

Louise Smalley Challenge Walk 2022

Official Route Description

Heritage Route - 40.8 miles

- 1 – Whitwell - Heath - 11.9 miles
 - 2 – Heath - Teversal - 6.2 miles
 - 3 – Teversal - Pleasley Vale Mills - 5.9 miles
 - 4 – Pleasley Vale Mills - Shirebrook Pear Tree - 5.3 miles
 - 5 – Shirebrook Pear Tree - Cuckney - 4.8 miles
 - 6 – Cuckney - Holbeck - 2.5 miles
 - 7 – Holbeck - Whitwell – THE END - 3.7 miles
-

If you find yourself in bother and need assistance

USE ONE OF THE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

To Speak to Liz Hatton

But...**ONLY IN SERIOUS EMERGENCY**

07729 658 412 (Liz Hatton)

07732 296 997 (Royal Oak, Whitwell)

Your Responsibilities.

Remember, The Louise Smalley walk is undertaken on a voluntary basis and, as such, the committee cannot and does not accept any responsibility for any loss, damage or injury suffered by any participant or their belongings. Every participant must take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of themselves and their belongings.

Each participant is instructed to carry with them, at all times, a sufficient supply of water, a whistle and a set of walk directions.

You are strongly advised to inform a relative or friend of the activity you are undertaking and make them familiar with the route you are walking. Route description is available from the website.

Getting yourself home from a) The Royal Oak or b) if you retire early, from where you retire.

Your safety and the safety of those around you. Therefore we instruct you **NOT** to leave a struggling walker **between** checkpoints. Help them to a checkpoint where they may wish to retire or wait for slower walkers.

Consider other walkers in your party. For example: if you are truly struggling to keep up then “let them go” at the next checkpoint and wait for a slower group behind. Don’t hold them back. **It is just as hard to walk too slowly as too quick.**

You must respond to any emergency calls during the walk. The calls may be coming from a fellow LSW walker so if you hear the following you must help out:

1. EMERGENCY CALL – 6 SHORT BLASTS OF A WHISTLE AT 1 MINUTE INTERVALS
2. RESPONSE – 3 LONG BLASTS AT 1 MINUTE INTERVAL.

What If I Need To Retire Early From The Walk?

Remember, it is **YOUR** responsibility to get yourself home.

In the event of retiring from the walk early (hopefully at a checkpoint) there are a number of options open to you.

- 1) Ring a relative or friend to come & pick you up. Ask them to come as soon as possible. **Please remember to inform support crew** that you have a lift and are departing. **This is the LSWs preferred option.**
- 2) Wait for the support team to complete its duties, and then travel back with the support teams. The support team **CANNOT AND WILL NOT** leave until it has accounted for all walkers and has given information to the team at the next checkpoint. **YOU WILL HAVE TO BE PATIENT.**
- 3) Forget retiring.....put the boots back on.....go for it.....what’s a bit of pain after you’ve got so far?

If you are between checkpoints and can go no further, then these are the procedures that you must follow:

- Get as near as you can to a road where you can be spotted more easily.
- Telephone the **EMERGENCY NUMBER** on the front of your route description.
- Tell Control what section of walk you are currently on (eg: route 1-----route 4)
- Describe, to the best of your ability, your current surroundings (are there any distinguishing features nearby like a bus stop - road signs – building – etc. etc.). This is to aid the search team which will come to pick you up.
- Stay where you are – **DO NOT CHANGE POSITIONS.**

- If you have downloaded “**What 3 Words**” app to your mobile device please utilise this to help pinpoint your position. This is a tool used by the LSW Support crews in the case of walkers becoming disorientated/lost/in need of retire.

YOU MUST SURRENDER YOUR BADGE (THE ONE WITH YOUR WALKER NUMBER ON) TO THE REGISTRAR AT THE CONTROL CENTRE.

Procedures On Arriving At The Checkpoint.

- 1.** Before you do anything else **YOU MUST REPORT TO THE ENTRY REGISTRAR.**

Tell them your number so they can log your arrival time.

- 2.** You can then access your bags if you require them.
- 3.** You are free to help yourselves to any food/drinks etc.
- 4.** When departing, inform the EXIT REGISTRAR so we can log your departure time.

We need you to do these for the following reasons:

SAFETY – ACCOUNTING FOR EACH WALKER

Walk reports you like to see at the “Do”

The Walk

- A)** It is 40.8 miles long – starting and finishing at Whitwell in North East Derbyshire.
- B)** There will be 7 INDIVIDUAL WALKS TO COMPLETE.
- C)** There will be 6 Support checkpoints along the route.
- D)** The walk is to be completed **within 18 hours** of the start time. This may be adjusted at the discretion of the **WALK CONTROLLER ONLY.**
- E)** **Any walker NOT reaching Checkpoint 4 (Shirebrook (29.3 miles) by 7pm may be required to retire from the walk at the discretion of Walk Controller after consultation with the Checkpoint Team Leader and medical practitioner.**

HAVE A REALLY ENJOYABLE WALK

JOE MASON

En Route

A Very Brief Overview Of The LITTLE CASTLE (Bolsover Castle).

The castle was founded in the late 11th century by William Peveril, one of William the Conqueror's knights, but it was neglected from the mid-14th century. Its ruins provided the setting for the Little Castle begun in 1612 by Sir Charles Cavendish as a retreat from his principal seat at Welbeck, a few miles away. The design of the Little Castle was intended to evoke a Norman great tower, which it clearly resembles viewed from a distance, rising sheer from the cliff. The interior continues the impression, with massive round Romanesque vaults in the basement and pointed Gothic ones on the entrance floor. The great windows of the upper floors were designed to give panoramic views across the landscape.

