

Derbyshire Dawdle

About the walk

This walk does in no way, mean it is a doddle. In fact it is just the opposite. Requiring a very high standard of fitness, whilst at the same time giving you in return some of the most scenic views of Derbyshire for your efforts. It is a Anytime challenge walk, but it is best doing it during the colder months when the trees are bare, to get the best views & pictures. On hot summer days it can become very trying, and you will need plenty of liquid refreshments. Starting From the layby in Wakebridge (Crich outskirts). The walk starts off at a very leisurely pace, with gentle slopes to begin with. Then Gradually becomes, more demanding, as you progress further along the route.

Points of interest, during the walk, I will endeavour to inform you of, as you make progress on the route. Also some added information to help guide you along. These will be shown in (*italics*)

Hope that you enjoy your day in the lovely Derbyshire,

Distance is approximately 20 miles.

Map required: O. S. Outdoor Leisure 24 The White Peak.

Abbreviations: FP. (footpath, or finger post) SP. (signpost) T. (at this point, turn)

L & R (left & right) Thru. (through) XX (cross the road)

WM. (way marker, showing arrow, or walking figure) AGM (arrowed ground marker)

RHS. LHS (right & left hand sides) Cont. (continue ahead, or in the same direction)

(poi) (point of interest) numbered at the point where you are at the time.

Where in the walk there is a road to cross Please do so with the utmost care.

Where there is a more hazardous risk, I will point this out at the time. Refreshments.

Where they can be obtained, and at what point, will be shown By alphabetical letters for eg (a) b c & so on.

Starting From the Layby, at Wakebridge, between Crich & Holloway on the B5035.

The layby, is situated almost directly below Crich Stand Crich stand is a limestone crag. Built on the top, is a 60ft. beacon tower It was rebuilt in 1921 having twice been stuck by lightning. It now commemorates the Sherwood Foresters Regiment, killed in the 2 world wars. It is said that from the top of the beacon, on a clear day, one can make out Lincoln, & its Cathedral.

Getting to the Start Point:

Coming from Crich: Towards Cromford on the B5035, passing the Tram Museum, RHS & then a P.H.(Cliff Inn) also on the RHS. The layby, is soon seen, on the L.

Coming from Cromford: passing through Lea Bridge, onto Holloway, Leaving Holloway after a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile stretch of straight road, you arrive at a very severe left bend, With another, 300 yards further on going right. Soon after this you will see the layby on the RHS.

A good pair of binoculars & a camera would make this walk even better.

Florence Nightingale & Anthony Babbington.

Her real name was Florence Shore. Born in Florence in Italy in 1820, to a wealthy family. Florence's father, William Shore, changed his name to Nightingale after inheriting a fortune from his uncle Peter Nightingale 2nd who made his wealth from lead mining. The Nightingales settled in Derbyshire, shortly after this bequest.

They built Lea Hurst. However being socialites, they found that they missed the high life living in Derbyshire. They already owned property in London, so decided to make Lea Hurst a sort of holiday dwelling. Florence was always interested in nursing, but this profession was frowned on by the wealthy, as being the work of the poorer class. Having tried to get Florence married off to wealthy suitors, without success, they were forced to give up on the idea. Much to their opposition, Florence took up nursing. When the Crimean war broke out, Florence went out to Scutari, to nurse the injured soldiers, where she was to become known as THE LADY WITH THE LAMP. Going around at night with a lamp, Florence would go around the wards, comforting, and even kissing the wounded good night. As the news spread of these kindly gestures. Florence became a household name, making her not only known by the wealthy, but also to the poor. Florence used this renown, and her influence among the upper classes to good causes. Creating a training school for nurses. Florence still enjoyed the social life, even entertaining the Prime Minister. Florence's good work, took the stigma out of nursing, making it into a noble profession for all. For this, not long before her death in 1910 she was invested with The Order of Merit. Florence never married, she gave her whole life, to nursing.

Anthony Babbington.

