

SHERWOOD VOICES

A SERIES OF **STORYTELLING AUDIO WALKS** AROUND THE
TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE SHERWOOD FOREST AREA



FEATURING WALKS IN AND AROUND:

BESTWOOD | CALVERTON | CLIPSTONE | EDWINSTOWE | NEWSTEAD | OLLERTON | RAINWORTH

HOW IT WORKS...

Each of the seven walks lasts around two hours and detailed instructions on where to go are part of the audio. You shouldn't need a map and you won't get lost!

The audio for the walks is available in a number of ways. Using your own device, you can either stream the walks, going from track to track as prompted, or you can download the audio before you set off. Alternatively, there are a small number of MP3 players and headsets available in each location.

To find out more and to access the audio, visit inspireculture.org.uk/sherwoodvoices or scan the QR code below.



1

2

3



4



5



6



7



THE WALKS...

PAGE 4

ALAN'S STORY: BESTWOOD

PAGE 6

THE SCHOOLCHILDREN'S STORY: CALVERTON

PAGE 8

EMMA'S STORY: CLIPSTONE

PAGE 10

EDITH'S STORY: EDWINSTOWE

PAGE 12

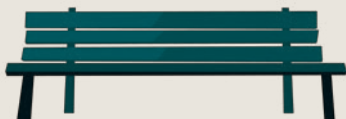
THE WOMEN AND THE WRITER'S STORY: NEWSTEAD

PAGE 14

SOPHIE'S STORY: OLLERTON

PAGE 16

JENNY'S STORY: RAINWORTH



ALAN'S STORY

Location: Bestwood

Distance: 2.5 miles

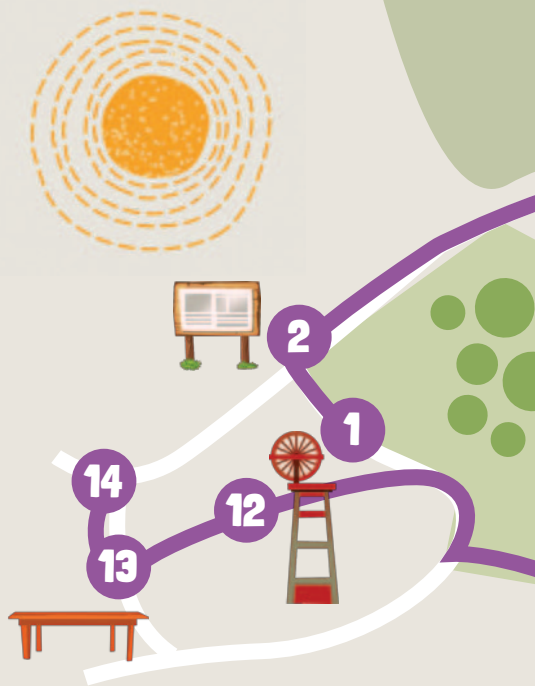
Estimated time: 2 hours

Alan has a story to tell about leaving and returning; of trying to make sense of something a stranger once told him; of male voice choirs, aubergine muffins, and Muntjac deer. He is joined by those who come here as visitors, rangers, and volunteers, and for whom this place plays a big part in their lives.

The walk starts at the car park on Park Road with the Winding Engine House behind you. Walking up Park Road we come to Alexandra Lodge, and then retrace our steps for a moment before turning into the heart of the country park. We follow a path that passes Khalsa Wood before walking through the Big Wood glade to the Adventure Playground. Looking out over the landscape, we then follow paths back down to the Winding House, past some very old trees and along the side of the reclaimed colliery area. Approaching the Dynamo House and the Winding Engine we continue towards the play area, coming into Bestwood Village opposite St. Alban's Road, with our starting point a couple of minutes away to the right.

The walk is on a variety of paths, and depending on the weather, these may be wet and muddy. The stretch of road up to Alexandra Lodge can sometimes have big puddles so you might want to bring suitable footwear. There is also a small, steeper downhill section of the walk, although there are benches to stop and sit on (and we will) as we go down here.

