



Points 1 & 2

1 From the car park take the gravel path to the right hand side of the toilet block into the woods. This winding path takes you into the woodland passing oaks and birch and alder in the wetter areas. Take the first footpath on your left. Follow this over the beginnings of a stream, until you meet another footpath and turn left for 100m until you reach the wood's western the boundary wall. This brings you out onto Woodhouse Lane by a sign for Jubilee Wood.

A The Outwoods is mentioned in documents from the 14th Century, but is likely to have existed well before the Norman invasion, almost 1000 years ago and is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 AD.

It has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its rare rock outcrops, its woodland plants and its wildlife. Some of these are explained in the interpretation panel as you enter the woods. It is also noted as a prime habitat for breeding birds, for example the tree pipit. This bird is at risk due to a lack of suitably managed woodland.



2 Turn right, keep to the right hand verge and face the oncoming traffic. Walk downhill along the road past the new plantations on your right.

B This road was once a main route from Woodhouse to the Priory at Nanpantan and marked the eastern boundary of the medieval hunting park of Loughborough. The Outwoods is so called because it was not within the hunting park boundary.

C The bluebells in Outwoods and Jubilee Wood begin to grow in January and when they flower in April/May, the ground is transformed into a vibrant blanket of blue.

Bluebells are associated with ancient woodlands. Even if the trees have been removed, the presence of bluebells shows the area had been ancient woodland in the past. Like most native woodland plants they start to grow before the leaves of the trees come out. Their rich colour and sweet smell is attractive to bumble bees and other pollinators.

Folklore has it that bluebells were rung to herald the arrival of fairies, and trouble.

An Iron-age coin (2,000 years old approximately) has been found near the Outwoods.

