.
- 8 Moira Furnace was built to process iron ore extracted from the coal deposits nearby. It closed within 5 years due to the variable quality and quantity of the iron produced. It was then used as homes for a number of mine workers who lived adjacent to the canal. The Furnace and nearby lime kilns have now been refurbished and extensive information on the history of the site is provided.

The cottage at the edge of Furnace Plantation originally housed the beam engine which pumped water from nearby coal shafts within the plantation.



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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# Newfield & Stonepit Walk

4 mile short walk



# Newfield & Stonepit

This is one of a series of easy walks starting from Conkers Discovery Centre and exploring some of the surrounding National Forest sites. All 4 walks use the Ashby Wouds Heritage Trail and pass Moira Furnace.

**1** Start at Conkers Discovery Centre. From the entrance to the main building, turn right along the edge of the car park to take the path running through the railway tunnel to Conkers Waterside. Continue through the car park, out of the entrance gates and down the road to the junction with Bath Lane.

Turn right and, just before the bridge, follow the path to the right through the woodland to join the Ashby Wouds Heritage Trail.

**2** Turn left on to the Trail and follow it until you reach the entrance to Donisthorpe Woodland Park. Do not enter the park but, instead, turn left and out on to Park Road. Walk straight ahead to join the footpath. Where the path divides, take the right hand fork and follow the path to the new canal bridge.

**3** Cross the bridge and follow the footpath to School Street and on to Measham Road.

**4** Cross Measham Road then turn left and climb the steps opposite to pass through the kissing gate into Stonepit Field.

**5** After walking around Stonepit Field, exit on to Measham Road and turn right. Walk down the road, past the chapel and farm buildings.

**6** Look for the green and yellow "Ivanhoe Way" waymarker on your right and follow this track to Newfield Colliery.

**7** To leave the colliery site, retrace your steps back to Measham Road. Turn right and then cross the road to join the footpath opposite. Follow this path alongside the canal and cross the swing bridge to reach Moira Furnace.

**8** Turn left and stay on the towpath past the Furnace building. Then bear right off the towpath and take the path which bears right just past the limekilns. Follow the waymarks across the field to a stile by a renovated cottage.

**9** Follow the drive until you come to a crossroads of footpaths in front of the tunnel. Pass through a wooden gate and then through the metal kissing gate to enter Moira Crescent Recreation Ground.

**10** Following the footpath out onto Shortheath Road. Cross the road to enter Moira Miners Welfare Recreation Ground. Follow the path alongside the football pitch and turn right on the stone track and out onto Bath Lane. Cross the road and walk up Bath Yard to re-enter Conkers Waterside and on to the starting point at Conkers Discovery Centre.

