



The Ecclesbourne Way

Duffield to Wirksworth



Updated 07/03/20

Important

This is intended to indicate an outline walking route, but not to be a definitive guide in every detail.

You need to be equipped with appropriate maps, food and drink, and be adequately clothed for walking and varying weather conditions. The route includes crossing busy roads and operational railway track, and walking across fields with livestock. See Ramblers website for guidance: www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/safety.aspx.

Friends of the Ecclesbourne Way, nor Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, nor any other organisation, nor any individual, accept any liability for errors or omissions in this information.

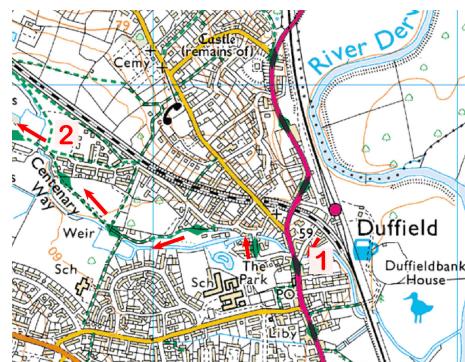
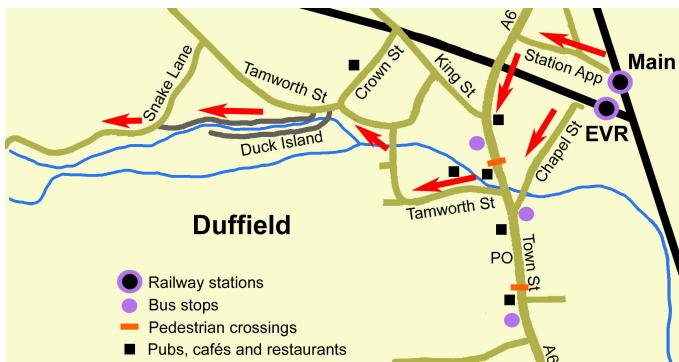
And please note the following points:

- Before setting off, ensure you have worked out travel and how to get home or back to your car after completing the walk.
- The route is not just a flat walk along the river - there are also hills, especially in the last section from Idridgehay to Wirksworth.
- You need to have the ability to follow the route on the map.
- We are describing the paths and countryside as they exist, not constructing it. Paths and stiles etc are maintained by local authorities or land owners, not us. The countryside is constantly changing, so this will never be absolutely up to date.
- From October to April, and possibly other times, you are likely to encounter much mud.
- The route is covered by Ordnance Survey maps: OS 1:25,000 Explorer OL24 and 259, OS 1:50,000 Landranger 119. These descriptions include reproduction of the OS 1:25,000 map; however, it is still recommended that you acquire and take the full maps in case you need to go off route.
- The route is waymarked in both directions, including Alport Height. Look for the discs or stickers with the EW logo at the top of this page. Waymarks can only be placed where there is something suitable to attach them to, and where we have permission from the local authority or landowner, so there are thus a very few locations without waymarks. Also some may disappear in time - posts may collapse, or become overgrown and the disc obliterated. They are there to assist, but do not rely solely on waymarks for finding your way.
- There are pubs at Cowlers Lane / Turnditch, after 5 miles; otherwise there is no catering until you reach the end at Wirksworth.
- Four of the five interpretation panels are on the railway station platforms, so you will need to detour slightly off route if you want to see them.
- We would like to receive any comments, especially suggestions for updates to this information, please email enquiries@ecclesbourneway.org.uk.

www.ecclesbourneway.org.uk



Section 1 Duffield



- 1 From Duffield (EVR) station walk along Chapel Street, towards the village centre

190 yards Cross the A6, Town Street, (using the nearby pedestrian lights), to proceed along Tamworth Street opposite, passing the Weston Centre on the right, and then crossing the river

If you want a drink before setting off ... the Weston Centre is a day centre for elderly people, but open to anyone, serving tea and coffee from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon Mondays to Fridays