There are a total of 14 tracks on this walk, with regular stops along the way. There are also sections when the audio is playing as you walk.



The stops are:

- 1 The Bestwood Country Park car park on Park Road
- 2 The noticeboard at the bottom of Broad Valley Drive
- 3 Alexandra Lodge
- 4 The Park Rangers' noticeboard
- 5 The arch to Khalsa Wood
- 6 The picnic tables in the Big Wood glade
- 7 The Adventure Playground
- 8 Bench on the downhill path
- 9 Bench by the old oak and copper beech trees
- 10 The old oak overlooking the dip
- 11 Path alongside the reclaimed colliery area
- 12 The Winding House
- 13 Bench by the basketball play area
- 14 St. Alban's Road



PARK ROAD

WOODMAN'S PATH

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

THE SCHOOLCHILDREN'S STORY

Location: Calverton

Distance: 2.5 miles

Estimated time: 2 hours

The Schoolchildren's Story is a chance to hear those aged 7 to 9, from Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School, investigate the place in which they live. It's a charming insight into the way they see the world, revealing something of their hopes and expectations for the future.

This walk starts and ends at the gates of the Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School on Flatts Lane.

Walking past the playing field along Park Road, we cross Mansfield Lane and continue down Park Road East before turning left into Crookdole Lane, away from the traffic. Continuing into and up Carrington Lane, and past Knights Cottage, we follow a path that leads us to Oxton woods, and then skirt through the woods looking for an old tree trunk to sit on. After spending some time amongst these wonderful trees we follow a narrow path down onto Mansfield Lane, where we take a right. Passing Hoyle Road, we take the next left, walk down Flatts Lane, cross over Park Road, and return to the school.

The walk is largely on pavements, roads and paths and there are no steep sections to navigate. The path up to and through the woods may be slightly wet and muddy, depending on the weather. There are moments when care will be needed crossing busier roads.

There are a total of 11 tracks on this walk, with regular stops along the way. There are also sections when the audio is playing as you walk.

