



## Points 3, 4 & 5

**3** Farther down Woodhouse Lane, there are large metal gates to provide access to the new planted Jubilee Wood on your right. Traditional woodland species of oak, ash and hazel have been planted to create a new wood for the future. About 20 metres on there are two electricity poles on the other side of the road. Next to them is a gate and entrance to a permissive path courtesy of the Paget Estate. Cross the road carefully. Go through the wooden gate by the sign for Nanpantan Hall Farm and along the path towards a wooden ladder and a gate and a drystone wall. Cross the wall and go into a small woodland on **Buck Hill Knoll**. **4** Behind you to the right are the remains of an old quarry, which has been recolonised by woodland. The ground is spongy under foot in wet weather. Follow the trodden path through the bracken and by the drystone wall until you reach the next ladder, and you can see the path ahead to the next clump of trees.

This area of Leicestershire is called Charnwood Forest because of its historic woods and its use as a royal hunting area. It is known for its stone walls, which

are unusual in lowland England, which comes from the availability of suitable hard stone on or near the surface. The hard stone is the remains of long extinct volcanoes which would have been active nearly 700million years ago.

**4** Climb down over the ladder and onto a track in open grassland. Walk straight ahead with the fence on your right hand side. This grassland has been improved to make it more productive from a farming point of view; it now has few native plants growing in it.

**5** At the next drystone wall go through it into **Buck Hill wildlife site**. Follow the path past a large beech tree on the right and a rotten tree with holes made by woodpeckers. Smooth barked silver birches are down the hill to the left. It is rocky and slippery under foot in wet weather. Follow the steep stony path up a short hill, through the tussocks of grass covering the rocky outcrops.

**E** The lichen growing on stone walls and the rocky outcrops, can add a splash of colour to a winter day. It is no surprise that they are used for pigments.

Superstition has it that picking bracken at the summer solstice would render the person invisible.