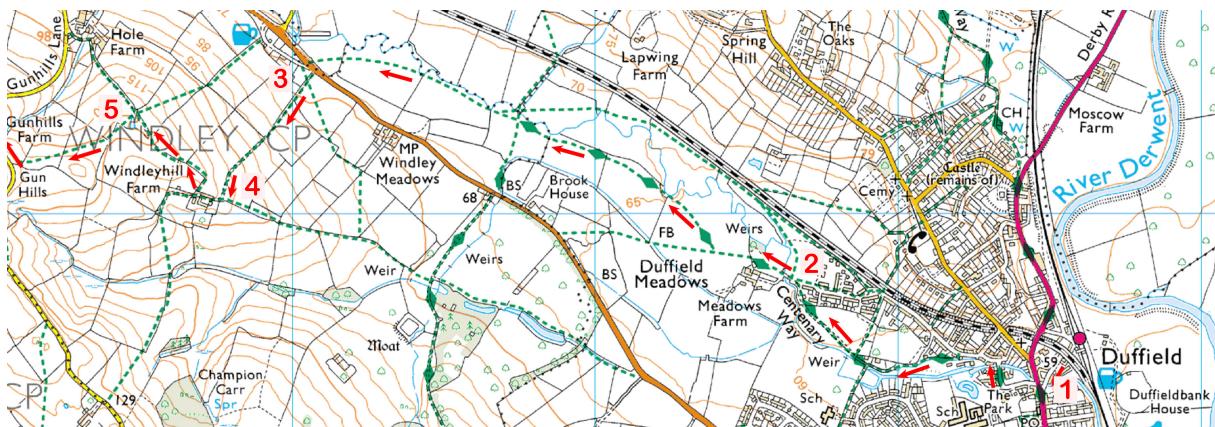
www.westoncentre.org.uk

- 330 yards At Crown Street, turn left, (still Tamworth Street)
- 90 yards Just before Riverside Cottages, turn left through two concrete posts (easily missed) onto a path by the river
Keep close to the river on your left, soon joining a minor road, keep straight on, and passing a playground on your right
- 380 yards Do not cross the bridge; continue ahead, as indicated by public footpath sign, with the river still on your left
- 70 yards Cross an open space, keeping to the left, with a new housing estate on the right
- 390 yards At a fork of paths with a signpost (currently overgrown), bear left onto a road, Ecclesbourne Reach, passing a few new large houses on your right



Section 2

Duffield Meadows to Puss in Boots



2

- 140 yards At the end of this road, go down three steps on the left
- 40 yards Go through a squeeze stile into an open field
- 70 yards Cross a stile
- 90 yards Go through a gate, turn right and head slightly away from the fence across open meadows
- 250 yards Pass through a gate, and bear right, adjacent to the river
- 70 yards Bear left to proceed alongside a fence and a small hedge on your right; (do not take the path into the trees)
- 320 yards Pass through a gate, continue with the fence and small trees on your right, to a stile by the trees ahead
- 230 yards Cross a stile by the river and continue with the river on your right, and (ignoring a gate and a bridge on the right) continue towards a stile slightly to the left ahead
- 250 yards Cross this stile adjacent to the river; continue ahead
- 280 yards Cross a stile and a small footbridge
- 300 yards Cross a field towards an electricity pole in a line of trees ahead (not the pole in the middle of the field)
- 300 yards Cross a stile and a small bridge to the immediate left of this pole; bear left towards a stile (just to the left of a gate) onto a road (B5023) just to the left of what looks like a house (actually a pub) ahead

The *Puss in Boots* is on your right, if you are already in need of a break!

