

P & Q - Brearley Park

Named after the famous metallurgist, Harry Brearley, who invented stainless steel. The park is Chesterfield's first Local Nature Reserve and the meadows, scrub and wetland are a great habitat for many animals.

Q - Whittington Hall

The hall was built by Lord of the Manor, Henry Dixon, in the early 19th century. It has since been owned by many families before being taken over by the Home Office and run as a 'home for the feeble minded' by Rev. H. N. Burden. Part of the old hall remains and has been converted into private houses.



Wetland at Brearley Park



Meadows at Brearley Park

Easy to follow circular routes

See the map inside and follow these waymarkers.



Full walk distance is 8 miles (12.75km). Allow 4-6 hours, plus time to visit Revolution House. Look for the shortcuts shown on the map if you want a shorter walk.

Make sure you wear suitable clothing and footwear. Stiles and steep slopes can make this walk difficult for some people.

Travel information

Limited on-street parking is available at Revolution House. Why not use public transport and help the environment. For bus and rail services call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (national rate call), Type Talk on 0871 200 22 33. For more details on public transport in Derbyshire log on to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport/public_transport

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

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

Designed and produced by
Derbyshire County Council, County Hall,
Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG
www.derbyshire.gov.uk



Whittington and The Handleys

Countryside Walks in Derbyshire No. 8
With links from New Whittington,
Barrow Hill, Brimington and Hundall



Revolution House,
Old Whittington



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Features of Interest

take a closer look - see map overleaf ☆

A - Revolution House

This historic building takes its name from the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688. It used to be an alehouse called the 'Cock and Pynot' (pynot is an old Derbyshire word for magpie). Read the plaque on the wall that tells how in the spring of 1688 three noblemen on horseback met on Whittington Moor. The 4th Earl of Devonshire, John D'Arcy and the Early of Danby were driven by heavy rain into this alehouse. They used it as a 'plotting parlour' to plan their part in deposing the Catholic James II in order to bring his daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange, to the throne - the rest is history. The building is now a fascinating museum, (owned and managed by Chesterfield Borough Council). Opening times are from Easter (Good Friday) to the end of September. Visitors can enjoy a film telling the story of the 'Glorious Revolution'.



B - Slack Walk

This long, straight path next to St Bartholomew's Church (the fourth church on this site) probably got its name because it was used to carry slack (fine coal). Locals sometimes call it a 'twitchell'.



C - Glasshouse Common

In the late 18th century, Whittington had a thriving glassmaking industry at the top of present day Glasshouse Lane. A horse drawn trolley used to run from the glassworks to Dixon's Lock on the Chesterfield Canal. The path, marked as a shortcut on the map, mainly follows the route of this old tramway. You can see a collection of Whittington Glass at Chesterfield Museum.

H & I - The Handleys

Handley is an ancient settlement whose name is taken from the Anglo-Saxon meaning 'high wood or clearing'. In West Handley, look for Ash Lane Farm, a fine thatched house of cruck construction from the 16th century, now beautifully restored. Many buildings in the Handleys are still part of the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth estate, the pub in Middle Handley is called the Devonshire Arms.

I - Ghostly Goings On

Here, you cross Murder Field - so named after the 1873 murder of Eliza Hudson. She was only 23 and brutally murdered by Benjamin, her estranged husband. They met by chance by the stile and after a vicious argument he clubbed her to death. He was found guilty of murder and hanged at Derby Gaol.

K & L - Hagge Farm

Over to your left you can see Hagge Farm, a Jacobean mansion, built in 1630 by Sir Peter Frecheville. It is said to have many ghosts! The most famous is the Lady in White.

*'Then, as you cross the entrance hall to ascend
the oaken stair,
Fear not to meet the lady who oft-times
lingers there.
In cloak and hat of antique guise, and robes of
purest white,
She vanishes from the gazer's eyes e'en in the
noontide light.'*



Whittington and The Handleys

Remember to keep the country code

In particular:
Please keep your dogs under control.
Take all your litter home.
Cross all roads with care.

A - Start at Revolution House. Turn left up track by Chapel Cottage (no. 77). Follow the public footpath past the school towards Church of St. Bartholomew. Cross a minor road, continue on the footpath, keeping the churchyard on your left until you reach the steps. Go down the steps (caution - slippery when wet) and follow the path ahead.

B - Cross the stone bridge and follow the path, keeping to the right-hand side of the field. Continue along the field edge until you reach 3 stone steps. Climb the steps, cross the stile and bear diagonally left across the field to Grasscroft Woods. Turn around and admire the views. Look for Chesterfield's Crooked Spire with the Peak District moors beyond and on a clear day see if you can spot Bolsover Castle in the distance to your left.

C - Follow the main path straight on through the wood. Exit the woodland over a ladder stile and head straight across the field to scrubland (once mined for ironstone). Follow main path through gorse and broom down to the lane by a house. (To take a shortcut, turn right downhill at the ladder stile. Follow the path, keeping the brick wall on your left, cross the stiles and continue until you reach the road. Turn right along the road back to the start).

D - Continue across the grass and through the gap onto a path that crosses the field until you reach the main road at the field edge.

E - Turn left, taking care along the main road, then left again along the bridleway. After 350m you will reach a metal gate. Turn right into Stubbing Wood and follow the path uphill on the edge of the wood.

F - At the top of the wood, ignore the left path out into the field, go straight on and leave the wood through a gap in an ivy covered wall.

G - Follow the path diagonally down the field, through a gap and along the field edge to the road. Cross Long Lane (caution - busy road) and continue ahead on the public footpath.

H - Cross the field and turn right when you reach the lane. Pass Ash Lane Farm. Admire its beautiful thatched roof. At the road junction, cross to the public footpath, then cross 2 fields until you reach a road. Turn right along the road until you reach the next path on your right just before the first house.

I - (Go straight on into Middle Handley to visit the village and take a break.) Take the path on your right diagonally across the field to the hedge. Bear left and continue on the path following the hedge line. Do not turn right (this heads back to West Handley.)

J - Turn left just before the first telegraph pole in the hedge (no.105 08 0134). Cross the field into a dip, through a gap in the hedge and uphill towards the skyline. Bear left along the field edge to a road (caution - very busy road).

K - Cross the road with care and turn right (sign-posted Nether Handley and Staveley). At the left hand bend bear right down the minor road past Dale Farm. Continue downhill on the bridleway and on past Parkhouse Farm to a track ahead. On reaching the main road cross with care to the pavement (caution - very busy road) turning right towards Whittington.

L - Before reaching the houses turn left onto a path by the allotments. Cross the stile on the left and follow the path diagonally to the field edge. Cross the stile, continue keeping the hedge on your left for about 120m. Turn left through the hedge over a stile. Follow the path diagonally to a gateway at the field edge.

M - Cross the stile and turn right on the track. Cross the stile and join the road, continue on the road. Where the road bends right, turn left onto a track signed for Trans Pennine Trail and Chesterfield Canal.

N - Pass under the railway bridge and continue straight on.

O - Turn right through a kissing gate before the bridge over the River Rother. (Continue straight on to visit the Chesterfield Canal.) Follow the path along the riverside and under a railway bridge, continue alongside the river until you reach the field. Cross diagonally to the gate in the hedge at the roadside.

P - Turn right, after approx 75m cross the road onto a path behind the houses. Follow the path to a sports field, then cross the field to the park gates.

Q - Go through the gates and turn left along the main road. 100m after the White Horse public house cross the road (caution - very busy road) and take the path on your right. Follow the path diagonally uphill to cross a small bridge. Climb the steps and continue joining the path by the churchyard gate. Turn left, retracing your steps to Revolution House.

