

Louise Smalley Challenge Walk 2021

Daisy Flower Walk

Route 4

Whitwell Common – Clowne – Markland Grips – (7.5miles)

To be seen on this route.

- A)** Dicken Dike, a stream which rose near Highwood, flowed through the Dicken and into the Square, then headed towards Belph where it too joined the Millwood Brook. The Dicken Dike was the stream, which was the major influencing factor in the siting of the original, Anglo-Saxon, settlement of Whitwell between the Church and the stream.
- B)** Van Dyk Hotel. The Bowden family once lived in Southgate house with the family seat here being traced back to Henry Bowden who lived here before his death in 1665. Southgate house remained in the family till sold as part of 23 lots, including farms and cottages, by Lt-Col W Butler-Bowden. Purchased at auction in 1938 by Sir Osbert Sitwell of Renishaw, it was later requisitioned during the 2nd World War as barracks for various regiments. Between 1943 and 1948 a POW camp was established housing German and Italian prisoners in Nissan huts in Southgate Wood to the rear of the building. In later years the house became The Van Dyk Hotel and Garden Centre and was latterly converted into the Van Dyk Hotel, Restaurant and Conference centre.
- C)** Clowne Greenway is the latest addition to the Greenways network that is developing across the county. It links the communities of Clowne, Creswell and Woodthorpe and is a great off-road commuter route to Markham Vale Enterprise Park and Poolsbrook Country Park. The Midland Railway line was completed in 1872 and opened in 1875, its primary purpose being to give access from the East to the booming iron and coal industries. Passenger services commenced in 1888 taking travellers to Mansfield and Chesterfield ending in 1954. The last excursion trains ran in 1962 but freight continued up till the early 1990's when an underground fire threatened to undermine the line. Enjoy the work done by volunteers with the "Clowne/Barlborough" station area.
- D)** Markland Grip is joined at its lower end by Hollin Hill Grip. The valleys, cliffs and rock shelters and caves were all formed from the meltwater action of the last receding glaciers. The three caves or rock shelters were excavated by Leslie Armstrong. One of the sites is known as The Sepulchral Cave or Bone Cave because the remains of several people were found behind limestone walls. (Carbon dating shows the remains were deposited during the early Neolithic.) These valleys are also SSSI and are managed by The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. It is also the site of an Iron Age promontory fort, later reoccupied by the Romans, which can be viewed just to the left of the walk route described below. This is a nationally important site as there are less than 100 recorded in the country.

- 1.** Leave the Community Centre car park and **turn right**. Where the main road bends left, **continue straight ahead**, on the flat, along Portland Street. At the junction **bear right** to continue along Portland Street. At a point where the road swings right (and turns into Scotland Street) **cross over and continue straight ahead** along the side street (still Portland Street). After 75 metres the road turns 90° left. **Continue straight ahead along the grass track. History Label "A"**. Pass through the stile and walk along the bottom of the fields (3 fields). At the end of the third field the track turns 90° right. **Do this and continue straight ahead, uphill, towards some buildings**. At the top of the lane where you meet a wall and fence, **turn left** to walk up towards the house. This lane soon swings right to meet the road. Cross over the road and **turn left to walk uphill**. Where the footpath ends, **re-cross the road and bear right to pass Byrndaie cottage**. Where the road swings right to the junction **continue straight ahead along the pavement towards the cottages of Whitwell Common**. On reaching cottage No14, **turn right to cross the road onto Bondhay Lane**.
- 2.** Walk along this lane for 300 metres then **turn left onto the public footpath** (wide track) opposite a metal gate. This is a grassed track but 100 metres before its end it turns into a rough tarmac road. At the end of this path you meet a metallised road. **Turn left, walk along this road for 100 metres then turn right onto Walls Lane**. Walk along this lane for 1 kilometre. Just after passing North Walls Farm and South Walls Homestead the road dips. At the bottom of this dip **turn left**. Walk along this lane which is bordered either side by hedgerow. On meeting Little Walls Farm you meet a metal gate. **Pass through the hinged gate to its left, proceed past the farm to another metal gate and repeat! Once through continue along the lane until you meet the road (A619)**. This is the Whitwell Parish Boundary.
- 3.** **Cross over road to the stile opposite. Cross and bear 45° right to cross the field** keeping the singular trees to your left (the first carries a yellow disc). On meeting a path, punctuated by a marker post, **turn left to walk along this narrow path. History Label "B"**. Follow this path which is bordered by hedgerow for 700 metres until you meet another path on the left. **Continue straight ahead** heading for the cottage to the right of a dilapidated building. On reaching this cottage walk **straight ahead to the left of this building** and right of a dilapidated building. On meeting a gate, **pass through, and, after a few metres, turn right to another gate. Pass through and follow the path**. To your right is Bumpmill Pond, a very large fishing lake. Once across this, **bear left to another gate**. Pass through and **cross the field towards the houses**. Once across, though another gate to walk by the side of the houses to meet the road; **this is Clowne**.
- 4.** **Turn right to walk up the hill** for 60 metres. At the relatively new houses **turn left to cross the road to a path that runs between industrial buildings, the site of Southgate Colliery which closed in 1929**, and has a metal security fence bordering it. Walk this path for 250 metres during which it does a right/left zigzag, until you emerge onto a driveway. **Walk down this to meet the road. At the road, cross over and turn right to cross the bridge**. Almost immediately after the bridge **turn left just before the Station Business Centre** to walk down the lane. Is the clock right? Cross over the metal barrier onto the tarmac lane and **turn left to walk down to a junction. History Label "C"**.

