

# The Horseshoe Trail

A 15 mile trail for horse riders, cyclists and walkers



This trail along bridleways and minor roads can be started from Foremark Reservoir or Ticknall, taking you through the beautiful countryside of South Derbyshire and The National Forest.

## South Derbyshire

Right in the heart of England and the place to enjoy quiet rural recreation

Experience the making of The National Forest - Britain's most ambitious environmental project. Linking the ancient forests of Needwood and Charnwood, it involves planting new woodland on a scale not seen for more than a thousand years, creating stunning landscapes and wildlife habitats. Already by 2011 more than 7.8 million trees have been planted.

The National Forest & Beyond Visitor Guide will help you explore the area and discover the wide range of places to stay. Relax at one of the Forest's two luxury health spas or stay in one of our cosy family run guest houses, top quality hotels or timber lodges nestling within the peaceful woodland setting.

*The challenge is deciding what to do first!*

Download a Visitor Guide from [www.visitnationalforest.co.uk](http://www.visitnationalforest.co.uk) or pick up a copy from Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre.



Perfect for a great day out or a brilliant short break. Amid rolling quintessentially English countryside dotted with picturesque historic villages you will find so much of interest ... historic houses and gardens, meandering rivers and canals, reservoirs, skiing and tobogganing, factory shops, fascinating visitor centres, a wide range of events, and so much more to explore...



### Please be a 'green' tourist:

- STAY overnight rather than taking day visits.
- GIVE the car a rest and consider public transport.
- SHOP at village stores to benefit the local economy, and wherever possible buy local produce.

### Welcome to beautiful South Derbyshire

Additional information about walking in South Derbyshire can be found on [www.nationalforestbreaks.co.uk](http://www.nationalforestbreaks.co.uk) including details of other walking literature available (and where you can get it from). Please respect our customs and the local way of life.

### Public Transport

Wherever possible please use public transport rather than your car. For details of bus services please ring Traveline on 08712 00 22 33 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk); or while in the area visit a library or Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre.



### Countryside Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Leave only three things: foot, tyre and hoof prints - but take away a thousand happy memories.



### The Horseshoe Trail

This route commences at Foremark Reservoir car park (postcode DE65 6EG), located off the Milton to Ticknall road. Park in the car park with the kiosk containing cafe and toilets. There is a charge to enter Foremark Reservoir by car. Please be aware that car park closing times vary during the year - times are at the entrance as you come in. [Alternatively you may wish to start at Ticknall Village Hall, which is on Ingleby Lane and is signposted from the A514].

The Horseshoe Trail is 15 miles long (24km) and will take approximately 2-4 hours cycling, 2-3 hours horse riding, or 7-8 hours on foot. For a more detailed map you are recommended to refer to Ordnance Survey Explorer 245 (The National Forest).

This trail is open to horse riders, cyclists and walkers. The route passes through rural countryside with several hills and along rough tracks. In some fields there may be cattle or horses. The route also travels along several roads.

After periods of wet weather the field-edge tracks and routes through Robin Wood can become extremely muddy.

In Spring and Autumn the hedges are cut back, which can leave a lot of thorny branches and cuttings on the trails. Cyclists should make sure they carry a puncture repair kit!



### CYCLISTS

#### Be Safe

Wear protective headgear to the current BSI standard. Make sure that it fits correctly and is secure.

Check your cycle before you set off.

Wear reflective clothing if riding on roads and in poor light conditions.

Take the following items with you:

- Puncture repair kit, spare inner tube and tyre levers
- Allen keys, adjustable spanner and small screwdriver
- Waterproof clothing
- An appropriate map
- Food and drink, a small first aid kit
- Lights (if out in the evening)

### HORSE RIDERS

#### Be Safe

Wear protective headgear to the current BSI standard. Make sure that it fits correctly and is secure.

Check your tack before you set off.

Wear reflective clothing if riding on roads and in poor light conditions.

Read & learn from the British Horse Society "Riding and Road Safety Manual" (available from the BHS).

#### Be Courteous

Thank motorists who are courteous to you when you are riding on roads.

Be aware of other users who may be on the site or bridleway.

Respect the land on which you are riding.

If conditions are unsuitable and the landowner has to close a permissive route, please respect this decision.





**Swadlincote**  
Tourist Information Centre

Serving South Derbyshire and The National Forest

Makes the most of your visit by contacting Swadlincote TIC for details of local events, places to visit and other entertainments

Swadlincote TIC offers:

- Local and National Accommodation Bookings
- Local Guides and Information
- Special Offers
- Wayfare Tokens
- Transport and Travel Information / Timetables
- Local Walks, Leaflets, Maps, Books, Post Cards, Souvenirs and Gifts
- Day Trip Coach Bookings with 5 local companies
- UK Holiday Brochures
- 24-hour touch-screen information point

Why not relax and enjoy a drink in the Coffee Shop during your visit?

