

## Responsible Walking

This walk uses some of our many rights of way. A right of way is not owned by the council, it is a right to pass over private land. When you go out please remember that almost all the land you cross is in private ownership, and someone's livelihood will depend on the crops and livestock there. Our countryside is not just a beautiful place, but a working environment, please play your part by keeping it tidy for the people who walk and work there tomorrow. Take a responsible attitude into the countryside, leave only footprints and take only photographs.

### Follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Produced by the Rights of Way Team.

## The Wickersley Wood Trail

### How do I get there?

Wickersley has good bus links to other areas in the borough, for up to date information call traveline on 01709 515151 or visit [www.sypte.co.uk](http://www.sypte.co.uk) for timetables.

The walk starts at the end of Wood Lane.

### Something to think about

This walk would not be possible without the help of local people, landowners and farmers.

### Bramley Lings

Bramley Lings is the name of a small area of Bramley south of the Bawtry Road which abuts Lings Common. Ling is another name for heather.



'CPRE Design Commendation: Doorstep Walks'

Public Paths in Rotherham are clearly shown on the OS Explorer Maps Nos. 278 and 279. Why not pick up a copy at your local bookshop and devise your own walks.

Any enquiries please ring 01709 822932

Remember to keep a track of where you are in the description, occasionally waymarks get vandalised and we may not have had time to replace them.

### Key

- 18 Walk No: 18  
Wickersley Wood Trail



Produced on Recycled Paper



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# Doorstep Walk No: 18

An easy way to explore the beautiful, local countryside on your 'doorstep'.

## The Wickersley Wood Trail



## Doorstep Walk Short, Easy to follow and local

Take a walk around the outskirts of Wickersley Wood and down Slacks Lane, perhaps taking in a visit to Winthrop Park, on this circular 2 mile walk.

- This route is one of the easiest of the series at around two miles long, but allow a couple of hours or so to enjoy this circular walk.
- There are many shops, café's and pubs in Wickersley, making it a good base for any walk.
- There is also a cafe at Winthrop Park along the way, but opening times may vary.
- You do not need to read a map.
- You do not need fancy equipment.

Just follow the BLUE Doorstep Waymark



### Wickersley

According to Domesday Book, the names Wic and Wike meant a Farm or a Group of huts. Ley and Lea meant a clearing. The village gave it's name to the Wickersley rock which underlies a large part of the area. This hard brown sandstone was used to construct buildings locally, but became more widely used as grindstones for the cutlery industry, based in Sheffield. By 1800 some 5,000 stones were being sent to Sheffield and exported to Northern Europe and America each year.



### Winthrop Park

Winthrop Park was created to provide facilities for the elderly and disabled, from a former sewage treatment works that had been left to the elements for many years. It was the vision of a local couple who after illness, found solace in their own garden and sought to bring that same feeling of nature therapy to others in the community. Run by volunteers, staff and Trustees, this charity has created a beautiful garden for relaxation and respite. It opened to the public in August 2005 and was recently hailed as a blueprint and world class example of bio-diversity and Nature Therapy, winning the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

## The Wickersley Wood Trail

**7** As you exit the wood, turn right and follow the road back to your start point. Alternatively, you may wish to stay in the wood and follow the path that runs parallel with Wood Lane, this path will also lead you back to your starting point.

**6** Half way along First Lane, you will come across an entrance to Wickersley Wood via a kissing gate. Here you will find an information board telling you a little about the woods. Follow the path along the edge of the woods and eventually you will reach the corner of the woods and an exit back onto Wood Lane.

**5** Continue along the track for a short while and on your right you will find a public footpath sign, pointing up the cross field path back towards Wickersley Woods. A second sign will then point you west along a track known as "First Lane".

