

Puddings and Palaces

PALACE OF THE PEAK

An interesting 6 or 8 mile walk through woods and fields to visit Chatsworth House in its setting beside the River Derwent.

Refreshments

At Chatsworth (stable block to the left of the house) and in the garden. Also tearoom at Edensor (on shorter route back) and Chatsworth garden centre (on longer route back).

- A** From the centre of Bakewell cross the river over the medieval bridge and turn along Combs Lane. Walk along here until you reach a footpath sign by a gate on the left. Go up the tarmac drive and turn right and continue up the field side to a bridge over the Monsal Trail. Carry on up right, across the golf course and on a prominent track into the wood. Where a small stream comes down continue up steeply to a ladder stile over the wall at the top of the wood, then head half right for the clump of beech and a pond. Go over a stile by the pond, along its south side to another gate and stile.



Bakewell

Follow the grassy footpath for about half a mile, gently downhill keeping just left of the shallow depression to a gate, above a plantation. Carry on through this down a broad track towards Russian Cottage, but turn left before this and a 'Dutch barn' at a signpost: Edensor. Follow this through a gate - a track leads through plantations into Chatsworth Park, where a couple of benches make a pleasant point to stop and view Chatsworth in its setting, with Stand Woods and the Hunting Tower behind.

From here head between two plantations for a point just left of Edensor Church. On nearing the village, look for electricity sub-station within a walled enclosure. To the right of this go through an unusual wrought-iron gate at the top of four stone steps, and so down to a tarmac road. Turn right down this road into the village of Edensor. Leave the village through the white gates, cross the main road, B6012, and take the footpath opposite. In a few minutes Chatsworth House comes into view.

You need a few hours to take in all the delights of Chatsworth, with its fine paintings, furnishings and carvings. Home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire it is regarded as Britain's best loved stately home. The gardens are superb too, with water features, sculptures and a year round display of plants, shrubs and trees.

- B** From Chatsworth you have a choice of two routes back... a more direct one back through Edensor or a longer one which includes a walk by the River Derwent.

Longer route

Cross back over the bridge over the River Derwent and turn immediately left, to follow a broad track of grass which does not follow the river but heads almost straight for the next bend in it. From here follow the river along to just after the ruined corn mill building on your right, then walk up the grassy slope to join the road. Cross over the road and follow the tarmac road along the edge of the car park,, towards the garden centre.

Keep straight on past the garden centre (refreshments and toilets here) and the road shortly curves to the right, into Calton Lees. At a small grass triangle keep straight on up a track with a stream on your left. Follow the track up the valley for almost a mile to Calton Houses. The track is a public bridleway and zig zags up between the houses and continues up the valley with a plantation close on the left. Nearly 300 metres above Calton Houses the bridleway goes between this plantation and the next, through a gate on the left where the little stream in the valley sometimes flows over the track. The way continues on the track waymarked with blue arrows curving round until you are almost walking in the opposite direction for a little way, but it gradually ascends bearing right and opens out, heading almost south up Calton Pastures. Head straight up the slope just right of a shallow depression containing two gritstone troughs. You should see a finger post at the top at the right end of a plantation.

Now turn right and follow the grassy track back to the beeches and pond. Either retrace your steps direct down to Bakewell or continue along the ridge up a slight rise, past the site of an Iron Age fort (fine views from here) to a gate and farm track leading to Ball Cross and a minor road. Turn left down this a few yards then go left down the steep bridleway through the wood and across the Golf Course to the old station. Continue down Station Road into Bakewell.