You will find us located within **Sharpe's Pottery Museum**  
West Street, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 9DG

Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-3pm  
Contact us for Christmas & New Year opening

Telephone: **01283 222848**  
Email: [tic@sharpepottery.com](mailto:tic@sharpepottery.com)  
Website: [www.nationalforestbreaks.co.uk](http://www.nationalforestbreaks.co.uk)

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1. The route commences at Foremark Reservoir car park. Cyclists and horse riders should follow the road back to the entrance. [Walkers can avoid the road: use the zebra crossing and walk through woodland towards the play area, then turn right before the play area to skirt the play area and through the gap onto bridleway. Turn left down bridleway and after 30 metres turn right through gap and immediate left to continue downhill parallel with the entrance road. Approximately 100m short of the entrance go through gap in fence on left onto entrance road and walk down to main road making use of the verge].

Foremark Reservoir was constructed in the 1970s to supply Leicester and the East Midlands with drinking water. Operated by Severn Trent Water, it has a surface area of 230 acres and contains up to 2900 million gallons of water.



Foremark Reservoir

Foremark is treasured for its wildlife habitats and is a centre for those who love the outdoors. You can enjoy bird watching and trout fishing or participate in watersports – Burton Sailing Club offers dinghy and board sailing. Surrounded by woodlands, Foremark Reservoir has many waymarked trails for walkers, and picnic areas where you can take in the beautiful surroundings. There is a children's play area, and refreshments are available from the visitor centre. There is disabled access to most areas, so whether you want to participate or just watch others, Foremark Reservoir has much to offer.

2. At the main road turn left - Beware of traffic. Walkers cross over opposite the houses, taking care and continue in same direction. After 70m all [horse riders, cyclists, walkers] turn right to go up a bridleway near Bendalls Farm. Follow the track, go through gap adjacent to farm gate and up the hill passing some modern farm buildings on the left. Continue along the track for approximately 500m until it meets another bridleway.

The land opens out with good views across to Derby with views of Willington Power Station and the Toyota Car Plant – the biggest ever manufacturing investment anywhere in Europe.

3. Turn right and uphill along this bridleway. Continue straight ahead past the entrance to a farm and a large tree [No right of way to the farm]. The path is now much less distinct as it runs along the edge of the field with the hedge on the left.

4. Go through a small gate and continue straight ahead with the hedge on the right. On reaching the top of the ridge [with large ash tree], pass through the metal gate and continue through an open gateway and past a large pond on the left. There are plantations part of The National Forest and

ahead views of Ticknall Church spire. Go through the next gate and continue with the hedge on the right.

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.

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

Before the Forest initiative got underway, woodland cover across the area accounted for just 6% of land use, well below the national average. With the planting of almost 8 million trees, cover has already more than tripled to 18.6%, and the ambitious goal for The National Forest is for about one third of all the land within its boundaries to be wooded, a task that will involve planting in the region of 20 million trees.

5. Turn left, where there is a short track to the right leading to a road. [Ahead the footpath continues past the cricket ground and church, providing a short cut for walkers to Ticknall Village Hall]. Cyclist/horse riders, follow the edge of the field with the hedge on your right – look back for a full view of Ticknall Church and the Cricket Ground. Turn right at Ingleby Lane. **Beware of Traffic** Continue along the lane passing the entrance to Ticknall Village Hall on right. [Walkers rejoin at this point]. Toilets and Parking are available at Village Hall.

Ticknall is an attractive village that until relatively recently, remained largely owned by the Calke Abbey estate of the Harpur-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 in working order.



Lions head water pipes

The Lock-up 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!



The Lock-up, Ticknall

Two hundred years ago Ticknall was much larger and noisier, with lime quarries, tramways and potteries. Coal was also dug close to the village, which was the industrial centre of south Derbyshire long before Swadlincote developed. A reminder of those times, the 'Arch' on the main road carried a tramway [for carrying lime] through the Calke estate to the Ashby Canal at Willersey.

At junction of Chapel Street and Rose Lane, turn left into Chapel Street and continue along this pleasant lane into the open green space known as 'the stumps' – opposite the entrance to Calke Abbey.

Calke Abbey is not on this route 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 bed not unpacked until 1985. Explore the walled gardens, an 18th Century orangery, and view family carriages in the stable block.

