

En Route.

W.H. Hollins Mills. You only have to look at Pleasley Vale's striking stone mills to see this is a site with history. In the 17th century it was home to a water-powered forge, before it was bought in 1784 by five men, including Henry Hollins, to transform into cotton spinning mills.

Three mills were built between then and 1913. The first, Upper Mill, burnt down on Christmas Day 1840, while in 1844 the same happened at Lower Mill. Both were so critical to the local economy that they were quickly rebuilt, and during World War One were used to make munitions.

The Vale is also home to country houses, churches and Roman villas, in varying states of repair. Nearby Pleasley Colliery was first mined in 1872, with the ground broken by Florence Nightingale, whose family lived on the site.

One of the Vale's most surprising secrets is the haul of fossils found in 1862. It included the bones of wolves, wild horses, reindeer, lynx and even woolly rhinos and revealed a distinctly wild chapter in the area's history.

Route Description.

- 1.** From the checkpoint **return to the road and turn left to start you walk through the mills.** Passing by mill 3 view the display boards giving further information. Beyond Mill 3 you see open water on your leftpower supply of course.... And on your right you pass the Mill managers property now in private hands. Mill 2 is an imposing building of 4 floors with traditional "factory roofing". As you Pass the end of Mill 2 you come across the Mill Catering cafe probably shut on a Saturday followed by Mill 1. The walk through the mills is ½ mile long and ends with the lake beyond Mill 1 on your left. At this point the road rises gently to take you to the barrier straddled either side by cottages (1 used by security).End of Mills!
- 2.** **Pass through the barrier** and then the road swings round to the left.At this point **leave the road and continue straight ahead onto a track (Archaeological Way)** and you will notice this is the entrance to a fabrication plant. Once beyond the end of the buildings **pass through the metal gate.** To the left of this gate you can see a sign for the Archaeological way. **Continue along the track which swings slightly left and begins to rise.** To you right is Pleasley Park Wood and you are walking on a wide track. After 200 metres the wooded area on you left ends and you have open fields (very horsey!). After 600 metres you meet a gate. **Pass through and onto the mettallised surface.** This rises up to meet the road. This is punctuated by Bus Stops! (23a to Langwith).
- 3.** **Cross straight over the road onto the track opposite.** This is Forge Lane and can be muddy and is covered in small stones a bit uncomfortable underfoot. **Walk along this lane for 1.24km** until you eventually meet a junction of bridlepaths and road situated by an electrical sub station. At this point **turn left to walk down the bridlepath (Balkham Lane).**Don't' walk down the road! Sub station still on your left and the lane becomes "hedged" on either side. After 400 metres the path drops down and bends left into some trees. The path undulates along and you soon find you are walking by a stream which you soon cross using stepping stones. This path is now called Water Lane and the stream is on your right.**400 metres on, cross over the stone bridge,** stream back on your left, and **continue along the path.** As you exit the path you meet a large converted barn. Just beyond the first building there is a slightly obscured fingerpost and a stone stile on your right. **Turn right to pass through this stile and walk between the buildings** at the end of which you meet a kissing-gate. **Pass through this and into the fields and continue straight ahead.** At the top of this field is a metal kissing-gate. **Go through onto the road and turn right** (beware traffic).Walk for 15 metres before **crossing over to follow the fingerpost leading onto the path "under the electric pylon".**

4. Go through the kissing-gate and follow the track, hedgerow either side, heading for the woodland you can see in the distance. 70 metres on and at the path “junction” **take the left path heading “straight ahead”** towards the left hand edge of the wood. After 390 metres you reach the wood. **Continue ahead on the path/track with the wood on your immediate right.** 150 metres on you reach a field edge joining from the left and 50 metres beyond this you see fingerpost and, on your right, a track leading into the wood (obvious track). This is Roseland Wood. **Turn right to walk along this track.** After 300 metres the track takes a positive left turn as indicated by a finger marker post. **Follow this wide track** which begins by heading downhill and after a further 600 metres you come to a “clearing” bordered by wired fencing either side. **Cross over this (100 metres) and at the entrance to the wood opposite (Langwith Wood) turn 90° right to keep the wood on your immediate left,** open land protected by the wire fence on your right. After 600 metres the wood on the left comes to an abrupt end and the lane bears slightly right and 130 metres on you meet a triangle junction of tracks/path. **Turn left to follow the WIDE track** which appears to be heading to a large wind turbine. This track is bordered, in the main, by hedgerow either side. It is not the easiest of surface to walk on as there are several ruts along the way. After 850 metres you reach the road. **Pass through the metal gate and cross the road**

CAN BE A VERY BUSY ROAD – CROSS WITH EXTREME CAUTION – LIMITED VISIBILITY ###.

5. **Once over the road turn left to walk along the pavement.** You will pass to your right, Shirebrook Academy/Stubbins Wood School. After 500metres you reach the far end of the school (and fence!). You meet a footpath sing. **Here, turn right to walk along the path fence on you immediate right.** At the far end of the path **pass through the squeeze stile into a “car park.** This is.....

CHECKPOINT 4