

Geographygeek Explorer Trail 4: Moira Furnace, Leicestershire (2.9 miles)



Really Important Health and Safety bit:

- Make sure you take someone responsible with you on this walk.
- Take care around open water and at the side of canals.
- Be sensible around livestock in fields.
- Wear footwear suitable for uneven (and sometimes muddy) paths.

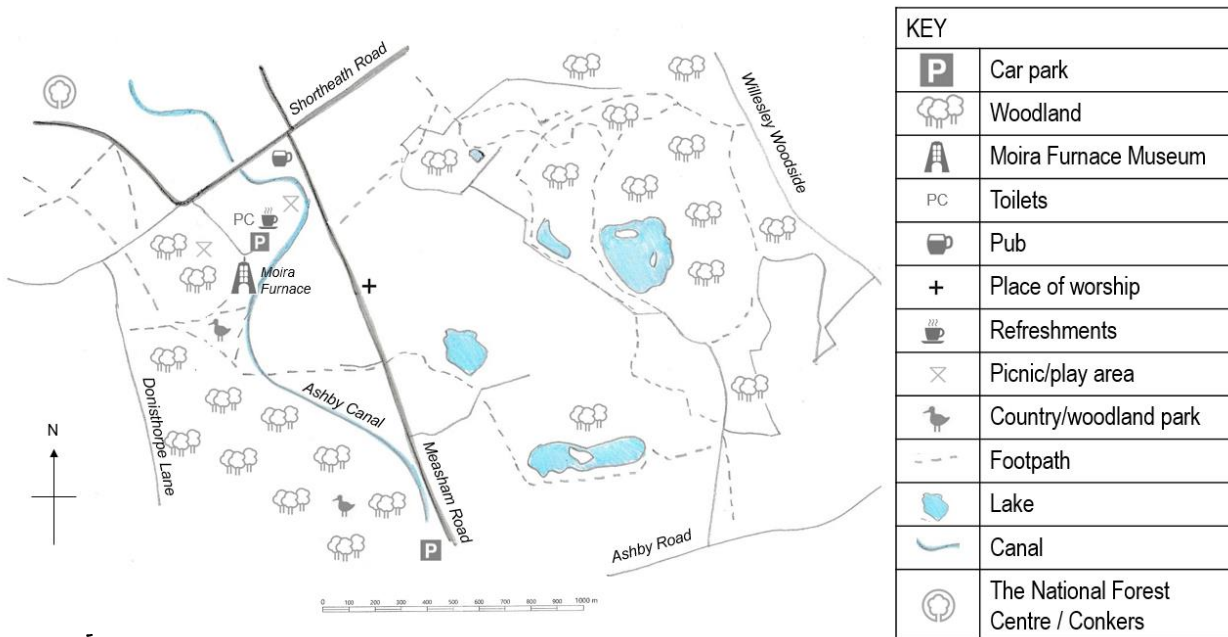


You will also need:

- A compass or a compass app

Start your walk in the car park by Moira Furnace (DE12 6LX). **P**
 This is a free car park and is open from 9am to 5pm.

Fill in the boxes to answer the questions as you go along. For now, ignore all of the small letters that are shown in the bottom of some of the boxes, but try not to write over them as you'll need them later!



1. From the car park, walk towards the furnace. Before reaching the bridge across the canal, look at the black signpost, which points the way to Donisthorpe, Moira Lock and Conkers Waterside.

What words are written in the circle at the top of the sign?

	w			
	d			e

There is also a blue 'National Cycle Network' sign on this post. What number National Cycle route passes through here?

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- Cross over the bridge and walk along the canal at a bearing of 30° NNE. When you come to the metal gate, go through to join the main road. Walk along the main road at a bearing of 160° SSE. Just before you reach house number 58, take the marked footpath at a bearing of 20°. A post marks the name of the two footpaths that pass this point. Stop here for the next question. One footpath passing through here is the Ivanhoe Way. You will be following this for the next section of this route so look out for route markers that show a yellow arrow inside a green circle.

What is the name of the other footpath that passes through this point?

l		c			k			&
						p		
	i							

- This path takes a steady uphill route and can be narrow in places. The route continues in a north-easterly direction and takes you into an area of more dense woodland. Where the route forks, you will see a yellow route marker on your left. Follow the Ivanhoe Way at a bearing of 35° (not 160°). Where the route forks for a second time, follow a bearing of 0° north (not 140°). You will reach a metal gate that opens out into a field. Cross through the metal gate and look back at the sign behind you.