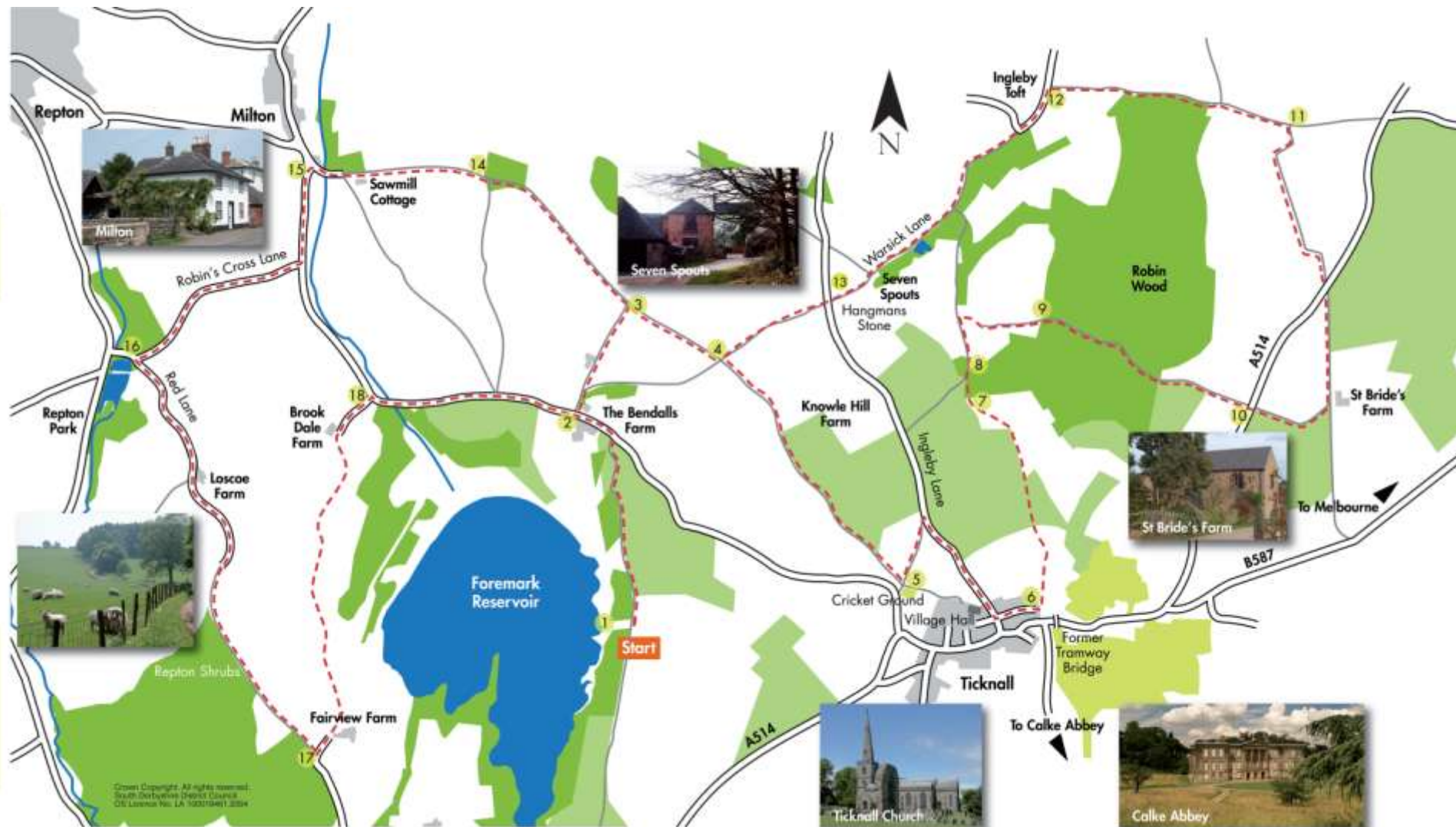
6. Turn left, go through the gate and continue straight ahead across the small meadow to another gate. Continue straight on to go through a high gate into Stanton's Wood. Continue, through another high gate and on through fields and gateways following under telegraph poles to the edge of Gorsey Lees Wood.

7. Go through the open gateway and downhill straight on through young silver birch woodland. Ignore the path on the left and continue to an open field.



Robin Wood

8. Continue through the open gateway and straight out across the field. Turn right at far side of field and follow edge of field with hedge on



the left. Follow the path which crosses over a ditch and continue across the field diagonally up to the edge of Robin Wood.

9. Go through the gate into Robin Wood and follow the main track straight on all the way as it gently climbs to a junction of tracks – this can be very boggy in wet weather/Winter. Bear right along the track and follow this to a gateway at the edge of the wood. Continue straight on to reach the Ticknall to Stanton by Bridge road [A514]. **Beware of Traffic**

Robin Wood is an older woodland 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 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.