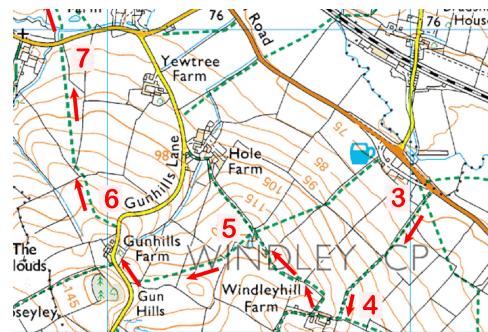


Section 3

Puss in Boots to Gunhills



- 3** Cross the road, and take a track almost opposite (slightly to the left), to climb a hill; (do not cross a stile on the left just after joining this track)
 210 yards Cross a stile by a cattle grid
 210 yards * On reaching the start of Windleyhill Farm, continue on the track with a fence now on your right up to another stile at the farm entrance
4 Turn right through the farmyard
 70 yards
 90 yards At the end of the farm, and just before a gate ahead, (do not go through it), turn right again over a stile, alongside a hedge on your left up to another stile **



At the time of writing, the farm buildings are being demolished as part of a major redevelopment of the site

A minor path diversion along the North edge of the farm has been pending for some time; this would be a better route, turning right at * to go straight to **, but currently the public footpath is through the farm as described here

- 70 yards Cross this stile; turn left ***; go alongside a hedge on your left
 110 yards NO WAYMARK Go through a gate; continue with the hedge on your left
 160 yards NO WAYMARK Go through a gate onto a track, (gate removed at the time of writing)
5 Go through another gate to a junction of tracks, turn left, then
 120 yards immediately cross a stile on the right; turn left across a field alongside a fence on your left; do not go downhill
 140 yards Go through a gate by a water trough, and cross a field towards a clump of trees on a mound ahead
 160 yards Go through a gate through a gap in a hedge and across a tiny bridge; bear left uphill to a tree in the left corner of the field
 180 yards Cross a stile by this tree; keep very close to the hedge on your left, to a road near Gunhills Farm
 50 yards Turn right along the road, passing Gunhills Farm on your left

*** A panorama of the Ecclesbourne Valley comes into view as you turn this corner

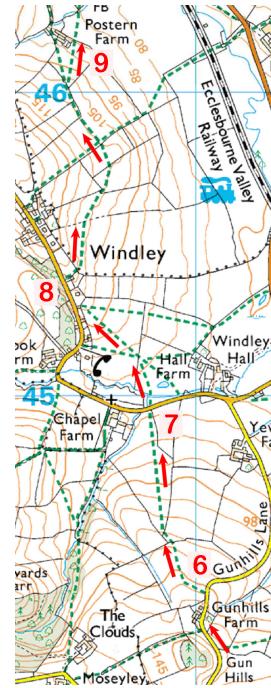


Section 4

Gunhills to Postern



- 6** After Gunhills Farm, look out for a HIDDEN footpath sign on the left, easily missed, ascending steps and through a gate
210 yards Go slightly right to a footpath post which comes into view just to the left of a cluster of houses in the distance
- 260 yards Cross a stile by this post; go straight ahead alongside a hedge on your left to a gate
- 40 yards Go through this gate; turn right to go down a field alongside a hedge on your right for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, to a small gate at the bottom of the field by an electricity pole and leading onto a road
- 7**
560 yards Cross the road and a stile opposite
- 70 yards Cross a footbridge over a stream; head to the second electricity pole on the left, halfway along the field
- 180 yards Cross a stile near a gate by this pole; follow a path past the middle electricity pole, up towards the centre of houses ahead, and a clump of trees in the field corner
- 260 yards Cross a stile by these trees, and shortly come onto the road through Windley



There are no facilities in Windley

- 70 yards Turn right along the road
- 8** Turn right through a small gate; proceed up alongside a house on your right
120 yards Soon go through another gate; aim left towards a footpath post by an electricity pole in a hedge (the middle one of three poles in the hedge)
- 230 yards Continue ahead just to the left of a large holly tree
- 120 yards Cross a stile on the left of this tree; go diagonally left
- 120 yards Cross another stile; cross to a hedge corner opposite
- 70 yards Go through a gate; continue alongside a hedge on your right
- 260 yards When Postern Farm comes into view, bear right to a stile by a gate to the right of the farm