Sutton Scarsdale Hall

This dramatic 18th Century hilltop ruin of an imposing baroque mansion still retains remnants of its former rich plaster decoration. It was Nicholas Leke, the 4th Earl of Scarsdale who built the Hall. He wanted a mansion that was grander than Hardwick, more ornate and more splendid than Chatsworth, decorated with Italian stucco-work to rival the richest European palace. As proof of his achievement, Nicholas died bankrupt in 1736. The Hall passed from hand to hand, and was finally bought by Richard Arkwright, the 'Father of the Factory System' who owned mills in nearby Cromford. His descendent John, sold the building to an asset stripper in 1919 who stripped the Hall of everything that could be torn from it, up to and including the lead from the roof. Three interior rooms are now on display in the Museum of Art in Philadelphia, and one wood panelled room was used as a set for 'Kitty' in 1934

Route Description.

- (1) From the car park of the Royal Oak public house, **turn right** to walk up the road. After about 70m, at the road junction **turn left** to walk along Hillside. This rises slightly and then falls steeply. At the bottom of the hill, as the road does a 90° right turn, **you turn 90° left**. Walking firstly along the path with a wooden fence on your left and then open fields. After the third field you **turn right and immediately left** to continue on, following the line of the power cables as your guide, hedgerow on your right, open fields to your left.
- (2) This lane rises gently until you reach a metal gate beyond which is a road. **At the road turn left to walk downhill**. After approx. 450metres, you reach a point along the road where a wood starts on the right. At this point you will see a kissing gate on your right; here **turn right to pass through the kissing gate** as indicated by the gold arrow to walk up the field with a hedgerow on your left, open field on your right. At the top of the field you meet a couple of gates. Look slightly to your left and you will see a stile in the corner. You have also reached the top of the wood on your left. **Cross over the stile and turn 45° left to cross the field**, passing to the left of the pylon. Once across the field, you will meet a stone stile in the wall, **cross over on to a lane**. **Turn left and after 25m turn 90° right to walk along a track** which commences with a wall to your right, open fields to your left. After reaching the second field divide, you will see a post to your right. This instructs you to **turn 45° left**, as instructed by the gold, black and yellow arrows, to walk across the field along a well defined path which runs to the right of a pylon. At the far end of the field you will **cross over a stone stile** and once over you meet a main road – the A616. **At this point cross over the road**.

- (3) On reaching the pavement on the other side, **turn right**, heading to the village of Clowne. Once past the entrance to the village of Clowne, you will reach a crossroad. Here turn left on to Hollin Hill Road. After about 750metres, you will reach Church Lane on your right. Immediately after Church Lane, you will see an electricity sub-station across the road to your left. **Take the lane to the right hand side of it** which is bordered by hedgerow all along it. After about 775 metres, there is a junction of paths but **keep going straight ahead**, bending slightly left. After another 60 metres there is a lane joining the path from the left. **Keep going straight ahead on the main path**, slightly uphill. After a further 1Km you will reach a junction; here **turn right** along the obvious lane. After about 225 metres there are buildings on either side. This is the area of the old Morefruita Fruit Farms. The lane leads down to meet the Clowne to Scarcliffe road.
- (4) At the road, **cross straight over to the single track road opposite**. At the start of this lane, if you look to the right there is a sign that says Oxcroft Estate, Nos. 23-26 with an arrow. **Walk along this lane for approx. 750 metres** until you reach a sharp left turn in the road. On reaching Limestone Farm, stay with the road which swings to the left. After a short while, the road again bends slightly right then round to the left again and you reach Oxcroft Farm. Just after Oxcroft Farm you will see a triangular piece of grass punctuated by a red post box.
- (5) **Here turn right to walk across the road** and you will see in front of you a public footpath finger post. At this, **cross over the stile and head across the field** towards the trees opposite. Here you have the first of the fantastic views you will get for the next 2-3 miles. Once across the field, you will see a stile hidden amongst the hedgerow/trees. **Cross over and continue straight ahead**, heading to the right of a white building. Once across the field you meet a gate to the right of which is a wooden stile. **Cross over the stile and continue down this lane to the next gate. Go through the gate, on to the road. Turn left.** This road is metallised at first and then becomes basic country lane. At the end of the lane there is a metal gate on the left.
- (6) To the left of the gate there is a footpath sign which may be quite hidden by foliage. **Cross over the stile and walk across the field, turning 45° right**, heading downhill towards some trees. On reaching the trees, **work your way down to the lowest hollow** and then cross a small stream. At the entrance to the wood is a small post. **Go into the woods soon after you cross a bridge over the stream.** After a few more paces **pass through a hedgerow then turn 45° left across the field** towards the left hand side of some farm buildings. You will have a wired electric fence on your immediate left. Where a similar fence joins on the right, **continue straight ahead. Pass through the gap, turn right to join a wide lane. Walk up the lane.** You now have farm buildings on your right, and after a few paces you meet a gate to the right of which there is a gap. **Pass through the gap and continue along this lane** which begins to rise to meet a road. On reaching the road **turn left along the road.** You will be walking along this road for some distance. All along you will have wonderful views, including the Peak District, to your right hand side.
- (7) When you reach the Bolsover Methodist Church, as you get near the town, straight opposite there is a gap in the wall in which there are some steps. **Cross over the road and go down the steps and follow the little jetty round to the left**, heading downhill round to the left. This gennel leads down to a pelican crossing. **Cross straight over then bear left and immediate right and then after a few paces bear left again. Follow the path uphill.** There is a wall on the right and to the left a building which is now The Pillar Of Rock public house. The path emerges on to a road to side of the Bolsover Adult Education Centre. **Continue straight ahead** passing the Centre on your right. Where this road swings round to the left, you **continue straight on onto Castle Lane**, walking along the footpath on the right of the road. You start to descend steeply.
- (8) The road, first, bends round to the right and at the point where it starts to swing round to the left you will see a public footpath sign on your right. **Take this path which will mean that you will be continuing in a straight line.** This path has a fence on the left and hedgerow on the right, protecting a steep bank. You are now walking below Bolsover Castle. After a very short while, the path swings round to the left and then emerges at an open field. At this point **take the path to the right, turning 45° right**, to cross (diagonally) what was known as Castle Park. This path that is crossing Castle Park is heading downhill all the time and it is leading you to the extreme

