

En Route.

Pleasley Pit Trust. The Pit was sunk in the 1870s and produced coal until 1983. It still retains its headstocks, engine-houses and steam winders, one of which was installed in 1904 by Lilleshall Co. Ltd. and the other in 1922 by Markham & Co. Ltd. Pleasley Colliery is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is in the process of being developed into a mining heritage site. The engine-house roofs and the chimney have been renovated and now the winders have been restored by members of the Friends of Pleasley Pit preservation group. In 1872 a lease for the extraction of coal from the Top Hard seam, together with the construction and operation of a colliery, was granted to the Stanton Iron Company by William Edward Nightingale, the father of the famous Victorian nursing pioneer, Florence Nightingale. (Florence is reputed to have “turned the first sod” at the commencement of sinking). In 1982 with the cessation of coal-winding at Pleasley, the colliery had breathed its last, but it received a sort of artificial respiration by being used for man-riding and materials until eventual closure in 1983. The upcast shaft was converted to supply air to Shirebrook’s workings for several years but this turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The work involved in filling the downcast shaft, together with the removal of the baths, washery, screens etc. all took time and gave the local authority the opportunity to have the remains given a preservation listing just before they were due for demolition in 1986. It then continued in a state of limbo for several more years until 1995 when the preservation group Friends of Pleasley Pit was formed and the restoration began.

Route Description

- 1.** From the checkpoint **you retrace your steps**, passing back over the little bridge to rejoin the trail. **Turn left**, pass through the metal gates to walk up to the junction. **Turn right to walk back the way you came** and after 200m you reach the metal bridge. **DO NOT** cross the bridge but **turn right to walk down the steps** just before the bridge to meet the road. On meeting the road **turn right and start walking uphill** into the village of Teversal. At the brow of the hill **continue ahead along the pavement** which runs inside the line of trees. After a short while the pathway bends “naturally” right onto **Buttery Lane**. **Turn right onto Buttery Lane** walking past the telephone box. Soon you reach a point where the road turns 90° left. **Continue straight ahead** passing through the gap on the extreme right signposted “public footpath”. You are now walking across the entrance road to Teversal manor which you see on your right. **Keep on the lane** passing to your left St. Katherine’s church. Where the lane ends you will see a kissing gate next to a wall. **Pass through and continue straight ahead**. You are now walking on a metallised road driveway, high wall on your left and new build houses to your right. Where you meet a metal gate **pass through the gap to the left of the gate and continue straight ahead**. You will pass the entrance to Manor Farm. A few metres beyond this you meet a road junction.
- 2.** On reaching the junction **continue straight ahead along the metallised road**. You are now leaving the village of Teversal. After 200 metres the road starts to descend a bear slightly right. At this point you will see a short track leading up to a gate (basically straight ahead) . **Go up this track and pass through the kissing gate and turn left** to walk with hedge on your left, open fields to the right. After 150 metres you will see a yellow topped post on your left, here **turn 45° right to walk across the field** heading for another yellow top post in the hedge opposite. Looking left you can see the headstocks of Pleasley Pit in the distance. On reaching the hedgerow **turn right to follow the path heading downhill to the corner of the field**. You will pass another yellow top post on the way. Once in the corner, **cross over the concrete/wooden stile continue for another 10 metres then pass through the “rustic”**

kissing gate on your left. Continue straight ahead to walk through a tunnel. Once through pass through the metal kissing gate and bear 45 right to follow the path. This passes the edge of the stream and leads to a bridge over the stream. Go through the kissing gate to cross over and then through another kissing gate then continue straight ahead, At the metal kissing gate pass through and continue straight ahead climbing uphill up the field. Use the line of the power cable as your guide. You will have hedgerow on your right and open fields on your left. You stay with the power lines all the way until you meet the road (passing the farm on your right).

