

# Milton & Foremark Walk

This walk commences in the village of MILTON which is east of Repton on an unclassified road. You should park safely on the roadside on Main Street.

The walk can also be started from the main car park at Foremark Reservoir, in which case you should join the bridleway between points 13 and 14.

The walk is approximately 5.3 miles long (8.4 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.

Start by walking a short distance out of the village of Milton towards Ticknall. Just out of the village and shortly after passing a road junction on the left, take the footpath on the right 1 and cross to the far side of the field, to meet a 4-way footpath junction 2, at the field boundary, turn 3/4 left and cross the field to a gap in the hedge. Pass through the gap and go half-left and aiming across the next field to meet a tarmac road at an open gateway on the top of the ridge 3.

Turn right along this road, over the crest of the ridge, and gradually descend to the valley bottom where you will find Repton Park Pond. Although the route turns left 4 just before the bridge, make time to take a short detour and admire the view from the bridge. Afterwards follow the tarmac lane gradually uphill with trees on either side before opening out at the top of the rise. Continue on past Loscoe Farm 5 and go through the gate onto another bridleway (track) shortly afterwards. The track now gradually descends through trees before levelling out and following the bottom of a shallow valley for a good distance before sharply rising along a woodland edge to arrive at gate before a tarmac lane 6.



At the top of the track, pass through the gap to the side of the gate and turn right along a quiet tarmac lane for 650m. Shortly after passing the entrance to Bondwood Farm, take the path on the left 7, which passes through a paddock before running along the left hand edge of a woodland.

At the end of the woodland 8, pass over the horse track and go through the wicket gate into a paddock, which we cross to another wicket gate on the far side. Pass over the horse track once more and cross the stile 9 on the far side before descending a well-marked path to reach woodland at the bottom of the hill 10.



Cross the stile, entering woodland which contains Carvers Rocks Nature Reserve. Follow the path through the trees over a footbridge and boardwalk 11 on the way. At the footpath junction, turn left and continue up through the

It was not until the medieval period that higher land south of Repton was cleared to form Repton Park, of which Park Pond is a remnant. Owned by Sir Henry Harper 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.



Milton - an attractive hamlet 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 sold on to the Church Commissioners who still own much of the land around Milton today. The old mission room provided by the Burdett family is now the village hall. An ice stone standing outside is believed to have been brought down in the last Ice Age.



woodland to arrive at gate at a tarmac lane 12. Turn right here, walking up the lane a short distance before turning left, through a white metal gate 13, onto a bridleway which follows a straight course above Foremark Reservoir.

(Should time allow leave this bridleway and explore the many paths along the side of the reservoir, but be sure to return to the bridleway at some point to continue the route).

After approximately 1.5 kilometres the bridleway meets a tarmac roadway merging from the left 14, which we follow on the same line to eventually meet the Milton-Ticknall road 15. Turn left at the junction and, keeping to the grass verge, walk a short distance before taking the bridleway on the right just after the buildings at Bendalls Farm 16.

Pass through the field gate and ascend the good track

Carvers Rocks is an important nature reserve at the southern end of Foremark Reservoir. The name is believed to be connected with Lawrence Carver of Ticknall (born 1701). Now a Site of Special Scientific Interest, this was the largest sandstone quarry in Hartshorne and gave the best building stone in the area. Please treat this SSSI with respect - the habitats are easily damaged. Here are marsh, bog, heath, woodland and one of the last patches of lowland heath in Derbyshire.



From the public footpaths you can enjoy a bright display of marsh marigolds in Spring. During Summer these wet marshes are a good place to see and hear reed buntings, while the reservoir fringe has breeding great crested grebes. In more open areas you may hear woodcock rodding on early Summer evenings. In the valley where the stream runs into the reservoir are unusual habitats from marsh to alder woodland, and in one area an unusual valley side mire where sphagnum moss still dominates.



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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 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. Take a cycling or walking trail around the reservoir: 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 childrens play area, and refreshments 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.

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, 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 six per cent of land use, well below the national average. With the planting of 5.5 million trees, already cover has more than doubled to 15%, 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.



passing farm buildings to the left, after which the route soon levels. Shortly afterwards, bear left following the track at the T-junction 17, where the route turns left, and follows another field edge path, which passes under overhead power lines heading towards woodland in the distance.

Descend through the small block of woodland 18, and out into open field once more, still following a field edge

path. At the end of this field bear right then left and follow the hedged land gradually downhill towards Milton, passing a barn to your right to eventually reach a field gate at the bottom of the hill. Passing through the gate, follow the main lane, bearing right after the large bungalow 19 to reach the Milton-Ticknall road. At the road turn right and walk the short distance back to the start point.