

Dale Abbey contains many places of historical interest. Details about many of them can be found in our Dale Abbey Village Trail publication.

After approximately 200 yards go over stile on left then immediate right to walk past the East Window of the former St Mary's Abbey. (Take alternative route through the village for refreshments at the Carpenters Arms or the Gateway Tea Room). Turn left along lane towards All Saints Church. Pass Church Farm and go left through gate on to bridleway. Follow bridleway through Hermits Wood to gate and continue across field to road.

Hermits Wood is probably a remnant of the original forest cover of Derbyshire. It is a mixed deciduous woodland of great wildlife value, containing impressive Beech and Lime trees. The abundant flora includes Bluebell, Dogs Mercury and Ramsons, all indicators of ancient woodland. Bird species regularly seen or heard include Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Jackdaw, Nuthatch, and Tree Creeper.

Turn right and walk along Potato Pit Lane to Sandiacre Lodge Farm. At farm, leave road and continue straight on along track. Keeping left, cross stile and carry on to Hopwell Hall Farm. Immediately before farm turn left and cross field towards Risley Coppice with fence on your right.

There are superb views of the Derwent and Trent valleys along this section of the route. Church Wilne Reservoir is easily seen in the foreground with Ratcliffe on Soar power station in the distance. On a clear day, from this point, it is possible to see into the five counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire.

Go over stile towards gate. Cross stile and go straight ahead over next field. Cross stile and two-thirds of way down field turn right and cross field towards the hedge opposite. Continue straight on towards Peat Meadow Farm. At farm turn left down bridleway leading to main road. Turn left at main road back to Risley Park Public House.

#### PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

**GUARD AGAINST FIRE** Every year, carelessness costs thousands of pounds.  
**FASTEN GATES** - even if you find them open. Animals will wander if they can.  
**KEEP DOGS UNDER CONTROL** - on a lead wherever there is livestock.  
**KEEP TO PATHS** - if they exist.  
**AVOID DAMAGING FENCES, HEDGES AND WALLS**

**LEAVE NO LITTER**  
**SAFEGUARD WATER SUPPLIES** Do not pollute streams or cattle troughs.  
**PROTECT WILDLIFE, PLANTS, TREES**  
**GO CAREFULLY ON COUNTRY ROADS**  
 Keep in single file, facing on-coming traffic, on the right.  
**RESPECT THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE**

#### For Further Details

Groundwork Erewash Valley  
 43 Town Street Sandiacre  
 Nottingham NG10 5DU  
 Telephone: 0115 949 0235  
 Registered Charity No. 701484

Erewash Borough Council  
 Leisure Services  
 Town Hall  
 Long Eaton Nottingham NG10 1HU  
 Telephone: 0115 907 2324

EREWASH

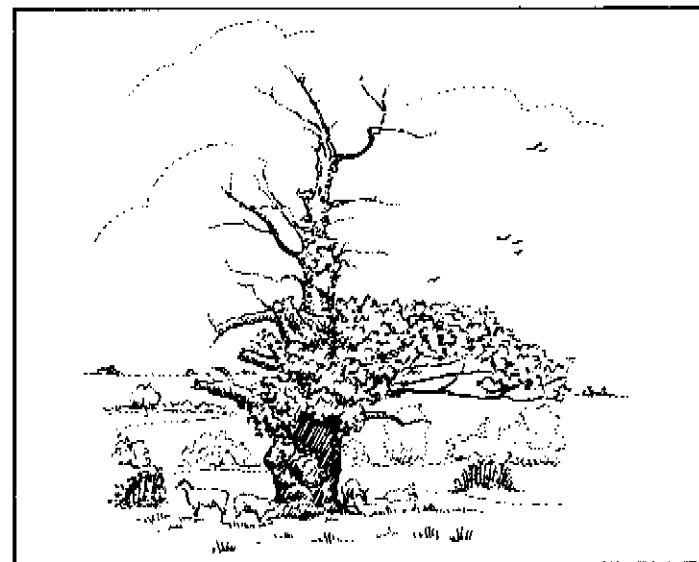


# COUNTRY WALKS 15

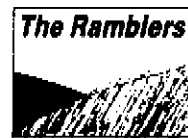
IN AND AROUND EREWASH

## The Farmer's Walk

5½ miles



Explore and enjoy the scenic countryside in and around the historic villages of Risley and Dale Abbey.



Supported by the  
**COUNTRYSIDE  
 COMMISSION**

**Start** Risley Park (formerly Blue Ball) public house, Risley.

**Buses** For up to date information call Barton/Trent busline on Derby 292200.

**Time** Allow 3 to 3½ hours.

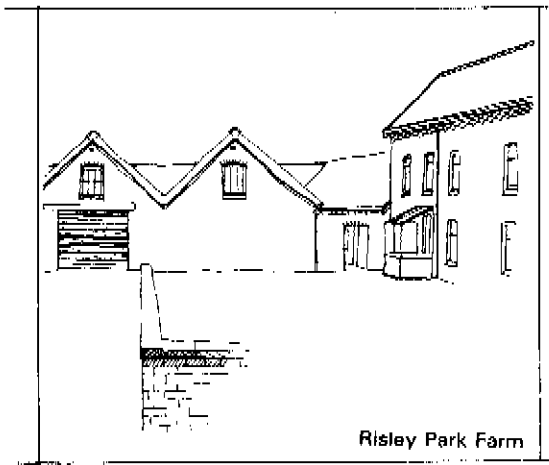
**OS Map** Pathfinder Series SK43/53 Nottingham (South West).

