

# Ibstock

This leaflet is one of a series produced to promote circular walking throughout the county. You can obtain others in the series by visiting your local library or Tourist Information Centre. You can also order them by phone or from our website.



It is advisable to wear suitable footwear when walking. Stout shoes or walking boots are recommended.

Some stretches of the route follow minor country roads. Beware of traffic approaching from both directions. If possible stay on the verge, if not walk in single file on the right hand side of the road.

Enjoy the walks, whilst observing the Countryside Code.

## contact details:

Access Officer, Community Services Department, County Hall.  
Telephone: 0116 305 8160 Fax: 0116 305 7965  
Minicom: 0116 305 7334  
email: [footpaths@leics.gov.uk](mailto:footpaths@leics.gov.uk) Website: [www.leics.gov.uk/paths](http://www.leics.gov.uk/paths)  
For more information on the National Forest: [www.nationalforest.org](http://www.nationalforest.org)

The information in this leaflet is available in other formats on request.

Reprinted 2009



Leicestershire  
County Council



# Ibstock

**Circular walk**

9kms/5½ miles



Supporting



THE NATIONAL  
FOREST

This walk has been created in memory of the many hundreds of miners who tramped these and other paths to find work in the coal-mines of the area.

It is dedicated to the memory of the late Councillor Vic. Price, an ex-miner who wanted to create a memorial other than the winding wheel symbol, which are scattered around the area.

In recent years the area has been transformed from farmland to young woodland as part of the National Forest.

The walk passes through or by five National Forest woodlands which, together cover 177ha. You are welcome to walk in them all but while the trees are young, please stay on the network of marked paths.

**walk:** 9km (5½miles), allow about 2½ hours, open farmland, young woodland and an old county road (note. part of the route may be muddy after rain) **P** free car park on High Street, opposite the Ram Hotel, Ibstock

From the car park, turn right and follow the High Street until you reach Grange Road. Turn left and head downhill.

*The building at the top of Grange Road was the National School (circa 1818), which was closed in 1906 when other schools were built. Below this on the left you will pass the former infants school.*

At the bottom of the hill you will reach a marker stone dedicated by Ibstock Parish Council. Walk past this following the well-defined path towards the open fields over the footbridge. Continue straight up hill towards Redholme Bungalow Farm, a former isolation hospital.

**A** Beyond the farm you will meet a track leading to Ibstock Grange Farm up the hill on the left. Cross the track to the surfaced path opposite, and continue through the young trees of Grange Wood. Eventually the path crosses a brook, then another track to enter Battram Wood. Follow the grass track up hill.





Batram Wood is owned by the Royal Forestry Society and was planted with 80,000 trees between 1998 and 2001. Grange Wood (planted in 2000 with 100,000 trees), Park Farm Wood (2002), and Pretoria Road Woods (2003/4) are all privately owned and consist mainly of broadleaved species. Workman's Wood (1999/2000) is mostly fast growing commercial poplars.

**B** At the brow of the hill you can see the roofs of Ibstock behind and those of Batram ahead. At this point go right, keeping the hedge to the left, to another track (*the Nailstone miners went straight on here to the Nailstone Wood and thence to the colliery 1865 to 1967*).

Turn left and follow the track to Batram.

**C** At the gate to Batram Road, there is an optional loop of 1½km/1 mile to view the former Nailstone colliery and spoil heap of Batram colliery, which is now a nature reserve.

On reaching the gate to Batram Road, double back down a footpath to the left, passing an information board on the way downhill. At the path junction with another information board and bench, bear right downhill. Cross the stream and continue straight ahead to meet a path crossing.

**D** (*Ahead is Workman's Wood; the path straight on is a 3¼km/2 mile shortcut rejoining the main route at point F*). Otherwise, at the path crossing, turn right, keeping the hedge to your right and then, when the path bends left, cross to have the hedge on the left. Continue towards Pickering Grange, a listed farmhouse (circa 1200).

Follow the path through a field to reach a tarmac road. Stay on this road to get to the main road, then left. *To the right of the Hepworth Building Products is the former Ellistown colliery site 1874 – 1989.*

**E** After passing by the next footpath on the left, take the track on the left. Follow this track back to Ibstock.

*As you walk along, to the right you will have views of Ellistown where South Leicester colliery was situated*



1876-1986, and Hugglescote, Ravenstone and Coalville. You can also see the spoil heap of Snibston colliery 1832-1983, now Snibston Discovery Park, one of the jewels to emerge from the dust of the mine closures.

As you breast the rise of the hill stop to observe the view over the roof tops of Ibstock. From left to right you can see into Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

**F** Carry on down the hill to re-enter Ibstock, going past another marker stone by the site of the former Ibstock colliery, closed 1927. Continue in the same direction to reach the village centre and starting point.

*Linking into the footpaths and byways nearby can shorten the walk.*

*Other walks nearby: Normanton le Heath, Sweptstone, Appleby Magna and Carlton. The National Forest also has a number of walks in the area.*

The routes are clearly marked with bold, yellow topped waymarker posts and waymarker discs with the Parish Walks symbol.



## Walking - Be fit and well

Walking is a form of exercise that is suitable and enjoyable for all ages. It's a free and fun way for families and friends to get fit together. Just 30 minutes of brisk walking on a daily basis can benefit your health and quality of life.