right corner of the field. You need to be looking to your left for a post. Do not be tempted to follow the obvious path that disappears into the bushes but **turn slightly to the left to meet the post**. Here, on the right, you will see a path that leads through the hedges into an open field. **Go through this and continue on the path**, crossing the open field which is continuing to head downhill. Once across the field, you will meet the end of a hedgerow. **Continue straight ahead** with the hedgerow on your left. The path goes slightly diagonally across the next section to meet a fingerpost by a road. **Head for this fingerpost**.

- (9) On reaching the fingerpost, by the road, **cross straight over to pass through the metal kissing gate into the next field**. Cross the field, heading diagonally right. This is a tarmac path. Once across the field **pass through the metal kissing gate**. At this point you are going to walk along the side of the main road for a short while, heading for the roundabout ahead of you. Walk along the footpath on the left of the main road (A632). On reaching the roundabout **cross straight over** heading for the Stockley Trail sign. Having crossed the road you will see on your left a wide lane. **Turn left to walk along this lane**. The obvious path which has a fence on the left and bushes on your right, winds to the right of the Auto-Supplies building and then bends left to the rear of the building and soon joins a very wide track. **Join the track** and after a few metres you will see the car park on your left then the track bends to the right and joins a more substantial track with a metal fence to your left and bushes to your right.
- (10) After approximately 225 metres you come to fork in the paths. **Take the right fork** which starts to climb uphill. After approximately 150m you will reach a viewpoint, giving you great views over Carr Vale Nature Reserve which you are heading for. Here the path bears 90° right. **Follow this path**, which at this point is bordered by hedgerow, which recedes after a short while. The track winds its way steadily downhill until you meet a path junction. **At this point turn left**, continuing along a very similar track. After a few metres, you will meet a gate and a Carr Vale Nature Reserve sign. Do not go through the gate but **follow the path 90° left along the obvious path**. After a few metres you pass a viewpoint and a hide. **Continue down to a squeezer stile** which you go through and you will have the first of the ponds on your right hand side. After a further 120m, you will see a path going up to your left. Ignore this and **keep to the lower path on the right**. Walk to the right of the barrier. After a further 30m or so the path will turn off to the right. Basically you will be walking clockwise around the pond, keeping the pond on your immediate right.
- (11) After walking along the path for about 500 metres you will **cross a bridge over a dyke** and immediately after that you will pass through a squeezer stile. **Continue straight ahead**. You are now on open grassland. On your right you will see a pond and your left you will see a river. After 130metres you will see a squeezer stile on your left leading on to a bridge over the river, **AT THIS POINT TURN 90° RIGHT** to walk along a path which leads down towards a pond. It is not an obvious path. This path then goes clockwise around the edge of the pond. **Follow this path around the pond** for approximately 200m. Hugging close to the edge of the pond on the right you will notice another pond to the left, ignore this continue to wander round the pond. Beyond the edge of the pond you will see a path leading up to a fingerpost.
- (12) On the fingerpost you will see a yellow arrow with Sutton Scarsdale written on it. **Cross over stile and, as indicated by the yellow arrow, cross the field bearing 45° left** with Sutton Scarsdale ahead of you as your guide. Having crossed the first field going slightly uphill, you emerge at the corner of another field in the top left hand corner. Running across you now are power cables. **You need to continue across the next field, bearing 45° left** to walk with the ruined buildings about 100m on your right. Use the farm building in the distance as your guide across the next field.
- (13) Once across the field, you will meet a track that runs down to the disused buildings on your right. At this point, **turn left to follow the lane**. You now have a wooden fence on your right, open field on your left. After 75m or so the lane meets a metallised road. **Turn right to take the road** that goes over the M1 motorway. A little after the motorway bridge the road bends to the left and starts to climb steadily uphill. At a point where the road levels out slightly, and immediately before some farm buildings, you will see a public footpath on the right and an entrance to a gated track. **Turn right here** and walk up the path with open fields on your right, hedge and fencing on your left. You are now walking on the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Round Walk. This track climbs steadily towards the unmistakable Sutton Scarsdale

Hall. About 100m short of the Hall you will meet a ha-ha and a track running round the building. At this point **turn right to walk anti-clockwise around the Hall**. At the far end of the building, **continue along the obvious track** leading through farm buildings. Having emerged at Rock Lane, **turn left** passing the entrance to Sutton Scarsdale Hall, continuing along the road through the little village of Sutton Cum-Duckmanton.