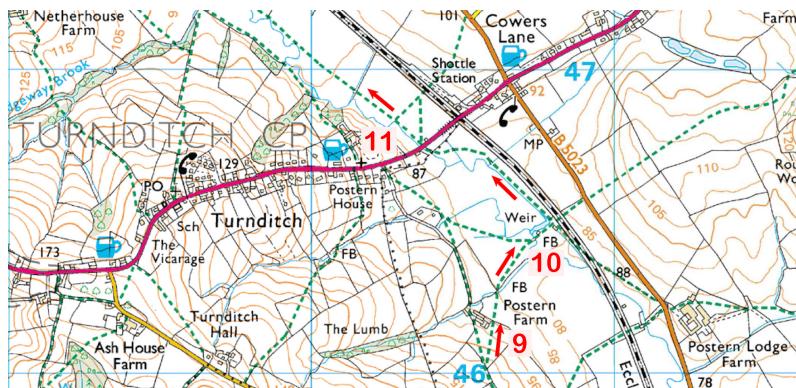
Alport Height comes into view on your left on the horizon

At the time of writing this field was ploughed, so there is a tendency to continue down the track to the farm, then turn right with the farm alongside on your left, to the stile



Section 5

Postern to Turnditch



- 9 Cross a stile by this gate; head diagonally left across a field to a small gate near to the farm boundary
300 yards
- 140 yards Go through this gate and across a small footbridge; turn right down a field alongside a hedge on your right, heading to the left of the field corner, and look for a bridge in the trees, very overgrown at the time of writing
- 10 Cross a footbridge over the river; head across the left side of a field, passing a weir on your left
280 yards
- 140 yards Turn left immediately before the railway; continue with the river now on your immediate left and the railway nearby on your right
- 330 yards Pass through a gap in the trees, cross a wide bridge across a small stream
A brick road bridge comes into view, keep to the left alongside the river, towards a gate in the left corner of the field
- 240 yards Cross a stile by a gate by the river, to shortly come onto the road (A517) at Turnditch [4.9 miles]

Just before reaching the road, have a look at the EW interpretation board on the left

Opposite the board on your right is Turnditch Orchard
www.turnditch.org

Go straight across to continue the walk

Or turn right along the road for Shottle Station (100 yards and down steps on the right), bus stops and the *Railway Inn*

Or turn left for Turnditch village, the *Cross Keys* pub (nearby but closed at time of writing), and the *Tiger Inn* (at the far end of the village)



Section 6

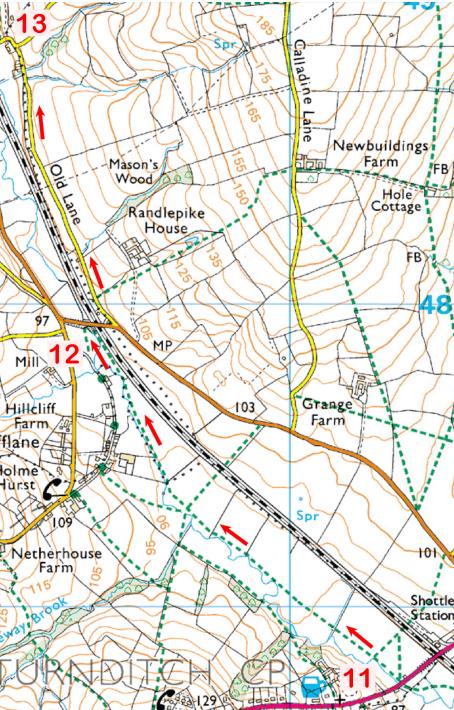
Turnditch to Idridgehay



If starting from Shottle Station:

Turn left at the top of the steps out of the station, walk a short distance along the road, crossing it, and turn right through a gate to access the route at 11

