

Countryside Walks in Derbyshire No. 7
With links to Sheffield, Eckington
and Mosborough

A Walk on the Wildside

Features of Interest

take a closer look - see map overleaf ☆



Cadman Wood

A - Water Wheels

There is evidence to show that there were once eight water wheels in the Moss Valley. The Old Skelper Wheel, Birley Hay Wheel, the Ford Wheel, the Sough Wheel, the Never Fear Wheel, Fields Wheel, Carlton Wheel and the Eckington Park Flourmill Wheel. The Ford Wheel was beside the dam at the Bridge Inn and operated until 1935. Originally corn was ground here. Records of 1780 refer to sickle manufacture at Commonside Works on Ridgeway Moor, using Ford Wheel for grinding.

B & C - Ridgeway

The name Ridgeway is Anglo-Saxon and takes its name from the ancient route along which it is situated. The church at Ridgeway was built in 1839-1840. Note the inscription on the school building just past the church. Ridgeway Craft Centre opened in 1987 and is now a popular attraction for visitors to the area.

If you have difficulty in reading this leaflet it can be made available in other formats. For details telephone the above number.

For further information please contact Tapton Lock Visitor Centre on 01246 551035.

Why not use public transport and help the environment? For bus and rail services call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (national rate call), or Type Talk on 18001 0871 200 22 33. For more details on public transport in Derbyshire log on to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport/public_transport

Waymarkers are fixed at changes of direction. Make sure you use good footwear. Mud, stiles and steep slopes can make this walk difficult for some people.

Travel Information



Easy to Follow Circular Routes

The east loop is 4.4 miles (7.2km). Allow 2 hours.

The west loop is 3.4 miles (5.4km). Allow 1.5 to 2 hours.

See the map inside and follow these waymarkers. Full walk distance is 7.8 miles (12.6km).

E - Wildlife

The Moss Valley is rich in flora and fauna, and parts of it are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The areas of ancient woodland provide ideal habitats for many birds, mammals and wild flowers. Note the variety of flowers in the spring such as bluebells, ramsons and yellow archangel. They attract many different insects, especially butterflies and bees. Hedges are extremely important for wildlife and many are being restored. They provide excellent cover for many of our British birds, such as wrens, robins, finches, tits and sparrows. The list goes on ... see how many you can spot!



Speckled Wood



Wren

G - Birleyhay

Water has powered grist mills (for grinding corn) from the Domesday survey of 1086 to the scythe and sickle production of the 15th to the 19th century. These were exported to the West Indies and America. Birleyhay was an early 17th century complex for scythe and sickle production. The site dates back over a thousand years.



small mammals.

Dry stone walls were traditionally built for stock keeping and to mark land boundaries. These walls provide vital habitats for a variety of wildlife including plants, insects, reptiles and

P - Dry Stone Walls

away from Sheffield.

While walking through Cadman Wood you will pass a brick structure on your left. This is thought to be part of an air raid decoy system from World War 2. It would have housed lights, which were used to divert German bombers away from Sheffield.

M - WW2 Air Raid Decoy



K - Seldom Seen

From the mid 19th century, coal was mined from here as part of the Plumbley Colliery. The site owner, John Rhodes, undertook major expansion work in the 1870s building the huge Seldom Seen engine house and a rail link to Renishaw. The rail link was known as the 'Penny Engine Line' as it cost the miners a penny to travel to work on the railway. The engine house was called Seldom Seen because it was hidden within the woodlands of the valley. The huge cost of the work led to bankruptcy and the site was abandoned in 1901.

When the engine was removed, it left huge holes in the north and south walls. The engine house was still standing almost 100 years later but by 1987 it was in a dangerous condition. This rare building is the only surviving engine house for a vertical steam engine at a Derbyshire colliery. This led to Derbyshire County Council being granted a 20 year lease and it duly repaired and restored the structure for the benefit of the public. In 1998, English Heritage scheduled the engine house and its surroundings as a national monument.



Ince Piece Wood



Seldom Seen Engine House

A Walk on the Wildside

West Loop 3.4 miles (5.4km) - allow 1.5 to 2 hours

A - Start from the public car park adjacent to the Bridge Inn at Ford. From here turn right and walk up the hill for about 350 metres. Cross the road into Sloade Lane, passing the information board about 'John Haslam's Donkey'. Go down the lane, cross the ford at the bottom and bear right up the hill.

B - Take the next footpath on the right and cross over the bridge. Climb the very steep steps (you might want to take advantage of the benches and rest on the way up!) At the top of the steps, follow the path round to the right between the houses. When you reach the road, turn left past Ridgeway Church and the old school building.

C - Take the next left into Robinbrook Lane, by the next information board about 'John Haslam's Donkey'.

Alternatively, follow the road straight on for approximately a third of a mile (0.5km) to visit Ridgeway Craft Centre (closed Mondays except Bank Holidays).

D - Follow the track, keeping to the left, until the track narrows, then carry straight on between the hedgerows. Continue on, as the path leaves the woodland, in to the field. Carry on through the field for 200 metres then bear left down the slope to the bridge. This path slopes diagonally and can be very slippery. Cross the bridge and the stile and continue along the paved path by the stream. Cross again on a small stone bridge, then turn immediately left. Follow this path, keeping the stream on your left.

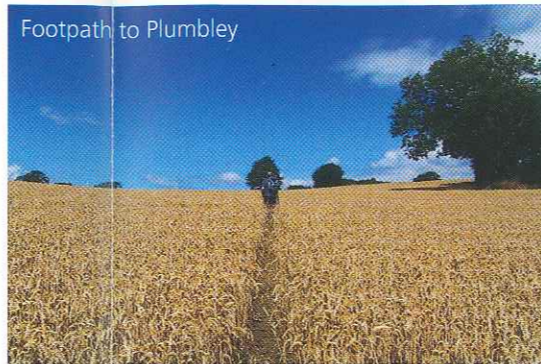
E - When you reach the path junction at the small pond, turn left and cross the stile. Follow the path around to the right until you reach a stone stile on the left. Carterhall Farm is to the right. Cross the stile and follow the field edge down to Ryalls Wood. At the woodland edge, where the paths cross, take the left path over the stile and follow the field edge with the wood on your right. Carry on until you reach the cottages.



KEY

- Walk on the Wildside
- - - Footpath links
- ▲ Suggested start/finish
- ★ Features of interest (see overleaf)
- Steps
- ! Hazard, take care
- ▲ Uphill gradient
- SSSI

Remember to keep the country code
In particular:
Please keep your dogs under control.
Take all your litter home.
Cross all roads with care.



F - Continue down the lane. When you reach the ford, bear right and follow the lane up the hill. After passing the Litfield Farm buildings on your right, turn left at the fingerpost into the field. Follow the path down the field, crossing two stiles and keeping the hedge on your left, until you reach the lane.

G - At Geer Lane turn left and follow the lane. On reaching the main road (caution - busy road) turn left again back to the Bridge Inn and the public car park.

East Loop 4.4 miles (7.2km) - allow 2 hours

H - Leave the car park by the path running around the pond and continue along it with the stream on the right. Cross over the stile and go through the field, keeping the stream on your right. This field is wet and muddy for most of the year. Cross the second stile and continue following the path. Cross the stream and carry on to your right, passing through the kissing gate. Bear left and continue to follow the path down the valley with the stream on the right. Pass a pond on the left.

I - Do not cross the stile into the wood, cross the stream over the bridge and bear left following the field edge.

J - Follow the track into Twelve Acre Wood and continue along the track.

K - When you reach the crossroads carry straight on. After a short distance you will see Seldom Seen Engine House on your right. After visiting the engine house return to the track and carry on down the valley. At the next crossroads carry straight on.

L - At the end of the track turn left onto the road. After crossing the bridge over the river, turn left onto the track.

M - At the next crossroads carry straight on and continue to follow the path through the woodland. Where the track narrows, continue straight on along the path.

N - When you reach Cadman Wood, bear left along the concessionary track, keeping the stream on your left. At the top of the path turn right, following the track up the hill flanked on both sides by tall banks with hedgerows.

O - After approximately 100m, turn sharp left up the bank. Take the right hand path up the field towards the stile on the skyline to the left of a group of trees. Cross this stile and head down the field towards the lane, keeping a large clump of gorse bushes on your right. Cross the stile to the left of Plumbley Lane Farm and turn left up the hill.

P - At the top of the hill bear left and follow the road past Plumbley House and Hall. Continue to follow the track until you reach the main road. Turn left and return to the Bridge Inn and the public car park.