

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.'*

