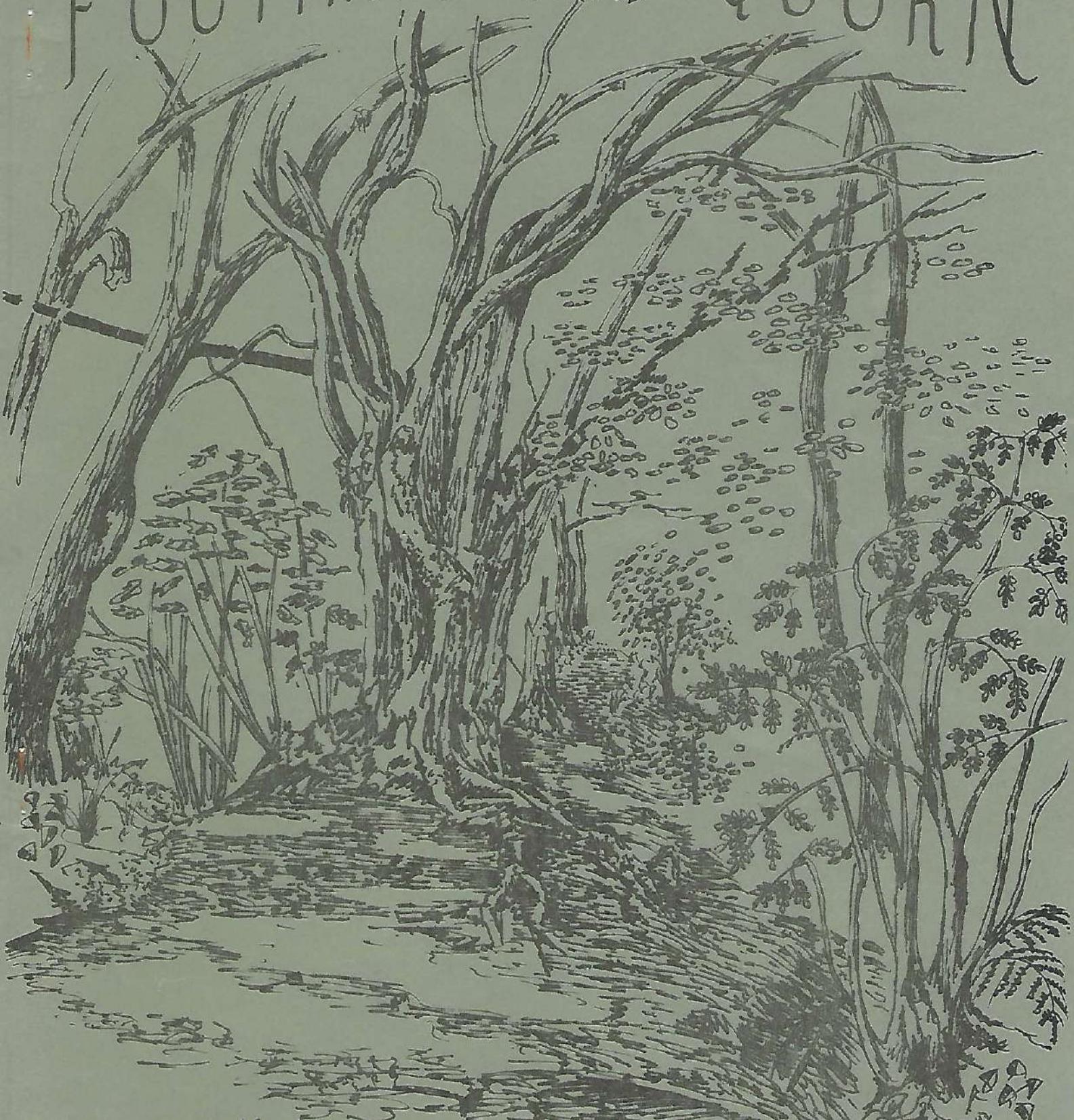


**Rawlins**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Price 20p

# FOOTPATHS AROUND QUORN

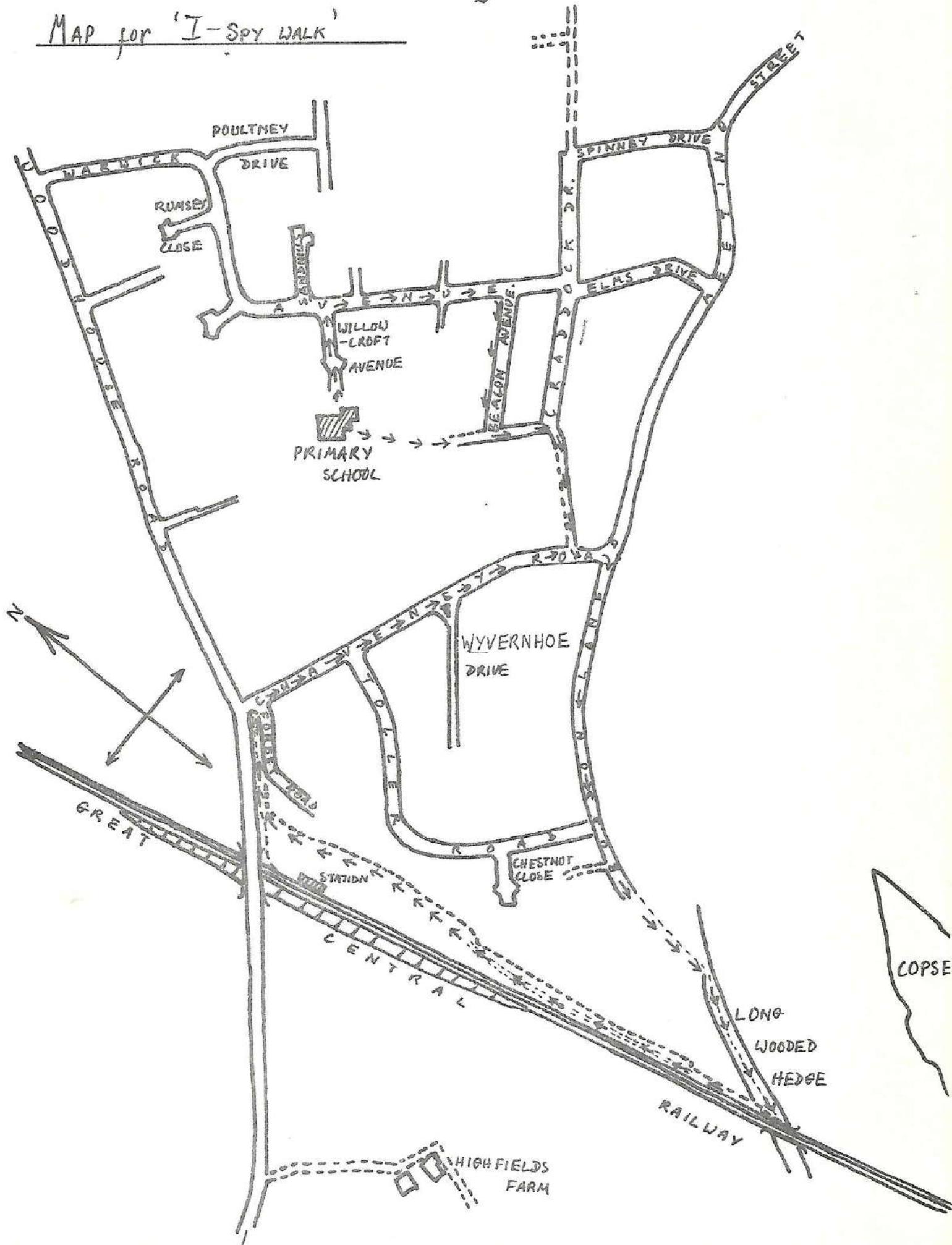


## CONTENTS

|   |                                 |         |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | 'I-SPY' WALK                    | PAGE 2  |
| 2 | A SHORT WALK FOR THE DISABLED   | PAGE 9  |
| 3 | A SHORT WALK AROUND THE VILLAGE | PAGE 11 |
| 4 | RIVER WALK                      | PAGE 14 |
| 5 | FOOTPATH TO BROOMBRIGGS FARM    | PAGE 16 |
| 6 | SWITHLAND WALK                  | PAGE 18 |
| 7 | ALTERNATIVE WALK                | PAGE 21 |
| 8 | ALL-ROUND ROUTE                 | PAGE 23 |

MAP for 'I-SPY WALK'

2



I-SPY Nature Walk.

This should include: 3 sheets of wild flowers  
1 sheet of trees  
1 sheet of small animals  
(Recommended for the end of the Summer Term, late June.)

Starting the walk at St. Bartholomew's School, Quorn, make your way along Warwick Avenue towards Elms Drive. On reaching the crossroad turn right along Craddock Drive, arriving at the corner of Chaveney Road, by-passing the iron posts on the left at the end of the drive and walking along the track. From the spot where the track meets Chaveney Road, cross the road diagonally to your left and you should be at the entrance of Buddon Lane. Walk to the end of the lane where an open gate leads into a large field - now the real nature walk begins!

Walk across the field to the gap in the large hedge opposite, everyone can begin to look for the plants and animals illustrated (and perhaps some that are not). Slowly walk along the path inside the hedge, the higher one to your right is best, until the railway line is reached. Carefully walk along the railway embankment keeping away from the rails themselves even though trains are not so likely during the week as at the weekends - consult the train timetable if necessary. After a few hundred yards there is a track on the right hand side of the line, follow this, for it has many of the plants mentioned. Follow the path through the station and return to the school, or wherever else you began the walk, along the station entrance and Chaveney Road.

