

Trail Guide:



Two circular driving routes to the east and west of Chesterfield, taking you to the stunning historic houses in the surrounding area. You can do the two routes in one day if you limit the time you spend at each location but it is suggested that you do the drive over two days.

The 'Wow' Factor

- See the impressive functioning water-powered mill with a massive 17 foot iron waterwheel at Stainsby Mill
- Marvel at the magnificence of Hardwick Hall and learn all about Bess of Hardwick and her many marriages which made her one of the wealthiest women in the world!
- Be bowled over by Bolsover Castle - a 17th century masterpiece
- See stunning Chatsworth where Paxton redesigned the gardens

Part One

Heading east out of Chesterfield on the **A632**, at the roundabout at Arkwright Town take the 3rd exit towards Sutton Scarsdale: home to **Sutton Scarsdale Hall**, now an imposing ruin, it was remodelled from an earlier outbuilding in 1724 by Francis Smith for Nicholas, Fourth Earl of Scarsdale and is one of the finest houses in Derbyshire. Nowadays there is a lot of interest in the hall because of its ghostly sightings!

Go over the **A617** and through **Heath**. At the T-junction turn right to join **A6175**. Turning left onto **A6175** then turn **right**. Running parallel to M1 for approximately 1 mile turn **left** under M1 to the 13th century **Stainsby Mill**, where you can discover the workplace of a 19th century miller. The mill supplied the local villages and Hardwick Estate with flour.

For further information and visiting times, please call 01246 850430. Just past the mill on the right hand side you will see the entrance to **Hardwick Hall**, there is an entry charge for cars of £2.00, although when the hall is closed this is not applicable. This is where the story of 'rags to riches' begins. Bess of Hardwick was born in a small manor house at Hardwick. When her father died she was left with very little and therefore decided to marry into money. Her first marriage only lasted a couple of months as her husband died but then she married Sir William Cavendish, to whom she was married for ten years and had six children. He was extremely rich and owned several properties throughout the country but decided to sell it all and move to Derbyshire at his wife's request. Sir William died in 1557 and Bess went on to

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

marry Sir William St Loe who also left her much of his wealth when he died.

The Earl of Shrewsbury became her fourth husband which made her nearly as rich as her Queen, Elizabeth I. She put her money to good use, bought her old family home and replaced the manor house with a grand hall, which today is known as Hardwick Old Hall and is now operated by English Heritage (for information call 01246 850431).

In 1590 her fourth husband died and this is when she built Hardwick Hall, famous for its symmetry and abundance of windows. The hall remains relatively unchanged since Bess lived there.

Leaving Hardwick Estate keep your eyes peeled for the ghostly figure of a monk in the estate grounds, which has been spotted by several people in the past!

Hardwick Hall is operated by the National Trust (01246 850430, for opening times). At the exit you will see **The Hardwick Inn**, open for drinks and meals.

Leaving Hardwick, return to the **A6175** and turn **right** heading towards **Bolsover**, (when you reach the **M1 junction there will be a sign for Bolsover Castle down the A617, do not follow this sign**).

As you come into **Palterton**, you will come to a junction at the top of the hill, go straight over and then take the **second left** as shown on the map. Follow the road until you come to a major junction and turn **left** onto the **A632**, which will take you into **Bolsover**.

Bolsover is famous for its 17th century fairytale castle, initially built by Charles Cavendish, youngest son of Bess of Hardwick and finished off by her grandson William Cavendish some 30 years later. He added stately rooms and a riding house, which is one of the earliest riding houses in Europe. Both Hardwick Hall and Bolsover Castle were designed by the talented Smythson family architects. The castle is built on a hillside, offering spectacular views of the Vale of Scarsdale. For information and opening times please call 01246 822844.

Part Two

The second part of the journey takes you out of **Chesterfield on the A619** where you will pass Morrisons Supermarket. **At the next traffic lights at the Chatsworth Road Medical Centre turn right into Storrs Road. Turn left** at the end of the road and follow the road to **Old Brampton**, which is a nice detour from the main road. **Old Brampton** was mentioned in the Domesday book as having a Saxon Manor which is now called Brampton Hall. This can be found across the road from the medieval parish church of St Peter and St Paul, with its attractive Norman doorway.

When you reach the main road again turn **right** on to the **A619**, to Baslow, then on to the **B6012**. You will go through Edensor, a lovely picturesque village which lies within the **Chatsworth Estate**.

Edensor (pronounced Ensor) was not always in the position it sits today, but was once on the edge of the river. However it was moved by the sixth Duke of Devonshire as he felt it spoilt the view from Chatsworth House! In the village is the beautiful church of St Peter, built in 1870 using parts of the original church and inside the chapel is a large monument to two of Bess of Hardwick's sons, William, First Earl of Devonshire and Henry Cavendish.

As you drive into the **Chatsworth Estate**, you will pass the entrance to **Chatsworth House** and if you look back you can admire the magnificent building in the distance. The land was bought by Sir William Cavendish in 1549 and although he started work on the house, he died before it was completed. Bess of Hardwick, his widow, continued the work and gave the house to her son Henry, who sold the house to his brother William. Today the house remains as magnificent as ever and is owned by the current Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. The house is open to the general public and also has a farm, adventure playground, wonderful walks, waterfalls, a restaurant and shops and makes a splendid family day out.

