



Point 9, 10 & 11

9 Just beyond the spring is a fence with a waymarker pointing left. Follow this and cross the brook by way of stepping stones.

L As you pass over the brook, you may be able to see **hard rush**, which has been used in basket making, thatching and weaving.

The nettles in the boggy area to your left have had a number of uses in the past, such as dyes, tea, beer and soup. Their sting has given rise to the phrase 'grasp the nettle' being employed when someone has an unpleasant task that must be done.

The coconut scented spiky gorse here can flower all year round and is a habitat in its own right. Some of its inhabitants are bees, long tailed tits and whinchats, in addition to insects including weevils living in its seed pods.

Follow the path up the gentle hill past the holly bushes and into the woodland.

U The field on the left has been rough grazing for over two hundred years. Archaeologists have found possible earthworks near here. The trees along this path include



old and new ones, and new plantations to the right can be seen through the trees.

10 At the top of the hill leave the woods at the gate in front of you and turn left onto Deans Lane. Almost immediately walk past a sign on a gate for Beacon Hill on the opposite side of the road. Stay on the road and walk straight on, passing **Felicity's Wood** to your left and **Martin's Wood** to your right, where some of the mature trees are over 200 years old.

N As you walk, look out for swallows flying low over the fields in summer. These birds can be distinguished from swifts by their forked tails. As you descend from the brow of the hill, enjoy the magnificent views of Loughborough in the distance.

11 At the crossroads at the end of Deans Lane, turn left and head towards the triangular sign saying 'No footway for 1 mile'. Take extra care crossing the road here, as the traffic travels fast. After 20m a gate leads back into the **Outwoods**. Follow the earth path nearest the wall on your left and go past picnic tables up a gentle rise. This path leads back to the car park and start point.

