

Trail Guide:



A pleasant half day trip around the villages south west of Swadlincote, including the National Memorial Arboretum and Rosliston Forestry Centre.

The 'Fancy That' Factor

See where church bells moved

See where 3 rivers meet and 4 counties converge

Contemplate the arboreal memorial to those who died in the many conflicts of this planet

The National Forest is a forest in the making: a place of 200 square miles spanning three counties in the English Midlands. Discover the varied landscape of The National Forest and beyond as you follow this delightful car trail.

Leave Swadlincote westwards on the A514, crossing over the A444, under the railway line, then bearing always right until the T-junction after Barn Farm, where you turn left towards **Walton-on-Trent**, on the east bank of the river Trent.

To the south of the village stands the earthworks known as Borough Hill. This commands an imposing view over the river and is probably the site of an iron-age fort and the first Walton settlement. Today the village is firmly anchored near the 12th century church and the bridge. Walton is an ancient fording point, with an iron bridge built over the river Trent in 1834 which was replaced in 1948 and again in 1974 by a temporary 'Bailey' bridge. It was here that

Edward II forded the Trent in pursuit of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and the disaffected barons.

Walton Hall was built in Georgian style in 1723 possibly on the site of an older building. The owner at the time was one William Taylor, son of Richard Taylor who had bought the estate from John Ferrers of Walton in 1680, whose family had owned land here since the 1300s.

Continuing along in parallel to the Trent & Mersey Canal, past Walton Wood you will pass Catton Hall on your right. **Catton Hall** has been in the hands of the same family since 1405 and still remains the private home of the Neilsons. The present house, originally designed by James Gibbs and built by Smith of Warwick in 1742, is virtually unchanged and contains its original fine family and royal portraits and antique furniture. There are fascinating family connections with Lord Byron, as well as with Napoleon and the Duke of Cumberland, George III's brother.

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

Catton has its own chapel and the gardens, comprising herbaceous and shrub borders at the back and a formal garden to the front, are protected by a Ha-ha from the stock grazing in the parkland beyond. There are many venerable oak trees throughout the park as well as the River Trent running along the west side of both the park and gardens. The house is now used for corporate hospitality and weddings and is open on Mondays during April-October and otherwise by arrangement. For more information please call 01283 716311.

At the road junction, take the turn towards the **National Memorial Arboretum** where you may stop for a visit of quiet contemplation at this 150 acre site, where 40,000 trees commemorate those lost in conflict whether civilians or military. Entrance is free (01283 792333 for information).

From here return to the road you turned off and travel onto **Croxall**, where the rivers Trent, Mease and Tame meet and where old sand and gravel workings have now produced Croxall Lakes, a safe habitat for voles and otters and a good birdwatching spot.

After passing the Grange on your left continue to attractive **Edingale**, on the River Mease. At one time the centre of the village was at Croxall, but this moved back during the 17th century, including apparently the church bells! Edingale House Farm is famous for breeding shire horses. From here the road bends and you arrive in **Harlaston**, also on the Mease and popular with the fishing fraternity. Mentioned in Domesday, the village had a Corn Mill and St Matthews Church has Saxon foundations but now has an unusual small spire. The timbered Manor House dates to 1540 and the Homestead was used by a harness maker.

Then to **Haunton** and **Clifton Campville** where the 14th century parish church is topped by a tower 189 feet high. It's near here, on a plot of land east-south-east of the village that 4 counties converge: Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

Turn left here towards **Lullington**, an attractive village called Lullitune in Domesday with The Colvill Arms and church and manor house.

Passing Grafton House on the right you'll soon be in **Coton in the Elms**, a picturesque village, with its typical village green and duck pond, ancient church and the Shoulder of Mutton and Black Horse pubs. The original church was once behind the former but fell into disrepair and its bells went to Lullington's church instead!

Much of this area belonged to 'Wulsige the Black' who was granted much of the Mease valley by King Edmund in a 942 AD charter. The elms framed the village until Dutch elm disease sadly claimed them in the 20th century.

Coton Wood belongs to the Woodland Trust and is worth a visit.

Then to **Rosliston** which is home to the **Rosliston Forestry Centre** which was the first visitor centre to open in The National Forest, in 1994. The centre has plenty to offer including an abundance of walks, play areas, picnic areas, fishing, cycle hire, a falconry experience, laser games and orienteering. You can also grab a bite to eat or perhaps a hot drink in Millijah's restaurant. In addition to this you can stay at the centre in their luxurious pine lodges! For more information and opening times, please call 01283 563483.

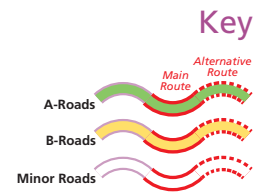
At the crossroads, turn right and return to **Swadlincote** after this pleasant countryside trip.

Swadlincote Trail No. 3

A Scenic Circle of Country Villages



41 km
26 miles



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