

Allestree Circular Walk 4

Start and finish: Free car park off Woodlands Road, Allestree.

Grid reference of start and finish: SK34094 40387

Distance: Nine kilometres, 5½ miles.

Time: Allow 2¾ hours.

Terrain: Parkland, woodland, river valley and pastureland using footpaths and minor roads. On the most difficult parts of the route in dry weather you will encounter rough surfaces and steep slopes. There will be easier sections. There are stiles and footbridges on this walk.

Nearby bus routes: The Allestree blue or red route stopping at Blenheim Parade on Blenheim Drive. Ring traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline.org.uk for details of these services.

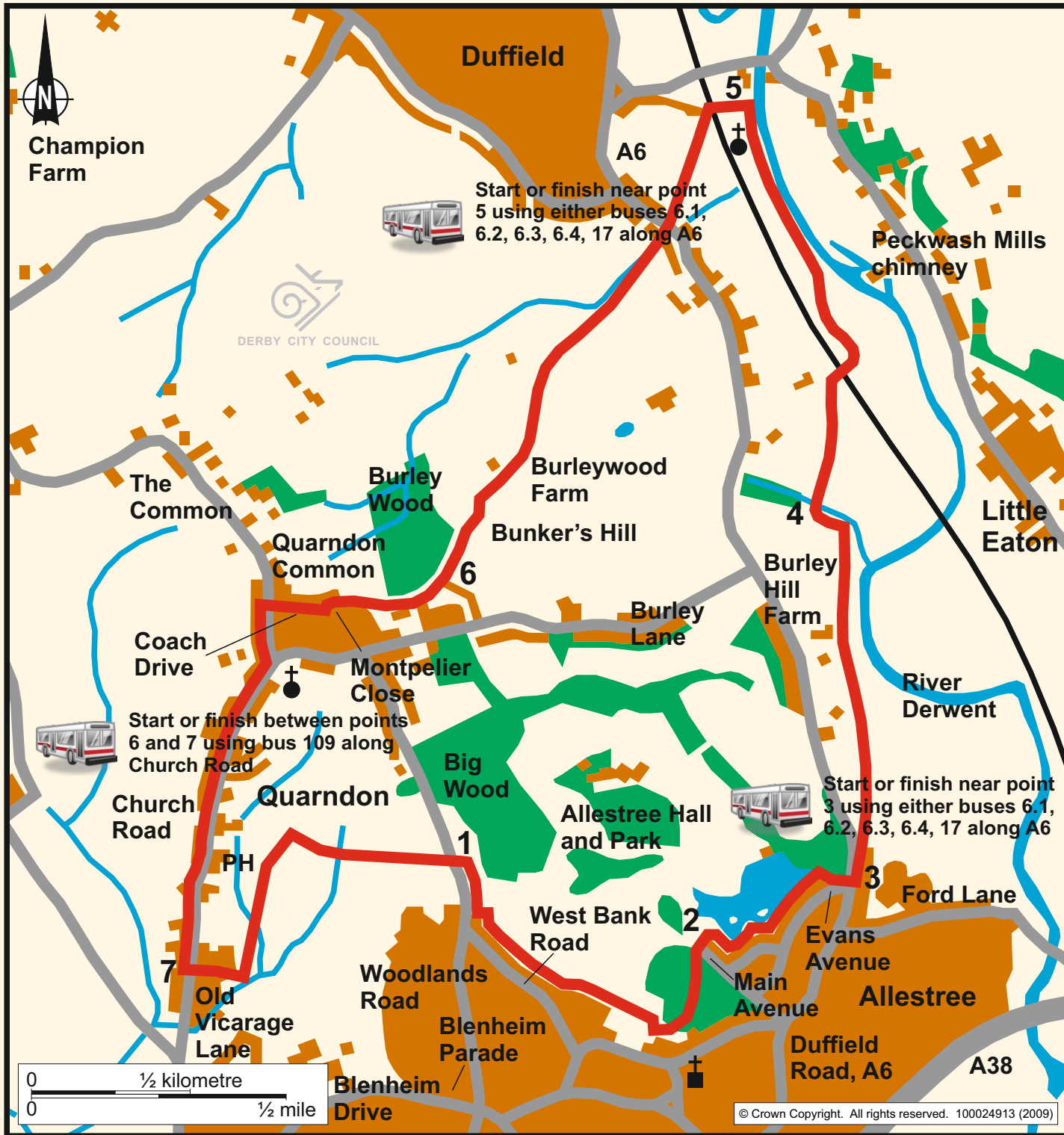
Parking: Free car park off Woodlands Road, Allestree.

The walk

1 From the car park walk towards West Bank Road along the path, turning left between the houses and Big Wood.

In Big Wood, you will see trees such as Silver Birch, Scots Pine and English Oak, shrubs such as Rhododendron and Hawthorn and plants such as Bluebell, Foxglove and Red Campion. Allestree Park was declared a local nature reserve in 2002.

Beyond Big Wood, for your own safety, please keep close to the hedgerow on your right as you are walking along the 15th hole of the golf course. To your left you can see Allestree Hall, Duffield and across the Derwent Valley.