- 11** Cross this (busy) road, and go 50 yards through a gate opposite, to start an easy and pleasant stretch for almost one mile, keeping to the river on your left, and initially Shottle Station on your right
- 320 yards Go through a small gate through a hedge, and across a tiny stream
- 440 yards Go through a gate by trees
- 180 yards NO WAYMARK Go through a gap in a hedge with stone posts (former gate) by trees; head towards left end of fence and hedge ahead
- 250 yards Go through a stone squeeze stile adjacent to the river by a gate (collapsed at the time of writing); keep to the river on your left
- Head for a small gate which comes into view in the far field corner with the railway alongside on your right, and by a large house on your left across the river
- 420 yards Go through this gate, and across a tiny footbridge
- Follow the path alongside the railway on your right, across an open space and then through trees, to again meet the B5023
- 12** Turn right along the road, crossing the railway, and crossing to the other side of the road
- 260 yards Turn sharp left into Old Lane; follow this lane for $\frac{2}{3}$ mile to Idridgehay
- 120 yards NO WAYMARK HERE AND FOR NEXT $\frac{2}{3}$ MILE [6.5 miles]



This is a busy road with traffic coming at speed round the bend



Idridgehay Station is a pleasant spot for lunch

On reaching a bend to the left at 13:

Turn right through a gate to continue the walk (see next page)

Or go straight on for Idridgehay Station soon on your left

Or continue past the station to the main road and turn left for Idridgehay Village Store and bus stop



Section 7

Idridgehay to Jebbs Lane



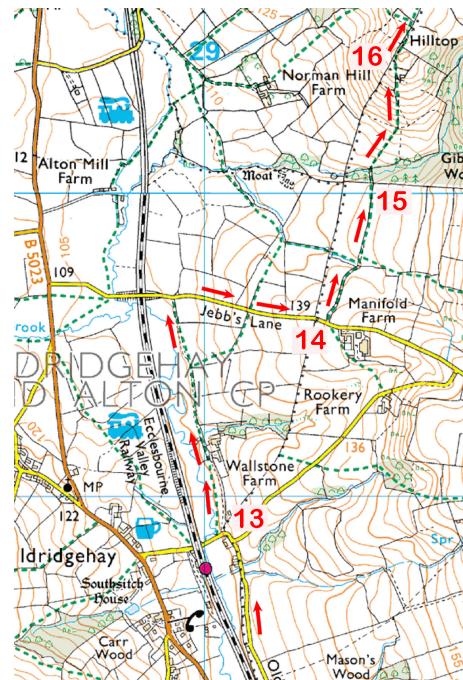
If starting from Idridgehay village:

230 yards North of the village store (next to Idridgehay Corn Store), turn down Rood Lane, cross the railway passing the EVR station on your right; shortly after turn left through a large metal kissing gate and you are now on the route at 13

If starting from Idridgehay Station:

On exiting off the platform, turn right across the railway track, and walk along the lane for 100 yards, then turn left through a large metal kissing gate and you are now on the route at 13

- 13** Just after a bend to the left, and 1,140 yards immediately before the *Idridgehay* sign, go through a large metal kissing gate on the right by a footpath sign; keep to the higher ground on the right close to the fence, heading towards houses in the distance
- 320 yards Go through a gate in front of the houses, turn left along a track
- 70 yards Turn left through a gate
- 50 yards Go through another waymarked gate just ahead, and proceed along a track initially alongside a large hedge on your right
- 300 yards Pass through a small wooden gate alongside a large metal gate, continue along the track to Jebbs Lane
- 280 yards Go through a rusty white gate (replacement pending); turn right along Jebbs Lane for $\frac{1}{3}$ mile
- 14** Shortly before Manifold Farm (on the right), turn left by a footpath sign to go through a gate (set back from the road) onto a track 620 yards
- 260 yards Where the track finishes, continue alongside the hedge on your left, and towards a line of dense trees ahead



Turning off Jebbs Lane, there is a good view ahead of Alport Height (with the masts), and Hilltop just to the left



