



British Walking Federation

National Memorial Arboretum Armistice Trail – PT 286



Organised By The **ROYAL AIR FORCE WALKING AND ROAD MARCHING ASSOCIATION**

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Distance: 11km

Entry Fee: £1.00 (Cheques made payable to RAFWARMA).

Award: Award is not available yet

Start Venue: Car Park, National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas, DE13 7AR.
OS Explorer 245, GR SK182145.

(Please note that the grounds are only open between 10am – 5pm, it is recommended to book on the National Memorial Arboretum website)

Car Parking: At the start venue and on-line, £4.00 all day if booked in advance, £6.00 on the day.

Public Transport: Details of train stations and taxis can be found on the National Memorial Arboretum website. A daily bus service operates from Burton upon Trent and Lichfield via Alrewas village, where the walk can start at Q3.

Refreshments: At the Arboretum and in Alrewas village.

Terrain: BWF Grade 2 – Major road (700m), minor roads, tracks, parkland and canal/river path.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (Updated 11th October 2022)

TR – Turn Right TL – Turn Left BR – Bear Right BL – Bear Left SO – Straight On
RH – Right Hand LH – Left Hand SP – Signpost FP – Footpath BW – Bridleway
RHS – Right Hand Side LHS – Left Hand Side PH – Public House

1. Enter the visitor centre (Entry is free) and exit through the doors to the left of the café into the courtyard. Turn right down the steps/ramp and follow the path to the Bear Memorial to the left of the Aspects building. TL along the path passing the memorial plaques set in the paving on the LHS dedicated to the servicemen born overseas who were awarded the VC during WW1. At the steps of the Armed Forces Memorial, TR and follow the path around, passing the Basra Plaques and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Memorial. Just before the green barrier, TL on the gravel path (Dog Walk). Continue SO on the track following the signs of the dog walking route to reach the river. BL and follow the riverside path with the river on the RHS, passing the posts of the Shot At Dawn Memorial. The riverside path becomes a hardened path, SO passing the impressive Railway Industry Memorial. Continue to follow the riverside on the hardened path and just before the railway bridge TL to the wooden hut (Christmas Truce Shelter). (2.4 km)

Q1. There is an information board for the Western Front Association Memorial in the shelter. Towards the bottom there are the words of Remembrance dedicated to the British Empire men and women who lost their lives. How many?

2. Head back to the river and TL under the railway bridge. Follow the grass path around the copse, passing the picnic benches on the corner, with the river on the RHS to reach a grey FB. Cross the river using the FB and TL on the track, follow the track for approx 1100m to reach the barriers by the quarry machinery (Take care – quarry HGV vehicles may be using the track). TL and cross the stile by the barrier, SO over the railway bridge, following the track/lane to reach a junction just before the green metal fence ahead on the RHS. TL (SP–FP) on the tarmac lane and follow as it bends right to the junction and Give Way sign. TL (Take Care), to cross the bridge over the dual carriageway. Immediately after the bridge TR on the path through the trees to reach the road, TR and follow for approx 400m (Extreme Care on bends of road). Just before the Barton-under-Needwood sign TR on the path to cross over the canal bridge. TR on the canal towpath with the canal on the RHS. At bridge number 43, cross over the canal and continue on the towpath with canal now on the LHS towards a white footbridge (6.7 km).

Q2. Just before the white FB ahead, there is a mile marker on the towpath. How many miles is it to Preston Brook?

3. Continue to follow the canal towpath, keeping the canal on the LHS. Crossing several footbridges to reach bridge number 46. Exit the towpath and TL on the lane, crossing over the bridge. TR on Post Office Road, passing the Crown PH and SO to the junction with the WW1 War Memorial in the grass triangle surrounded by a fence. (8.7 km)

Q3. The tree in the triangle was planted to commemorate the coronation of which royal?

4. From the War Memorial, cross the road and TL passing the George and Dragon PH. TR at Wellfield Road, passing the village hall on the LHS. At the end of the road, TR and follow the path up the slope to the roundabout. TL (SP – National Memorial Arboretum) crossing the bridge over the dual carriageway to the next roundabout. Cross the slip road and immediately TL on the footpath down the slip road then alongside the main road for approx 700m. After the red brick building, TR on the lane, over the railway crossing (With Care) and follow the LH pavement to eventually return back to the car park on the LHS and finish. (11 km).

The National Memorial Arboretum is free to enter, with payment only required to enter the various exhibitions. There are many more memorials around the parkland to explore.

When you have finished this trail please use the [Permanent Trail Entry Form](#)
Send your entry to the contact name above.

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

This trail is open until 31st December 2023.