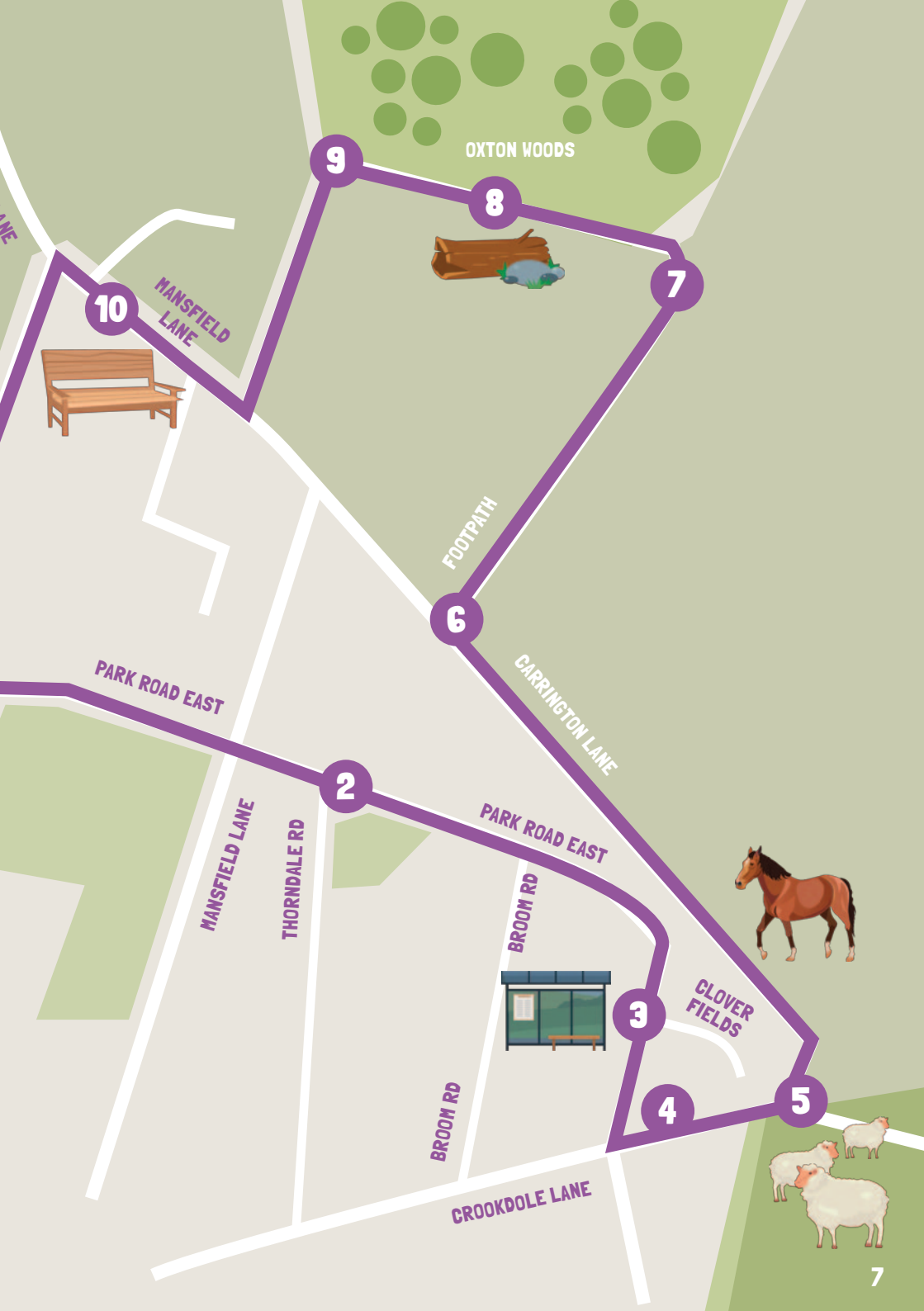
The stops are:

- 1 The gates of Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School, Flatts Lane
- 2 The green space by Thorndale Road
- 3 The Clover Fields bus stop
- 4 Crookdole Lane, outside the house with the fish pond
- 5 Gate overlooking the fields at the bottom of Carrington Lane
- 6 Footpath leading up towards Oxton Woods (make sure it's the right one)
- 7 Entrance to Oxton Woods
- 8 Fallen tree trunk on the path through Oxton Woods
- 9 Narrow path down to Mansfield Lane
- 10 Bench on Mansfield Lane, near the turning into Flatts Lane
- 11 The gates of Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School



FLATTS LANE

FLATTS LANE



OXTON WOODS



EMMA'S STORY

Location: Clipstone

Distance: 2.5 miles

Estimated time: 2 hours

Emma has been gathering stories in exchange for objects, as she attempts to understand the forces that have shaped this landscape, and in doing so learn more about the hidden secrets of her past. She is joined by those who work on this site, as shepherds, bailiffs, and bakers.

This walk starts and ends at the Vicar Water Country Park car park, near to the Visitor Centre and Rumbles café. Walking alongside the duck pond we ascend to the top of the hill overlooking the headstocks. We walk along this ridge, pass through two viewing points, and then cross Beard's Meadow descending via a steep path to Vicar Pond. From here we follow the water and the fishing pitches back to the car park, ending (if open) at Rumbles café.

The walk is on a variety of paths and depending on the weather these may be slightly wet and muddy. The path down to Vicar Pond is steep and so care will need to be taken.

There are a total of 16 tracks on this walk, with regular stops along the way. There are also sections when the audio is playing as you walk.