Section 8

Jebbs Lane via Hilltop to Lane End



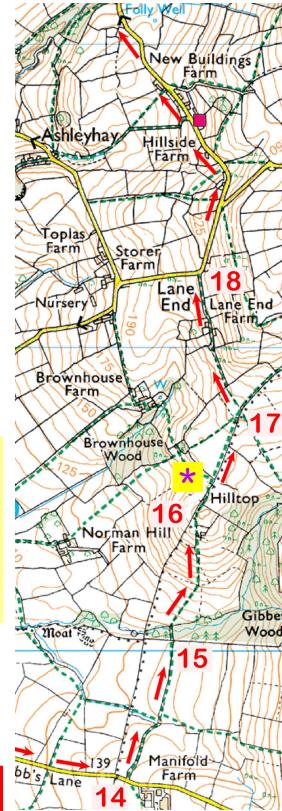
- 15** In the left corner of the field, go through a gap on the left; follow the track through these trees
300 yards
- 90 yards Cross a stile, and bear right up to an obvious gate just before Hilltop
- 160 yards Go through this gate; footpath goes through the gorse bushes ahead, but easier to go round the right edge; then bear left up a grassy bank through a gap in the line of trees ahead on the horizon, and bear slightly left again to the summit of Hilltop
NO WAYMARKS ACROSS HILLTOP

At 650 feet, Hilltop is not the walk's highest point, but it will feel as if it is, with its panoramic views of the Ecclesbourne Valley, and Alport Height on your right

- 16** On Hilltop head slightly to the left of Alport Height
330 yards (with masts) in the distance, and descend towards dense trees on the left, by a large stone post
110 yards

* Realignment of route

The Ordnance Survey map shows the path ahead following the WEST side of the hedge. However, Derbyshire County Council definitive map shows the path on the EAST side, and we are now assuming this to be correct. At the time of printing (March 2020) the waymarks still take you on the West side, please ignore these, they will be changed shortly.



Continue ahead keeping the hedge on your LEFT, passing through a squeeze stile (pictured above right)

You will soon go past an old stone post and to a Peak and Northern Footpath Society (PNFS) sign (with mention of EW!) at **17**

Decision time (at 17):

Turn left to follow the main route (below), or go straight on for the Alport Height extension, which adds one mile and a further 265 feet of climbing to the walk (see page 12)



- 17** Turn left at the PNFS sign (signed towards *Lane End*) towards a gap with two metal posts
330 yards



Section 9

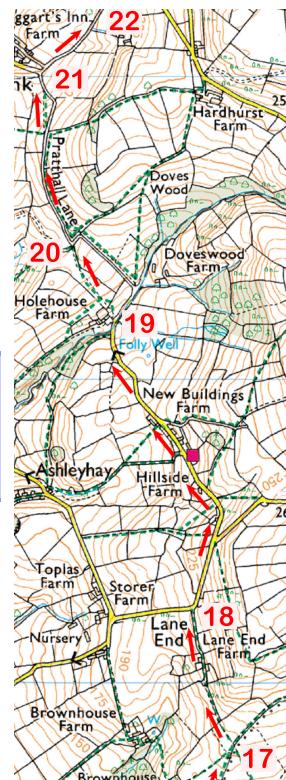
Lane End to Gorseybank



- 120 yards Go through these two posts, continue across the field alongside a hedge on your right
- 140 yards Go through a metal gate; proceed along a track, passing Lane End farm on your left, to a lane
- 18**
- 330 yards Turn right up the lane
- 260 yards Fork left onto a minor lane, Taylor's Lane; descend gradually for a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, ignoring footpaths on the left and right, and passing Hillside Farm on your left, to then descend to Folly Well
- 19**
- 1,020 yards At Folly Well, cross the ford (sometimes just a stream under the road)
- 40 yards Immediately beyond, take a signposted path on the left up steps with gardens on either side
- 50 yards At the top of the steps, go through a gate; go ahead past the right hand (smaller) of two solitary trees ahead; then down towards a gate with a signpost onto Pratthall Lane