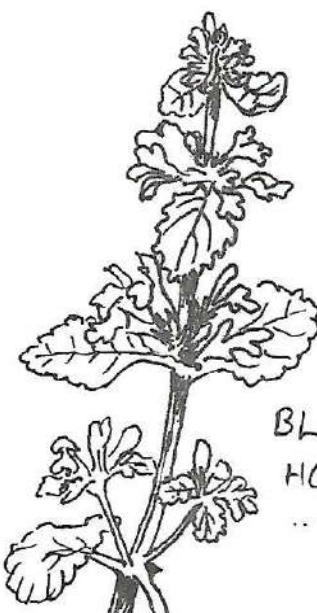
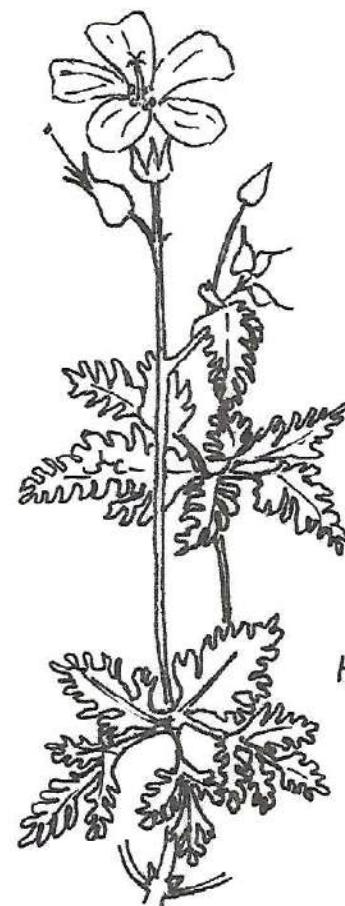
Each plant or animal has a certain score, these are added up on return to school. Similar to the 'I-Spy' books, those involved may consider themselves to have:

Bronze honours if they score 300 marks or more,  
Silver honours if they score 500 marks or more,  
Gold honours if they score 700 marks or more.

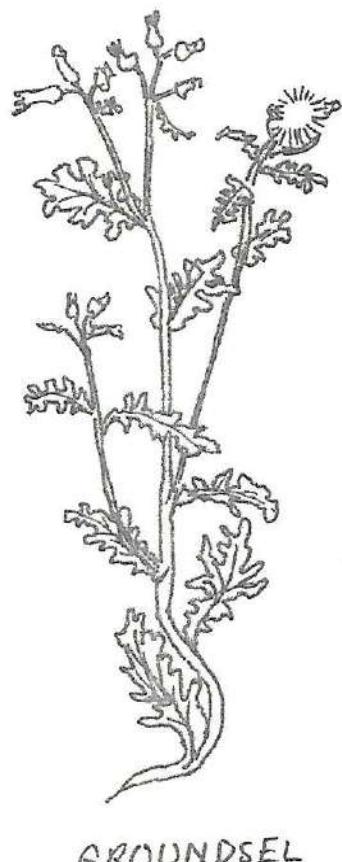
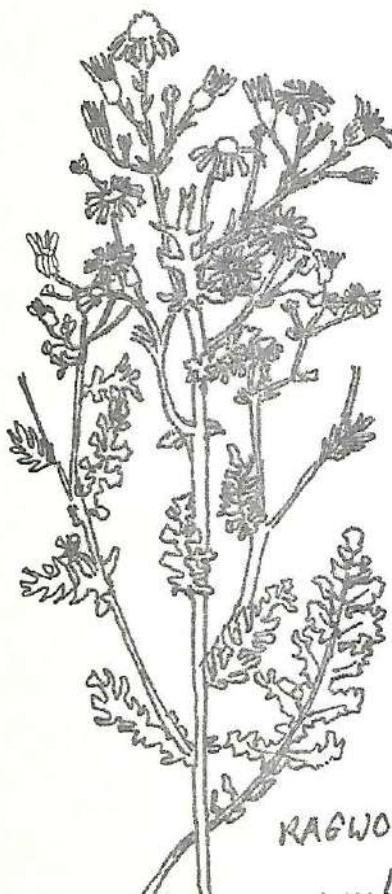
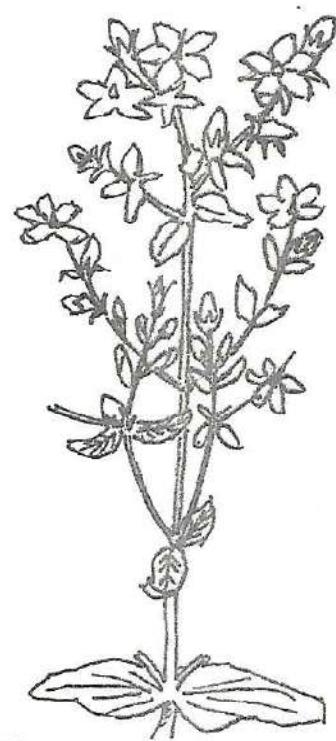
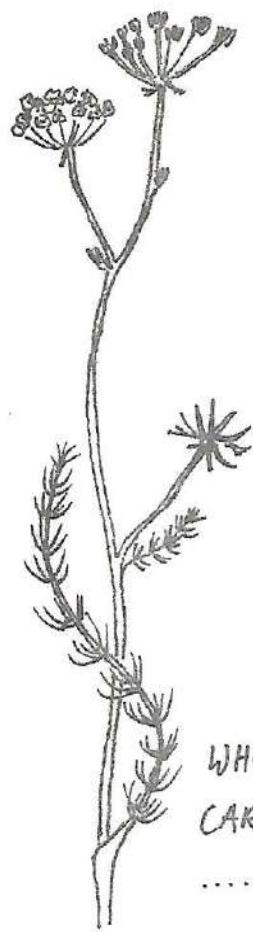
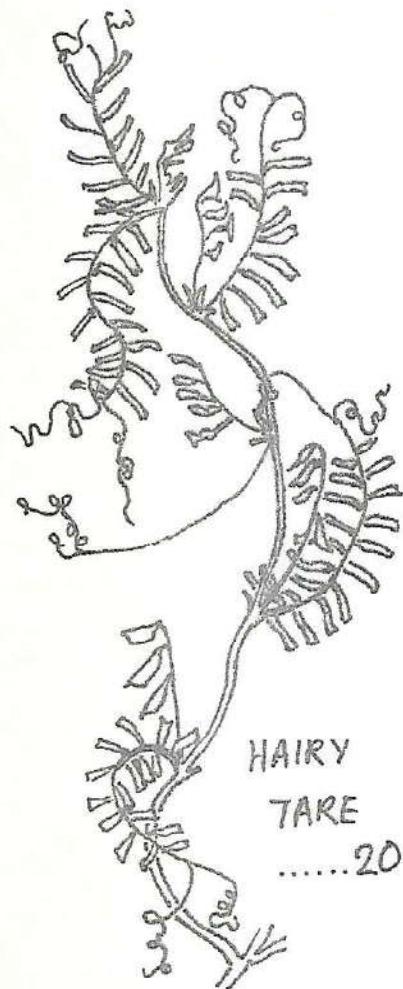
The highest scorer could receive a small prize as an incentive for all that take part, but the real object of this walk is to make everyone more familiar with the subject.