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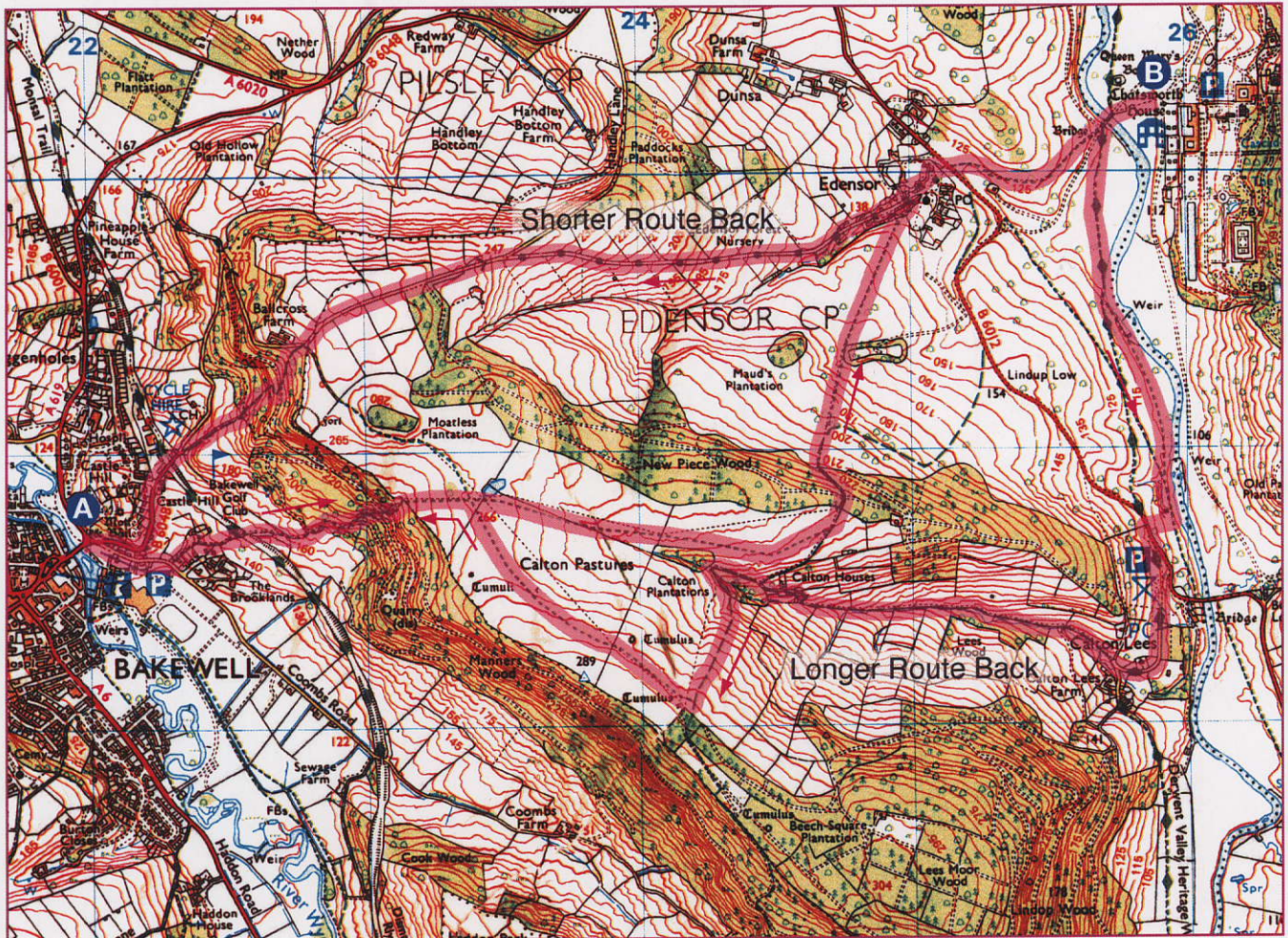
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Shorter route

Retrace your steps from Chatsworth to Edensor and in the village follow the road to the right hand side of the church

The gravestone of Kathleen Kennedy can be seen in the graveyard. She was the brother of John Kennedy and wife of the 11th Duke of Devonshire's elder brother. The village was designed by Joseph Paxton, gardener to the 6th Duke and designer of the Crystal Palace in London for the Great Exhibition of 1851. The buildings are an eclectic mix of architectural styles.

Keep going up this road, which peters out into a rough track. Follow this as it climbs slowly uphill and turn left when you reach a road (note the fingerpost in the field on your right at this junction). Follow the road until it starts to bend to the right, here take the bridleway down through the trees, across the golf course to the old station and down into Bakewell.



Chatsworth House

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Route 5

PEAK DISTRICT
AND DERBYSHIRE