To begin with the story of Anthony Babbington, one has to go back to the times when Henry VI II was on the throne. Having had so many wives, when he asked the Pope's Permission to divorce Catherine of Aragon, he was refused. As a result of this, he in his wisdom decided to break ties with the church of Rome in 1529. He then went on to destroy many of the buildings that belonged to the R.C. Religion. Darley Abbey being one of them. Henry appointed William Cavendish to do his dirty work In reward for his services, he acquired much wealth and fortune. Chatsworth House being just a small part of it. He was married to Bess of Hardwick, who was to become the richest woman after Queen Elizabeth. After the death of Henry, Mary Tudor Henry's daughter, came to the throne. Mary a devout catholic, completely reversed the situation by the slaughter of protestants, who rejected catholicism, as their main religion. This went on for 5 years until her death in 1558.

Elizabeth succeeded Bloody Mary, as she had become known, for her actions. Elizabeth a protestant took a middle of the road course, turning a blind eye, to the people's beliefs, as long as they accepted the ruling of the Church of England. Not always the case, those who would not, were disposed of one way or another. In the mean time Bess of Hardwick, having lost 3 of her husbands who had died, inherited their estates married a 4th time. This time to the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury.

Elizabeth charged the Earl, to keep Mary Queen of Scots under house arrest.

Mary was a catholic, also being Elizabeth's cousin, & next in line to the throne.

Mary was held in Chatsworth, Wingfield Manor, & Hardwick Hall, at various times. It was at Hardwick Hall, where Anthony Babbington, also a catholic, first met and served Mary Q.O.S. as a page boy. He developed a very strong affection towards her.

He was so devoted to her, that he hatched a plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth, and replace her with Mary. The plot was exposed by Gilbert Gifford, an accomplice, acting as a double agent, to both religions. Anthony Babington was arrested, along with several other plotters, and taken to London. Found guilty of treason, and sentenced to death. Elizabeth made an example of them to the public. They were hanged, cut down, while still breathing, castrated, gutted and disembowelled, and the internal organs burnt in front of the victim, to watch as they lay dying.

Then their bodies were quartered, decapitated, and their heads were stuck upon poles for all to see as the punishment for committing High Treason.

The Heights of Abraham, and how it got its name. The name itself came from Canada. When the British fought the French, to win back Quebec. There is a part that is called by the same name.

It was by a visit to Matlock that a military man stated that the view from the side of the hill, resembled that of the one in Quebec. So that is why it is so named.

My original plan for this walk was to take in Riber Castle. The reason behind it not being included is planning permission has been granted for redevelopment, with the building of houses & flats all around Riber. So until it has all been finished it would be unwise at this time to make any routes, that may become no go areas. B. G.

From the layby. TL. Along the pavement towards Cromford.
Opposite 'CLIFF FARM' RHS. Take the FP, thru the wall.
Thru, Keep to the LHS going down, only as far as a giant large rock. LHS.
Veer R. with the FP, towards the other side of the field, to join the hedging.
Cont. down, (*now with the hedging on your RHS. On the distinct FP*)
Go over the step stile, & Cont. by the hedge on the RHS. (*ignore gate*)
Go over the next Stile, & Cont. walking down the middle of the field.

Over the next stile, the FP. Follows the walled hedge. RHS a short distance
The FP soon leaves the wall, going L. (*ignore stile RHS.*) Go over a brook
On the LHS. Are little inlets to the rockfaces, where climbers practice.
Cont. down & soon the FP goes sharp L down to the road. *Ignore track L*
XX the road. Cont. down this course to the arrowed AWM. pointing R
Here TL. to go R over the canal bridge, and R onto the canal.
(*your first mile over*) Passing the large house, RHS.
& then a bench seat LHS (*dedicated to Shelley Redfern*)
Cont. along the canal going under a stone bridge. (*towards the end of the walk, you will*
be crossing this bridge, on your way back to the very start.)
Cont. until the canal gets wider, you will then be at Gregory's Dam
(*where there is a canal tunnel, just ahead some 50 yards long*)
When you arrive at a bench seat, *dedicated to A & H Elkington* LHS.
Take the FP L. a few yards ahead, with AGM & leave the canal.
At the top, there is a bench, & a WM. Indicating Holloway. ½ a mile.
Go thru the caged gate RHS & Cont. up on the LHS of the fencing.
Pass the cottage RHS. Here read (poi 1)
You are now in LEASHAW ESTATE. The ancestral home of
Florence Nightingale. While walking up to the next caged gate. If you look ahead to
your L. you can see the house clearly in winter, However,
In summer it is hidden by the dense trees. At the caged gate at the top,
By going thru & turning L for a short distance you can get a better view.
Should you so wish. Returning back to the caged gate. Cont to the road.
Without a detour, at the caged gate, enter & exit R to the road, and XX
TL *on the pavement.* & Cont. uphill to the 'T' junction at the top.
XX the road & TL. For a few yards, to another road going R. uphill.
XX this into Chapel Lane, Cont. to the end. Taking the FP to the R & up.
Climbing the FP. to the top & TL. onto the lane. *Great views on the L.*
Walk down only to where the deer fencing ends, RHS. (poi 2)
Look over the wall half left, towards the horizon to see Dethick Church,
With its square medieval spire, built before Queen Elizabeth 1st's time.
(*I have included some reading all about Dethick, before getting there*)