- (14) Just beyond the bus stop you meet a road junction. The main road bends round to the right. **Follow it round and continue straight ahead**. After a few metres you will see a fingerpost on the left hand side. At this point **turn left to walk along the edge of a field**, with a hedgerow on your left, open field to your right. The path goes slightly downhill heading straight to an electricity pylon until you are right underneath it. **Follow the path which goes to the left of the pylon and enter the scrub**. The path bears right and heads slightly downhill to meet a bridge over a stream. **Cross over the bridge and turn immediately left** to follow the path which meanders through a small copse. After 50m or so the path bears round to the right and meets a stile with a yellow arrow on a green background and the words Heath Village. **Cross the stile and continue straight ahead up the next field**.
- (15) Once at the top of the field, you will see a stile in the hedgerow. **Cross over onto a lane and go straight across to meet a stile in the hedgerow opposite**. **Cross over this stile and bear 45° left across the next field**, heading for a stile in the hedgerow opposite a few metres to the right of a power cable pole. Ahead you can see the church steeple in the village of Heath which you are heading for. On reaching the stile, **cross over and bear 45° left across the next field**, heading for a gated stile in a hedgerow about half way down the field. On reaching the gated stile **pass through onto the lane**. **Turn left** to walk down the lane. Where the lane enters the conservation area **turn right immediately before it** to walk with the hedgerow on your left and open field on your right. The path starts to head downhill. After a short while the field hedgerow bends round to the left. **Stay with this continuing along the path**, heading downhill, hedgerow still on your left and open field on your right. When you reach the bottom of the field you will see a stile. **Cross over the stile**, which brings you down to a little bridge over a stream. **Cross over and go straight ahead** across the next field. Once across the first field, **continue straight ahead across the next**, considerably less wide, field. You will see a yellow arrow on the pylon post. Once across the field you will see a fingerpost. At this point **turn 90° left** to walk up the track, open field on your left, fence on your right, heading uphill. After a short while the path rises to meet a lane. At the lane, **turn right** which takes you onto a bridge which leads over the Heath Bypass (A617). Once over the bridge the track turns 90° right and then after 15m or so, turns 90° left and starts to rise gently to lead you into the village of Heath. A few metres before you reach the end of the lane you will meet a gate. **Go through the gate and follow the lane up to the road**. At the junction with the road **turn right towards the Elm Tree Inn**.

CHECKPOINT 1.

En-route

Astwith is a village in Derbyshire, England. Astwith is in the parish of Ault Hucknall. For many decades it was a part of the manor of Stainsby, which was known as Steinesbei in the Domesday survey (1087). Apparently there is no mention of Astwith, otherwise spelt Estewayt, Est(th)wayt, Estweit and Eswheytt, by name until the 13th century.

The Savage family are believed to have held Astwith among other local lands until 1593, when Bess of Hardwick purchased them from the Lord Chancellor and Auditor for the sum of £9,500. The village remained in the ownership of the Dukes of Devonshire until 1959, when it was passed the National Trust as part of the death duty settlement of the 10th Duke. Most properties are now privately owned.

Hardwick Hall. It was the formidable 'Bess of Hardwick' who first built the house and developed the surrounding estate in the late 1500s. Her descendants, the Dukes of Devonshire, treasured Hardwick, while lavishing much of their attention and money on nearby Chatsworth. Their success – intimately associated with empire over 400 years and across the globe – preserved Hardwick, and their interests elsewhere saved it from significant alternation.

Hardwick is also home to one of the finest collections of Elizabethan tapestries and embroideries in Europe including the Gideon tapestries and Noble Women embroidered wall hangings. Almost every room in the Hall proudly displays tapestry and embroidery work on the walls.

Visit - hardwickhall@nationaltrust.org.uk – for further information.

Route Description

- (1) From the Checkpoint **retrace your steps back to the lane then follow the road which bends to the right**. You are walking along the main road through the village. Heath is a particularly beautiful little village above the motorway, decidedly peaceful despite the fact that two main roads run very close to the village. There are a number of different types of properties in this village; including one pair of cottages with the steepest roofs we have ever seen anywhere! See if you can spot the Punch and Judy connection opposite Wayside Cottage! Where the road takes a sharp right turn, **you continue straight ahead** along the little lane, heading for a public footpath fingerpost ahead of you in front of a stone cottage. **Continue straight ahead as if you are walking down the driveway of the cottage**, heading for the gate at the end. Go past the gate down the concrete path leading to the road.
- (2) At the road, **cross straight over** to the footpath sign opposite and then **continue straight ahead down the embankment** leading to a stile in the hedgerow. Cross over the stile and **continue straight ahead** heading for the lane to the left of the farm buildings. The lane you are walking down is a typical country tractor lane, bordered to the left by a wire fence and to the right by a hedgerow. After about 260 metres the fence on the left comes to an end at a point where you will see a metal gate on your right. **Continue straight ahead along the farm track**. You now have open field to your left. At a point where the track appears to come to an end and there is a metal gate, **continue straight ahead as if still on the track**, keeping the hedgerow to your immediate right, walking along the edge of the field.