What was the name of the industrial feature that used to be found in this spot?

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b							t

- Take a bearing of 5° N across the field and leave the field via a metal gate. Walk a short distance at a bearing of 35° and you will come to another path where you have to choose to travel either NW or SE. Take the SE route.
- Cross through a green metal cycle gate onto a gravel path. This gate is there to stop cars from entering, but you still need to be aware of cyclists along this route. Follow the path at a bearing of 135° SE towards the trees. The route bends to around 70°. There are lots of trees here that have white bark and small leaves. Below is a photograph of the leaves.



Use the diagrams to identify the type of tree.



	q			x
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6. This path winds downhill and then uphill. Stick to the gravel path. At one point another path crosses your path, but maintain an easterly bearing of around 100° . Eventually you will reach another path where you must choose a bearing of 30° (Ivanhoe Way) or 220° (Donisthorpe). Leave the Ivanhoe Way here and follow 220° . At this point look to the south and you will see a white structure sticking out above the trees.

What is the white structure that appears above the trees?

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			y		

7. Walk along this path. There will be a field to your left and trees to the right. Continue along in a southerly direction until you reach a large lake on your left. Follow the lake around, but count the number of benches that you pass from the start to the end of the lake.

How many benches are there along this edge of the lake?

f

8. A sign at the end of the lake explains what the lake was previously used for and you may find this interesting. Follow the path away from the lake in a SE direction, past two smaller lakes. When the path forks, follow a bearing of 120° for Donisthorpe (rather than 60° for the cycle centre). You will walk up a hill and then descend the other side.
9. Continue to walk in a southerly direction until you reach a sign for Hicks Lodge on the eastern side of the path. When you reach this sign, walk for 80 steps and you should come to a metal gate on the western side of the path.
10. Cross through the metal gate and into the field. Once in the field, follow a bearing of 260° with the field on your left and a fence on your right. Pass through a metal gate and into the field with the lake. Walk around the southern edge of the lake and continue along the grass path as it reaches the end of the lake and veers to the north on a bearing of around 345° .
11. Go up to the metal gate ahead and you will see a stile and a yellow post to the left of the gate. Take care here as sometimes the fencing is electrified. The stile is perfectly safe to touch. There is a sign designed by a 7 year old girl, asking people to keep their dogs on leads.

What are the two main colours that have been used for this sign?

	r		
	s		

12. Once over the stile, cross the field on a bearing of 330° . You can either cross the footbridge or walk around the stream in the middle of this field. Once at the other end of the field, continue over another stile. The path splits, so take a bearing of 315° (not 65° or 230°) and then turn immediately to your left and enter the field.
13. Once in the field, follow a bearing of 300° alongside the fence. You should see a green barn ahead. Cross another stile to the right of the green barn.

14. Take a northerly bearing through the trees and follow the footpath around. It goes uphill and then bears to the west. Keep going in a westerly direction until you reach some steps down to the road.

How many wooden steps are there down to the road (not stone steps, just the wooden ones)?

a	
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15. The road here runs roughly in a north to south direction. Walk towards the north. This is a relatively fast road and the path is narrow so take care along this stretch. You will eventually come to a church on your right.

What is the name of this church?

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j				n			g	
m								

16. Cross the road just after the church and you will reach a stile and a green public footpath sign. Cross the stile and walk down the steps onto the playing field. Cross the field on a bearing of 290° NW bearing.
17. Once across the field, walk through the metal gate and you will see the canal bridge where you started and Moira Furnace ahead of you. Cross over the canal bridge to complete your walk.

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NOW USE THE ANSWERS TO CRACK THE CODE AND COMPLETE THE INFORMATION ABOUT MOIRA:



Moira is a former mining village in Leicestershire, which lies around 100m above sea level. It sits on bedrock called the Pennine Coal Formation, which consists of layers of Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone that contain coal seams. These are sedimentary rocks and were formed around 300 million years ago when this area would have been dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas.

This area is part of the National Forest, which was set up in 1995. The National Forest Centre ('Conkers') is located in Moira on the site of an old colliery. Moira Furnace was built to make iron in 1806 but it only remained in operation until 1811. It has now been restored and is open as a museum. A section of the Ashby Canal beside the furnace has also been restored, although it no longer links up to other waterways.