Flowering plants

+



FIELD BINDWEED  
..... 10

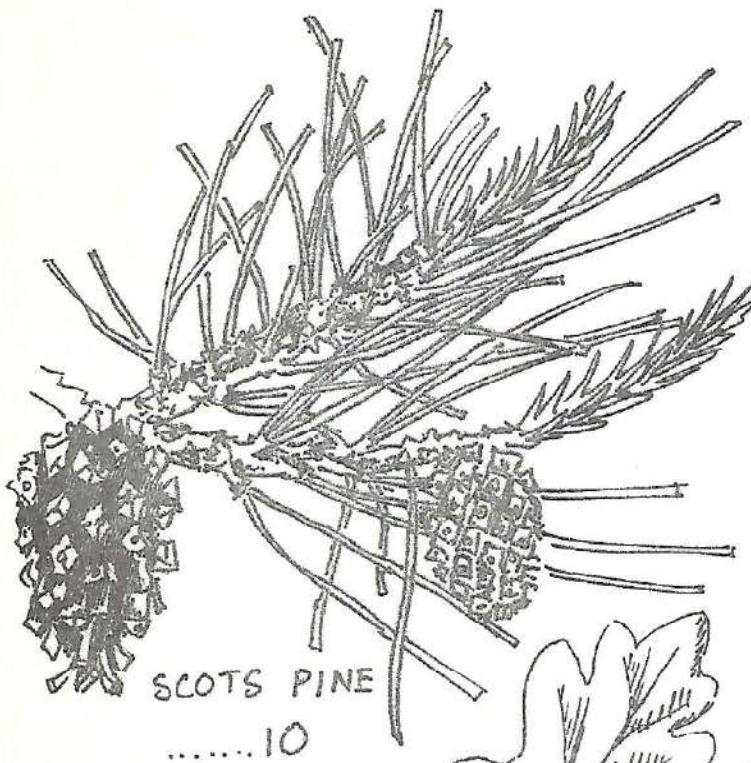


## TREES and SHRUBS

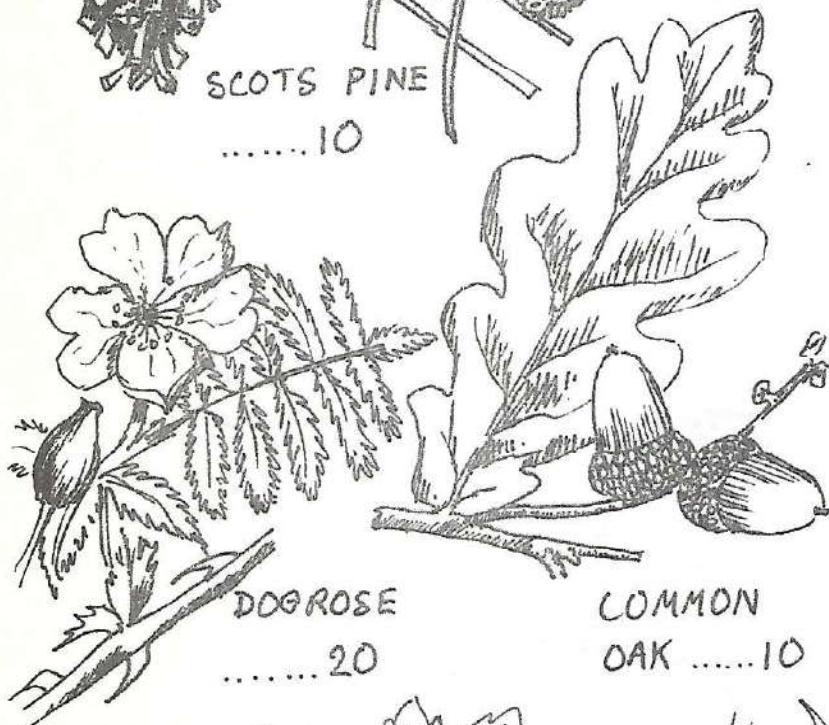
7



← Scots pine tree



SCOTS PINE  
.....10



DOGROSE  
.....20

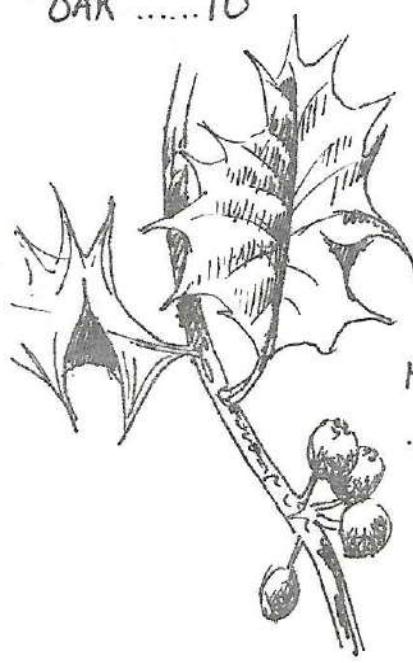
COMMON  
OAK .....10



IVY  
.....10



FIELD  
MAPLE  
.....20



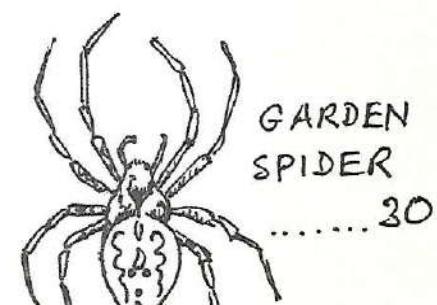
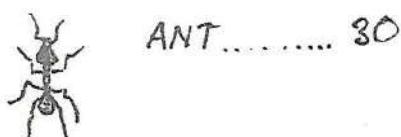
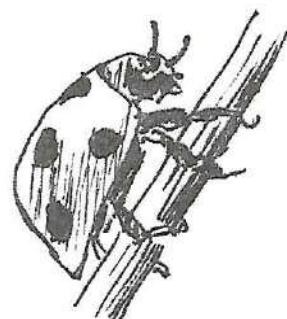
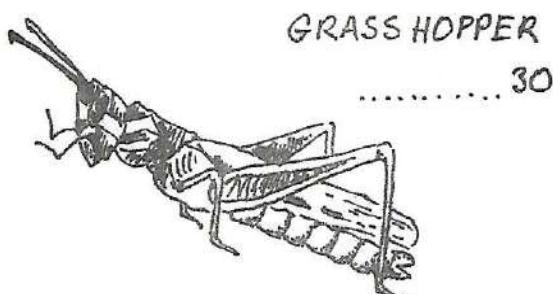
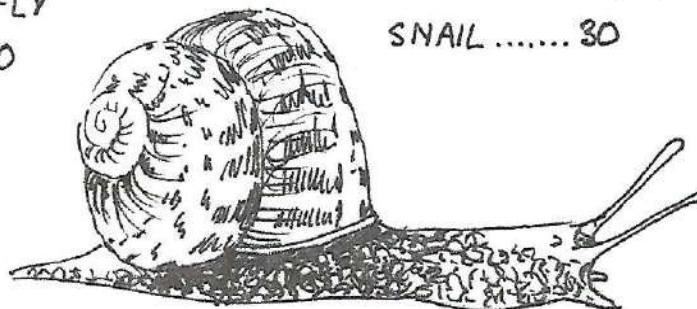
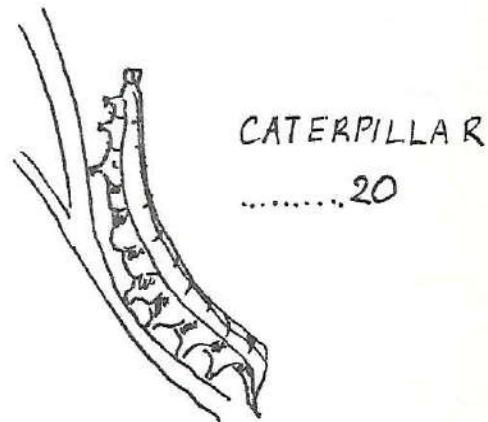
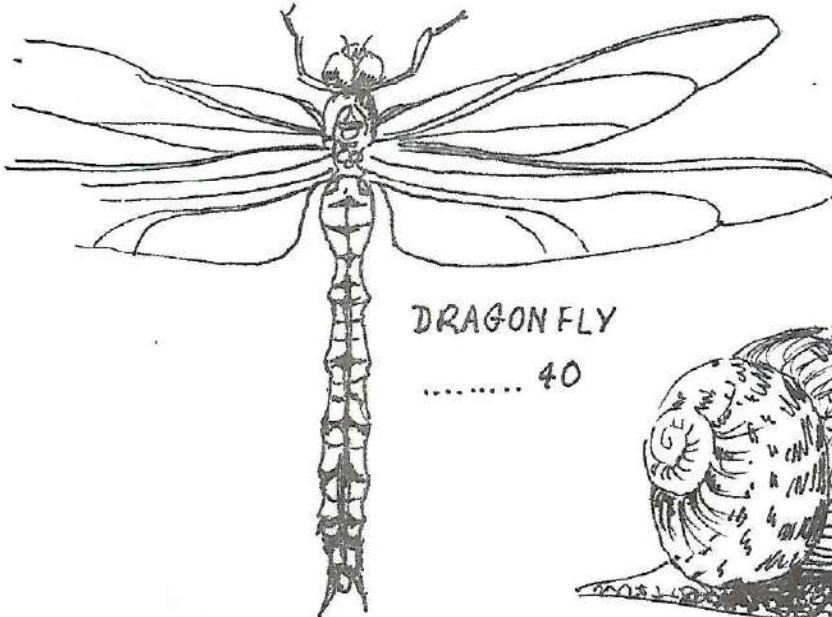
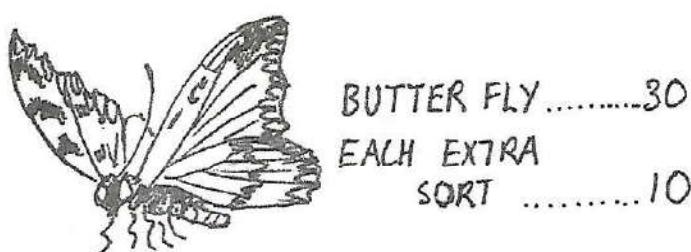
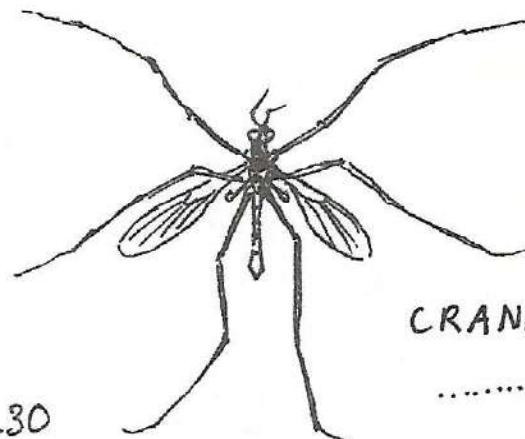
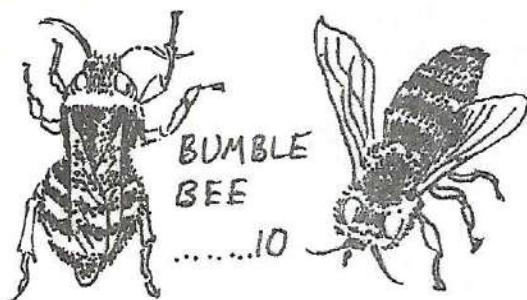
HOLLY  
.....30



