

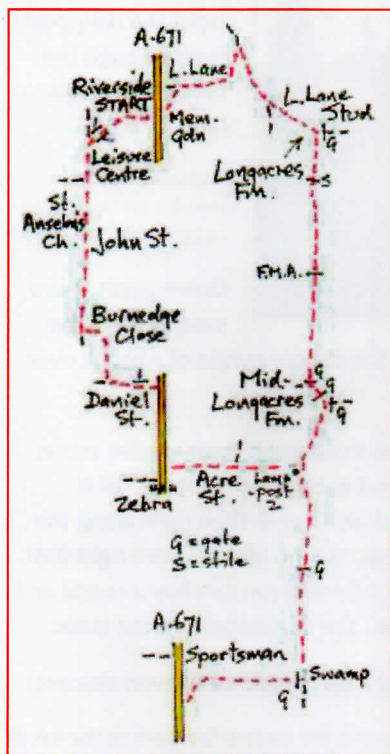
# Strolling Whitworth *Simply lovely little Walks*

## STROLL 7 LONGACRES

START The Riverside

DISTANCE Short/Medium

BUS STOP Riverside/Civic Hall



**NATURE OF WALK** Uphill start. Mostly road surfaces, but one section is grassy - solid footwear except in reliably dry conditions. A good walk any time, but a delight in spring and summer sunshine.

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Across the main road is Whitworth's Memorial Garden, where the Service of Remembrance takes place every November, a short, sombre and well-attended occasion, followed by coffee at The Riverside. The cenotaph's list of Whitworth's war dead is sadly long. Cut up left through the Garden, past the Scout Hut, up Longacres Lane, and up the steps at its top. From the flat path turn right, then take the left fork, up the top section of Longacres Lane (no sign to help). There is a sign for

Longacres Stud 100m. further on, and if there are no horses soon visible you've been very unlucky. Here, turn right along a signed flat path. Beyond the two-step stile at the end of the garden continue on the wall-top path just left of straight ahead, with a wonderful view out over the valley and up to Rooley Moor with its wind turbines.

Now comes a fatman's agony of a gate. *Please put any dog on its lead before you edge through, please* – the next field (and one that joins it) contains sheep for much of the year. The path along the field edge used to be part of a flagstone causeway that ran all the way from Facit to The Square and was used for recovery exercise by patients of the Whitworth Doctors - occasional 'causey' stones peep through now. At the signposted

gate, go down the curved driveway of Mid-Longacres Farm (spot the lamppost), then through the next gate onto a lane.



Mid-Longacres Farm  
(and the first lamppost)  
by Lyn Brady

Down again, more steeply so at the

second lamp-post: after rain you'll hear the cheery gurgle of a brook over the wall.

Walk down the right of Acre Street to the main road; cross via the zebra; then turn right. The main road is busy and noisy, so go first left off it (Daniel Street), straight onto the footpath at its end, then right along the path between the bungalows and up steps to John Street. Turn right past St Anselm's Church. At Whitworth Leisure Centre you can buy a cuppa and sit in the community Gallery at the Baths. The Riverside is up the steps.

#### POSSIBLE WALK EXTENSION *(if you're ok with gloop and uneven descent)*

Take the left fork at the *second* lamp-post, then a flat narrow footpath to the left of the white farmhouse. Keep straight ahead through some narrow gates and above a long wall till you meet a swampy section next to a gate on your right onto a narrow path. If you're not cursing loudly about the swamp you might see rabbits on the banking here. The path down emerges on the main road close to The Sportsman, 500m. south of The Riverside. JF