- (3) After a further 250 metres you will see a wooden post on your right with yellow arrow marker on it, here **turn 45° left to walk across the field**. Once across the field you will meet a ditch populated by trees and you will meet a wooden bridge crossing this ditch. **Cross the bridge and take the little path up to meet the fingerpost** at the beginning of the next field. At the fingerpost **take a 45° turn to the right** to cross the field. Once across the field, **(about halfway up the field)** you will see on your right a wooden stile with a yellow arrow on a green background on it among the bushes/trees. **Cross the stile and then turn left** as indicated by the arrow. You emerge from the trees to a field which you start to cross **heading slightly right and gently uphill** to meet a hedge at the top of the field at a point where several paths meet. **You are at the “end point” of the hedge. Continue straight ahead** with the hedgerow on your immediate left. As you go the path soon starts to “stray” from the hedge slightly directing you to a stile in the hedgerow in front of you. Cross this stile and **continue ahead bearing slightly right** heading for a stile in the middle section of hedgerow ahead of you. The wood/wire fence on your right will guide you to this. In this hedgerow there is a gate with a yellow arrow on it directing you across the next field, **follow this again bearing slightly right** and now directed to the right of a very large tree. Once across this field you will meet a stile to the side of the tree with a yellow and black arrow on it. **Cross the stile to drop down to the metallised lane. Cross straight over to the stile opposite and continue straight ahead** across the field as indicated by the yellow arrow and the metal public footpath fingerpost. As you cross this field you can see, ahead of you, the small hamlet of Astwith which you are heading for. Once across the field you will meet a stile in the corner. There are the yellow and black arrows guiding you **straight on**. You now start walking downhill, hedgerow on your right, and open field on your left. As you reach the bottom of the hill at the bottom of the field, you bend round to your left for approximately 10m to meet a gate. As indicated by the yellow arrow, **pass through this gate, crossing over the stream and then continue onwards up the field** immediately in front of you. I would advise hugging to the right hand side of the field, using the hedgerow as your guide. You are going to walk the whole length of this field uphill to the top right hand corner. **Cross over the stile in the corner and continue straight ahead** as indicated by the faded yellow arrow. Cross the middle of the field which will probably be bordered by electric fencing keeping the horses away from the path. Once across the field you will see a wooden stile just to the right of the large tree. **Cross over the stile and continue straight on** a few paces up to the lane. Here **turn 90° left to walk down the lane leading into the Hamlet of Astwith**. The lane is bordered either side by hedgerow.
- (4) We are now entering the hamlet of Astwith –The lane starts to go downhill as you pass Manor Farm on your left and then you meet a metallised road. **Continue straight ahead**. Where the road bends round to the right immediately before a dilapidated farm building, **turn 90° left** as indicated by the wooden fingerpost to pass down to a gate. **Pass through the gate (entrance to Yew Tree Farm) and continue down to the gate to the left of the farm buildings. Pass through the second gate and continue straight ahead**, heading downhill to meet a wooden gate. **Pass through the wooden gate and continue straight heading downhill** towards what appear to be a gap in the hedgerow. This “gap” in the hedgerow is, in fact, a small bridge over a stream. **Cross over this bridge and turn left** to walk up the trackway. You have hedgerow on you left and open fields “rising” on your right. After 100m you will see a fingerpost sporting a yellow arrow directing you to go **45° right** following the contours of the hill and leading you to a metal gate in the fence to the left of which is a wooden gate. The actual path goes **straight ahead across the field as directed by the arrow** heading to the right of a “lone tree” heading to the top right hand corner of the field where you meet a small copse. At the copse you will see a wide gap leading into another field. **Turn right, passing through the gap, to walk down the field**, copse on your left, open fields to you right. Ahead you have a splendid view of Hardwick Hall. After 200m the copse on you left comes to an end. **Continue walking straight downhill** to the bottom left hand corner of the field. On meeting the stile, on board which is a yellow arrow, **cross over and continue ahead** slightly left heading steeply downhill through bushes to meet a road.

- (5) **Cross over the road and turn right.** Soon the road passes under the M1 motorway via a tunnel. Just beyond this you will see the entrance to Hardwick Park. **Turn left to enter the park.** You are now entering the car park of this facility. When you reach the first parking meter on your right, **turn 45° right** to follow the path leading to the lake. Please note the sign saying “Sculpture Walk”.

There are some toilets nearby. Ignore the right turn above and walk into main car park and you will see a “Visitor Centre building where there are some toilets.

Remember to return to the route as described above to continue on the walk by taking this right turn!

- (6) The path crosses with the lake on you right and just beyond the sluice gate you will meet a junction of paths. **Take the path to the right leading to a gate. Pass through and continue straight ahead.** Please note you are currently on “the Sculpture/Millers walk”. At the path junction **take the left fork still following the “Sculpture/Millers walk”.** On reaching the pond **bear right** keeping the “main pond” on you left. These are called the 5 row ponds.
- (7) On reaching the kissing gate immediately after the pond **turn 90° left to walk with the pond on your left,** wooden fence on you right. After 50 metres to reach a “second” of the ponds. **Keep this on your left continuing with fence on your right.** 80 metres further on “pond 2” ends and just before the start of “pond 3” (Alan Blacks Corner) **turn right to walk through the kissing gate then at the path junction take the left hand fork and walk up the “obvious” path.** You are NO LONGER on the Sculpture/Millers walk. FYI – Look left and you can see the entrance to the “Ice House”. After 70 metres you pass a standing stone and the path starts to rise. After 250 metres you meet a “crossroad” of paths. **Continue straight on and upwards** (a little more steeper than before). Almost at the top of the climb you pass a bench and a few metres on you reach the top of the hill by the side of an information board. **Here, turn LEFT to pass through the gate and follow the path uphill** with the buttresses on your right. At the top of this short hill you meet open ground, **turn right here** (the magnificent Hardwick Hall “smacks you in the face”) **and walk towards the Hall** and on reaching the road **turn right to walk along the road.** You walk “between the Hall (National Trust) and the “OLD HALL” (English Heritage – and where Elizabeth 1 once stayed) continuing along the road.

