

**Two starting points are available for this walk: Riverside Hotel or the railway bridge connecting the Branston Leas Housing Estate to the nature reserve.**

**Points of interest along the walk:**

1) Branston Leas Nature Reserve is an 82-acre area of land now transformed into a haven for nature and wildlife. The Reserve has been created by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and St. Modwen together with The Woodland Trust and the National Forest Company. The major project has included the planting of 20,000 trees and 14,000 bluebell bulbs and the development of quiet grassland areas for declining bird species including lapwing and snipe.

2) Riverside Hotel stands near the site of the original medieval village of Branston. The existing building was converted into a hotel in the 1960's.

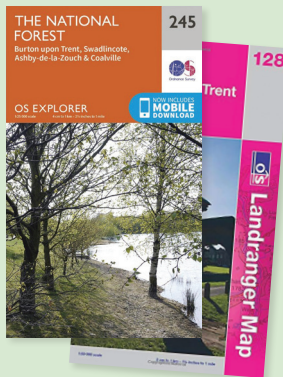
3) Branston Peace Wood is a centre for remembrance within the wider Branston Leas Wood. It has been established as a place for people to reflect on and remember loved ones within a natural, peaceful setting.



4) Trees planted include native woodland species, fruit trees and rare Black Poplars, encouraging new habitats for a variety of birds and wildlife.



5) Drakelow Power Station, once the largest electricity generation site in Europe, was sited across the river from the Nature Reserve. All that can be seen now is the derelict Intake Pumping Station. Adjacent to that site lies Drakelow Nature Reserve which is a haven for birdwatchers in the Trent Valley.

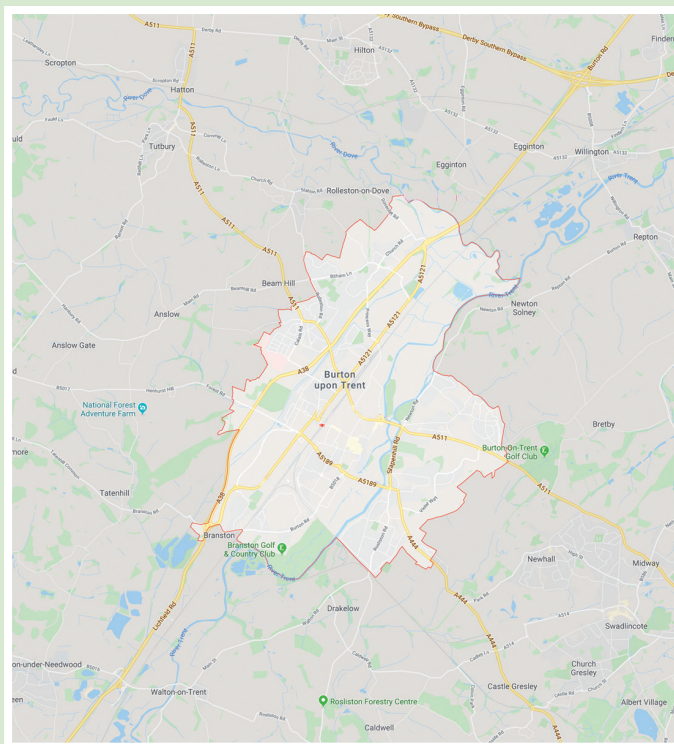


This leaflet can be used in conjunction with OS Explorer 245 (The National Forest) and Landranger number 128 (Derby and Burton Upon Trent)



# BRANSTON LEAS NATURE RESERVE

## 2 1/2 MILE EASY WALK



Any feedback on this walk should be forwarded to:  
Branston Parish Council [branstonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:branstonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of printing. However, Branston Parish Council cannot be held responsible for any error, omission or subsequent changes.



# BRANSTON LEAS NATURE RESERVE

This 6km (2.6 mile) walk takes you along the bank of the River Trent and round the developing Branston Leas Nature Reserve. You will walk alongside new woodland and areas of open countryside and enjoy some lovely views of both the river and distant hills.

- 1** From the back of the Riverside Hotel enter the NR by walking over the small bridge to the right of a large willow tree. Turn right and follow the footpath until it veers left at the top corner of the Reserve.
- 2** Continue along the edge of the Reserve, parallel to the railway line, passing several fruit trees along the way.
- 3** Eventually you will reach a bridge over the railway which provides access to the Branston Leas Housing Estate. At this point your route starts to follow the National Forest Way. Follow the path for another 500m to the end of the field.
- 4** Turn left before the gate in the corner of the field and follow the hedge around the edge of the field as it bears right. In the next corner of the field, head straight on over the wooden bridge, climbing the stiles either side of it.
- 5** Continue ahead, keeping the hedge on your right. The path follows the line of the hedge as it turns left then right and then straight on to the River Trent. (At this point the National Forest Way follows the path to the right and provides an interesting detour towards Walton alongside Tucklesholme Nature Reserve).
- 6** At the river turn left to walk along the river bank for approximately 1.5 km until the path veers slightly left, crosses a small stream, and then veers right to take you back onto the river bank.
- 7** Continue ahead, following the river and passing the small stone path to the Peace Wood on your left, until you reach the small bridge at the Riverside Hotel.