3

VICAR WATER
VIEWING
STATION

10

8

6

9

7





The stops are:

- 1 The Visitor Centre car park
- 2 Viewing station at the Duck Pond
- 3 Wooden post at the bottom of the hill
- 4 Bench overlooking the Headstocks
- 5 Butterfly interpretation panel
- 6 Bench overlooking the Forest
- 7 Gate by Bower Hill Heath
- 8 Top of the hill looking onto Clipstone
- 9 Bench overlooking the Forest
- 10 Vicar Water viewing station
- 11 Butterfly interpretation panel
- 12 Bench before the steep descent
- 13 Bench by the style coming out onto Vicar Pond
- 14 Bench by the fishing pitches
- 15 Path along Vicar Pond
- 16 Rumbles café

EDITH'S STORY

Location: Edwinstowe

Distance: 2.5 miles

Estimated time: 2 hours

Edith's story digs deep into the magic and history of the Forest as she looks back on her life, and reflects on the importance of stories as we try to make sense of transformation.

This walk starts at the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre in Edwinstowe. We follow the Major Oak trail into the Forest and keep on this path, in the company of some incredible old trees. We then take a detour into the cricket ground and walk down to Forest Corner. Heading into the village we take a right at Mansfield Road, visiting the Thoresby Colliery Memorial before entering the grounds of St Mary's Church. We then come back up Church Street and along Forest Corner, passing the Youth Hostel, and walking down towards the cemetery. A small path leads us back to the beginning of the Forest trails, and we end at the Charter Pole.

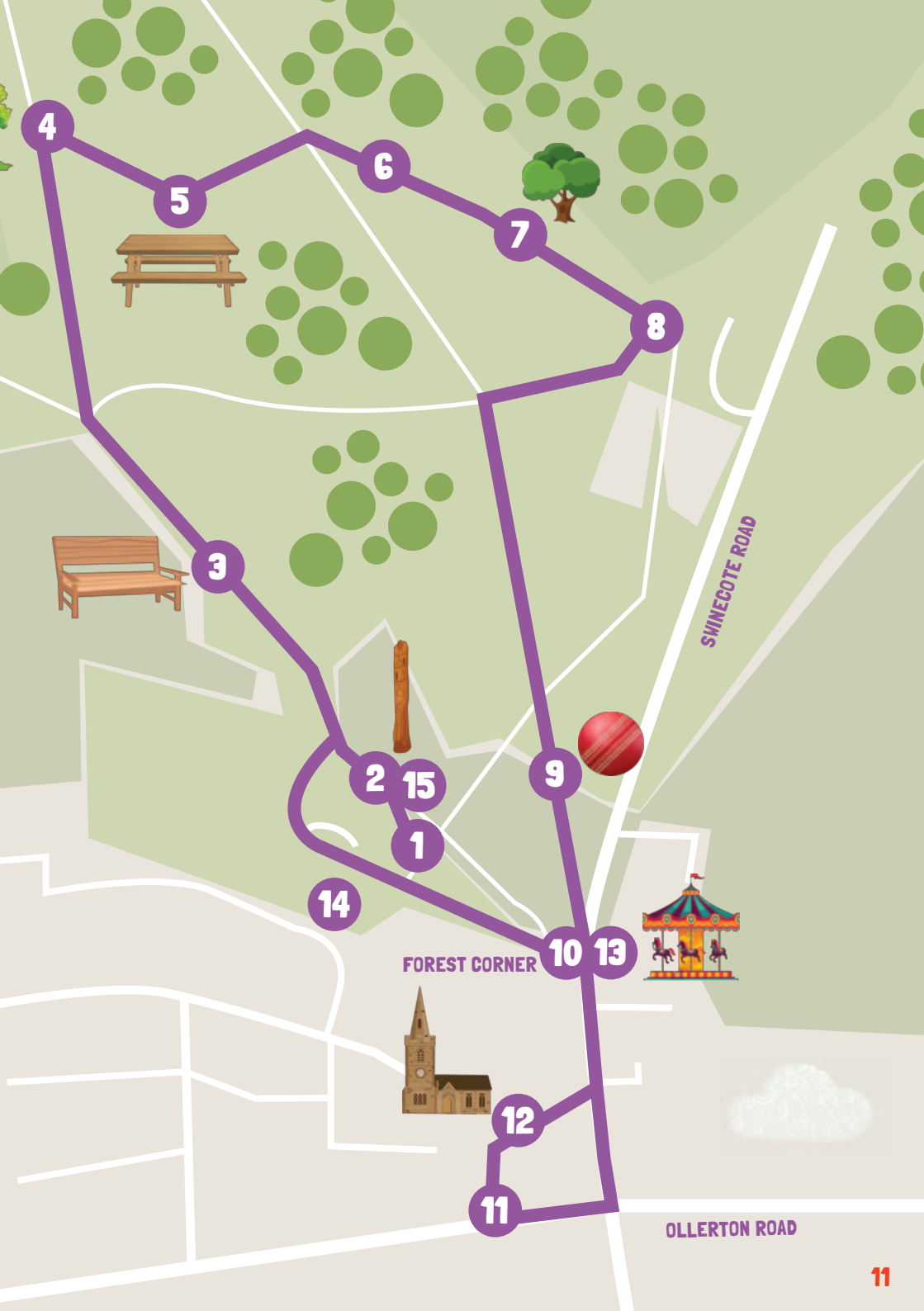
The walk is on pavements and paths and there are no steep sections at any point, although there are some steps leading down from the church grounds to Church Street. Depending on the weather, the path through the Forest may be slightly wet and muddy underfoot (it's never too bad). We cross over Church Street and Mansfield Road, both of which can be busy at times.

