

How to get there: Hunts Hill car park (Sat Nav – Sharply Hill LE6 0AH) is at the foot of Old John, the beer mug shaped monument in Bradgate Park, two miles by road from Newtown Lindford. You could walk through the park from Newtown Lindford to reach it. This would add on a couple of very pleasant miles.

Car parking: Hunts Hill and Swithland Woods for a small charge and Woodhouse Eaves which is currently free. Toilets are available at Hunts Hill and Woodhouse Eaves car parks.

Public Transport: Service 154 Leicester to Loughborough stops outside the Wheatsheaf Inn (Swithland) <http://traveline.info>

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 246 Loughborough

Route: A lovely all year round walk which includes Swithland Woods and Bradgate Park

Refreshments: Various inns, restaurants and shops in Woodhouse Eaves. Ice cream van often in Hunts Hill car park. Picnic tables in Swithland Woods.

Items of interest: Swithland Woods are an excellent place to spot flowers, trees, birds and rocks. Woodhouse Eaves church stands on a rock cave.

The walk:



From Hunts Hill car park cross the road and continue towards Shepshed on the road opposite (B5330 Benscliffe Rd). Turn right at the gate into Rough Hill Woodlands and walk ahead with the hedge on your right. Keep left at the fork in the path to reach a gap in the hedge into Lingdale golf course. Cross three fairways to reach the road (Joe Moore's Lane).

Cross the road carefully to continue in the same direction beside the golf course, close to the hedge on your right. The route across the golf course is well signed. The path zig zags across the golf course until you reach the hedge and golf course boundary. Keep the hedge on your left until you arrive at a gate and slate bridge which takes you into a field where you see Maplewell Farm in the far-left corner. The footpath directs you right, then left round the edges of the field to reach the farm gate and stile to the right of Maplewell Farm. *(However, you can walk diagonally across and pass under the telegraph wires to cross the stile).* Follow the track with the hedge on your left. Keep in the same

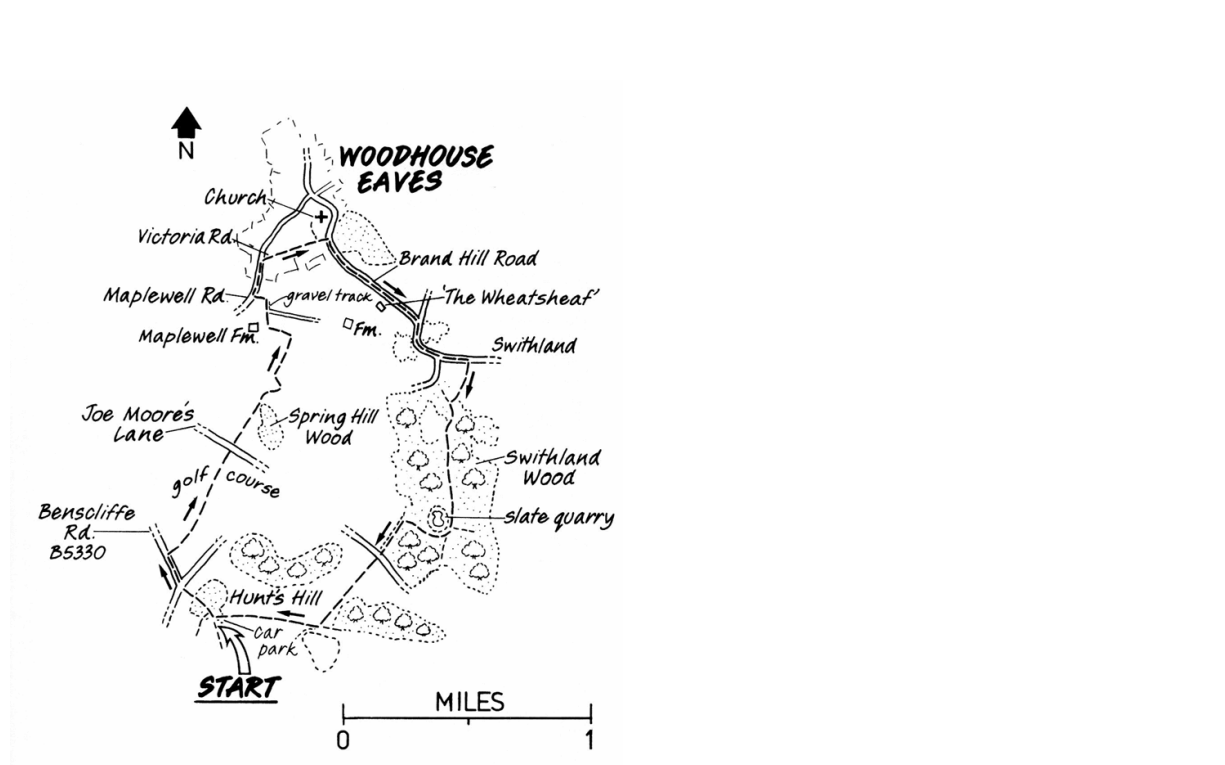
direction, joining the gravel track from Barn Farm. This bends left to meet Maplewell Road where you turn right to walk downhill into Woodhouse Eaves.

From Maplewell Road turn right into Victoria Road and walk up the steep hill to the top of the road. Turn left and follow the track which runs between houses and gardens. This brings you out on Brand Hill Road.

Turn right. Pass the Wheatsheaf pub on your right. Turn right at the T junction and walk towards Swithland. Continue straight on ignoring the turning right to Newtown Lindford and turn right at the footpath sign just before the first house on your right (by the 30mph sign). Cross the stile and follow the path to the gate and information board. Keep in the same direction ignoring the path to your left. Then you meet a path coming in from your right, bear left following the bridleway marker posts. The path soon widens and goes through a grassy picnic site before narrowing to a forest path again. Follow it to reach a T junction with a wooden fence on your right. Turn left walking with the fence on your right and a few yards past the next waymark post turn right on a well-marked path. Continue ahead on this path until you reach a gate in a dry-stone wall. Turn left and follow the bridleway with the wall on your left down to the road

Cross the road and take the footpath signposted Old John which stands grandly ahead of you. Go through the gate and uphill to the kissing gate into Bradgate Park.

Here you have a choice! Turn right and follow the boundary wall and go through the next kissing gate back to Hunts Hill car park, or make your way up to Old John to admire the views, and then descend to the kissing gate to Hunts Hill car park where the walk began.



A walk from **32 Short Circular Walks** based on The Leicestershire Round. Copyright: © Heather MacDermid for Leicestershire Footpaths Association 2000 Updated by Vanessa Moore January 2023
Photos by Janina Holubecki