Retrace your steps, & Cont. back up the road, until you reach a SP. LHS. Just before the farm, Go L. over the stile. & Cont. on the RHS of the field to the next FP sign. *Which is blank! Great view RHS of Crich Stand.*

At the FP sign, the FP goes ½ L. to the next SP. *As you walk to the next stile, the barn (shown on the map as a reservoir,) is at L angles.*

Over the stile, maintain the same course *towards a wall end & tree.*

Here, it goes to the L. to a stile with AWM. *showing 2 directions.*

Ignore L arrow & Cont. along to a broken gate. Here go L.& join the wall

On its RHS. After a few yards (5) go L. over the stile & R to join the wall

This time on your RHS. Pass thru the gap in the wall ahead, & keep to the

RHS passing a gate RHS, and onto a 2nd gate, RHS. Thru the gate & L.

you are now on an enclosed footpath, part walled, part hedged.

Cont. until you reach a FP sign. pointing back to Upper Holloway & R to Wakebridge.

Cont. for 30 yards or so, to the stile LHS. Thru the stile,

Follow the direction of the arrow ½ R. to another stile L. of the tree ahead.

Thru the stile, & XX to another stile. Thru this stile, going the same way

to the stile in the corner of this field. Over this stile, House RHS. onto a lane.

Go R. immediately after the garage, RHS.

between the houses (Laburnam Cottage LHS) & down to the roadside.

T L. down the slope from the pavement & XX. the road to the FP. Opposite.

Slightly to the L. between the walls. Sign Posted Tansley.

Follow the path L. down to footbridge. XX the stream & up L. to the stile.

Over the stile, Go ½ L. to the bottom corner of the field & stile.

(church ahead) Over & head up to the church. Entry may be obtained to the church, by requesting the key from the farmhouse.

Having explored Dethick, Retrace your steps back down to the stile, then

instead of going ½ L. keep to the wall RHS. Up to a stile. Over & go L.

Down the shelved path thru the wood, to the footbridge at the bottom.

XX the footbridge to the steps & up to the road. TR at the road.

Passing a playing field opposite, then the Jug & Glass P.H. on the RHS.

(Once owned by the Nightingale family.) & still further down, The Coach House Restaurant, RHS (a)

(a) Ice Creams maybe purchased here, amongst other things.

Upon reaching the crossroads, XX to the squeeze stile, on the LHS of the small building & a WM.

At this point, looking up & ahead, you can see the path climbing across the field from R to L. which you shortly will be upon.

Thru the stile, & down to the stile at the bottom, over & XX the road to a stile on the RHS. climb over & stay on the RHS of the wall to the bottom. Over the stile, Cross the brook, via the stepping stones up to a stile LHS, in the wall 20 yards or so. Thru the stile, follow the well defined path going to the R (*ignore the path going down L*) the path going R meanders thru the shrubs, eventually emerging at a stile in the wall on the RHS. Once thru TL, to the next stile. Over the stile,

The FP. Goes ¼ L. up over 2 fields to the next stile, & *dead tree on the L easily seen as you head upwards. you are now on the F.P. you saw from below & from here looking back you get an excellent view of Dethick Church, & Babbington Farm. Over to your L.* Again over & make for the LHS corner to the next stile.