James Wyatt built Allestree Hall for Bache Thornhill between 1795-1805. In 1928 developers bought it. They laid out the golf course and built Evans Avenue and Short Avenue in the Park. Derby Corporation, now Derby City Council, acquired the Hall in 1946.

When you reach the end of the houses on your right go straight on. After a while, follow the path around to your right. Depending on the time of year, you may see St. Edmund's Church ahead of you. A short distance after the solitary Ash tree, bear left and follow the path through the woodland. You will eventually come out at the end of Main Avenue.

2 Now follow the lakeside path. The lake is an important reserve with fish such as Tench and Pike, waterbirds such as Moorhen and Coot and insects such as Caddisfly Larvae and Water Scorpions. Along the banks you will see Willowherb, Rushes and Lesser Pond Sedge.

At the end of the lake turn right on to Evans Avenue, then left towards Duffield Road. Danger - very busy road.

3 Cross Duffield Road, A6 and turn left. After a short distance, go down the path on your right, marked by a finger post to Duffield. Beyond the avenue of Hawthorn, and two stone pillars, go towards the white house on the hill, Burley Hill Farm. In the distance you get your first glimpse of Peckwash Mills Chimney. At the bottom of the hill, cross the footbridge and turn right. Follow the path around the base of the hill. Soon you will see the River Derwent. Beyond the fence, follow the path for about 400 metres, ¼ mile, until you reach a footbridge on your right.

This area of acid grassland is a site of wildlife interest. It is dominated in parts by Hawthorn and Gorse. Plants such as Heath Bedstraw, Tormentil, Sheep's Sorrel and Foxglove also grow here.

Allestree Circular Walk



Location of walk



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Distance: Nine kilometres, 5½ miles.
Time: Allow 2¾ hours.
Timings based approximately on 1.6 kilometres, one mile every 30 minutes.

Further information

Derby City Council
 Rights of Way Service
 Planning Division
 The Council House
 Corporation Street
 Derby DE1 2FS

Telephone 01332 640809
 Minicom 01332 640666
 Fax 01332 643299
 email rightsofway@derby.gov.uk
 web derby.gov.uk/derby-walks

Follow the hedgerow on your left, round to the left. Then walk up the hill, towards Burleywood Farm on your left. On reaching the hedgerow opposite, turn left, keeping the hedgerow on your right. At the end of the field, turn right through the gap and follow the hedgerow on your left. Then climb the stile and continue up the hill, passing Burleywood Farm on your right.

6 At the top of Bunker's Hill you will find a topograph, which details features you can see. From here, go towards the houses nearby to follow the path next to Burley Wood.

Burley Wood is a site of wildlife interest. You will find trees such as Ash, Birch, Sweet Chestnut and Elder, and plants such as Honeysuckle and Yellow Archangel here.

After Burley Wood there are views over Quarndon Common towards Duffield and beyond. Follow the grassy path straight ahead into Montpelier Close. Turn right after the bungalows. Go through the Holly arch and along Coach Drive. Turn left into The Common and walk towards Quarndon Church.

Quarndon Church dates from 1874. Only a few stones remain of an earlier church located further along Church Road, just before point 7. At the junction, turn right down Church Road.

Just past the Joiners Arms Public House, you will see the site of a famous spa. Daniel Defoe visited this 'Chalybeate', mineral water, well in 1727. Continue on, until you reach Old Vicarage Lane on your left.

7 Walk up the lane and along the grassed path. After the small field, turn left and head for the brow of the hill. Once there turn right, keeping the hedgerow on your left. There are views on your right towards Allestree and beyond. Continue on, going up the hill and out on to Woodlands Road. Turn right and back into the car park to finish the walk.

4 Cross over the footbridge and head towards Peckwash Mills Chimney. In the second field, continue on to a gate. In the third field, bear right and under the railway bridge.

George Stephenson originally engineered this line for the North Midland Railway Company whose Leeds-Derby service opened in 1840. It now carries the main lines between London and Sheffield.

Turn left and go towards St Alkmund's Church, Duffield, in the distance.

The stone embankment you go through is the remains of a railway line which served Peckwash Mills. It crossed the river on a wooden pile bridge erected in 1889. The Mills started making paper in the 18th Century. The chimney was built in the mid-1890s. Having stood idle since about 1960, the Mills were converted to a private dwelling in the mid-1990s.

St Alkmund's Church, Duffield was started in the 12th Century, but dates mainly from the early 1300s. It was restored twice in the 19th Century. In the churchyard, you will see Yew trees. Common in churchyards all over the country, they supposedly keep evil spirits away.

5 After leaving the churchyard, turn left towards the footbridge over the railway line. Cross the footbridge, turning left and back on yourself at the foot of the steps. Follow the path to the A6.

Cross over the A6. Danger - very busy road. Walk between house numbers 38 and 40. Cross the field to the hedgerow on your left and, keeping it on your right, continue straight on. Beyond the hedgerow bear right up Bunker's Hill towards the house far in the distance. Looking back you will see views of Duffield, the Derwent Valley and Little Eaton. Go through the stile.