Introducing the Midshires Way

The Midshires Way is a long distance foot path and bridleway linking the Ridgeway National Trail in the South with the Trans Pennine Trail in the North - a distance of some 225 miles. It provides opportunities for people wanting the challenge of several days walking or riding and will also be used as part of circular walks and rides.

The Countryside Commission, the East Midlands Regional Council for Sport and Recreation, County Councils and a Metropolitan Borough Council have jointly funded the Midshires Way to help improve the route and promote its use.

On the Way through Derbyshire

In Derbyshire the Midshires Way uses existing paths and tracks from Sawley near Long Eaton to Duffield, then linking with the High Peak Trail near Wirksworth. The Trail crosses the Peak National Park to Buxton. The Way follows paths and trails up the Goyt Valley towards New Mills and on via the Goyt Way to Stockport.

This leaflet forms part of a series for Derbyshire and is one of many for the Midshires Way as a whole. It describes the section from Sawley near Long Eaton to Duffield and is a footpath route only, over most of its length. Details of riding routes in Derbyshire can be obtained from the British Horse Society (telephone (0203) 696697).

Further Information

Planning & Highways Dept,
Derbyshire County Council,
Matlock,
Derbyshire,
DE4 3AG.
Tel: (0629) 580000 Ext 7190

or

Countryside Service,
East Derbyshire Area,
Shipley Country Park,
Heanor,
Derbyshire,
DE75 7GX.
Tel: (0773) 719961.

What to Remember

This leaflet can be used as a map guide, although you may still find the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Pathfinders maps useful for planning shorter circular routes.

Enjoy your walk in the Derbyshire countryside by being well prepared:

- Wear wellies or boots even in summer
- Carry wet weather clothes, food and drink
- All farmland is somebody's livelihood, always stay on the footpath!

The financial assistance of the Countryside Commission and the East Midlands Council for Sport and Recreation towards this project is gratefully acknowledged.

The work done by Erewash Borough Council in helping to identify, waymark and improve the route is gratefully acknowledged.

Published by Derbyshire County Council, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG.

MIDSHIRES WAY

Midshires Way

(Derbyshire Section One)

LONG EATON TO DUFFIELD

Walking Route Only

~ 17 1/2 miles ~

through the historic landscape of East Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE

DERBYSHIRE County Council
Caring for your Countryside

(continues onto bottom of map overleaf)

How to use this leaflet

This leaflet includes a 1:25,000 map of the Midshires Way between Sawley near Long Eaton and Duffield. Together with the 'double acorn' waymarks and arrows along the Way, it is designed to help you follow the route. Some features of interest are also included in the map and text. It will help your appreciation of the area to use the leaflet in association with Ordnance Survey Pathfinder Maps No. 833 Nottingham S.W., No. 812 Nottingham N. and Ilkeston, and No. 811 Belper at 1;25,000 scale.

Along the route from Risley to Constitution Hill there are magnificent views. On a clear day the five counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire can be seen.

The Victoria Mills

This dramatic four storey building in Draycott once housed a lace factory, but is now used for the more modern industry of electrical component manufacturing. When it was built in the late 1880's it was one of the longest buildings of its kind in Europe. From Draycott the route crosses the fields along paths to Risley.

The Victoria Mills

Sawley Bridge Marina

The walk covered in this leaflet starts at the Marina, a popular stopping point for narrowboats. The Midshires Way follows the Trent and Mersey Canal before turning right for Great Wilne and heading towards Draycott.

Fleabane - one of the unusual plants to be found in Risley Nature Reserve.

(continues on Derbyshire Section Two - Duffield to Dowlow)

From Horsley Carr the route turns left towards Little Eaton and then rises up through Eaton Park Wood to join the Packhorse trail finally descending to Duffield. This leaflet leaves you at Duffield Post Office. The next section through central Derbyshire is covered in a separate leaflet - "Midshires Way Derbyshire Section Two".

Horsley Carr

If you listen carefully you may hear the drumming of the Great Spotted Woodpecker or the call of the Nuthatches and Coal Tits in the coniferous woodlands of Horsley Carr.

Please follow the Country Code

If you are a keen walker or just starting out please keep in mind the following guidelines aimed at safeguarding the countryside and its wildlife.

- GUARD AGAINST FIRE
- FASTEN GATES
- KEEP DOGS UNDER CONTROL
- KEEP TO PATHS
- AVOID DAMAGING FENCES, HEDGES AND WALLS
- RESPECT THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE
- LEAVE NO LITTER
- SAFEGUARD WATER SUPPLIES
- PROTECT WILDLIFE, TREES AND PLANTS
- GO CAREFULLY ON COUNTRY ROADS

REMEMBER
ALL FARMLAND IS SOMEONE'S LIVELIHOOD, PLEASE KEEP TO THE FOOTPATHS.

The Midshires Way continues from Constitution Hill through the historic valley of Dale where the Abbey (now a ruin) owned and ruled the land until its dissolution in 1538. The stained glass windows of the Abbey now form part of St. Matthews Church at Morley.

Hermits Wood - a refuge for woodland wildflowers

The Priory, now a hotel, golf and country club was built in the 16th century on the site of a 13th century Augustinian Priory.

From the Dale Valley you cross the Spondon-Kirk Hallam road at Dunnshill -take care!- and cross the fields to Stanley. A detour into Stanley to see the Stanley Church with its round-head priest's doorway of the 12th century is well worth the visit.

The Hermitage

The steps up the woody slopes of Hermit's Wood lead you to a cave with an arched doorway. The hermit who carved out this cave from sandstone lived there in c1130. He had been a baker in Derby who was led to this place by a vision of the Virgin Mary.

The Packhorse Trail

If you had stopped to rest along this ancient trackway in the 17th century or earlier you may have seen columns of 40 or 50 horses passing by. They would have been carrying baskets laden with goods from Wirksworth to the river Trent crossing at Nottingham.

The Midshires Way leads from Stanley to Morley. Beware of traffic when you cross the busy Derby Road. The mysterious Morley Mound can be seen during the winter. The route follows the old trackway to Morley Moor and then through Breadsall Moor (now a golf course) to Horsley Carr. Some small remnants of moorland are still present near Horsley on the slopes of the Warren, however elsewhere only the names indicate what the countryside must once have looked like.

The Morley Mound

Whether this large moated mound was a Roman observation post or a defensive motte dating from the troubled reign of King Steven remains a local mystery. Perhaps it had some other purpose?

key

- Midshires Way Route
- PH Public House
- P Parking
- Beware of traffic
- T Telephone
- Viewpoint
- Green Text Places of interest

In the springtime listen out for skylarks singing high above Breadsall Golf Course.

N W E S

Scale 1:25,000

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from Constitution Hill (continues from top of map over)