Once thru, stay on the LHS up to the next stile.

Once thru, the F.P conts. ahead a short while, then veers R to the corner.

(At the corner, you are shepherded R & L to the next stile via the poles.)

Over the stile, Keep left to the next stile, to meet up with a cross track.

(This is Bilberry Knoll Ridge, which you will see from a distance later in the walk. This FP. going L takes you to Lea Bridge & R to Riber Castle)

TL. here at the AGM. for Lea B. for 50 yards or so, to the next AGM. on the RHS.

Here TR following the FP. down to the next stile,

Once over, Follow the line of telegraph poles down, *to the second pole,*

Here veer R. to the LHS of the large oak tree below, & a stile in the wall

Over the stile, Go down the RHS of the mound, to join the wood below on its RHS, & on to another stile. Once over, *(ignore the stile LHS)*

This gravelled FP, takes you down & onto the road. At the road TR

Passing Cromford Railway Station RHS. *(HERE I would advise you to stay on the RHS of the road until you have XX'd the river Derwent bridge. The reason being: If you cross earlier to the other side with a pavement, when it comes to crossing the Bridge, there is no pavement on the LHS of it, & you would be crossing it, more or less blind to traffic, coming from behind, which is rather dangerous)*

XX the road, coming from the RHS, passing the entrance to Willersley Castle

(Willersley Castle, (now a hotel.) Is the home that Sir Richard Arkwright had built, but never lived long enough to see it finished.)

Over the bridge & after a few yards TR on a FP.

Passing St. Mary's Church RHS *(ignore the FP going L to the car park. St Mary 's Church is where Sir Richard is buried)* Follow this to the main A6 & TR.

Walk up, veering R as far as the pedestrian crossing. (poi 4)

Masson Mills, now a museum, & shopping centre was built by Sir Richard in 1783. He was the 1st. ever commoner to be given a knighthood, in recognition for his achievements to industry. (b) Refreshments available.

XX via the pedestrian crossing here, & cont. along the road as before.

Soon you will arrive at a sloped path LHS. (*opposite a bus stop layby*)

At this point leave the pavement up this slope 8 or so yards &, about turn

Taking the FP you now see in front between the 2 walls. *It soon veers to the R & straightens up. Ignore any diversions from this FP!!!!*

Stay on as it straightens up, to some steps, then going R, It levels out, for a while, before going sharp L up to the top T. junction & SP, on the LHS.

Here TR. *Passing the house RHS. on to the gravelled driveway & on until it joins up with a proper hard surfaced road. (again ignore FP to LHS.)* Once on the road, Cont. passing a FP. down RHS. & layby. (poi 5).

(Here at certain parts along this stretch of road, & where there are no trees, looking ahead to your R there is a great view of Riber Castle. Built by John Smedley, a rich textile manufacturer. It was completed in 1862, for the princely sum of £60,000. It was a folly, created as a mock castle in Gothic style. It was used during the 1st world war, as a supply depot & later as a school. Too costly to repair it was left derelict, until the council purchased it in 1936 for the price of £1965.

When you reach a cluster of dwellings LHS, with car parking facilities at the front, & the road begins to go down look for LHS DEVONSHIRE HOUSE & lampost no. (59904) here at the foot of this house, is a concealed FP. going L which you must take.)

Having located it starting with a few steps up, *to the remains of an old Victorian lamp post* it then becomes a path, *winding itself up thru the Woodland* joining up with a similar path, *coming up from the R*

Go L & up, with this path *until it becomes a concreted path* where at the top is a SP pointing to the R. Indicated to Matlock

TR. on this FP, until you reach the entrance RHS, (*Heights of Abraham*)

(c) *Refreshment may be purchased here by walkers*

Having passed the entrance, Cont. ahead to come out at a clearing & WM

(Directly across from the WM is a man made path at the same height, that takes you thru the shrubbery, & starts further down to the R.)

Locate this path, & once on it, go thru the shrubbery, to come out at a cave. LHS.