##BEWARE – THIS IS THE ROAD USED FOR VISITORS TO EXIT THE HALL.##

- (8) Soon the road bears slightly right then left and starts to descend. **Cross over the cattle grid. Continue down past the “Stone Centre”** and, where the road swings sharply right, **come off the road walking straight ahead to meet a gate on you left. Turn 90° left to pass through this gate** (you are now joining “The Oak Walk”) and **follow the well walked path across the field.** Once across the field you meet a gate. **Pass through and bear right to walk up the path** which has a “wired” fence to the right. The very end of this path swing left and climbs to meet the main path from the Hall gardens (Note the HH car Park opposite. **Here, turn right onto the main path.**
- (9) You are walking through Lady Spencer Wood and are still on The Oak Walk. After 525 metres you meet some steps. **Go down these** and halfway down The Oak Walk turns Left. You leave this and **continue straight on** at this point descending more steps to cross a wooden bridge over a stream after which you start to climb up again via some more steps. After 100 metres you reach the top and a few metres more you reach a wooden gate. **Pass through and turn LEFT.**

- (10) You are now on a lane which widens soon after. **Continue along this lane** and after 330 metres you reach the start of the Hamlet of Norwood. **Walk through this to the far end** where you come across what appears to be some "50s Suburbia semis", one being called "Stanton House". At this point **turn right to pass through the metal kissing gate onto the public footpath** crossing the open field. Once across you meet the hedgerow, **turn left** to walk with this on your right, open field to your left. After 130 metres and just after the hedgerow starts on the left **turn 90° right to walk down a bridle path** which starts off narrow and widens and twists slightly further on. After 350 metres you pass a farm on your left followed by 4 "contemporary" properties then a metal storage building. At this point the track widens to become a rough road. 160 metres beyond the storage building the track swings left and rises to cross over the Teversal trail (former rail line). 20 metres on you see a metal fingerpost on your right. **Turn right here through the wooden posts and follow the path downhill** "back on yourself!" until you reach the bridge. Here **swing round almost 180° left to join the trail heading south!**
- (11) 380 metres on you reach a metal bridge over a road. **Continue straight on** for a further 230 metres until you reach a "major trail junction". Here **turn left following sign for Teversal Visitor centre**, and, after a further 20 metres **turn right to cross the small bridge and follow path beyond** which leads into the visitor centre car park.

THIS IS CHECKPOINT 2

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 metalised 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 metalised road**. You are now leaving the village of Teversal. After 200 metres the road starts to descend and 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 topped 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 topped 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 topped post and continue straight ahead across field. Once across field 2 pass through the hedge punctuated by a yellow topped post and continue straight ahead across field. Once across field 3 pass through the hedge punctuated by a yellow topped 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 then 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 topped post and continue straight ahead. You have open field on your left and wooden/wire fencing on your 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’s 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 your 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 bends right and leads you down to Meden Square.
- (5) Keep to the left of the square. On your 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, founded 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

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 your 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 your right is Pleasley Park Wood and you are walking on a wide track. After 200 metres the wooded area on your left ends and you have open fields (very horsey!). After 600 metres you meet a gate. **Pass through and onto the mettalised 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 a 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 sign. **Here, turn right to walk along the path fence on your immediate right.** At the far end of the path **pass through the squeeze stile into a “car park.**

CHECKPOINT 4

En Route.

Cuckney Castle was in the village of Cuckney, Nottinghamshire between Worksop and Market Warsop. It was a motte and bailey fortress founded by Thomas de Cuckney. It was razed after The Anarchy in the reign of King Stephen. There are now the low remains of a motte, partly enclosed by a wide ditch and to the west the faint remnants of a bailey. These remains can be found at the edge of the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Norton Cuckney.

Cuckney motte and bailey castle is listed as a Scheduled Monument by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. In the 1950s, a mass grave of approximately 200 human remains was found in a trench near the churchyard, leading to speculation regarding a battle near the site.

Route Description

- (1) From the checkpoint **walk up to the road and turn left**. This is Pear Tree Drive. After 60 metres you meet a junction. **Turn 90° right onto Albine Road**. After 170 metres **turn left to cross the road onto "The Bassett"**. **Go straight across the circular "green" heading slightly left to meet a jitty/path between house No: 15 & 17 leading out of the estate**. After 40 metres this turns into a path bearing right and passing through a small wooded area then out onto open fields. **You traverse these fields heading toward some buildings** which are school buildings (Langwith Bassett Junior Academy). Once across the field you meet a metal gate. **Pass through and cross the road (PLEASE TAKE CARE) then turn left to walk downhill along the pavement**
- (2) At the "corner of the school" you meet a Public Bridleway" sign. **Turn right here**. You are walking "behind" the school. After 150 metres you **cross over a bridge** and you meet the Archaeological Way sign to your left. **However, IGNORE THIS and continue STRAIGHT AHEAD across the fields along the wide track**. Open fields to your right and left. 340 metres on you cross a 2nd bridge (this one over the "Robin Hood" rail lines and protected by metal railings). Once over **continue straight ahead** open fields either side. Once across the open field you come to a crossroad of paths. Here, **continue STRAIGHT AHEAD along the narrow public footpath** (not bridleway) which is bordered either side by hedgerow. The hedge on the right soon turns into a wall. After 150 metres you meet a "yellow topped" **post here bear slightly left and the path turns into a wide track** still with bushes left, wall right! This lane does, on occasion, rise and fall and winds left and right. After 200 metres you meet "Top Farm" on your right. 60 metres beyond the farm the wide track swings round to your left. This is the farm access lane. **Cross over the track to the kissing gate by the "yellow topped post" straight ahead. Pass through and continue along the path** which is narrow and has hedgerow either side and meanders along! At an "unofficial" path junction this path swings 90° right and after a few metres 90° left and climbs slightly to meet a stile. **At this stile turn 90° left to walk along a level path bordered on the left by wood/wire fence and hedgerow on you right**. Please note the Quarry warning signs either side. Beyond the fence left are the original Quarry "bunds". The path ends at a point where you meet metal gates either side. At this point **continue straight ahead along the obvious wide track** entering a woodland.

