

Ticknall Walk

This walk commences in the village of TICKNALL which is located on the A514 midway between Swadlincote and Derby. You should park in the public car park at the Village Hall, which is on Ingleby Lane and signposted from High Street (the A514).

The walk is approximately 5.4 miles long (8.7 kilometres) and takes a leisurely 3 hours.

For a more detailed map you are recommended to refer to Ordnance Survey Explorer™ 245: The National Forest.

From the Village Hall car park, leave via the vehicle entrance and turn right down the road towards the village, after a short distance turn left into Chapel Street **1** and follow this to a green field gate at the far end. After passing the gate turn immediately left **2**, going through a bridle gate into a small paddock. Go directly across to another bridle gate on the far side, and pass into the large arable field. Follow the path through the crops to eventually pass through two more bridle gates on the far side.

The path now passes through newly planted woodland -part of **The National Forest** **3**. After going through a twin-legged telegraph pole **4**, bear slightly left and cross an open field to enter mature woodland **5**. The wide path now gradually descends a short distance through the woodland to arrive at a gate on the far side. Pass through the gate, keeping the woodland edge to your left for a short distance, and follow the path straight across the next field to arrive at a hedgerow on the far side **6**. Turn right here following the wide field edge path, and take the first open gateway on the left **7**. After going through the gateway, bear half-right and cross the arable field to a bridle gate on the other side, and enter the woodland **8**.

Follow the ride through mature woodland (sometimes boggy in places) to eventually reach a mettled forest track **9**, where the route bears right, before reaching a field gate on the far side **10**. Don't go through the gate but turn left immediately before and follow the path, keeping close to the edge of **Robin Wood** and West Wood. Cross the small bridge after approximately 500 metres **11** - keep an eye out as it is easy to miss the bridge whilst admiring the woodland and its wildlife!

The National Forest is a forest in the making whose physical creation can now be witnessed and enjoyed, a place of 200 square miles straddling parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire. Welcoming to visitors and home to local people, all can participate in its development as part of the nation's future heritage.

One of Britain's biggest, boldest long-term environmental initiatives, the vision of a completely new forest for the nation is becoming a reality.

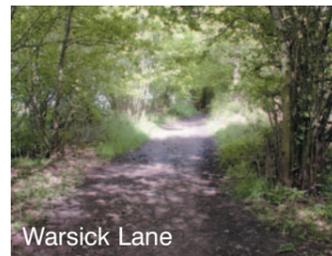
Before the Forest initiative began, woodland cover across the area accounted for just 6% of land use, well below the national average. With the planting of 5.5 million trees, already cover is now 15%. The ambitious goal for The National Forest is for about one third of land within its boundaries to be wooded, a task that involves planting around 20 million trees.



Once over the bridge, turn left and follow the field edge by the woodland to arrive at a quiet tarmac lane **12**.

The route now turns left and follows the lane to a gate where the tarmac ends. On the far side of the gate continue along the leafy track as it quickly descends to the bottom of a shallow valley **13**. Continue straight ahead and climb the ascending field edge track to arrive at another quiet tarmac lane at **Ingleby Toft** **14**.

Turn left and follow the road a short distance (250 metres) to reach a sharp right hand bend **15**, where the route leaves the road and continues straight on along a gradually descending field edge track, adjacent to woodland on the left. At the bottom of the dip, the path turns left **16** and turns into a leafy track (Warsick Lane), which gradually ascends to pass a small fishing lake on the right after which the track



Warsick Lane

Robin Wood is an older area of wood with some history, being formerly owned by Sir Francis Burdett, the fifth Baronet of Foremark who was born in 1770. A good and courageous man, a member of Parliament and popular with the people, due to his radical views on the laws of the land he was imprisoned in the Tower of London and fined £40,000. To pay this enormous fine the oak trees out of Robin Wood were felled, cut into suitable lengths in saw pits on the bank of the River Trent (east of the John Thompson Inn) and the wood was transported by boat and sold to raise the money for the fine.



Ingleby Toft is an imposing Queen Anne style house built c1732 as a dower house by the Burdetts of Foremark Hall.



Ticknall is an attractive village that until relatively recently remained largely owned by the Calke Abbey estate of the Harper-Crewe family: they built many of the houses for their tenants who worked on the estate, and exerted a strong feudal influence on the village.

The **Church of St George** was built on the site of the former Church of Thomas a Beckett in 1831 which had become too small for the growing population of 1281 residents (compared to about 750 now). When they tried to demolish the old church, parts proved resistant to gunpowder and still remain standing, namely the west wall and the altar window.

There are 14 **'lions head' water pipes** scattered through Ticknall, which were provided by the Harpur Crewe family in 1914. Before then water was carried from local wells or springs. The taps fell into disuse in the 1960s when mains water was installed. Some of them are still working.

The **Lockup** was built in 1809 at a cost of £25.19s.11d to house vagrants, drunks and paupers on a temporary basis. Reputedly the kitchen back door key of the Staff of Life public house also fitted the local lock-up for drunks!

Two hundred years ago Ticknall was much larger and noisier with lime quarries, tramways and potteries. Coal was also dug close to the village. A reminder of those times, **the 'Arch'** on the main road carried a tramway (for lime) through the Calke estate to the Ashby canal at Willesley.



levels before arriving at the former **Seven Spouts Farm** a short while later **17**.

At the junction immediately before the farm bear left and follow the tarmac driveway, continuing straight on through the gap in the hedge, when the drive turns right, to arrive at the Ingleby-Ticknall road **18**. Cross the road, go through the gate opposite and follow the field edge path across two fields to arrive at a 4-way footpath junction **19**. Turn left, through the bridle gate, and follow the field edge path (keeping the hedgerow to the right) for a further two fields, each with a field gate at the far boundary. After the second gate, continue on the same line and enter Windmill Wood **20** - newly planted National Forest woodland. Soon the spire of Ticknall church comes into view. After passing a large pond on the left, pass through a bridle gate in the corner of the field **21**, once more continue on the field edge path to arrive at a farm track **22**, where our route goes straight on, crossing the stile directly opposite, following the field edge past the cricket ground and church to another stile. From here it is just a short distance across a grass field to a stile leading to the car park.

Ticknall is a charming village with many interesting buildings and well worth a stroll either before or after your walk. Guides are on sale in the Village Store, and there are three pubs to choose from if you have worked up a thirst (or indeed an appetite).

Seven Spouts Farm takes its name from seven springs or spouts which occur naturally and bubble up out of the rock formation nearby and which until recently were the source of water for the whole of Ingleby. Even today several houses have spring water as their only supply.

Calke Abbey is not on the walk but it is the reason for Ticknall's existence and a visit is recommended. Cared for by the National Trust since 1985... this baroque mansion, built in 1701-3 for Sir John Harpur and set in a beautiful landscaped park, has become famous as an example of the English country house in decline. Little restored, the house has many fine interiors, some essentially unchanged since the 1880s. There is a magnificent Chinese silk state bed not unpacked until 1985. Explore the walled gardens, an 18th-century orangery and view family carriages in the stable block.



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