

**How to get there** Hunts Hill car park ([SatNav - 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 Linford. You could walk through the park from Newtown Linford to reach it. This would add on a couple of very pleasant miles.

**Car parking** Hunts Hill, Swithland Woods for a small charge, and in Woodhouse Eaves (free). Toilets are available in these car parks.

**Public transport** [Service 123 \(hourly\) Leicester to Loughborough stops outside Wheatsheaf Inn. See <http://traveline.info/> or phone 0871 200 22 33](#)

**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 vans 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 Road). Turn right, and cross the stile into the second field, to walk close to the hedge on your right. The route goes to the bottom left corner of the field, past a spinney over to your left. (But the farmer usually leaves a good headland for people who wish to walk round the edge of the field to reach this point.) Cross through the stiled field corner and walk with the hedge on your left across the Lingdale golf course, 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 usually well signed. In the corner of the field, beside the fairway, pass the rocky outcrop of Spring Hill Wood on your right. You need to keep in the same direction, but make a detour right, along an old line of trees and then after 50 yards bear left round a small copse of trees. Keep the hedge on your left until you come to the stile and slate bridge which takes you into the corner of a field, with Maplewell farm in the far left corner.*

*The path continues to the corner of the field just to the right of Maplewell farm buildings, though you are expected to move round the edges of the field, to your right, to reach this point. Pass under the telegraph wires and cross the stile. Follow the faint 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, Woodhouse Eaves turn 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 onto Brand Hill Road, near the church.

Turn right. Pass The Wheatsheaf pub (Real Ale!) on your right. Turn right at the T-junction and walk towards Swithland. 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 next stile and information board. Keep in the same direction, ignoring the path to your left. When you meet a path coming in from your right, bear left following 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 right and follow the wooden fence now on your left, skirting round the old water filled slate quarry. At the junction of paths continue straight ahead to reach a small clearing, complete with litter bin.

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A walk from **32 Short Circular Walks** based on The Leicestershire Round  
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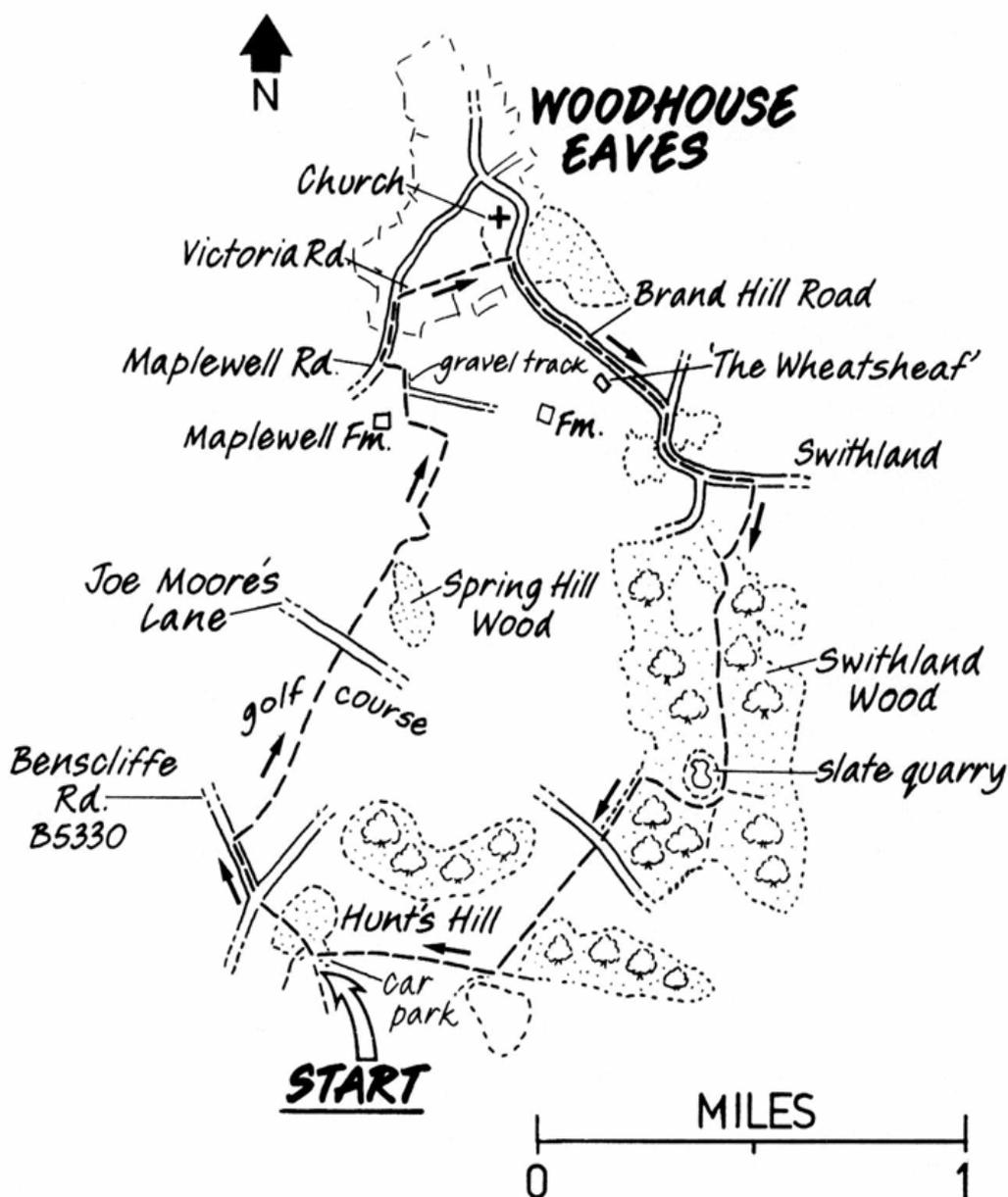
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Turn left and follow the path up and over the hill. Keep straight on the main track which bends right to cross the wooden plank bridge over the little stream. Take the narrower path to the right and wind your way between trees until you come to an opening in the boundary wall. Cross the road and take the footpath signposted to Old John, which stands very grandly ahead of you. Cross the stiles and go through 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 this kissing gate and return to Hunts Hill car park, where the walk began.

David and Valerie Joyce: "Take binoculars and pocket book identification guides for this lovely walk."



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