- (3) The clearance area soon becomes obvious....**stick to the track**. After 200 metres the woodland “opens up” on your left. This track swings 90° right and starts to rise. **Follow this and at the top of the mound the track swings round to the left and continues across a cultivated area**. New planted trees on your right. Once across this area the path meanders slightly to **meet a road** just before which is new wooden fencing barriers. **Cross over the road** heading slightly left to more wooden barriers which you pass through to continue along the track. Still walking through managed woodland you meet another path crossing marked by a post, **continue straight ahead**. When you meet a small clearing on your right (log store!) **bear left to meet the road by passing between 2 boulders**.
- (4) **Cross straight across the road onto the open land opposite and follow the public footpath by passing between the two logs**. This “obvious track starts by rising gently. You are now walking along the right hand edge of the woodland. This is a very sandy track and you may notice lots of “offshoots” right and left. **Remain on the wide obvious track for a further 450 metres**. When you meet a “junction” of paths where extensive woodland joins on the right, **continue STRAIGHT AHEAD” up the sandy track** which starts to climb almost immediately. This is an easy to follow managed “permissive footpath”. You will notice a number of posts all of which carry “blue directional” arrows. **Keep following these posts and at the fourth post don’t be tempted by the obvious lane but continue straight ahead as directed by the blue arrows**. This lane starts to climb steeply. Halfway up you pass post 5 and at the top post 6 where the path levels off. This now leads to a kissing gate by the main road just beyond post 7.

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

- (5) **Pass through the kissing gate and cross the road TAKING EXTREME CARE. Once across turn left TO WALK “TOWARDS ONCOMING TRAFFIC** and just past the far side of a lay by, you will see a wooden fingerpost. **Turn right to walk down this path** as indicated by the fingerpost and yellow arrow on the fence. This path winds downhill through a narrow strip of woodland with large fields either side. After 1Km the lane comes to an end at the side of a rather nice house (Fourways) where it meets the A616. Here **cross over the road and turn left to walk on the pavement on the opposite side. Follow the road** where it takes a sharp right and then round to the left to the Greendale Oak Public House. **Turn right down Norton Lane** to have the pub on your left and walk a few metres to the Pinfold and.....

CHECKPOINT 5

En Route.

Welbeck Estate is one of the great traditional landed estates, nestled within Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire. It is home to the School of Artisan Food.

The School of Artisan Food is dedicated to preserving, sharing and developing artisan food production skills.

Courses in all aspects of artisan food production range from half day taster sessions to a six month diploma in artisan baking. Staffed and run by experts whose skills are only matched by their passion, its students enjoy an unrivalled learning experience.

The school is housed in Welbeck's former fire stables, dating back to 1870. Training rooms are specially equipped for the teaching of breadmaking, cheesemaking, brewing, butchery, charcuterie and preserving. The environment is serene and inspiring, and thoroughly welcoming.

The School of Artisan Food has earned an international reputation for its exceptional courses and was awarded Best British Cookery School of the Year 2020 at the National Food and Drink Awards.

Route Description

- (1) *From the Pinfold **turn left to walk down the road**. Walking down this road you will have the St. Mary's Church on your left. **Carry on walking down the road**. The road goes downhill slightly and at a point where it bends round to the right you will pass over a stone bridge over a small river, and 10m beyond you will see a footpath fingerpost on your left. **Turn left to pass through the kissing gate and follow the path** which goes uphill towards some trees and along a ridge. About 70m and just after a bench look to the right and you will see some steps. **Climb up the steps to pass through a kissing gate and carry on uphill**, bearing left slightly and then you emerge into a field. **Continue straight ahead with fence on your right**, open fields on your left. You are walking along an obvious track with views on your right towards the village of Norton, beyond which you can see the woodland belonging to Welbeck Estate. As you rise to the peak of a gentle hill, to your left you can now see Steetley Chimney in Whitwell. The path now heads downhill to meet a road.*
- (2) ***Pass through a gap in the hedge and cross straight over to a fingerpost opposite to continue across the next field**. You have open field on your right and hedgerow on your left. After walking down this field for a short while you will come to a tree. Do not be tempted to pass through the gap on your left but **go around the tree, with the tree on your left, to continue along the edge of the original field**. You still have hedgerow on your left and open field on your right. The track then bends round to the right to lead down to a metal kissing gate.*

- (3) **Pass through the kissing gate to meet a tarmac road in front of a rather splendid lodge and turn left.** Do not pass through the ornamental gates to walk along the track beyond as you will be shot! **Pass through the wooden gates to walk along the tarmac road.** You can walk along the grass verges if you prefer. After walking along this lane for about 1.2Km you enter Tile Kiln Wood where the lane swings round to the left and shortly after starts to bend back round to the right. At the point where there is a triangular junction of lanes **follow it round to the right** as indicated by the yellow arrow on the fingerpost on your right.
- (4) After a further 475m you come to a junction of lanes. Where you see a big sign for the School of Artisan Food and straight ahead of you will see a redbrick house. **Here turn left.** You will see on the fence on your left a directional arrow and after that you will see a Robin Hood Way (bow and arrow) marker. You will have on your left a copse and wooden fence to your right. This lane will bring you down to meet the main Worksop to Mansfield road, the A60. As you approach the end of this lane, to your right you will see the courts of the Welbeck Tennis Club. **Cross over the road onto the lane opposite and after a further 70 metres turn right to meet the checkpoint.....**

CHECKPOINT 6

En Route.

