

# Louise Smalley Challenge Walk 2021

## Daisy Flower Walk

### Route 5

#### Stroll Around Whitwell Woods – (4.1miles)

#### Notes on this section.

**A) Whitwell Wood is a broad-leaved woodland that covers 171 hectares; said to be the largest wood in Europe. The wood has a very high nature conservation status and it has a wide range of flora including over 20 species that are indicators of ancient woodland. There are also numerous features of archaeological interest. Visit the wood to discover the Ginny Spring Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It has been designated for its rich flora including some species rare in Derbyshire.**

**B) Whitwell Old Hall is an early 17th-century manor house. It is a Grade II\* listed building. The manor of Whitwell was purchased in the 16th century by Sir John Manners of Haddon Hall. He was High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1585 and rebuilt the old manor house. The garden front of two storeys has seven irregular bays and three gables. Although extended and altered in later centuries the house retains much of its 17th-century appearance. Sir Roger Manners (High Sheriff in 1618) died about 1650. Although the house remained in the ownership of the Manners family of Haddon it was sold by exchange to the Duke of Portland. In the 19th century the house served as the local National School.**

- 1.** Leave the Community Centre car park and **turn left**. At the Square **cross over the road towards the war memorial. From the war memorial island cross over the road again to start walking up Hangar Hill**. After a few metres, immediately after the newly converted flats, **turn left to walk up a flight of steps**.
- 2.** At the top of the steps **continue ahead along the narrow path**. When you come to houses **take the path diagonally to your left**. You now are walking up a narrow path with hedge to your left and fencing then hedge on the right. After 100m or so at a junction in paths take the **right fork** and then **immediately** at another junction the **left hand fork**. **Continue uphill** firstly with fence to either side then hedges.
- 3.** At the top of this path you reach a stone slab stile. **Over the stile and cross straight over to the “grass triangle”**. Bearing slightly left, **cross over the road and walk a few metres to meet an obvious path on the left leading into the bushes**. 25 metres on the path swings left into a field. **Cross this field along the obvious footpath** heading towards Whitwell Wood. On meeting the lane, **turn right** down to the road and **cross straight over to enter Whitwell Woods** via the gate on the left. **History Label “A”**.

- 4.** After just a few metres **turn right to take the path to the right of the display board**. You are on a wide track. At the first crossroads (a tri-coloured post stands at 2 o'clock position) **turn 90 degrees right** (passing with this post on your left). After 100 metres you meet another tri-coloured post, at this point the path swings positively to the left then begins to rise until you meet another tri-coloured post with a stone/wood bench and table just beyond it positioned by a "path crossroads". At the crossroads, **turn 90 degrees right**. Follow the path as it descends, then rises again. You will pass a wooden bench on your right in front of a wooden marker post, which now only have a red band. The path continues to rise before levelling off. As the path continues through the wood it begins to descend again. Part way down the dip you will pass another wooden marker post (with a red band) on the right. A further 10 meters on, just before the bottom of the dip, **turn 90 degrees right** onto a narrower path. After 170 metres (and before reaching the edge of the wood) **turn left onto a path** on which there are "red arrows" (not the planes) painted on the trees to guide you. This path winds its way through the wood. Look right and you can see the wall, which marks the edge of the woodland. After 590 metres a path joins from the left, **bear right**, the path widens slightly and you meet a pond on your right.
- 5.** **Keep to the path that now runs parallel with the springs that punctuate the bottom edge of the woods on your right**. You will see lots of colour markings on the trees as the arrows disappear. **Keep to the obvious path** parallel to the springs. After 350 metres the path starts to rise uphill, drifting away from the spring and soon becomes narrower. 150 metres on you will meet a path rising steeply to your left. **Take this path uphill**. After around 50 metres it flattens out slightly and becomes quite a wide path. At the small path crossroads **cross straight over and continue onwards**. At the large path junction (punctuated by a bench on your right) **cross straight over and follow the path into the wood heading slightly left**. This path will wind through the wood so keep to the extreme right where possible. You will see, beyond the wall and hedge, Bondhay Golf Course.
- 6.** After 900 metres of meandering you meet a wide path coming from you left. **Cross straight over onto the path opposite** which keeps you running along the edges of the woodland. After 600 metres you meet a path junction, **turn right to follow the wide track**. After 320 metres you meet a fork in the track, **take the left fork passing the display board on the left**. 50 metres on at the next junction, **turn right** to take you back to the entrance to the woods you were at earlier.
- 7.** **Exit the wood and cross straight over this busy road onto the lane opposite**. **Continue along this lane** leading you into the village. This is "Old Hall Lane". After 300 metres the lane heads steep downhill and becomes "tarmacked". **History Label "B"**. At the bottom on reaching the junction **turn left**. This is High Street. **Follow this street**, crossing over Worksop Road, and downhill to reach The Square. **Turn right to cross over past the monument to reach Whitwell Community Centre checkpoint via the gardens**.

**Route 5 completed.**

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