You could just walk down Pratthall Lane,
but the route below is more pleasant
and potentially less muddy

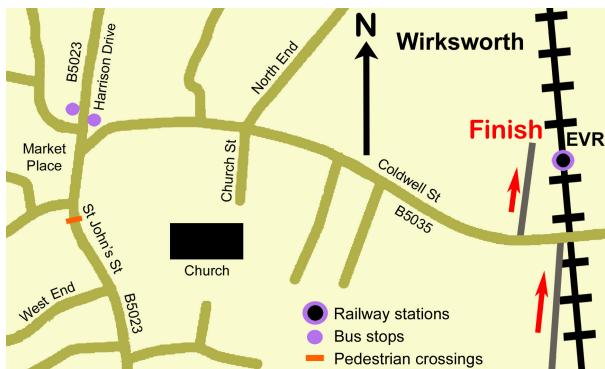
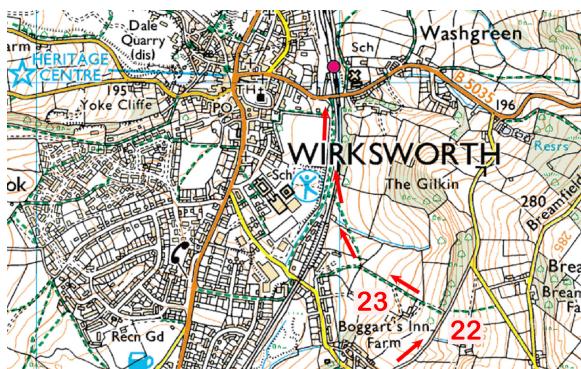
- 20**
- 300 yards Go through the gate; turn right onto Pratthall Lane and immediately go left through a hidden squeeze stile
- Cross a large field, keeping left alongside a line of trees and Pratthall Lane
- 330 yards In the far left corner of the field, go through a squeeze stile, and continue with the trees on your left
- 120 yards At the far left corner of this field, cross Pratthall Lane again; go through a squeeze stile opposite; and turn right going downhill near to trees and Pratthall Lane now on your right
- 210 yards Shortly before the bottom of the field, go through a squeeze stile on the right
- Turn left and descend the final 70 yards of Pratthall Lane
- 21**
- 70 yards At a junction of lanes, turn right; ascend a lane





Section 10

Gorseybanks to Wirksworth



- 22** Shortly after passing farm buildings on your left, go through a narrow gap on the left
350 yards
- 20 yards Immediately go through a small gate on the left; turn right down the field with a fence alongside on your right
- 23** Pass through a gate; continue down to a main track coming from the left
160 yards
- 110 yards Continue straight ahead down this track
- 160 yards Where the track bears left, go right through a squeeze stile by a gate, slightly off the track; head slightly left down towards a stone post in a line of trees which soon comes into view
- 190 yards Go through a gap in the trees; continue diagonally left downhill towards a railway notice which likewise soon comes into view
- 120 yards Cross the railway by this notice; go down the steps opposite; follow the path with a small stream alongside on your left; cross an old bridge onto a main track
- 110 yards Turn right along this track and follow it, with the railway alongside on your right, for a little under $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to Coldwell Street
- 330 yards Across Coldwell Street, (and slightly to the left), is the entrance to Wirksworth EVR Station - and the end of your walk [10.6 miles]

On reaching Wirksworth:

