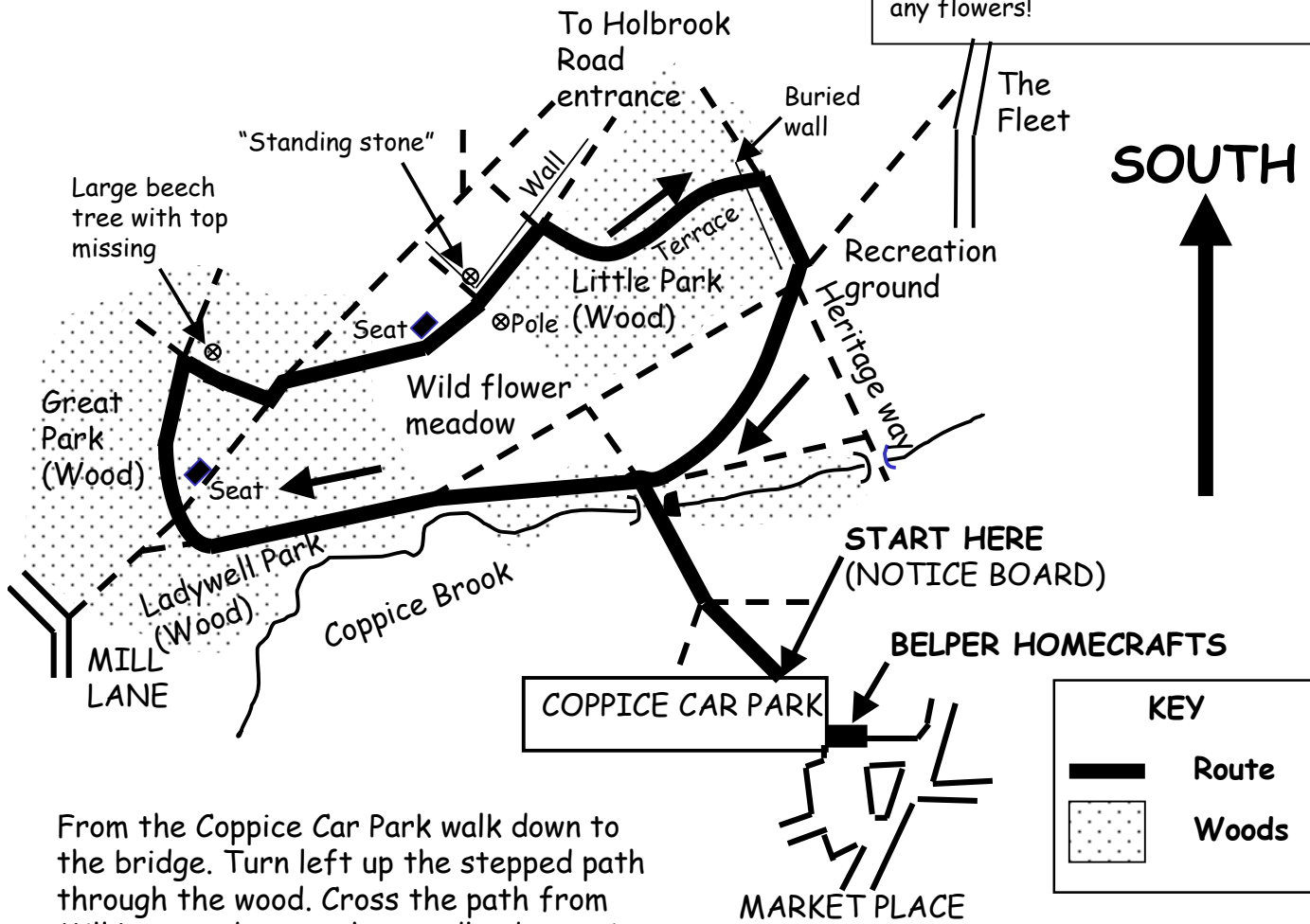


BLUEBELL WALK

Take this short walk around the Parks and enjoy the bluebells! Free copies of this map are available from "Belper Homecrafts" on the Market Place.

The Friends of Belper Parks and Amber Valley Borough Council (the land owner) point out that you follow this walk at your own risk. Areas may be slippery and uneven, wear suitable footwear. The route is not suitable for push chair and wheelchairs. Do not pick any flowers!



From the Coppice Car Park walk down to the bridge. Turn left up the stepped path through the wood. Cross the path from Mill Lane and enter the woodland opposite. Follow the track up to where it meets another sunken path by an old beech tree. Drop back down to and cross the main path to the bench at the top of the ski slope. Take the path into the wood by the "standing stone" and then drop down the

terraced track through the wood across the old wall to the Heritage Way. Make your way from there back to the bridge. The route is marked by means of blue ribbons tied around trees above head height. Enjoy!



Published by the Friends of Belper Parks,
for further information see
www.belperparks.info or ring 0845 349 2369

BLUEBELLS

The Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is a classic flower of British woodlands in springtime. It is only native to western Atlantic Europe and was unknown to the ancient Greek plant recorders, hence the latin, *non-scripta*, meaning unwritten.

Bluebell only became common as a name during the early 19th century through the Romantic poets, like Shelley and Keats. Things are complicated by the fact that the Harebell, *Campanula rotundifolia*, is called the Bluebell in Scotland.

Today the Bluebell is threatened by the introduction of the Spanish Bluebell, which having been planted out hybridizes with the native Bluebell creating a cross species. These are fertile and the process continues, reducing the stock of pure native Bluebells.



The Friends of Belper Parks have removed most of the Spanish Bluebells that were planted in the past near Mill Lane , so the plants that you will see should be the native type.

The objectives of the group are as follows:

- 1) Protect the Belper Parks and associated sites by promoting and encouraging an interest in the diversification and protection of all birds, flora, fauna and wildlife on the site.
- 2) Encourage historic and educational interest, as well as local and wider participation in the whole project.
- 3) Promote an appreciation within the local community in the short and long term values of the area for the benefit of all.
- 4) Improve and conserve pedestrian access to this area of natural beauty.
- 5) Act as a springboard for individuals wishing to communicate with the authorities over concerns about the Belper Parks.

Membership of the group is free of charge and open to all groups and individuals supportive of the objectives of the Friends of Belper Parks.

WHY NOT JOIN US !