10. Cross the road and continue straight on with the hedge on the right and follow the edge of the field down towards the St Brides Farm buildings.

This bridleway is part of an ancient route between Melbourne and Repton crossing uncultivated heathlands between Stanton and Ticknall. Travelling east along the bridleway you come to St Bride's Farm. The farmhouse [private] appears to be converted from the nave of a Norman Chapel. St Bride, harassed by a persistent suitor is said to have plucked out her eyes, later restoring her sight with water from a spring. There was once a spring east of the farmhouse, which was perhaps considered holy and may explain the chapel and its unusual dedication.

Turn left at the farm buildings and continue along the access road behind the houses to the main road [A514]. Cross the road [Beware of Traffic] and follow the bridleway across four fields. The path becomes clearer as it becomes a farm track which cuts across a large field bearing right at a telegraph pole and winds to reach a metalled unclassified road.

11. Turn left and follow the track, past Woodend Cottage on the left. Pass through the gap adjacent to gate into the northern edge of West Wood. Follow the path which has a steep downhill gradient in parts – take care. Continue down the track and then up as it climbs to the lane opposite Ingleby Toft. [To the left are views of a fishing pond].

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

12. Turn left and follow the lane [Beware of Traffic] to the sharp bend and take the bridleway which is straight ahead. Follow the path for approximately half a mile passing woodland on the left and later as the path climbs passing a private fishing lake also on the left. Continue all the way to Severn Spouts Farm. Bear left to walk with the farm on your right following the steep metalled track to the Ingleby Road. **Beware of Traffic**

Severn 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.

13. Carefully cross the road [Beware of Traffic] and follow the track through three fields passing a metre tall obelisk of sandstone, the "Hangmans Stone". The path now meets point 4. Turn right to retrace the route to point 3. Then

continue straight ahead [instead of returning back to the start] following a winding natural surfaced track for half a mile into a spinney. Continue straight through and out of the spinney with a hedge on the left.



There are views of Repton Church spire in the distance ahead, and to the right, views over to Derby city.

14. Follow the track with hedges either side for a third of a mile until it reaches the houses. Continue on and then up to the road.

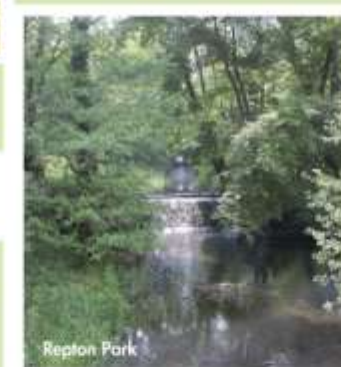
Milton is an attractive hamlet which was owned by Thomas Burden in 1602, who came from Bramcote to marry a local heiress. In 1607 the estate came into the hands of the Burdett family, until sold to the Prudential Assurance Co. in 1943 and then sold on to the Church Commissioners who still own much of the land around Milton today. The old mission room provided by the Foremark family is now the village hall. An ice stone standing outside the village is believed to have been brought down in the last Ice Age.

15. Turn left onto the Milton to Repton Road using the grass verges where possible [Beware

of Traffic]. The first part of the road has a slight incline, then levels out before the turn right into Robins Cross Lane. Proceed uphill, take care in narrow sections, then the lane levels out and drops steeply downhill.

16. As the road widens, the stone walls of Repton Park can be seen.

It was not until the medieval period that the higher land south of Repton was cleared to form Repton Park, of which Park Pond is a remnant. Owned by Sir Henry Harpur Bart in 1776 when excluded from the Act of Inclosure, Repton park passed to the Crewe family of The Hayes. It was not until the mid nineteenth century that Repton Park was split into farms and tenanted.



Repton Park

Turn sharp left and uphill along Red Lane [Beware of Traffic] – a shady steep banked lane. As the lane levels out, continue just past Loscoe Farm and then take the bridleway straight ahead. Follow this track for a mile as it winds down-hill, levels out, then runs parallel with Repton shrubs [evergreen pines], and then up a steep hill to a gate at the top.

There are good views along this ridge enabling you to see a lot of the route you have already travelled along. Further along you are able to see Foremark Reservoir over to the right.

17. Turn left along bridleway passing Fairview Farm on the right. Bear left through the gate and follow the long gently winding track [hedge on your right] for three quarters of a mile, descending to Brookdale Farm on your left. Pass through gate and continue bearing right along the track passing Brookdale Barn on the left until you reach the Milton to Ticknall road. **Beware of Traffic**

18. Turn right and follow the road for approximately a mile back to Bendalls Farm [Beware of Traffic] - grass verges are available for much of this section of road. Finally retrace the short distance to the entrance to Foremark Reservoir and return to the car park.