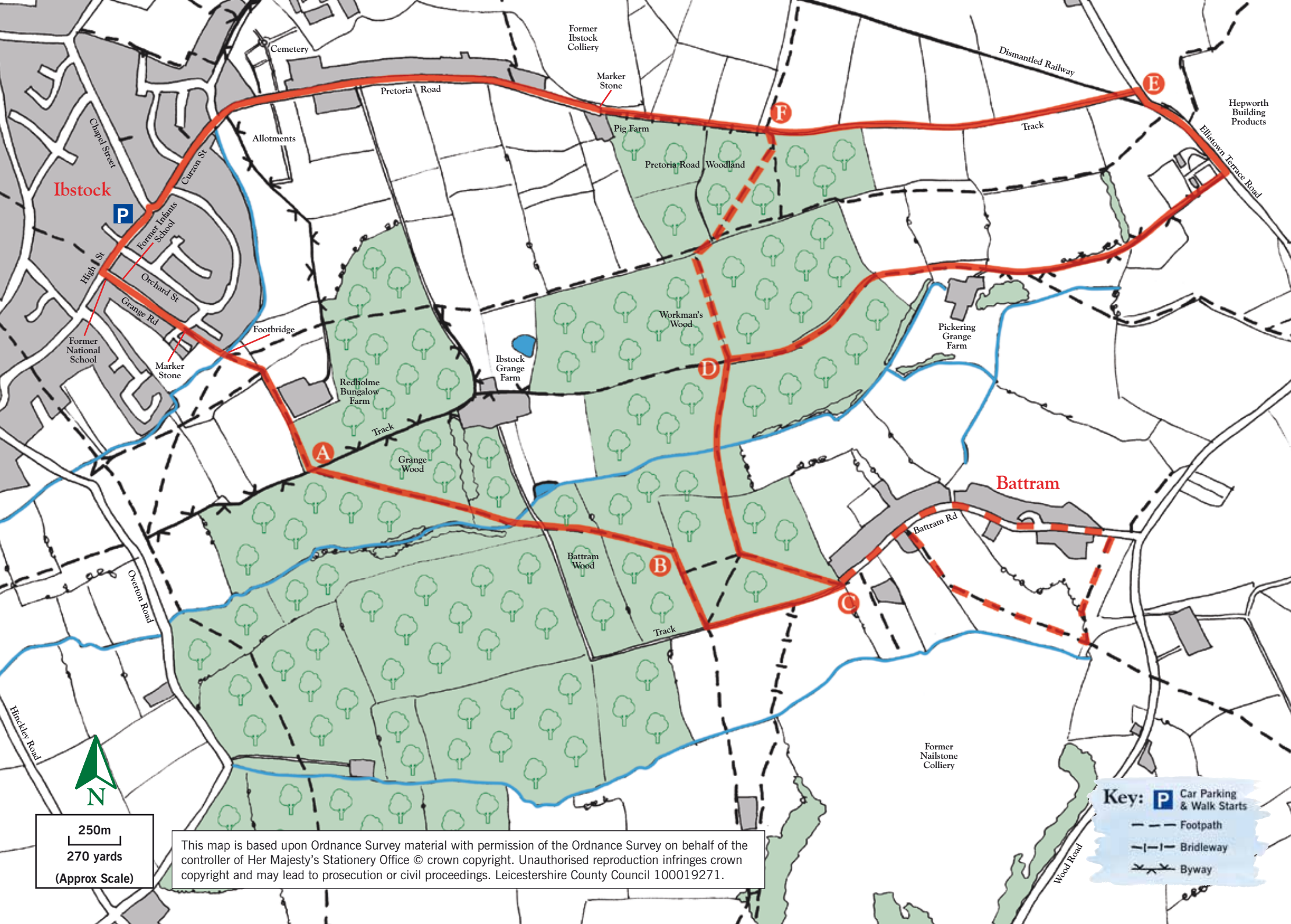
## useful information:

**Buses:** Service 14 (Coalville-Ellistown-Ibstock Mon-Sun), 92/93 (Coalville-Ashby Mon-Sat), 152 (Ibstock-Leicester Mon-Sat), 159 (Coalville-Hinckley Mon-Sat)

**By Car:** Ibstock can be reached from the north and south via the A447, from the east via the B591 and from the west via the B586.

**Refreshments:** various shops and pubs in Ibstock

**Toilets:** In the free public car park off High Street



Ibstock

P

Former National School

Marker Stone

Footbridge

Redholme Bungalow Farm

A

Grange Wood

Ibstock Grange Farm

Workman's Wood

D

Battram Wood

Track

B

C

Battram Rd

Battram

Former Nailstone Colliery

Pickering Grange Farm

Marker Stone

Pig Farm

Pretoria Road Woodland

F

Track

E

Hepworth Building Products

Ellistown Terrace Road

Dismantled Railway

Pretoria Road

Allotments

Former Infants School

Orchard St

Grange Rd

High St

Chapel Street

Cemetery

Former Ibstock Colliery

Key: P Car Parking & Walk Starts

--- Footpath

-|-| Bridleway

-x-x- Byway

250m

270 yards

(Approx Scale)

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