For more information on Chatsworth and opening times, please call 01246 582204.

As you near the southern end of Chatsworth Estate you will come to a very picturesque village named **Beeley**, its buildings made mainly of gritstone. St Anne's is the village church with a Norman doorway and a 14th century tower and several memorials to the Cavendish family.

Next you come to **Rowsley**, with several attractive properties and Caudwell's Mill, powered by the river Wye. It is a Grade II listed building and has been run as a family business for over 100 years. Another main attraction in Rowsley is the **Peak Village Outlet Shopping Centre**, perfect for the shopaholic as it has over 26 factory outlets, a restaurant and coffee shop. For more information please call 01629 735326.

To continue your journey turn **left** into **Chesterfield Road** (which is almost opposite the entrance to the Peak Village Outlet Shopping Centre) make your way up the hill, which when you reach the plateau provides breathtaking views and glorious countryside. The road will eventually take you to a junction where you bear left onto the **B5057** and then at the next junction turn **left** onto the **A632** which will be your route back into **Chesterfield**.

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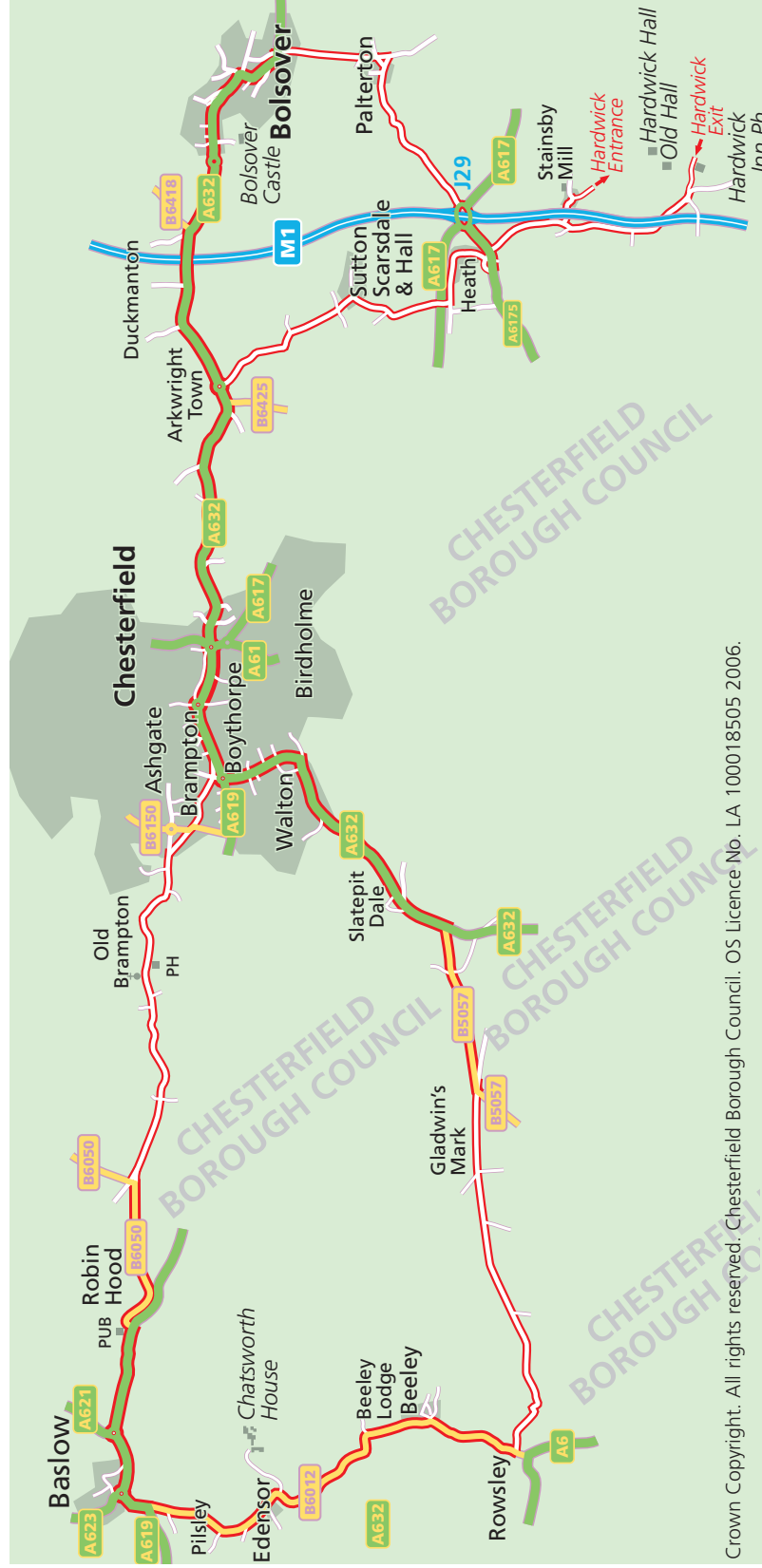
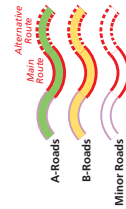
Chesterfield Trail No. 16

Rags, Riches and Renaissance Halls



48 km
30 miles

Key



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