3. Pass through the metal kissing gate onto the road. Cross straight over to the kissing gate opposite, pass through and continue straight ahead across the field along the footpath. Once across field 1 pass through the hedge punctuated by a yellow top post and continue straight ahead across field. Once across field 2 pass through the hedge punctuated by a yellow top post and continue straight ahead across field. Once across field 3 pass through the hedge punctuated by a yellow top post and turn 45° left to follow the path to the top left corner of field 4. Once across the field bear right for a few metres the turn 90° left to pass through the gap in the hedge into the next field. You meet 2 paths. TAKE THE LEFT HAND PATH heading towards the farm. Once across field 5 pass through the hedge punctuated by a yellow top post and continue straight ahead. You have open field on you left and wooden/wire fencing on you right beyond which is a farm shop! Once across the field, pass through the hedgerow onto the metallised road and turn right. After 40 metres turn left to walk down another road almost “doubling back” on yourself. This is Penniment Lane. You are now walking “away” from the farm shop. You will walk down this road for 1.3Km. On the way the road swings right and soon after swings left. You pass a farm on the left immediately after which is a “byway”. Continue on for a further 100metres.

4. After this 100 m you meet a road junction. Turn right onto Sampson’s Lane. You walk along the lane for 150m. The lane first bends left passing the entrance to Sampson lane farm. Then, as it swings tightly right, you will see, on your left, some steps. Turn left to walk up these rather rickety and difficult steps, cross the stile at the top and continue straight ahead with the hedgerow on your immediate right. Where the field takes a turn to the left you will see a stile in the corner. Cross over this stile and continue onwards with hedge on your immediate right. Where the hedge turns 90° right, carry on straight ahead using the trees as you guide across the field. A few metres before the hedgerow you meet a tree stump. At this point turn right. The hedgerow is few metres away on your left. Soon this ends and is replaced by a line of trees. All this time you are heading across the field to meet a stile situated at a point where hedge meets wall. Cross over onto the metallised road and turn left. The road heads slightly downhill and, by the farm, the road swings 90° right. Follow the road and after a further 125m you reach a junction. Here turn left to walk down the steep hill (Crow Hill, signed for Mansfield). This road bend right and leads you down to Meden Square.

5. Keep to the left of the square. On you left is the river and the beautifully renovated mill house. Walk down to the road, cross over to take a path to the left of a “white painted” property as guided by the metal sign “Archaeological Way to Pleasley Vale”. Follow this path, which starts walled on either side. To your left is the River Meden. This path passes through a concrete tunnel underneath the main A617 Pleasley Bypass. Once through the tunnel the path rises to meet a path junction, here turn left (Archaeological Way) to walk down towards an old water pumping building, to the right of which you will see the entrance to the Meden Trail. Pass through the squeezer stile onto this path which goes to the right of the water pumping building. The path meanders through the woodland keeping the river on your left.

- 6.** After approximately 450m you will see a path shooting off to your right. **Turn right to walk up this path**, as indicated by the Archaeological Way sign, which leads uphill and has a wall on the right hand side of it. As this path levels out it joins a more major path. In fact this is the former track bed of the line which once carried trains on a regular service from Mansfield to Chesterfield. **Here bear right to walk along this track bed (Archaeological Way) for approximately 1.8Km.** As you walk along this former railway line to your left you will see that you are perched high above the former William Hollings textile mills. As you pass the factory and before you reach the bridge you will see that you walking through a cutting. To the right of the cutting there are a number of caves which are now closed off.
- 7.** After 1.8Km the trail comes to an end, first crossing over a stile and leads down through some metal gates to a tarmac road. When you reach the you **turn left to walk down the metallised road.** As you walk down this road you will begin to realise from the metal fencing you are within the Pleasley Vale Estates owned by William Hollings & Sons, who as mentioned above, founder the mills. You pass on your right an old ruined building immediately after that you will see a small wall on your right bordering a big field. This is the former site of the Pleasley Vale Cricket Club, where Joe Mason played his cricket for many years and was a wonderful place to play cricket. This also used to be the site of the Viyella Mills Social Club which was very popular in the 70s and 80s. Before you reach some fantastic stone cottages the road splits, **take the left hand fork** heading to the left of these marvellous cottages. **Continue along this metallised road** (a No-Through Road). Just after you pass Hilltop Cottage on your right the road swings 90° left and starts to descend. **Pass through the metal gate and continue downhill towards the cottages.** On reaching these **turn 90° right** to pass with the cottages to your left (Old Post Office). The road crosses over the river Meden and soon reaches a junction to the left of which is the war memorial for the mill workers. At this junction **turn left to walk along the metallised road.** The road soon swings right and you are now confronted with the beginning of the Former W.M. Hollins Mills (or Viyella in my day). **Pass through the barrier by the right and turn left into.....**

CHECKPOINT 3