HAWTHORNE  
.....10

SMALL ANIMALS

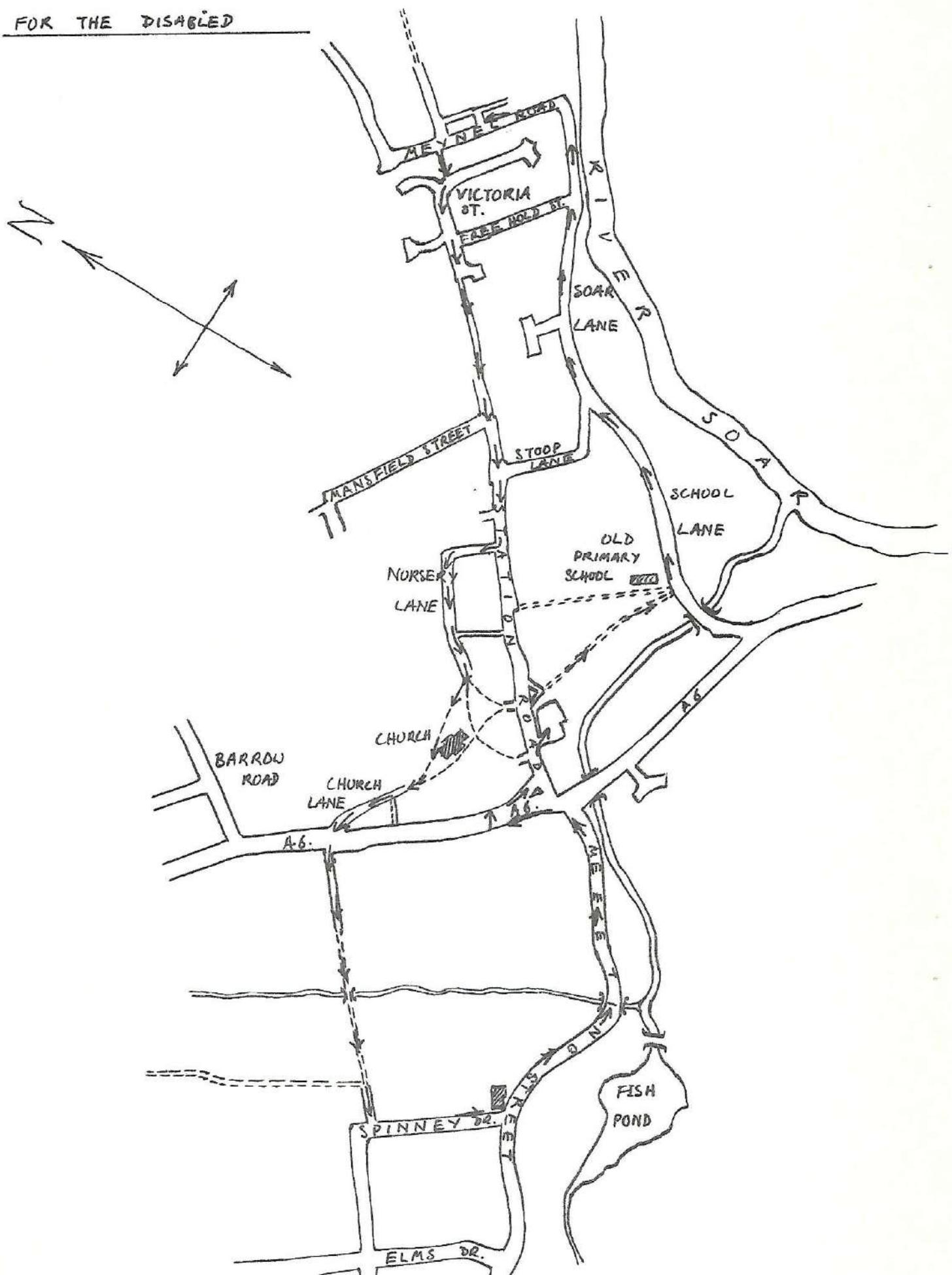
8



MAP FOR THE SHORT WALK

9

FOR THE DISABLED



A SHORT WALK FOR THE DISABLED

This is intended to be a short walk which can be made shorter or longer according to how far you feel you are able to go; all the route described is accessible to wheelchairs.

Begin your walk, starting from the Station Road car park, by moving across the recreation ground to School Lane. As you do this you may be able to tell by the lie of the land that you are crossing the edge of the flood plain of the River Soar. To your right is Wright's factory and to your left and behind you are the old St. Bartholomew's School building and the Dower House. On reaching School Lane turn left past the old School and straight ahead along Soar Lane. After passing Harrington Close it is easy to cross the road to the river bank where there are often ducks or swans and a good view of the river and the woodland opposite if you want to stop for a rest.

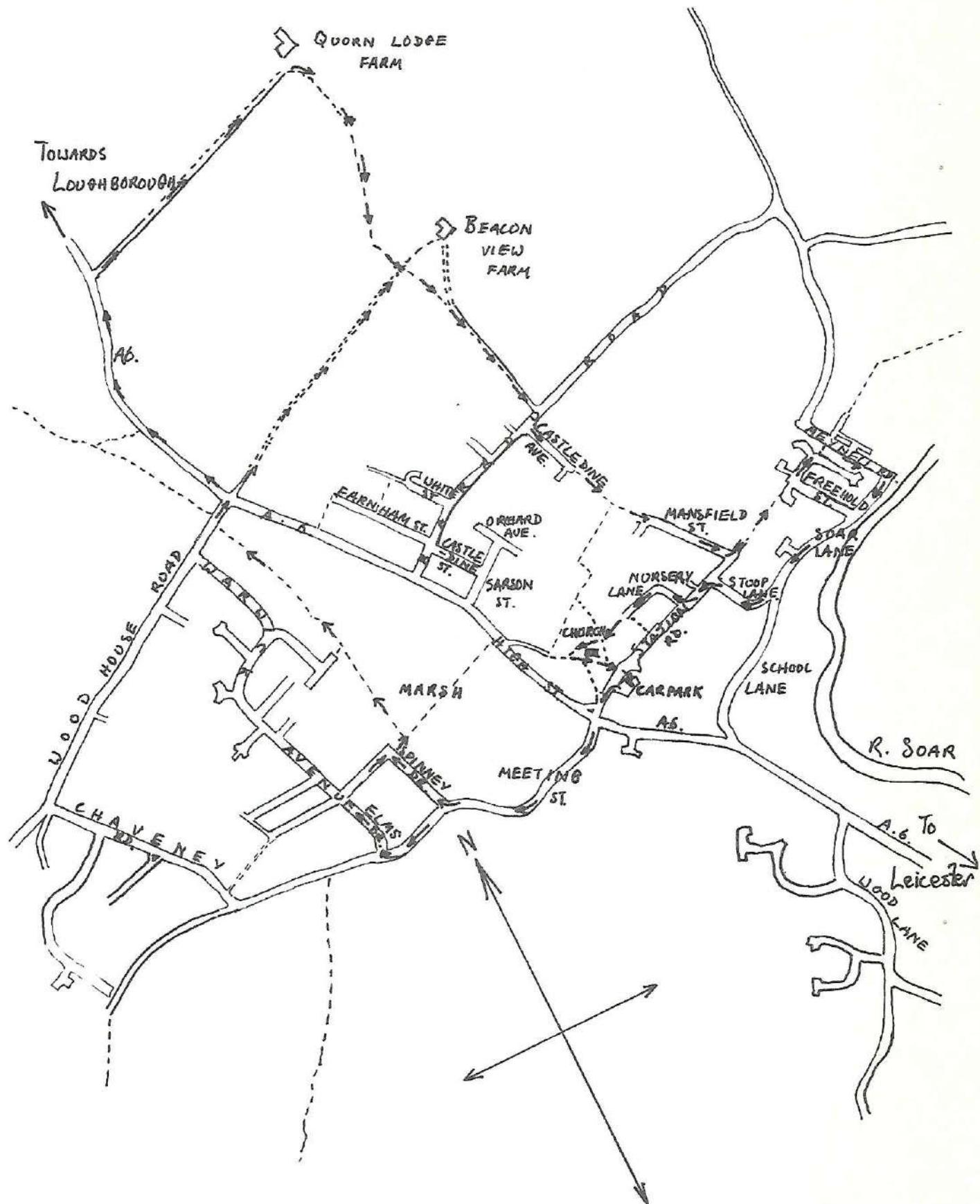
Continue along Soar Road then turn the corner into Meynell Road past Quorn Hall. Follow the passage to the left which leads through Victoria Street to Station Road, the kerb stones should not present much difficulty since the development of Revell Close has reduced their height. Make your way along Station Road until Nursery Lane is reached. Turn right into Nursery Lane and follow it to the Church Yard. Cross the Church Yard diagonally to Church Lane, then carefully cross the A6 road into the passage beside the Bull's Head Hotel. The bench in front of the Church is another good place to rest, for there is a good view of most of the village from the Church hill and the stone work of the original Church building from 1153 is still visible where the tower and the Western door work meet.