There are a total of 15 tracks on this walk, with regular stops along the way. There are also sections when the audio is playing as you walk.

The stops are:

- 1 The Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre
- 2 The Charter Pole
- 3 The (badger) bench towards the beginning of the Major Oak trail
- 4 The Major Oak
- 5 Picnic benches by the old trees
- 6 Bench facing a handful of trees
- 7 The Bee Tree
- 8 The five trees
- 9 The Cricket Ground
- 10 Forest Corner
- 11 Thoresby Colliery Memorial
- 12 St. Mary's Church Grounds
- 13 The Fair
- 14 The Youth Hostel
- 15 The Charter Pole





4

5

6

7

8

3

2

15

1

9

14

10

13

12

11

FOREST CORNER

SWINECOTE ROAD

OLLERTON ROAD

THE WOMEN AND THE WRITER'S STORY

Location: Newstead

Distance: 2.5 miles

Estimated time: 2 hours

As a writer returns to a place that he has never forgotten, three Newstead women take him on a journey and tell of their life in the village, then and now. Meeting others on the way they reflect on the importance of walking, fishing, partying, and friends.

This walk starts outside the Community Centre on Tilford Road and ends at the Remembrance Gardens, next to the Centre.

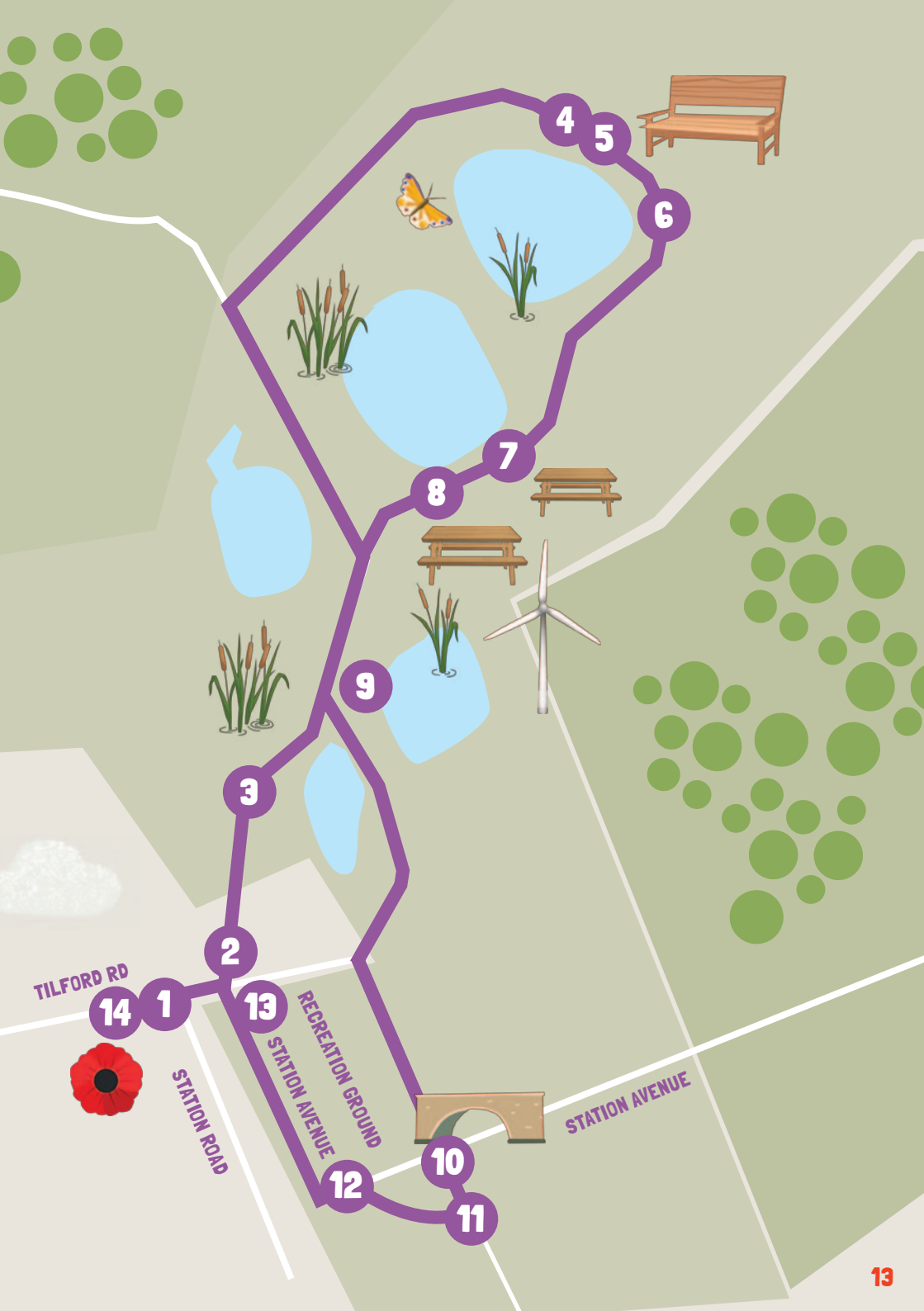
Walking down to Station Road we cross over the railway line to enter Newstead and Annesley Country Park, via the car park opposite the old pit wheel. Following the path to the right past the bird feeders, and up to the (hopefully soon to be opened) Visitor Centre, we walk around the Middle and Top lagoons. Having come down to the Viewing Point we retrace our steps a little before going to visit the Angling Lake. From here we follow the path alongside the recreation ground that takes us to the old bridge over Station Avenue. Briefly entering the Linby Trail we turn off right through the old slack yard down onto Station Avenue. We then head back towards the village, alongside the other side of the recreation ground and back across the railway line.

The walk is largely on pavements, paths, and tracks with some uphill walking, but nothing too steep. In places, weather depending, it may be slightly wet and muddy underfoot.

There are a total of 14 tracks on this walk, with regular stops along the way. There are also sections when the audio is playing as you walk.