5. At this junction **turn right (signposted Creswell)**. You walk this former track back for 1 kilometre, passing 2 “Exits” on your way. (At the first exit is an original Midland Railway brass plaque from 1893 found when the Greenway was being constructed).
6. At the third exit, immediately before a red brick bridge, **you leave the track by steps on your right**. At the top of the steps, **turn right and immediately left** up the lane to meet the road. At the road **bear right to walk along the pavement downhill**. At the bottom of the hill you see, on your right, some wooden steps.
7. At this point, **TURN LEFT TO CROSS THE ROAD** (crossing punctuated by a sleeping policeman) and pass through the gap in the hedge onto the well walked path. On meeting a path from your left, **bear right to follow the path uphill**. Once at the top of the hill the path widens and you soon realise you are on another rail track bed. After 600 metres you meet an electricity pylon on your right. **History Label “D”**. **80 metres after this you exit the track to the right onto a path** (difficult to see – make sure you get the right one!). You see a way marker on a post which is an arrow on an orange background. **Follow this path, keeping right, and heading downhill into the bushes**. You soon meet a dilapidated stile. **Pass this and, after a few metres turn left to pass through the tunnel. Watch your step here**. Once through, **bear right to the stile** and pass through into the Nature Reserve. **Follow the path through** (stream on your left) until you meet another stile signifying the exit of the reserve. 25 metres after this the path turns left at a wall. You will have wall on your right, stream on the left.
8. On meeting a lane **turn right to walk towards the farm**. At the gate pass through on the **left and continue through the farm** on the well-marked lane. Once through, the lane swings right and uphill before levelling out to reach a road. At the road, **cross over and turn left. TAKE CARE – THIS ROAD CAN GET BUSY**. On reaching Skinner Street junction, **cross straight over and continue along the Hazelmere Road**. This soon swings left then under a bridge (carrying the Clowne Greenway) and over Bluebell Walk turning before rising to the road junction. **TAKE CARE HERE. Cross straight over the road and follow the “old road” towards the bus stop**. At the road **cross over and turn left** to walk along the pavement heading uphill. The road bends to the right and, after 50 metres you **turn left to cross the road onto Highwood Lane**.
9. Walk up this lane for 750 metres until you reach the SECOND footpath exit on your right by a metal barrier. **Turn right to walk up this path**, hedge left, open field on your right. At the end of the field, **pass through the hedge into the next field and bear 45° left to cross the field** heading for the houses. Once across you emerge onto a tarmac lane. **Turn right to pass by Claylands Farm**. At the end of this lane **bear left to walk along the pavement** passing 4 houses on your left before a junction. **Turn left here onto the cul-de-sac** called Claylands Grove. At the end of this to the right between houses 8 and 10 is a gennel. **Walk down this gennel until you emerge onto a road (Plantation Road) that soon rises to meet a junction**.

10. Turn left at this junction and follow the road which soon descends steeply. This is Hillside – enjoy the view of the Church of Saint Lawrence, Whitwell Old Hall and Whitwell Wood beyond. At the bottom of the hill **turn right** and after 70 metres **cross the road onto Portland Street and turn right.** ****Look out for a Blue Plaque awarded to the First World War poet, William Streets. **** After 100 metres take the **road to the left (Portland Street)**. At the next junction **bear left** to walk past the front of the Community Centre to **enter the checkpoint via the Gardens.**