Once in the passage, having crossed the A6, proceed across the marsh which if visited in April or May will be covered with Celandines. The marsh remains largely unaffected by the recent widening of the passage. When you have reached Spinney Drive after a small upward slope which I hope is not too difficult, turn left towards Meeting Street, and then left again on reaching the Scout/Guide headquarters. Meeting Street leads to the A6 road through one of the oldest parts of the village, many of the buildings are Georgian or early Victorian. The main road is best crossed at the traffic lights and zebra crossing to your left, though the kerbs are a bit high for wheel chairs. Now you may complete the route by crossing Station Road next to Bradley's to the car park. The walk is possibly most easily done by wheel chair on a Sunday since traffic is less of a problem, on weekdays mid-morning or early afternoon are best.

As you probably know already, access on footpaths for the disabled is rather restricted. One or two alterations could quickly improve the situation such as replacing stiles and 'kissing gates' with ordinary ones (with small notices to remind people to shut the gate to stop any animals escaping) and stabilising selected mud paths, thus opening them up to wheel chairs. For example, the gate across the footpath from Quorn to Barrow near Quorn Hall and the footpath to Woodthorpe from Quorn.

It would be nice in the near future to write about a long walk around the village for the disabled!

MAP for SHORT WALK AROUND THE VILLAGE



- For visitors to the village.

The free car park is in the centre of the village (4th turning on the left from Loughborough or 2nd on the right from the Leicester direction on the main A6 road).

If you stand in the car park, facing the shops over the road, behind you will be the Recreation Ground and on the other side of the stream nearby (which flows into the River Soar) is Wright's Mill. Now it is largely unused, but the huge chimney reminds us of the factory's heyday in the 19th century.

Begin your walk by turning left until you reach the A6 road. To your left is the White Horse public house, cross the A6 road and walk up Meeting Street. On your left is the War Memorial commemorating the dead of both wars. On your right is the White Hart public house and further on the Blacksmiths' Arms. Continue up Meeting Street, on the left is a granite wall with some good polypody fern growing. Also to the left, but further on, are the entrance and gate house of Quorn House owned by the Farnham family for centuries. The Queen and other members of the royal family visit on special occasions such as the Silver Jubilee in 1977.

Continue, walking past the Scout hut on the right and the Baptist Church on the left. Between here and Elms Drive there are said to be subterranean streams. Turn right up Elms Drive until you reach a crossroads. Directly opposite is Warwick Avenue and further along it the Warwick Avenue Estate built in the 1960's and 1970's. Turn right along Craddock Drive past the Cricket Ground until you reach the corner in the road. Here is the entrance to the footpath across the marsh to the A6. Follow the footpath almost to the marsh, turn left and follow this new path but look at the marsh itself if you wish, especially in April and May when the cellandines and kingcups are flowering. The new path leads through a strip of waste land at the back of the Warwick Avenue Estate to Woodhouse Road. On reaching the end of the path negotiate the 'kissing gate' and turn right along Woodhouse Road to the A6.

Cross the A6 and walk up the track opposite Woodhouse Road. The track leads past a bungalow (now demolished) and a fish pond further along. A housing estate is now being built on the site and if you cannot enter then either walk along the A6 to Barrow Road or, if you're feeling energetic and the conditions under foot are good, walk along the A6 towards Loughborough and then through Quorn Lodge Farm (see map) to reach Barrow Road - a much prettier route. (See map if in doubt.)

If you decide to follow Barrow Road then proceed as far as Castledine Avenue. If you are following the Quorn Lodge Farm track you will walk past Beacon View Farm, with a view of Beacon Hill in the distance and the Leicestershire Wolds behind you beyond Barrow, and onto Barrow Road opposite Castledine Avenue.

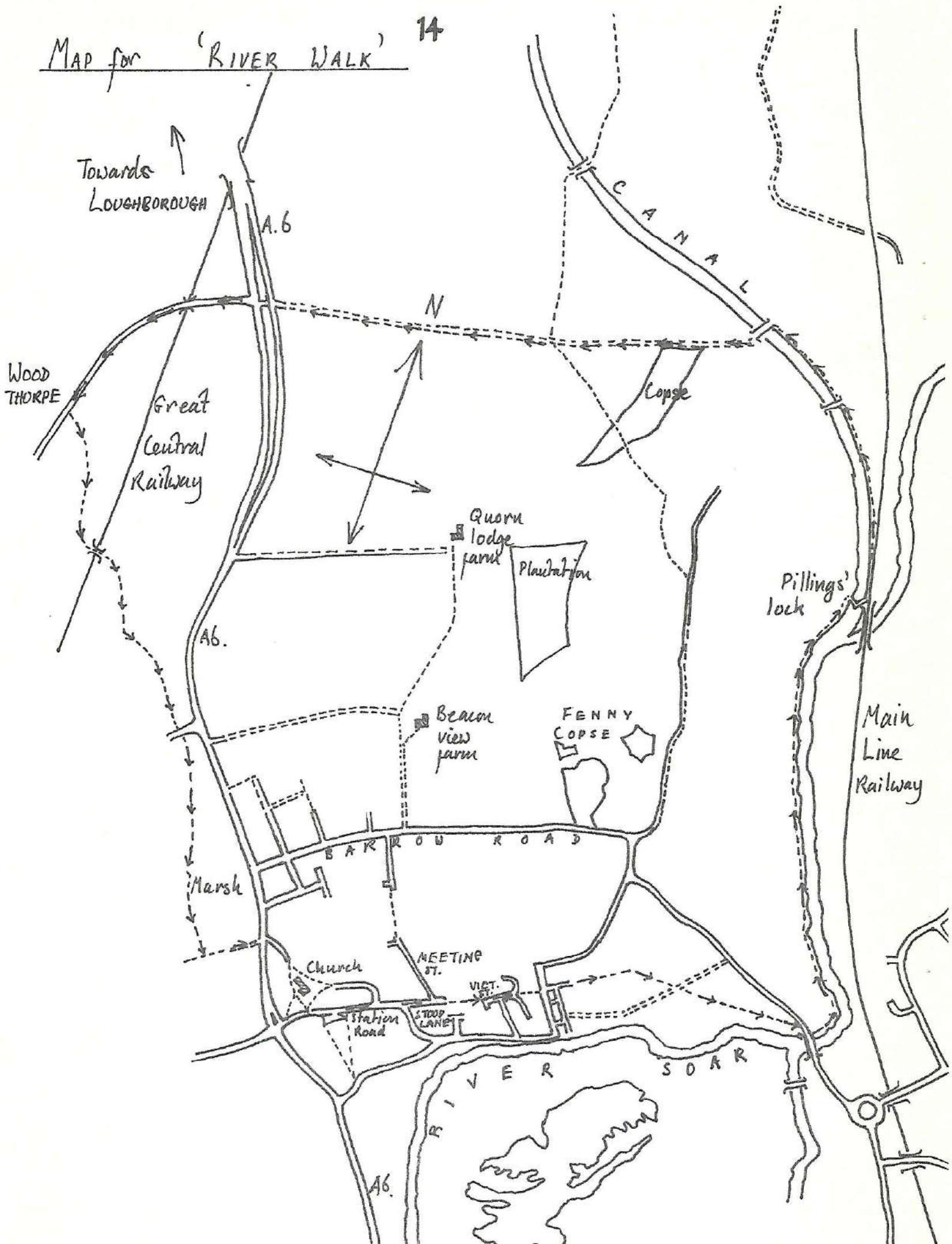
Once at Castledine Avenue, walk up it and along the alley way at the end until you reach an opening in the wire fence. Proceed across the field to the wooden stile in the opposite corner. Or if the weather has been bad, walk down Mansfield Street and turn left along the next alley way. Walk along through Victoria Street and continue along the alley to Meynell Road. Here turn right towards Soar Road, noticing the entrance to Quorn Hall, now used as a centre for foreign students' residence.

On reaching Soar Lane the River Soar will be seen, this part of the village floods sometimes after heavy rain. On the opposite bank is Proctor's Pleasure Park used for fishing and a site of special scientific interest due

to the wealth of wild-life in the old sand and gravel pits there. Once past Freehold Street on your right continue first along Soar Road then along Stoop Lane. After passing the Apple Tree Inn on your right, cross the road and to your left up Station Road towards the A6. Pass the Playing Field on your left and turn right into Nursery Lane. Follow the Lane into the Church Yard then follow the path to the right of the Church. The first records of a Chapel on this sight date back to 1153 and it is constructly mostly in local pink granite and sandstone. As you walk round the other side of the Church you will notice that the West part is a Chapel next to the main entrance. This Chapel was built for and contains the remains of the Farnham family of landowners mentioned above.

Walk around the Church and then out along the sloping tarmac track towards the thatched building on your right. As you pass out of the graveyard you will see its present use as a Butcher's Shop. When you reach Station Road, cross and you are in the car park where you began.

Map for 'RIVER WALK' 14



RIVER WALK

Starting your walk at the car park opposite the shops on Station Road, turn right along Station Road passing Stoop Lane to your right and Mansfield Street to your left. Continue in the same direction through the passage to Victoria Street and passing Freehold Street on the left proceed to Meynell Road. Cross the road and follow the path across the 'Slabs' towards Barrow. As you pass the double line of Chestnut trees the path crosses low lying meadows that are easily flooded in winter; on your right flows the River Soar which forms the parish boundary here. Climb the granite steps and cross the A6046 at the top of the bridge over the river. Turn left again and keeping to the Quorn side of the river, walk through the wooden gate on to the river bank. Follow the river for roughly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile until you reach Pillings' lock gate, along this part of the route features typical of the whole Soar Valley flood plain are visible such as the meadows either side of the river and the many Willow trees along the banks.