Cont. *only* to where the arrows, point to go down to the R. *Passing below a lookout point up to the L. on the way. There are great views over Matlock Bath, High Tor, Riber Castle, & Darley Dale far L.*

At the arrow sign, Cont. ahead a few yards to meet up with a farm track.

TR. on the farm track, which after 5 / 8 yards soon goes L. At this bend, *Stop Here & look ahead at the track, there is a slight R & L waver in it, after this waver, a few yards, no more than 2 / 4 at most, is a FP to go up L, in the summer it can be hard to locate, due to the dense shrubbery. (Locate this FP, if you start to go downhill on this track, you will have missed it, and must go back)*

Having found it, as you ascend to your LHS you will be on a distinct ridge which falls away to the L. *Here you will have magnificent views over Matlock, Riber, & the lookout post you passed below earlier.*

As you go further up, the path veers to the R. *away from the ridge. (it comes out, on the top of a sealed disused mine shaft.)*

At the mine, ahead of this, the path, cuts thru the bramble bushes.

Once thru on your RHS. *(you will see the remains of a disused quarry.)*

Going forwards, with the quarry on your RHS. Skirt it around to the R

After the step over stile, Go ½ L. ahead in the direction of the cairns, towards the wall end. Thru the gate, follow the arrow signs ahead thru 2 fields, *Masson Hill on your LHS.* On reaching the stone squeeze stile, squeeze thru, keeping to the wall on your LHS to the wooden stile. Once thru the FP then ½ circles around to the L. to show the stile just ahead on the R. *From this stile the next one is clearly visible.*

Once over proceed to the AGM. pass this on its RHS to the fence. *where you have to go R.* Follow the fence down to the stile.

Over the stile, keep the hedge on your RHS *for this field only,* when at the bottom, you turn R, 5 yards to the stile.

Once thru turn L. onto the man made concrete track, and walk down into Bonsall POI (4) *As you descend look at the top & in the background you can see the hamlet of UPPERTOWN The walled FP leading up to the Hamlet, was built by Italian POWs who were stationed in the area. It was in the National Newspapers that Bonsall was the main sight in the U.K. for spotting U.F.Os. Bonsall is also renowned for its yearly hen race. BBC 1 Sunday am's Countryfile program took part in this.* At the bottom turn L between the houses *(not the road, until you come out at the church)* Go into the Church yard, and taking the middle path down, *which goes R then L* to the gates at the bottom LHS. Go thru onto the FP & *(ignoring all FPS to L&R)* Cont. *(passing a bench LHS)* until you reach the road. XX. the road to the pavement & turn L. *You are now onto what is called The Clatterway POI (5).*

Notice the wall on the RHS and hazard a guess at the age of the remains of the house that once stood there. The Clatterway was given that name because of the sound, (that the lead, from the mines made) when being transported to the bottom. At the bottom it was stored in a compound. When lead mining ceased the compound turned into a Public House. At the bottom on the RHS, you will find the name above the door aptly named "The Pig of Lead" It is now a private dwelling.

Cont. down the Clatterway to the bottom.

XX the road to the FP (*no longer there*)

XX the dam by the side of the mill LHS, and up to the gate at the end leading into a field. Thru the gate.

Go forward to the half standing wall (& *keeping the wall on the RHS*) follow it up thru the bushes, until you come out into the clear.

When in the clear, look to your R for the gate entrance into Groaning Tor.

Go thru the gate and follow the FP to the stile at the top. Over the stile

Cont. between the walls with hedges, *upon coming into the clear* maintain the same direction, keeping to the one wall on your RHS.

When the wall goes off to the R. to a small derelict building.

Cont. between a pair of stone gate posts. (*no gate*)

With the hedge now on your LHS, Cont. until you reach the stile at the top and a dewpond LHS Go thru & onto the farm track & TL... (poi 6) *Further up the track, & from a distance you can make out Holloway, sprawling across, midway in the bank with Crich Stand, to the R. Just before the 1st. private house on the RHS. Looking to the L. is the Radio Mast at Bole Hill, on Barrel Edge. Further R One can see Alport Heights with its masts. Another local viewpoint.*

Where are my binoculars ????

Cont. on the tack, all the way up to the road. Continue along the road

Passing the closed P.H The Duke Of Wellington. LHS. to the crossroads.

