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 Dowlow just south of Buxton to Whaley Bridge 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

Peak Park Joint Planning
Board, Aldern House,
Baslow Road, Bakewell,
Derbys, DE4 1AE.
Tel: (0629) 814321

Countryside Service,
North-West Derbyshire Area,
Hayfield Information Centre,
Station Road, Hayfield,
Via Stockport, Cheshire,
SK12 5ES.
Tel: (0663) 746222.

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.

This leaflet has been produced with the assistance of the Peak Park Planning Board

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MIDSHIRES WAY

Midshires Way

(Derbyshire Section Three)

DOWLOW TO WHALEY BRIDGE

Walking Route Only

~ 21 miles ~

through the historic landscape of North-West Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE

DERBYSHIRE County Council
Caring for your Countryside

Dowlow to Deep Dale

At the end of the High Peak Trail turn right along the track until you reach the A515 and turn right again along the grassed verge. Follow the waymarking signs which turn left (take great care crossing this busy road) and lead along country lanes and a grass track into the village of Chelmorton.

(Note the fine example of a Limestone plateau).

Continue straight on along Old Coalpit Lane and follow the track passing Shepley Farm on your right.

Crossing the A5270 road with care follow the lane ahead before turning down the second lane leading off to the left. Be careful at this point not to turn left at the farm gate which is set back a little way from the track. Continue past this gate to the actual lane where a stone stile will lead you across several fields, the path running just right of the telegraph pole into the aptly named Deep Dale.

Deep Dale to Buxton

Follow the waymarked route down into the dale, over the stream in the bottom and up the other side where the route takes you across the fields to emerge on the road opposite the church at King Sterndale.

A short way along the road to the left will bring you to two metal gates on your right. Go through the smaller of these closing it behind you and follow the route along the line of the fence through the park land.

Follow the waymarking signs across the fields, heading towards the green barn, to the right of the slurry tank and through Cowdale.

Turn right along the road then left after the farm, and through a squeeze stile in the wall.

Follow the track up the hill, between the barn and the stables and straight across at the crossroads, with Staden Farm on your right.

Follow the track down the hill towards Buxton, under the viaduct and down to the main road (A515).

The Youth Hostel is near by and is signposted at this point.

Buxton to Errwood Reservoir

At the A515 the route turns right and heads straight to Buxton.

Continue along this road keeping straight on at the five lane road junction. The London Road Inn is on your left, up past the market place, down the hill then straight across at the traffic lights with the main shopping area on your right and the Tourist Information Centre to your left.

Continue straight on until you reach the roundabout. Then turn left and up the hill on the A5004 towards Whaley Bridge, passing the Devonshire Royal Hospital on your right.

Follow this road past the houses, until you reach a dead end sign on your right. This is approximately 500 yards past Cold Springs Farm which is on your left. From the farm you will be walking along the grassed verge.

Turn right taking care as you cross this busy road, to walk up the lane, (an old Roman Road) which is almost opposite the pump house on the left hand side of the road. This leads up onto a stony track and into an open area known as "Rough Low".

Continue on the lane which becomes tarmac again until you pass the White Hall Education Centre on your left where the route is forward (do not follow the road to the right) along a track then right along a bridleway and continue over the hill until the route reaches the A5004.

Go through a stone stile on the opposite side of the road and the route then follows the path signposted "Bunsal Cob and Errwood Dam".

Errwood Reservoir was opened in 1968. The Dam is 145 ft high and 1000 ft long. The lower reservoir, Fernilee, is much older - opened in 1937.

Below
Combs Moss

Errwood Reservoir to Whaley Bridge

Here the route passes over a stream at the sheepwash, heads uphill through a lightly wooded area before reaching a minor road where you turn right and continue across the reservoir dam to the T junction. Turn right and continue uphill towards Kettleshulme. After approximately $^1/_4$ mile you will see a double gate, go through a bridlegate on your right, follow the track (signed Fernilee Reservoir) through Hoo Moor Wood and downhill to Oldfield Farm.

The magnificent views to your right are of Combs Moss and Rake End, in front of you are the hills of the Dark Peak.

After the farm follow the track along the edge of the trees, bearing left and then passing through two gates (farm buildings should be on your right). Follow the path downhill until you reach three gates; take the one to your right. Carry on through the field until you reach a five bar gate.

After the gate take a left onto a track to Millclough which leads downhill over a small bridge then bear right uphill towards Madscar Farm. Take the track to the left of the farm and carry on uphill. Turn left (almost doing a U turn), then continue upwards towards Overton Hall Farm.

Turn right just before the first farm building and follow the track passing a gate on your left, and a converging path from the right. Go through a five bar gate, over a stream and then uphill towards Glebe Farm on your right.

Continue along the path to the left of Taxal church, which is worth a look around if you have time. Taxal Church has a tower dating back to the 13th century, although the main part is later.

Take the path straight on in front of cottages which were a former restaurant "The Chines of Taxal", through the mature trees, across the driveway of Taxal Lodge School then a narrow pathway on the boundary of the school grounds. The path becomes a track and crosses the B5470 Macclesfield Road.

At this point continue straight on down Reddish Lane in front of you and follow the marker posts which bear right downhill towards Toddbrook Reservoir.

Carry on to walk directly below the dam wall and once into the park area turn left. Head across the footbridge where it eventually reaches a road and turn right to go under the railway bridge to the main road in Whaley Bridge. At this point cross the road with care and walk to the left towards the marina on the canal, down the slip road that runs parallel with the main street, keeping the railings to your left. This street is Canal Street and leads past the boat workshops and on your left you will see a sign post for the Goyt Way.

To continue northwards on the Midshires Way follow these signs using the Goyt Way leaflet .....

..... to the Goyt Way use the Goyt Way leaflet from Whaley Bridge northwards.

Toddbrook

The reservoir was built as a feeder for the Peak Forest canal in 1831.

Taxal

The parish church of St James was known to be in existence in 1287, although the present church was built in 1825.

Buxton Opera House

Errwood Reservoir

Devonshire Royal Hospital

St John the Baptist Church

King Sterndale

A pretty little village with its old market cross set in the village green and the beautiful old Christ Church on the outskirts.

Chelmorton

The village with its 15th century church, is the highest in Derbyshire at 1,200 ft above sea level and is, with the surrounding area a classic example of the mediaeval field patterns preserved by the late 18th century Enclosure Acts.

Deep Dale

One of the most picturesque dales in the Peak District. The limestone at this point is the thickest in Derbyshire measuring 2,700 feet.

Buxton

Buxton, 1,000 ft above sea level, is the highest market town in England. Information, car parks, toilets and refreshments are all available.

The Opera House was built in 1903. One of Buxton's finest buildings, the Devonshire Royal Hospital was erected in 1790. Its 156 ft dome constructed in 1880, was at the time the largest unsupported dome in the world.

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.

key

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

How to use this leaflet

This leaflet includes a 1:50,000 map of the Midshires Way between Dowlow near Buxton and Whaley Bridge. 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 Leisure Maps No. 24 and No. 1 both at 1;25,000 scale.

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N W E S

From the High Peak Trail (continues from Derbyshire Section Two - Duffield to Dowlow).