When you reach the locks follow the path that runs along the canal; despite being man-made the canal is still quite interesting from an ecological view point since the area between the canal and the railway is waste ground covered with bushes and trees. Top bridge is the first that crosses the canal after the lock and is over 150 years old. Don't cross the canal here but walk about 200 yards further on to the second, Woodthorpe bridge. Cross this one and continue along the straight track past a small wood to your left on the main A6 road. As you reach the main road a small road should be opposite you, cross the A6 and proceed up this small road towards the hamlet of Woodthorpe. Just before you enter the hamlet turn left up a track that leads through the fields. Follow the track to the bridge over the Great Central Railway line where you may rest if you want while watching the trains go by. Along this part of the track try to keep a look-out for any field pansies (*Viola arvensis*) that grow alongside the track amongst any crops that may be growing there. They are small, only 9 inches high with white and yellow flowers only  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch across.

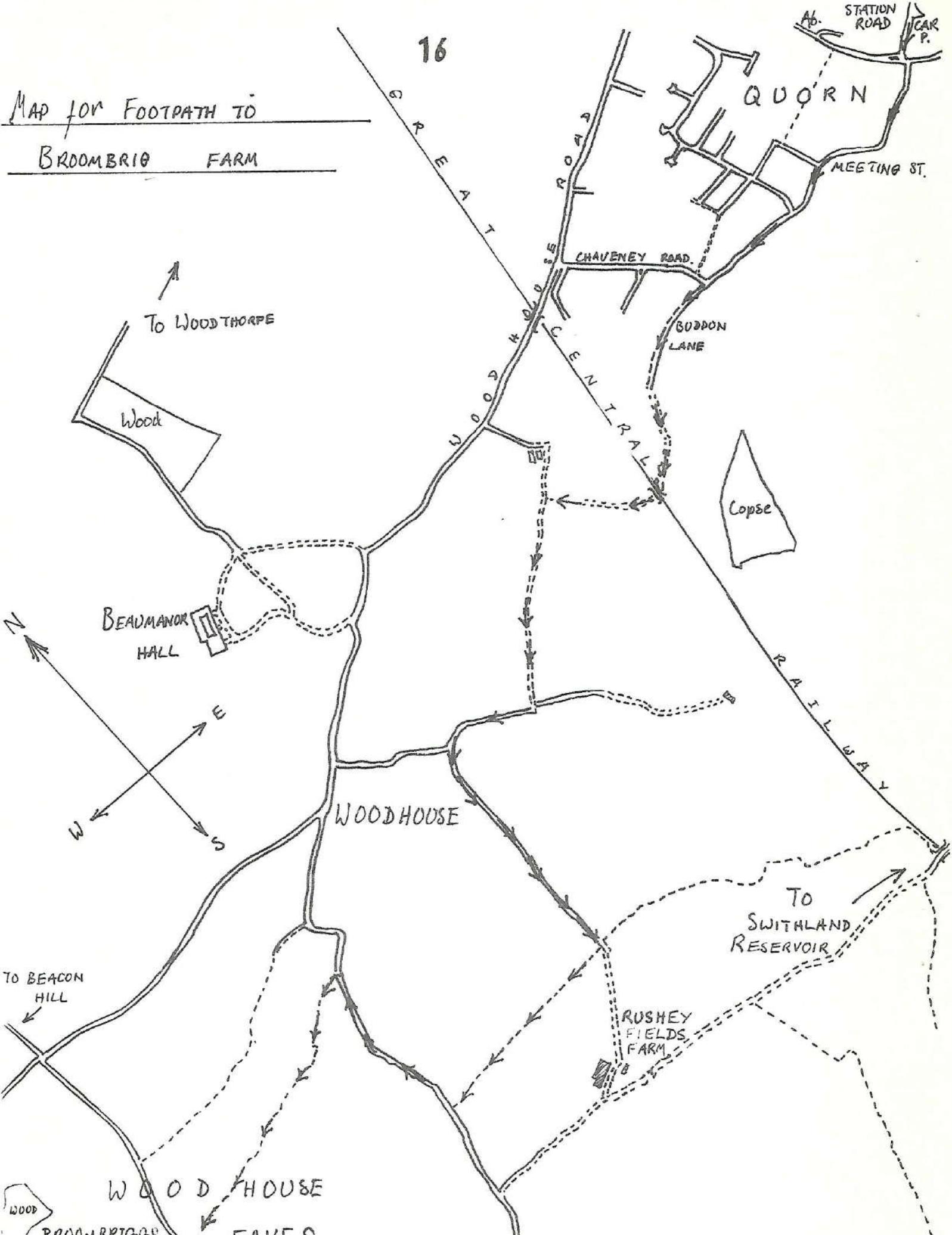
Complete the walk by continuing along the track to Woodhouse Road in Quorn. Cross the road and follow the alley through the 'kissing gate' opposite. The alley will lead you between the marsh and the Warwick Avenue Estate for about 400 yards until another path is met at right angles to this one. Turn left and cross the marsh, then proceed up past the Bull's Head Hotel and return to the car park by Church Lane opposite and the Church Yard.

This walk is best done on a Sunday in May since the field pansies and the celandines in the marsh are all in flower.

MAP FOR FOOTPATH TO

BROOMBRIE FARM

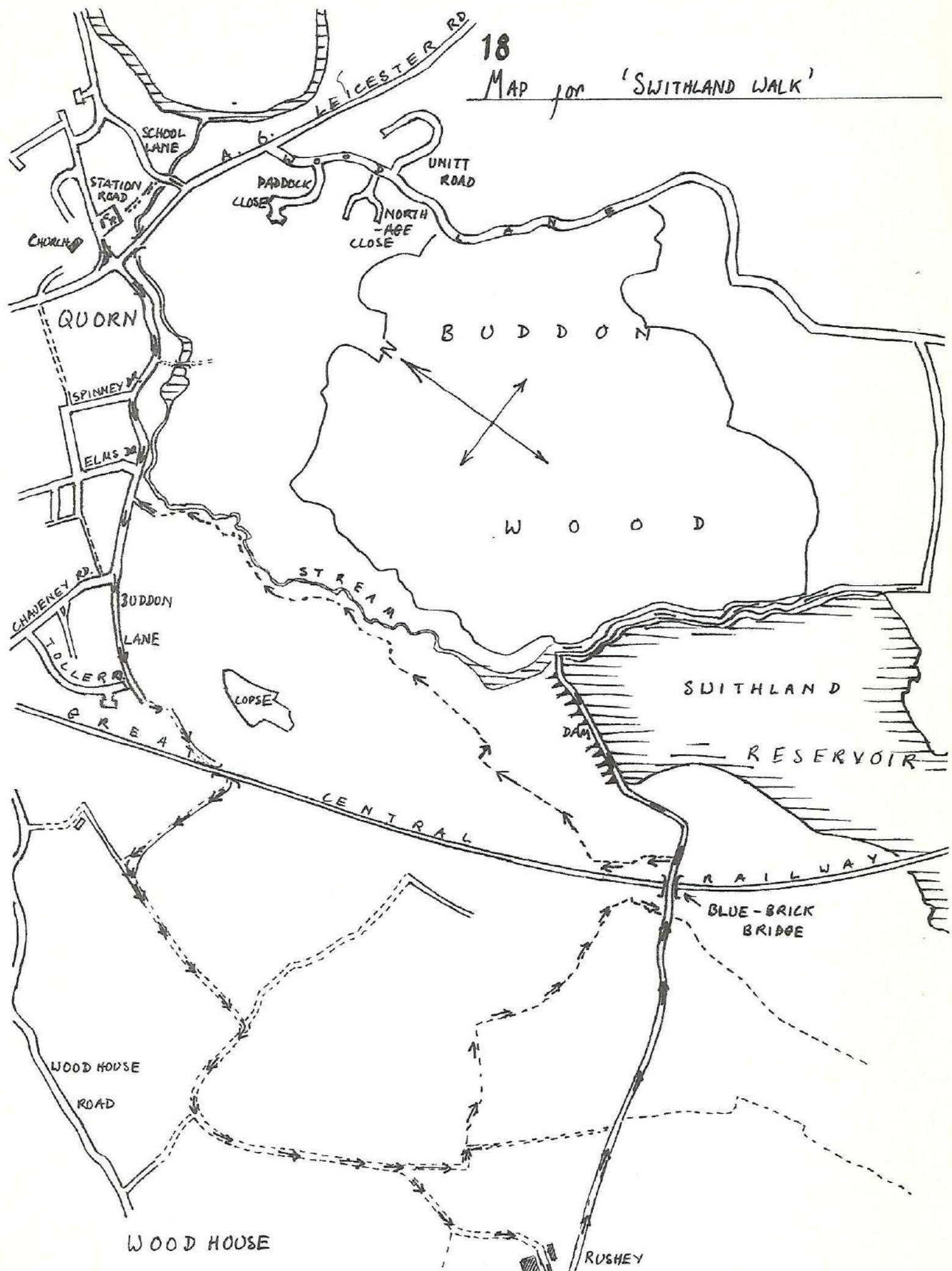
16



Starting the walk at the crossroads near the War Memorial; walk up Meeting Street past the Baptist Chapel into Chaveney Road; instead of continuing round the corner towards Woodhouse Road walk along Buddon Lane. At the end of Buddon Lane is an open gate; walk through this and out across the field to the gap in the big hedge opposite. Once in this hedge proceed along the path inside it until you reach the railway line. Here, unless you can make your way under the railway bridge you will have to climb over the fence and then walk across the railway line, avoiding the trains (that tend to be more frequent at weekends and Bank holidays). Continue along the track the other side of the railway. Once on the new track, walk for about 120 yards where you will reach another track crossing yours (see map if unsure). Behind you is a good view of Quorn and a rather revealing one of Buddon Wood with the large pink gash of granite showing at its summit. Ahead of you can be seen the village of Woodhouse and above it the peak of Beacon Hill. Turn left along this new track, it becomes a small tarmac road after a hundred yards, follow this round a bend to the right until you reach the junction. Turn left past the first house on your left and up the hill towards Rushy Fields Farm. Once over the hill look for the sign that shows the footpath or bridle path to Woodhouse Eaves follow this (by turning right) for about 50 or so yards where you should see another path crossing yours at right angles (if you can't then look for any stiles that may indicate this). At this point turn right along the new path towards Woodhouse again; after roughly 200 yards you should meet a new road - that from Woodhouse to the Brand in Swithland.

Turn right along this road following the curve in the road through the houses and away from the Church. This road soon becomes a footpath again taking you up hill to Woodhouse Eaves. On reaching the main road proceed to your left until the cross-roads nearest to the Church is reached. The entrance to Broombriggs Farm is first on the right along the road leading up the hill to your right at the cross-roads.

This route could be used to return to Quorn or more likely as part of a longer journey returning to the village through Swithland or the Outwoods.



SWITHLAND WALK - 4 MILES

Beginning at the car park opposite Quorn Post Office - or any other point on this route in which case the various sections of the footpath can be covered in a different order - walk to Quorn Crossroads, where Station Road and Meeting Street meet the A6 road.

Continue up Meeting Street, passing the Blacksmith's Arms public house and Facers' Joiners Yard on your right, the entrance the Quorn House and the Baptist Chapel on the left. Follow the road, now Chaveney Road, until you reach the corner; instead of following the road to your right carry on along Buddon Lane. About 200 yards in length, this is one of the least spoilt passages in the village. At the end of the lane a rough track leads across a field towards a large hedge; this field is often very muddy in places and this is one of the reasons for a choice of at least sensible footwear. Once you enter this large hedge it is easy to see that it is an area of great importance to nature in Quorn; Lords and Ladies, Cellandines, Violets, Cinquefoil and Water Cress are among the many plants there and many animals including Foxes and Pheasants use the area to ~~hund~~ and graze. When you have followed the track for roughly 100 yards, cross the railway. Unless you are lucky enough to have chosen a day when the track under the bridge is dry, discreetly cross the Great Central Railway and continue as before. After another 50 yards you should be out in the open again with one large hedge to your left. Continue along this path until you reach a similar track crossing your path, turn left along the new path. If you look back towards the village there is a good view of the south side of the village and of the wolds beyond only spoilt by the pink gash in the top of Buddon Wood. Continue along the new track away from the village and railway line, soon the track becomes a small metalled road. Keep on this road until you reach a junction, turn right then left at the next. Now continue up the hill towards Rushy Fields Farm. When you have passed the hill turn off the small road, if it hasn't rained much recently, along the footpath towards Swithland Reservoir. This footpath meets Kinchley Lane next to the Great Central Railway. If this footpath is not dry enough, and it is often not, continue along the track through Rushey Fields Farm to the lane leading to the Reservoir and turn sharp left. (See map if confused.) Once you are on Kinchley Lane turn left and over the railway bridge; as well as providing an excellent viewing platform for seeing the trains the walls are old enough to encourage the growth of many wild plants including 4 species of ferns (Wall Rue, Spleenwort, Rustyback, Hart's Tongue - if you're interested).

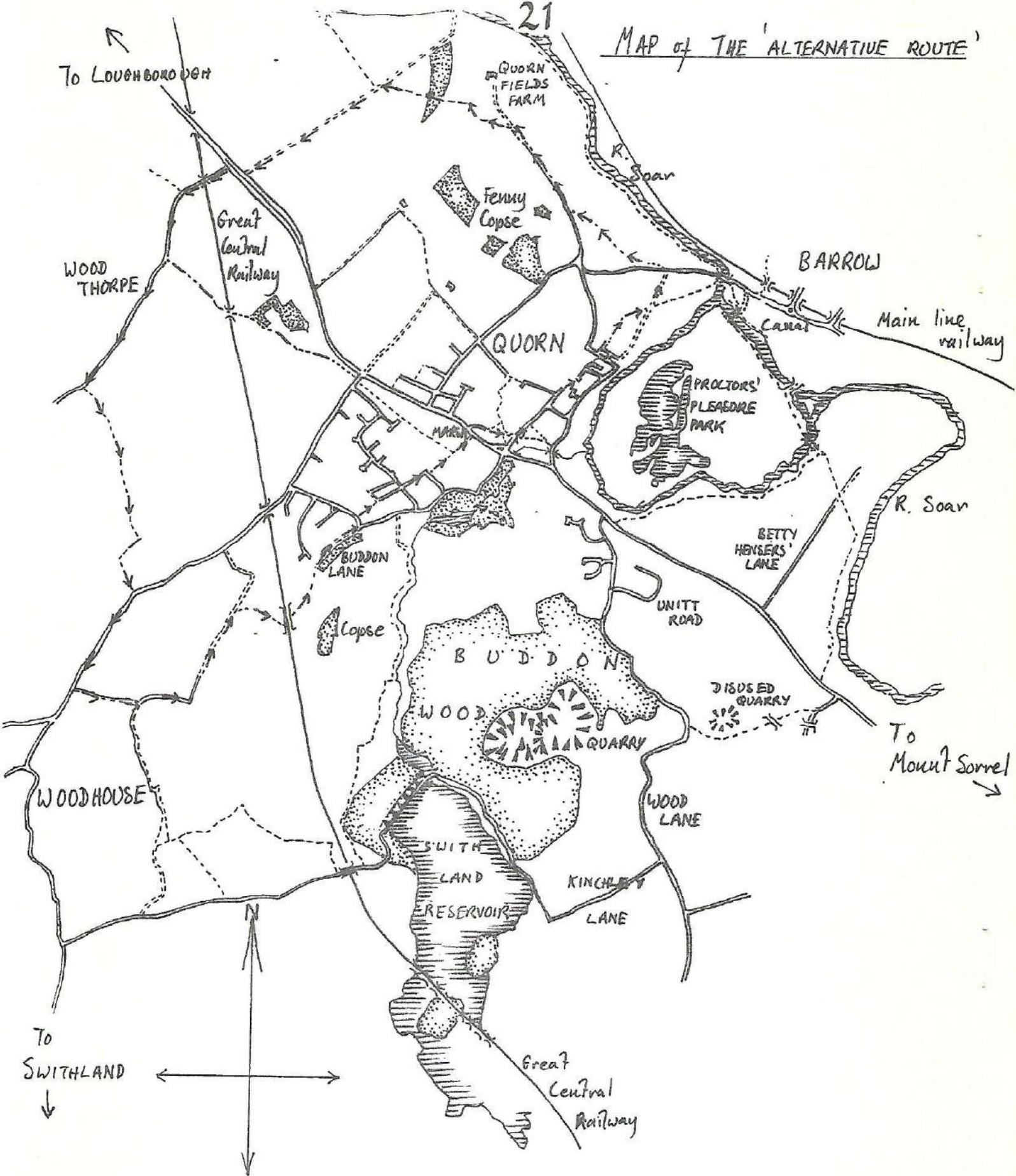
This is the apex of the route so to find ourselves back in Quorn walk to the other side of the bridge and turn left. This path leads down the left side of a large field towards a gap inbetween the railway embankment and a small wood. As you walk down through the gap and down a short leafy passage you may notice larger ferns and two sorts of vetch or wild pea. The leafy passage leads out on to another large field. Keeping to the right of this and walking beside the small Sycamore Wood, you will see in April many wild Garlic flowering. Walk across the field diagonally towards the stile there. Climb over this stile and follow the much narrower path, noticing the great numbers of Lords and Ladies and Wild Garlic to either side. On the other side of the iron railings is the now disused water works to Swithland Reservoir. This area of land is considered highly valuable in the preservation of wild life of the County and is now private property partly because of this; guided trips are available for the public to see many plants and animals almost unique to this area and such a trip could be incorporated into a nearby country walk, such as this one, providing due notice is given to the Water Board Offices in Anstey (address given below).

The passage proceeds around a corner and then over a small footbridge. You should now be in open fields again, notice the plants growing in the ditch to your right and in the hedge alongside. When you've walked a hundred yards or so climb over the stile to your right keep to the left in this new field until it narrows down to an obvious footpath. Hawthorn, Hazel and Alder are now present along the path and later on Oak and Ash. Continue along this path, following the stream, until you pass the farm (Quorndon Mill) on your right. Climb the stile and walk the 150 yards to the road, look out for the pre-enclosure field system to your left. The ridges and furrows are best seen in the evening or early morning sunlight. You should now have returned to Meeting Street. Turn right and return to the car park in Station Road, either along Meeting Street or through the marsh and Church Lane via. Spinney Drive.

Address: Leicester Water Centre,  
Gorse Hill,  
Anstey,  
Leicester  
LE7 7GU.