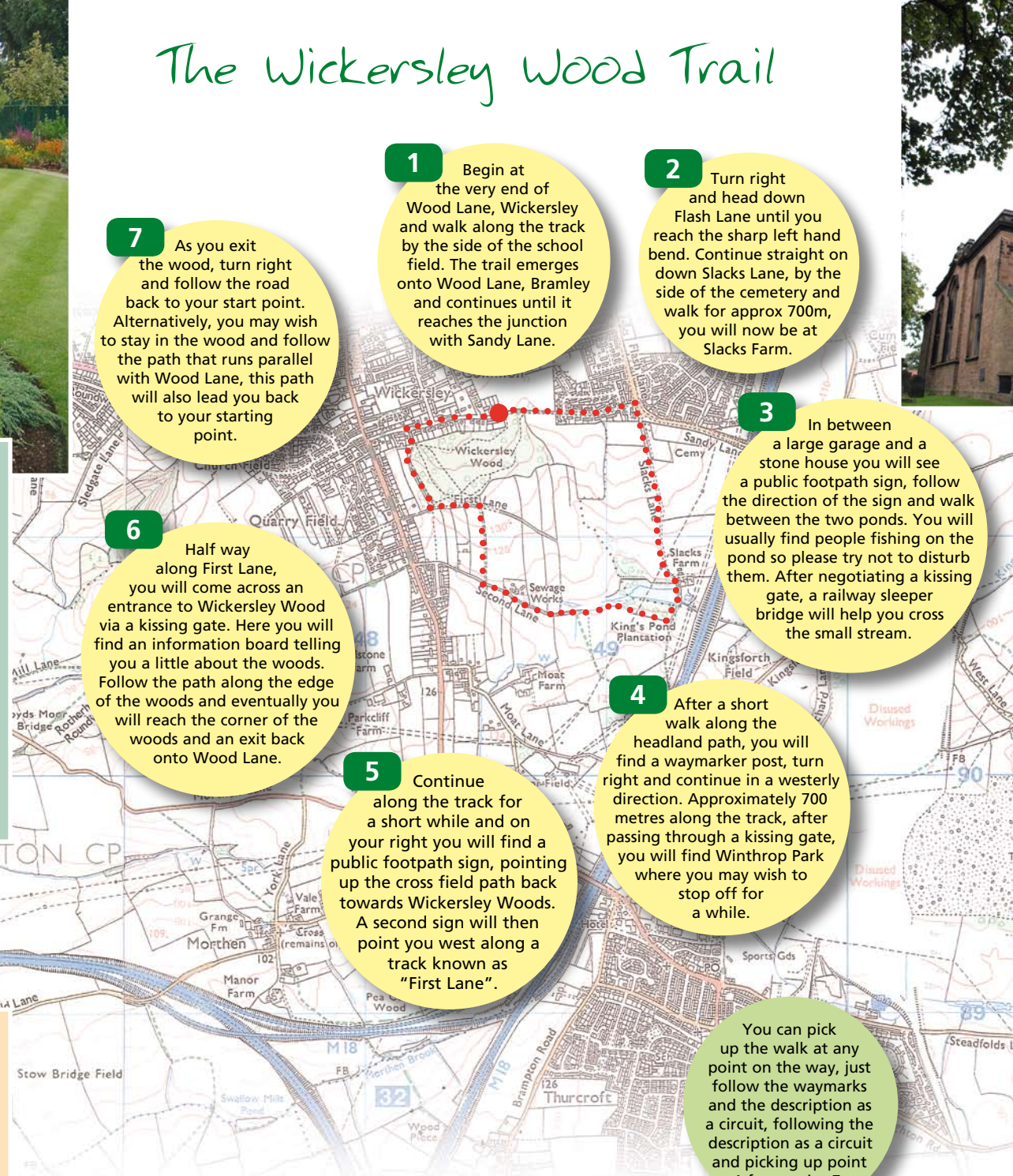
**1** Begin at the very end of Wood Lane, Wickersley and walk along the track by the side of the school field. The trail emerges onto Wood Lane, Bramley and continues until it reaches the junction with Sandy Lane.

**3** In between a large garage and a stone house you will see a public footpath sign, follow the direction of the sign and walk between the two ponds. You will usually find people fishing on the pond so please try not to disturb them. After negotiating a kissing gate, a railway sleeper bridge will help you cross the small stream.

**4** After a short walk along the headland path, you will find a waymarker post, turn right and continue in a westerly direction. Approximately 700 metres along the track, after passing through a kissing gate, you will find Winthrop Park where you may wish to stop off for a while.

You can pick up the walk at any point on the way, just follow the waymarks and the description as a circuit, following the description as a circuit and picking up point 1 from point 7.

**2** Turn right and head down Flash Lane until you reach the sharp left hand bend. Continue straight on down Slacks Lane, by the side of the cemetery and walk for approx 700m, you will now be at Slacks Farm.



The map used is based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 mapping with the sanction of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright Reserved. LAO76287



### St. Albans Church

One of the oldest buildings in Wickersley is of course St Albans Church. There was a mention of a church at Wickersley about 1150 but none of this remains.

The present church was rebuilt in the late 15th Century and the oldest part of the present building is the lower part of the tower which dates from this time. The upper part of the tower was rebuilt in the 18th Century and the top in the 1950s. Except for the tower the rest of the Medieval church was demolished

by Rev. John Foster who erected the present nave in 1834-6. In 1886 the chancel was added.

In 1861 when Rev. Gladwyn Jebb set up a choir, some of the parishioners did not approve. Dr Holt Yates felt so strongly that he threatened local quarry masters who leased land from him with eviction if they allowed their children to sing in the choir. The choir supporters solved the problem by moving to quarries leased from more lenient landlords.

For more details, downloads of alternative route descriptions and themed guides check out our web-page on: [www.rotherham.gov.uk/prow](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/prow)

### Wickersley Wood

Wickersley Wood lies on the southern edge of Wickersley and is very well used by local people. Unlike many of the other Heritage Woodlands it is relatively flat throughout and this makes it accessible to a wide range of users. A network of footpaths exists throughout the site.

Unlike all of the other Heritage Woodlands, it is not owned by a Local Authority, being instead on a long-term lease to Wickersley Parish Council from a private landowner. The wood is first recorded as a coppice woodland belonging to the 7th Earl of Shrewsbury in a document written in around 1600. This clearly makes it an ancient woodland, in other words, one that has been in existence for at least the last 400 years.

There is a varied bird population, which includes Sparrowhawk, Nuthatch, Treecreeper and Spotted Flycatcher. A number of relatively unusual scarce invertebrates are known to inhabit the wood, and mammals present include Brown Hare, Fox and Pygmy Shrew.