Church on RHS. XX into Water Lane & Cont. up to The Moor. LHS.

Turn L here. *At the far end there is a bench, to sit and take in the views of Middleton, whilst having a rest & a little something to eat?*

Once rested cont. (*passing a 2nd disused quarry RHS*) to the FP. LHS.

TL. over the stile & follow the path ahead to Middleton Tops.

Easily recognised by the tall chimney, soon coming into sight.

On reaching the gate at the bottom, go thru & veer L. down onto the High Peak Trail & visitors centre (d)

(d) Drinks, confectionary, ice cream, available here.

Go R. on the H P Trail until you reach a gate. Thru the gate.

Turn L to a FP. WM just a few yards away. RHS.

Take this FP. R. a few yards, then go L. down the steps,

Go forwards to the RHS. of obsolete stile in front, *passing this keep the wall on your LHS passing the telegraph pole RHS with arrow pointer to the stile ahead. Thru the stile, the next stile ahead is visible by the tree.*

Over this & go forward to the road.

XX the road to the FP opposite. (Be careful) *as there are steps going down!!!*

Go straight ahead to the next stile, (*next to a bush*) then L to the next stile. Straight ahead in the dip & L thru the gate into a 3rd quarry. *Here you are channelled all the way to the next gate.* Once thru, Go onto the L road of the U bend, and walk until you arrive at Stoney Wood Picnic Site on the LHS. Enter this to the circular viewpoint ahead.

Having studied the viewpoints distances & directions Take the ridge path R, down to where there is a Chain Exhibit on the LHS. Then on further down to a Wooden Sculpture, RHS. & Cont. still further down to the bench, with a Plaque in front.

Having read the plaque. Take the path at the rear of the bench to the fence & T.L. to the stile ahead. Once thru T.L. between the walled path, & on down to the road.

XX the road & turn R. Cont. to the bottom *THE LIME KILN P.H. RHS.* XX, the busy main road at the bottom to the cemetery & TR. *only as far as Wirksworth Infant School* a few yards, on the LHS. TL at the school, cemetery on the LHS going down.

(e) food & drinks available from the factory on the RHS.

To the bridge & over the newly adopted Railway from Duffield. (poi 7)

The Railway lines & rolling stock has been the project of a group of railway enthusiasts, who having invested their time, money, and effort are turning this derelict line (once very busy) back into working order for people to enjoy once again. Anyone interested in investing should make enquiries at The Malt Shovel, P.H. in Wirksworth, with free trips on steam travel as the incentive.

Over the bridge to the gate, Thru the gate & onto the gravel path going L.

Follow this FP & thru another gate, later passing a derelict building LHS.

Going R. on a farm track until you reach the metal road,

Go up the road until you see the sign, WEIGHT LIMIT 4 TONS.

Cont. & keep on the RHS of the railings. At the end of the railings,

Go L. into the road & R up between the houses called THE LANES

Immediately after the 1st house with a recess, LHS. take the walled FP.

Follow it up to the top & road. At the road turn R. After *Lantern Cottage*, on the LHS.

XX the road to the FP. SP & cont. up the steps to the gate.

Thru the gate. Keep to your R. going up to the AGM. Cont. to the next AGM. then to the gate & stile. Over, then ½ L. to the trees & next stile.

Cont. as it climbs up slightly to your L. & then straightens out.

You are now on a distinct FP on Barrel Edge. Pass Bole Hill Radio Mast, RHS. which has been a feature, throughout most of the walk.

When you arrive at the gate, go thru to the Trig point. *Have a minute to enjoy the views over Wirksworth, and the quarry you came thru earlier.*

From here, Cont. down to the L. following the Blue GM. & fencing.

At the gate LHS. With Blue GM. and a letter ' G ' Go thru, & start to

Climb down on the FP. (*hazardous, in snow or icy conditions*)

It first goes down to the R. weaving its way thru the woodland

(*passing a grit millstone lying on its side, on the RHS*)

Just after this, the FP. Goes very sharply to the L. & meets another FP.

Going from R. to L. Go L. on this FP. with a Blue & Green GM.

