**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

**Public Paths in Rotherham**

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**

Walk No: 18
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 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.
Doorstep Waymark

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, cafés and pubs in Wickersley, making it a good base for any walk.

There is also a café 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.

The Wickersley Wood Trail

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.

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

Continue along the path 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”.

Turn right and head down Flat Lane until you reach the sharp left hand bend. Continue straight on down Slacks Lane, by the side of the cemetery. Follow the track for approx 700m, you will now see at the end of Slacks Farm.

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

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

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

Doorstep Walk Short, Easy to Follow and Local!

Wickersley

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 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 dole of woods 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 uncommon invertebrates are known to inhabit the wood, and mammal species include Brown Hare, Fox and Pygmy Shrew.

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 1500 but none of this remains.

The present church was rebuilt in the late 18th Century and the oldest part of the present building is the inner 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 1920s. Except for the tower the rest of the Medieval church was demolished by Rev. John Foster who erected the present town in 1844. By 1886 the chancel was added. In 1861 when Rev. Gladwyn Jebb set up a choir, some of the parishioners did not approve. Dr Holst Yates felt so strongly that he threatened local quarry masters who leased land from him with action if they allowed his children to sing in the choir. The church supporters solved the problem by moving to quarries leased from more lenient landlords.

Wickersley

According to Domesday Book, the names Wic and Wilce meants a Farm or a Group of huts. Ley and Lea meant a clearing. The village gave its name to the Wickersley rock which underlies a Farm or a Group of huts. Ley and Lea meant a clearing. The

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