**General information**

The Bluebell Walk is the first of a proposed series of walks called the Rugby Town and Country Walks. These walks start in the urban area of Rugby and also include areas of countryside either in or close to the town. The majority of the walks are on a mixture of paved surfaces and country footpaths and towpaths. They provide an enjoyable way to incorporate physical activity into your life, and also access some areas of country within the town, which many people may not be aware of.

Walking is the ideal exercise as almost anyone can do it and you can do it almost anywhere and at any time without special equipment other than good shoes, and with little risk of injury, but you should observe a few basic rules:

- The walks cross roads that may at times be very busy, and you should exercise great caution when crossing them. Where there is not a suitable pavement, footpath or verge, walk on the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic.
- Treat the environment with respect – do not drop litter, leave gates as you find them, and keep to the route.
- Carry liquid to keep hydrated.
- Most of the walk is unlit and parts are secluded, and always leave gates as you find them.
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- Treat the environment with respect – do not drop litter, leave gates as you find them, and keep to the route.
- Allow sufficient time to carry out the walk in daylight and carry liquid to keep hydrated.
- Wear appropriate clothing – although parts of the walk are on good paved surfaces, the rural parts utilise footpaths and bridleways and you therefore need to wear suitable footwear. Also, some areas, which may be wet in the winter and dusty in the summer, with vegetation encroaching on the paths at certain times of the year, will mean strong shoes or boots, and trousers rather than shorts.

**Walk length**

Approximately 1.6 miles for the main route, or 2.5 miles for the canal variation.

**Time required**

About 30-40 minutes at a brisk pace for the main route, or 55 - 75 minutes for the canal towpath variation.

- **T**he **h**is walk is circular, with some very gentle slopes in places and one steep slope. It combines easy walking on paved paths, with footpaths on open space. T here are two variations of the walk: one route includes a length of the towpath of the Oxford Canal, and the other returns via adjacent streets.
- Rugby is one of only five authorities within England and Wales to be awarded a grant to be part of the national trial for sustainable waste wood products. The trial has part of the pathway surfaced with our own woodchip and the reminder with the other material in order to determine their comparative usefulness and longevity.
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**The walk**

The walk starts at the car park on Whinfield Recreation Ground.

1. **Enter Whinfield Cemetery via the pedestrian gate in the iron fence by the car park. Turn right, and then left at the island.**
2. **Follow the road down the hill and when it runs out, continue across the grass to the far corner of the cemetery through a gap to the side of the stream. The path continues straight ahead, eventually reaching a point (ignore the first bridge into the cemetery extension).**
3. **Turn immediately to the left and follow the path through a gap in the fence into Linnell Road open space.**
4. **Continue straight ahead, eventually reaching a point where you can turn to the left to walk the Oxford Canal variation, or to the right to return via Linnell Road.**

**Return route via Linnell Road**

Turn right up the slope and continue until you reach Linnell Road. Cross the road and turn right. When it reaches a T junction with Loverock Crescent, cross Linnell Road and then shortly after, McKinnell Crescent. Continue along Loverock Crescent to the end, cross Mckinnell Crescent, and turn left up the hill. Continue straight ahead where the road runs left, and turn right into a tarmac car park. Continue straight on onto a path with Whinfield Cemetery on your right and part of Whinfield Recreation Ground to your left. Turn right at the end of the path into the car park to return to the starting point.

**Return route via the Oxford Canal towpath**

Turn left and enter a car park area by a road (The Kent). From the car park, go through a gap to the right of the gate onto the road, and turn left along the footpath beside the road, going under the railway bridge. After about 100 continued overleaf
yards, go down a set of steps beside a bridge to the Oxford Canal. After the junction with Butter’s Leap, turn left and follow the canal towpath for until reaching bridge no. 66. After passing under the bridge, leave the canal towpath via a set of brick steps on your left and turn right at the top on to Clifton Road. Continue down the hill, crossing using the traffic light controlled crossing at the junction with Clifton Inn pub and cross Clifton Road using the traffic light controlled crossing by the shops and then walk into Whinfield Recreation Ground through the gate slightly to your left. Turn left and follow the path around the perimeter back to the starting point. This walk is suitable only for adults (children should be accompanied). The maps are not to scale, and distances and walk times given are approximate.

Please note that this ride is undertaken at your own risk.

This leaflet has been produced by the Parks and Open Spaces and Sports & Recreation Development Sections of the Leisure Services Division, and funded by the Agenda 21 Section of Rugby Borough Council. For further information or queries, please contact the Grounds Maintenance Officer on (01788) 533713 or the Active Lifestyles Officer on (01788) 533721. Walk produced April 2006.

The Bluebell Project

The ‘Bluebell Project’ is a long-term community-based project to enhance an area of woodland and open space in the Hillmorton area of Rugby. This is a large informal area of open grassland, mature woodland, glades, wetlands, riverside and copse. With help from community volunteers, local school children, the Youth Offending Team and the Probation Service, the site is being improved for both wildlife and visitors alike. It is also one of only five sites throughout the UK that has been awarded funding from the Government supported Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP). This is to trial the use of recycled wood chip made from untreated pallet wood as a path surfacing material and we trust you will find this easy to travel over; we welcome your comments on its suitability.

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