Where the FP. Splits, Go R. *to another GM further down*

Just after the GM. The FP. Goes down to the L. (*Here you can now see*

BLACK ROCKS, down to your R.) As there are numerous paths

To & from the rocks, going in all directions, it is easier for you to make your own way down to them, otherwise utter confusion will take over.

Once there, It is well worth a scramble up, for some great views.

To the R is Bilberry Knoll ridge, To the L of that is Riber Castle, Below is Cromford, with Masson's Mill Chimney, where you XX'd, On the pelican crossing. To the rear of that, is Matlock Town. Further L. One can see the Victoria Tower at Gullivers Kingdom, Perched ½ way up the hill. & sometimes the cable cars. Again to the L, is Bonsall, with the Church Spire standing out clearly. Above Bonsall is Masson Hill. L. again is the quarry. Above the quarry in the background is Middleton. Again L. standing on the horizon is the chimney of Middleton Tops. & to your L rear is the Bole Hill Radio Mast. Well worth the scramble up.

Coming down off, from the rocks, TR, where all paths down & to the L

Will take you to the High Peak Trail, when once on TR. Onto the trail.

Further on the H.P. trail, over to the left you will have gorgeous views to Cromford, Matlock Bath, Bilberry Knoll Ridge, Willersley Castle, and at the end before your descent, ancient workings of the High Peak Railway, as well as a beautiful wooden sculpture.

At the gate, pass thru. & descend to the end of the high rock face RHS Just after take the FP. R (*Where there is a bench. The FP goes around R, & then L under the H.P Trail, ignore steps up RHS*) Where it goes L, & under, Go R & up staying close to the wall on the RHS. *It swings R. at the top & leads to, a walk thru a staggered stile, Go thru, following it L around the bend on the farm track.*

A little later, you pass stationary holiday chalets LHS, then just after

Upon reaching a barn LHS with WM & where FPs. cross L& R

Go L into the field, *passing a tap with drinking water RHS.*

At the bottom & stile, TR onto the FP. Pass the farm on RHS (f)

(f) ice cream available summer months.

Cont, on this path, thru the woods, (Ignoring the Midshires Way SP. RHS,) *this FP. you are on, soon becomes a hard surfaced road, then goes off R.*

Where it goes R. Cont. on thru the woodland until you get to the bottom.

At the bottom, Zigzag 1st L. & sharp R. the houses now on your LHS

Holmesford Cottage PH is also on your LHS should you want a drink!!!

It is about a mile & ¼ back, from here to Wakebridge & the start.

Upon reaching the road XX over into the opening & TR by the barrier.

At the bottom TL going under the railway line,

Then L & R over the River Derwent bridge

Over TL. between the tree & fence & where the path splits go R 5/6 yards,

& R again. *(the canal is now behind to the L, ignore the path going up L)* Cont. to the cage/gate LHS. *Which you went thru. earlier in the walk.* Cont. on down to the canal & TR. towards the bridge, *you also passed under, not long after you 1st joined the canal & made a note to return on,*

At the bridge, go R. up the steps, thru the gate, & XX the bridge.

Passing a holiday cottage, RHS. Cont. up to the road

XX to the track opposite. Cont. *(on what seems like a private drive, & passing a bungalow RHS, along with old caravans, & disused cars etc.) The path is fairly easy to follow, as it weaves upwards thru the woodland. (NO GO! Areas are indicated by a couple of logs across barring the way)*

The path meanders up, from L to R, *becoming greener; and denser in the summer with bracken, as one gets nearer to the stile at the top RHS.* Over the stile, *ahead the path looks very nice & green, do not be lured! What you cannot see, is a spring creating a very boggy patch ahead, it is worse in winter, and summer isn't much better. So my advice is, after the stile immediately TL & up 4 yards or so, then TR.* Cutting thru the bushes *Cont. until you see a water supply, down to your R. You then will have passed the boggy patch. & it is alright to rejoin the FP.*

Coming down from the bushes, rejoin the FP & keep L. up to the stile.

Over, TR. *(look up to the R. to see a great view of the Beacon)* & Cont. on the pavement all the way back to the layby & start.

May I hope you enjoyed your dawdle thru Derbyshire, & that the weather was kind to you. B.G

Comments: