

# Peek into the Past

## THE HOUSE WHERE TIME STOOD STILL

A full day walk from Ticknall village taking in the faded grandeur of Calke Abbey and with good views of Staunton Harold reservoir. A short detour enables you to visit the lovely town of Melbourne and the magnificent formal gardens of Melbourne Hall.

**Parking:** Public car park at village hall on Ingleby Road in Ticknall.

**Refreshments:** 'Staff of Life' pub in Ticknall, National Trust tearooms and toilets at Calke Abbey.

### Ticknall

An attractive village that until recently remained largely owned by the Calke Abbey estate of the Harper-Crewe family. They built many of the houses for their tenants who worked on the estate, and exerted a strong feudal influence on the village. There are some interesting features on the village - for example the 14 'lions head' water pipes provided by the Harper Crewe family in 1914. Also the arch bridge at the eastern end of the village (near the start of this walk) which used to carry a tramway for lime to be transported through the Calke estate to the Ashby canal at Willersley.



Ticknall Arch

### Route

- A** From the car park walk go back onto the main road (A514), turning right to walk through the village, then turn left onto the B5006 signposted Ashby-de-le-Zouch and Smisby. Just past the Staff of Life pub take the footpath to the left. Follow the path across the middle of three fields to a sign showing you are entering National Trust land. Turn right following the raised flat grassy track, going onto tarmac at Middle Lodge and under the stone arch. Follow this driveway down past Betty's pond.
- B** When the road takes a sharp 90 degree bend to the left keep to the road and Calke Abbey soon comes into view.

*When the National Trust bought Calke Abbey in 1985 they found a dusty, neglected, but fascinating place, filled with hidden treasures accumulated over the centuries by the owners, the Harper Crewe family. Its faded splendor has been preserved as found, with only essential conservation work carried out - giving a glimpse into a way of life long gone and a family who were rich, eccentric and reclusive.*



Calke Abbey

After visiting the house, go into the car park, out the other side and cross the grassy car park to the far side. Take the steps down through the trees to Mere Pond and follow the path.

### Short route back

- C** After you have passed White Leys Farm on your left keep straight on following the footpath, then the lane, back into Ticknall.

### Longer route back

- C** Pass White Leys Farm and then (just before the path goes to the left of a big tree towards a stile) follow a footpath which branches off to the right across the field. (This may not be very obvious - so if you get to a hedge on your right hand side you have gone too far). You can see the route you will be following on the slope opposite.

Your route takes you down over a stream, then up again, crossing a farm road and along the side of the slope. Crossing several fields and stiles you pass Derby Hills Farm, heading towards Melbourne and eventually emerging onto the B587 road.

- D** Turn left (unless you have time to take the short detour into Melbourne - in which case you will have to retrace your steps to this point).

After a short distance, where the B587 road bends to the left (and at a junction with another road) go straight ahead following the sign (partly hidden in the hedge) 'Bridleway to Milton' through a gate with a notice 'No Vehicle Access to Riding Bank Farm'.

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continued...

Follow this bridleway until it crosses the main A514 road. Keep straight ahead, then turn left to follow a footpath down into Ticknall village.

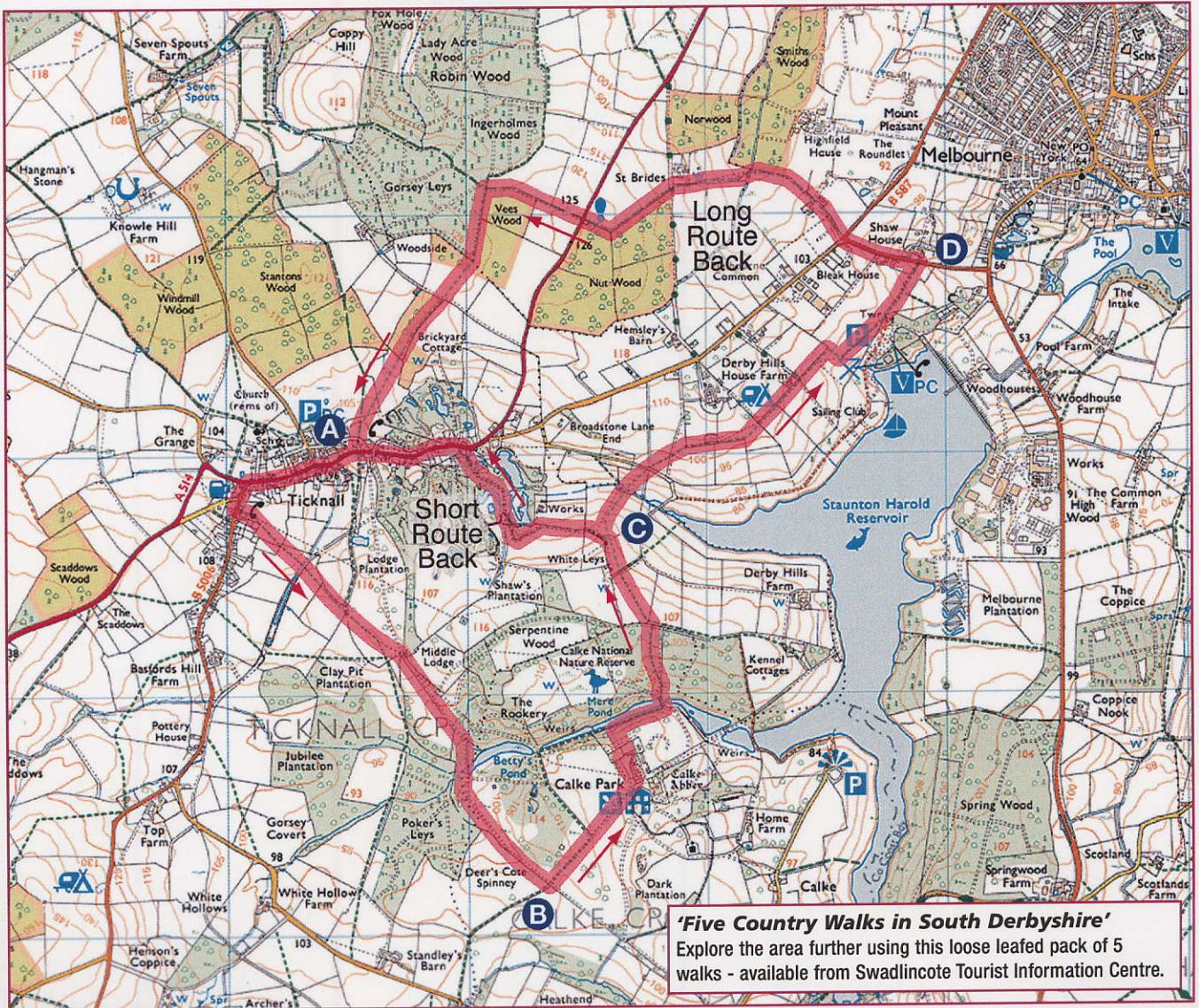


Melbourne Hall Gardens

### Melbourne

Two of the county's gems are adjacent to each other in this lovely town - Melbourne Hall overlooking The Pool, and the parish church of St Michael's. The Pool was originally a medieval mill pond, enlarged in the 1840s under the supervision of Queen Victoria's former prime minister Lord Melbourne. The church, dating from c1125, is one of the finest Norman churches in the country. In plan it is a miniature cathedral with three towers and outstanding Romanesque sculpture. The wonderful formal gardens at Melbourne Hall are one of the most important early 18c survivals in the country, with a wrought iron arbour by the well known ironsmith Robert Bakewell.

The town itself has two focal points - the original medieval one at Castle Square and another one at the Hall. Many buildings on the street frontages date from the late 18c and early 19c, with typical Georgian brick frontages with sash windows and stone lintels.



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Route 9

**PEAK DISTRICT**  
AND DERBYSHIRE