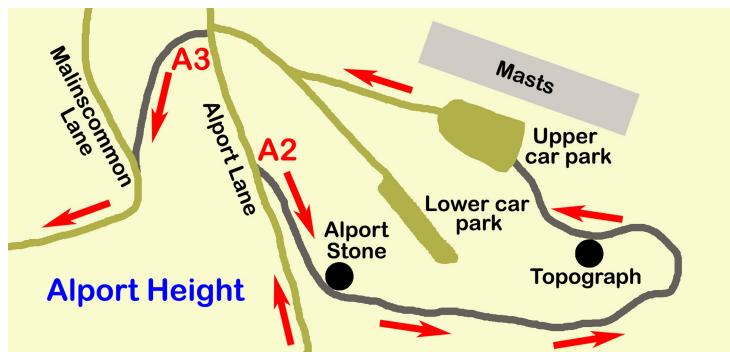
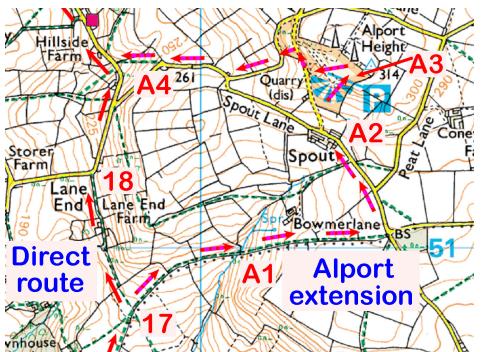
Turn left along Coldwell Street for the town centre, bus stops, and several (much needed) cafés

Or use the buffet at the station straight ahead



Alport Height extension

(sheet 1 of 2)



- A1**
- 17 Go straight on at the PNFS sign, slightly uphill alongside a fence on your right
330 yards
- 190 yards Go through a gate, and continue with the fence and then a hedge on your right
- 120 yards After passing through a line of trees coming from the left, keep close to trees, and then a fence, on your right to then go down a small path (easily missed) towards a stream, (do not go through an opening in the hedge ahead)

- A1**
- 180 yards Cross a small footbridge over the stream, and ascend the bank beyond
- 50 yards Ascend a field alongside a line of trees and then a wall on your right, and passing a farm on your left
- 260 yards NO WAYMARK Go through a narrow squeeze stile in the right field corner, and continue alongside the wall on your right
- 160 yards Go through another squeeze stile, continue to the road ahead
- 110 yards Go through a squeeze stile, and turn left along the road, signposted *Alport*, for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile
- 190 yards Pass Peat Lane on the right, continue straight on
- 300 yards At a junction, follow the bend to the right, signed *Wirksworth*, to go uphill

- A2**
- 280 yards Turn sharp right up a path, passing the impressive Alport Stone on your left, towards the right end of masts ahead
- 120 yards NO WAYMARKS ON ALPORT HEIGHT
On reaching the masts, turn left along the path, very soon come to the toposcope on your left
- 70 yards From the toposcope, continue ahead alongside the masts on your right, and descend via the upper car park and track back to the road

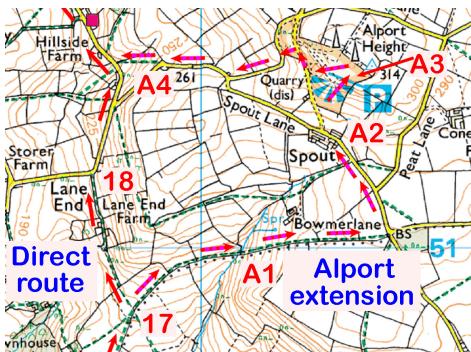


Alport Stone



Alport Height extension

(sheet 2 of 2)



- A3** Take the path opposite, to go downhill, and down some steps
250 yards (constructed as part of this project), to come onto another road
110 yards Continue ahead (left) along this road for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile
230 yards Pass road to Shottle on your left, continue straight on signposted *Idridgehay*
- A4** Where this road bends to the left, bear right through a squeeze stile as signposted, and go downhill alongside a wall on your right
700 yards NO WAYMARK Go through a wooden squeeze stile, and down to the left, descending to a road; when approaching the road, keep very close to the wall on your right, to go to the immediate right of a green water station, leading onto the road
160 yards Rejoin the main route at this road
Turn right along the road, soon passing Hillside Farm on your left, for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
Continue from 19 on page 10