The stops are:

- 1 The Newstead Centre, Tilford Road
- 2 Car park for the Newstead and Annesley Country Park
- 3 Bird feeders
- 4 Bench at the top of the Bottom Lagoon
- 5 Leaving the bench
- 6 Coming round the Bottom Lagoon
- 7 Picnic bench by the Middle Lagoon
- 8 Picnic bench facing the wind turbine
- 9 Path to the Angling Lake
- 10 Old bridge over Station Avenue
- 11 The Linby Trail sign
- 12 Station Avenue bend
- 13 The Pit pub / The pit wheel
- 14 The Remembrance Gardens, Tilford Road



SOPHIE'S STORY

Location: Ollerton

Distance: 3 miles

Estimated time: 2.5 hours

Our guide is Sophie, a young woman grappling to understand her place in a town her family has long called home. As she introduces five stories that move through the years of coal mining, and we hear from those who work with the local community now, this is a rich exploration of the past, present, and future of Ollerton.

This walk starts and ends near the Hop Pole Hotel in Old Ollerton, taking us to New Ollerton and back. Walking past St. Giles' Church, we go up Wellow Road, left onto Back Lane and via Middlefield to a traffic-free path running alongside the disused railway line. Coming out onto Darwin Drive we go into the skatepark, and from here along the path past Tesco's into New Ollerton. Walking along Sherwood Drive we head up Briar Road to Church Circle, and stop at the community garden. Retracing our steps we head back into old Ollerton and end up sitting in the Remembrance Garden facing the Maun.

The walk crosses a number of roads and is on pavements and paths. There are no steep sections at any point.

There are a total of 11 tracks on this walk, with regular stops along the way. There are also sections when the audio is playing as you walk.

The stops are:

- 1 The bench opposite The Hop Pole
- 2 The bench where Church Street meets Market Place
- 3 The entrance to Private Road / Middlefield
- 4 The railway bridge
- 5 Skatepark at the centre of Darwin Drive
- 6 Lifespring Church, Sherwood Drive
- 7 Church Circle
- 8 Bench opposite A. W. Lymn's
- 9 The railway bridge
- 10 The bench where Church Street meets Market Place
- 11 The Remembrance Garden





7



YEW TREE RD

LARCH RD

BRIAR RD

8



AG075

6



BEECH AVE

WALESBY LANE

AG075

DARWIN DRIVE



5



9

4

MIDDLEFIELD

JENNY'S STORY

Location: Rainworth

Distance: 2 miles

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

Influenced by the local Victorian naturalist Joseph Whitaker, Jenny has decided to investigate the local habitat. Meeting people along the way, who share stories from the past and the present, she is able to piece together a new understanding of the place she calls home.

The walk starts at the Rufford Colliery memorial on Kirklington Road, before heading down Rufford Colliery Lane. We enter the heath, across from the Petanque Club, and head on the lower path to a small road that, turning left, takes us to the old vicarage building. Retracing our steps a little we re-enter the heath, head towards the back of White City, and take a path down to Fourth Avenue. From here we head down First Avenue, cross straight over into the road opposite, and take a left at the last building to follow the path that runs alongside the grounds of the lakes. Taking a right onto Lind Close we walk down to L Lake and then, keeping the lake to our right, cross a small wooden bridge that leads us to a path that runs alongside Rainworth Water and brings us out onto Thoresby Road. Another path, between the houses, leads us to Lake Farm Road where we turn right towards Southwell Road. From here we walk back up to the benches at the entrance to Kirklington Road.

The walk is on a variety of paths, and depending on the weather, these may be wet and muddy. There is also a small, steeper downhill section of the walk as we enter the heath.

There are a total of 14 tracks on this walk, many of which are listened to as you move.





The stops are:

1. The Pit Wheel, Kirklington Rd / Rufford Colliery Lane
2. The Petanque Club, Rufford Colliery Lane
3. The Heath
4. Building on tarmac track (that leads to Churchfield Drive)
5. Old vicarage building
6. Green railings on mineral line, behind White City
7. Fourth Avenue
8. Path to Lind Close
9. Lind Close
10. Bench at L Lake
11. Path to Thoresby Road
12. Path to Lake Farm Road
13. Lake Farm Road
14. Green benches, Kirklington Road

Interested in finding out more about the history of the Sherwood Forest area?

The model villages of the Nottinghamshire coalfield were researched as part of the Miner2Major Heritage Buildings project.