Creswell Crags is an enclosed limestone gorge on the border between Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, England, near the villages of Creswell and Whitwell. The cliffs in the ravine contain several caves that were occupied during the last ice age, between around 43,000 and 10,000 years ago. Its caves contain the northernmost Cave art in Europe. The evidence of occupation found in the rich series of sediments that accumulated over many thousands of years is regarded as internationally unique in demonstrating how prehistoric people managed to live at the extreme northernmost limits of their territory during the Late Pleistocene period. The caves contain occupation layers with evidence of flint tools from the Mousterian, proto-Solutrean, Creswellian and Maglemosian cultures. They were seasonally occupied by nomadic groups of people during the Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods. Evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and post-medieval activity has also been found there. There is evidence of Neanderthal occupation 50,000–60,000 years ago, a brief Gravettian occupation around 32,000 years ago and use of all the main caves during the Magdalenian around 14,000 years ago. The site is open to the public and has a visitor centre with a small museum of objects associated with the caves, including a stuffed cave hyena.

Route Description – Section 7

- (1) *From the checkpoint, return to the lane and **bear right(ish) to continue walking along this lane.** After approximately 120m beyond where the road bends round to the left, you will see a fingerpost with a Robin Hood Way marker on it and a wooden sign for the church. **Turn right here to walk up this lane** which will take you past the nice little church in Holbeck. This very pretty lane is bordered either side with hedgerow and trees. At the far end of the lane you will come to a road junction opposite Hillside Cottage. **At this point turn left to walk up the lane for about 15-20m, and then turn right onto the lane as indicated by the footpath fingerpost.** Don't walk up the driveway but walk up the path to the left of the driveway. You will have fence on your right and wall on your left. The path rises gently to meet a relatively new kissing gate. **Pass through this and continue straight ahead**, open field on your right, fence on your left. At the top of this field you will meet another metal kissing gate, **pass through and continue straight ahead**; again open field on your right and fence and hedgerow on your left. At the far end of this field you pass through a gap in the fence next to a stile to drop down to another field. **Continue straight ahead as if across the middle of this field** Once across the field you will see a stile, **cross over and continue straight ahead** along the obvious track with hedgerow and trees on your right, open fields on your left. After a short while, the track starts to rise gently as you pass through the third field. At the apex of the hill the track levels out and you head towards a wooden fence which crosses the field and you will be accompanied by a wall on your right. At the wooden fence, **pass through as indicated by the Robin Hood Way marker. Continue straight along the less obvious path** and you have in front of you magnificent views across to Creswell and the former Creswell Pit Tip and beyond that towards Whaley Wood. After a short while the path starts to descend and the path turns 90° right, the path descending all the time until you reach a stone stile in a wall. **Cross over and continue down the steps**, the path winding its way through a small thicket to emerge at a junction of very wide paths above a gushing stream. **Here turn left. Walk for a few paces until you meet the main path.** At this point **turn left to walk along the lane (heading away from the Crags).** Pass a metal horse gate and onto a tarmac road with pavement on the left. Pass Crags Cottage and meet the junction with the main road.*

- (2) **Here, cross the road and turn right.** Walk up the grass verge for about 100m. **Turn left into the entrance towards the Coloured Cob Stables.** After about 40m **turn right to walk up the path;** this is “Tommy Moors Lane” The path gently rises. As you reach the top of the hill **turn left and the path almost doubles back for a short distance (25m) then this path turns 90° right.** You will have a wall on your left and fencing on your right. You are now positively on the final stretch of the Heritage route – 40 - mile walk - and you are encircling the quarry bund as you head back to Whitwell. To your left across the fields is the village of Creswell. On reaching a fence **pass through the gap on the right and continue straight ahead,** still with fence on your right and open fields on your left. On meeting a wall, **pass through the narrow gap and continue straight ahead,** still with fence on your right and open fields to your left.
- (3) The path finally reaches its end at a bench and beyond that is the railway line (the Robin Hood Line). **Turn 90° right to walk up the obvious path and up some steps.** Fence on your right and left. Once at the top the path levels out for a while before a short 20m rise at the top of which you will meet a wall and a sign saying Keep Out. **Here you turn 90° left.** This section of the path is crossing over the tunnel which the Robin Hood Line runs through. After approximately 30m **take the path down to the left.** Do not turn right, but **turn left** to go downhill, fence on your right and metal fence/hedgerow on your left. The path descends and bends round to the right. The path meanders slightly uphill and eventually comes to a wall and takes a 90° turn to the right. Still a very wide track, bordered either side by hedgerow. After a further 160m you will see a [wide] left turn.
- (4) **Turn left to walk down this lane** which leads to the road from Boaler’s Corner to Bakestone Moor and to your right is a renovated farmhouse. On reaching a stile, **cross over and continue for a few paces to reach the road. Here turn right to follow the road into the village** of Whitwell. Once in the village and after passing the first few houses (terraced then semi det.) the road bends sharply right. **300m beyond this is the Royal Oak public house....your destination.**

THE END!

Possible consumption of some liquid refreshment.

Well Done and hope you enjoyed the experience.

Joe Mason.