21

## MAP of THE 'ALTERNATIVE ROUTE'



ALTERNATIVE ROUTE - 7½ MILES

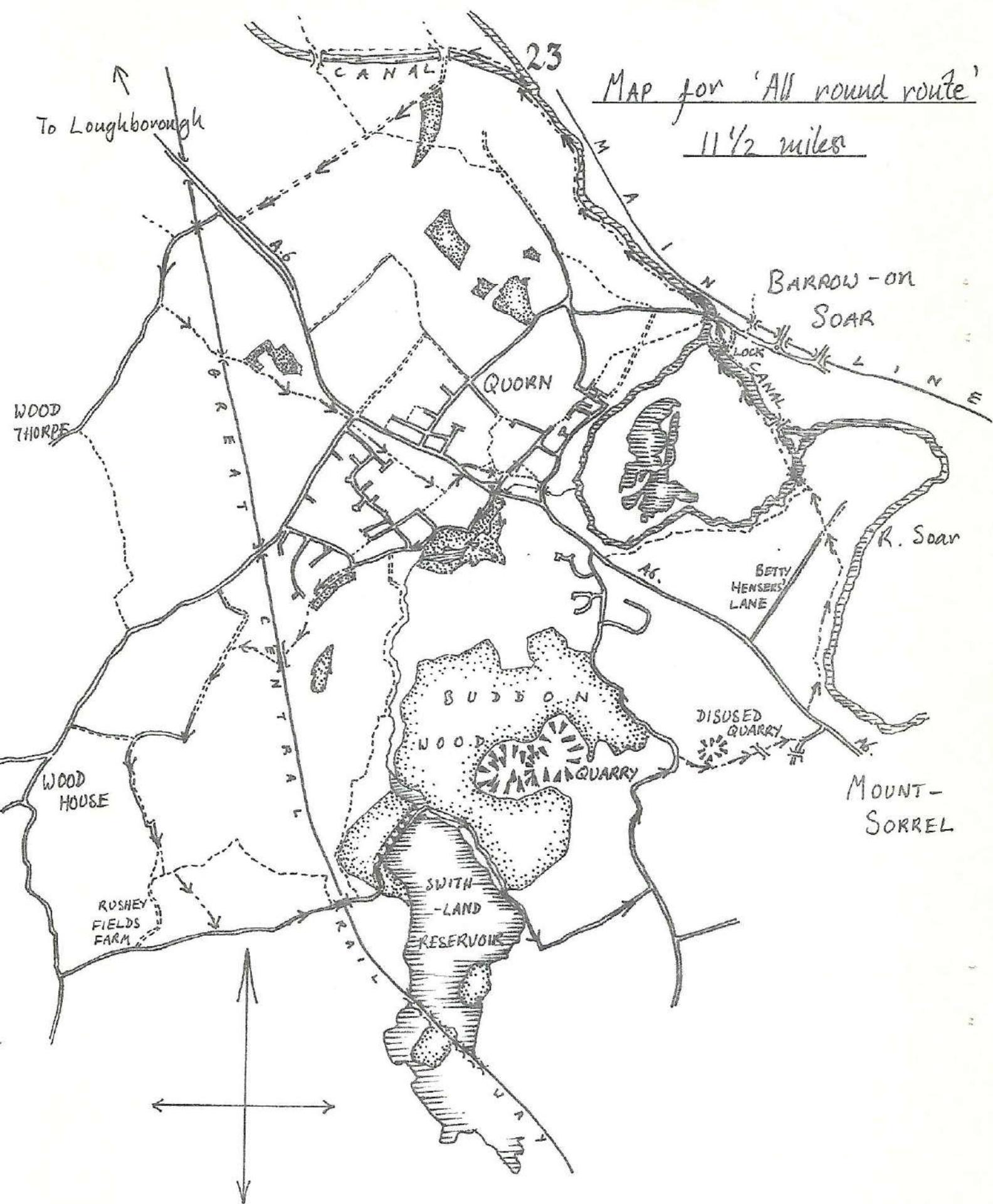
Begin your walk at the car park opposite the Post Office in Quorn, or any other point that is convenient. Turn right along Station Road passing the Playing Field to your right. Do not follow Stoop Lane but keep straight on, passing Mansfield Street to the left. Continue along the alley way through Victoria Street on to Meynell Road, cross this road and walk along the tarmac track opposite. Pass through the gate and follow the path across "The Slabs" until the double row of Chestnut trees is reached. Turn left along the gravel track between these two rows and walk to the Lodge House on the B675 road. Open the gate and walk through to the road, not forgetting to close it behind you so that the sheep who are often there do not escape.

Directly opposite is a gap in the hedge which, though it doesn't look it, is in fact the entrance to a footpath. Try to follow the dotted line on my map on the ground by sensibly following hedges, obvious tracks or stiles and eventually you will find yourself in Flesh Hovel Lane (if the weather is wet or you don't reach the lane by this route just follow the B675 to your left and turn right at the junction carrying straight on when the B6046 peels off to the left.)

Once in the lane, by whichever route, walk along towards Quorn Fields Farm. About 25 yards beyond the sewage works on the left is a footpath leading through some fields to a large copse; follow this (see map if unsure) and on reaching the copse there is a clear path leading diagonally across a field to a larger path, or track. Turn left on reaching this path and follow it until the A6 road is reached.

Opposite you is the road to Woodthorpe Hamlet, cross the A6 and follow the road through Woodthorpe and one third of a mile the other side of the village when you will see a footpath sign to your left and a track across open fields. Follow this and about ½ of a mile later you should meet the road between Quorn and Woodhouse. Turn right along the road through Woodhouse and walk almost through the village, follow the second turning on your left which is roughly 100 yards before the Church. Continue along this path for about 150 yards where you will meet a junction, turn left turning sharp left again after another 100 yards; coming to the end of the tarmac track, continue on the same course turning right after a hundred or so yards.

You should now be walking towards the railway, you can sometimes walk under the bridge supporting the railway if the weather has been dry recently, but if not follow the edge of the field you are now in until you see a gap in the hedge along the railway line where the lines can be crossed. When you have reached the sunken track on the other side of the line proceed along it until the track leaves the large hedge cover, follow the vague track there until you walk through the open gate and into Buddon Lane. Continue along this lane for about 140 yards when you will reach Meeting Street; return to the car park via. Meeting Street and Station Road or by Spinney Drive and the Church.



This is a much longer walk for those who may want to see more of Quorn's surroundings; it takes a roughly circular route usually about 2 miles away from Quorn village centre.

Beginning at the car park opposite the Post Office, or any point on the route that suits best, turn left. Cross the A6 road at the crossroads with Station Road and follow Meeting Street through to Chaveney Road. Keep on Chaveney Road but peel off into Buddon Lane where the road bends to the right. Proceed along Buddon Lane and the footpath that leads from it to the railway then cross and follow the track across the fields until you come to a track forming a junction with yours. Turn left and walk along the small metalled road, turning right and then left towards Rushey Fields Farm. If the weather has been dry recently then turn left after a few hundred yards along the footpath towards Swithland reservoir; if not continue along the metalled road through the farm, turning left when an unmetalled road crosses your path. On either route you will arrive at the blue brick railway bridge. Proceed towards Swithland reservoir through the small copse and along the dam. This part of the walk is a good place for spotting wild fowl and, if the Soar Division of the Water Authority (H.Q. in Anstey, address given in walk 6 of this booklet) is consulted, guided walks to other good sites may be obtained.

Continue around the reservoir edge and up Kinchley Lane. On reaching the main road turn left walking along this road, remembering to keep facing the traffic, then turn off along the footpath that leads through the North end of Mountsorrel (consult map). On reaching the A6 road turn left but keep a sharp lookout on the right side of the road for a gap in the houses about 50 yards along from the point you met the road. Cross the road and walk along the small track between the houses soon you will meet the river. The path along the left bank of the river is reasonably obvious so follow this and continue to follow it when it leaves the river. Cross the fields to Betty Henser's Lane then across more fields to the footbridge over the river. When over the river join the small road to the humpback bridge over the canal. Stopping at the public house for a while if you wish, walk along the canal tow path for several hundred yards until you reach the canal lock gates, feel free to watch the barges pass through the lock gates but stay clear from the sides of the canal, locks can be dangerous places.

Cross the bridge over the canal (the best place to look at the lock) and walk to the B675 road. Turn left along this road and cross it at the top of the humpback bridge, continue in the same direction to the end of the bridge, turn sharp right and down the steps to begin walking along the River Soar. Taking care not to disturb any fishermen on the bank proceed on this path for about half a mile until you cross the river at Pillings' Lock. With the canal to your left and the mainline railway to your right, continue along the canal for roughly 200 yards, observing the first bridge to your left but crossing the second. The path that you are now on leads directly to the main A6 road, follow this past the small copse to your left and the Bull in the Hollow Farm to your right. On reaching the road cross it and walk up the road to Woodthorpe. After the railway bridge approach the village but turn off to the left before the first house. Walk along this path, recrossing the railway again, past One Ash House towards Quorn. After climbing over two stiles you will meet Woodhouse Road (the B591) cross this and walk through the 'kissing gate'. Continue down the path between the hedges then follow the track behind the houses past the Cricket and Football Pitches until you meet a metalled path at right angles with your own. Turn left across the marshy field and past the old tennis courts to your left and the Bull's Head Hotel to the right. When you have again reached the main A6 road cross and walk back to the car park where you began via Church Lane and the Church Yard.