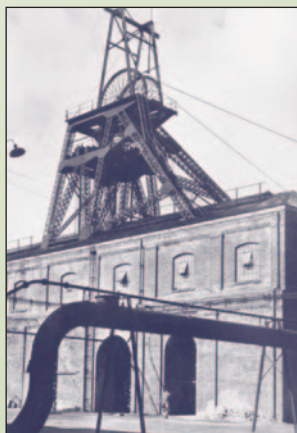
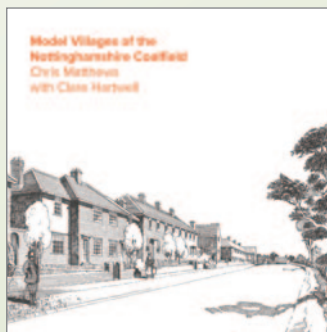
The project has published a book called 'The Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield' with accompanying guides, researched and written by Chris Matthews with Clare Hartwell.

The heritage of these model villages reflects the evolution of mining in the region and the ambitions of the colliery companies who built them. The book is beautifully illustrated with old photos and original drawings. The accompanying guides have helpful maps and notes to help you to spot original features, details and the original arrangement of the streets.

The book and guidebooks can be downloaded from the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record website: nottinghamshire.gov.uk/collieryvillages



Scan here to view the book online.





Having spent over twenty years creating theatre performances with communities across the region exploring questions of culture, heritage, and place, **Excavate** were asked to find a way to create a new work that responded to the challenges of the social lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic.

Building on people's increasing engagement with their local neighbourhoods that took place during this period, and the increase in the walking of local routes, Sherwood Voices was conceived and work began. The seven audio walks that we invite you to set out on, as a result of this endeavour, are a blend of audio drama, podcast, heritage trail and simple storytelling.

It has been a mammoth undertaking that has involved around three hundred and fifty people in the mapping out of routes, the sharing of stories and memories, and the reading and production of the work. Some of those who have spoken to us will talk to you directly on these audio walks, many more will find fragments of our conversations buried inside the stories that you will hear.

We're very proud of what we've all achieved together. From the very beginning we knew that we didn't want these to be audio guides that simply give you information about locations or objects or buildings that you find yourself passing, but to dig much deeper into the identity, past and present, of the area.

As Sophie, our narrator for the Ollerton walk says: 'it's always shuffling and swirling around you, the place where you live - nothing's ever really lost, nothing ever really vanishes, it's just waiting for its moment to come to the surface and move off again into the future. And so there are times when things come together and there are times when things move apart. But everything is always moving, that's the thing, being pushed on by what came before. Coal is just centuries of old trees crushed together, and places are just centuries of lives and stories and ideas and work, that have been mushed together as well.'

Andy Barrett
www.excavate.org.uk
www.sherwoodvoices.co.uk



PUT ON YOUR WALKING SHOES
AND STEP INTO

SHERWOOD VOICES

The towns and villages of the Sherwood Forest area are full to the brim with diverse wildlife, important habitats, fascinating people, and a rich heritage of stories. From Bestwood to Ollerton, Edwinstowe to Newstead, the area has a distinctive landscape, character, and heritage, which is recognised and valued by local people as well as visitors from around the world.

But as the saying goes, you can't truly understand someone, or the place that has shaped them, until you've walked a mile in their shoes. That's why we've created a series of seven audio walks, written by Andy Barrett, and led by Sherwood people who will take you on a journey through the stories and culture of this area that has gone through so much change.

This collection has been made through hours of conversation with people from across the area, and alongside our storytellers you will hear from shepherds, anglers, undertakers, park rangers, vicars, schoolchildren, and many others. Each walk responds to the sights and sounds that you will come across on your journeys, and each delves into the past, the present and something of the future.

So get your headphones ready, put your best foot forward, set your own pace, and join us on a journey into the heart and soul of Sherwood.



inspireculture.org.uk/sherwoodvoices