**Type of Walk** Through undulating countryside with some steep climbs.

Follow bridleway opposite Risley Park public house passing Manor Farm and Risley Lodge.

The present Lodge was built in 1938 on the site of a much older building which was destroyed by fire. The lodge was once the home of Teresa Hooley, local poet and writer, who died in 1973. She was the half sister of E.T. Hooley, who at one time, owned much of the parish of Risley.

Where the path swings right towards Risley Lodge Farm, go over the left hand stile and cross field to hedgerow. Cross stile and go diagonally right, downhill to bottom corner of the field. Cross footbridge over stream and go uphill with hedge on your left towards Risley Park Farm.



Risley Park Farm

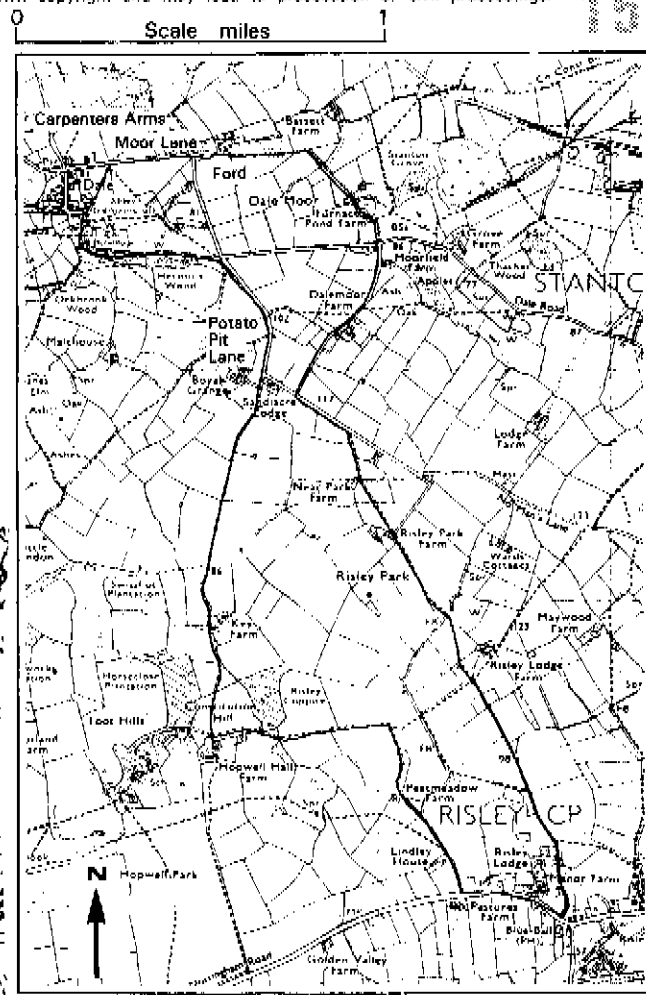
The farm was constructed in 1905 by Ernest Terah Hooley, local financier and landowner. He financed the building of many of the farms and cottages seen on this walk. A local character and latter day Robin Hood, he acquired some of his money by supposedly dubious deals with the rich and powerful. He used his wealth to improve the plight of the local people of Risley. Following lengthy court trials, he was declared bankrupt in 1912 and evicted from Risley Hall. He died penniless at Long Eaton in 1947, and was buried in Risley churchyard.

Cross farm track and stile and go diagonally over next two fields to Near Park Farm. Cross stile and walk alongside hedge crossing two fields to reach No Mans Lane. Turn left along lane and then next right towards Stanton by Dale. Continue along lane passing Dalemoor Farm to junction with Dale Road at Lindbridge House. Go straight ahead down farm track, passing Furnace Pond on your right.



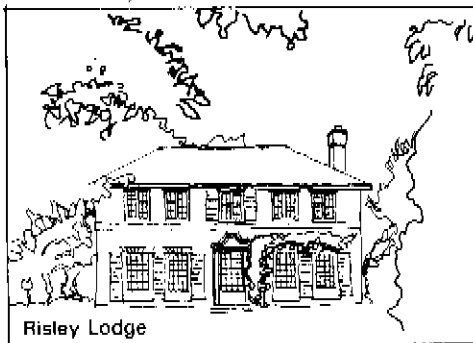
Furnace Pond

This tranquil pond was once the scene of much industrial activity. In 1887 Stanton ironworks was established on Dale Moor. The pond was formed by the extraction of iron ore and takes its name from the blast furnaces which operated close by, at what is now "Bassett Farm".



Cross stile at side of farm and continue ahead. Where track bears right, go straight on along green lane to gate. Cross stile, turn left and walk along right side of hedge to next stile.

Bear right across next field to track at right of Dutch Barn. Follow track to lane and turn left. Cross Sowbrook Ford and turn right along Moor Lane towards Dale Village.



Risley Lodge