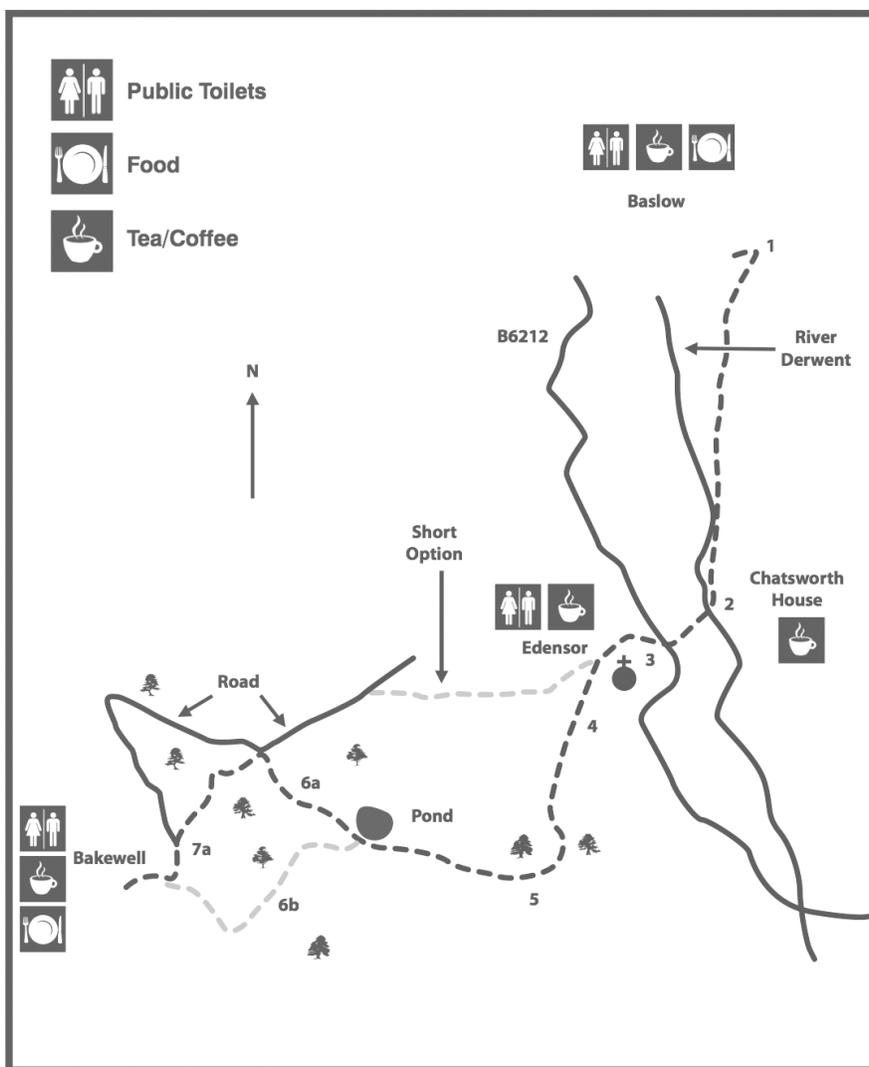
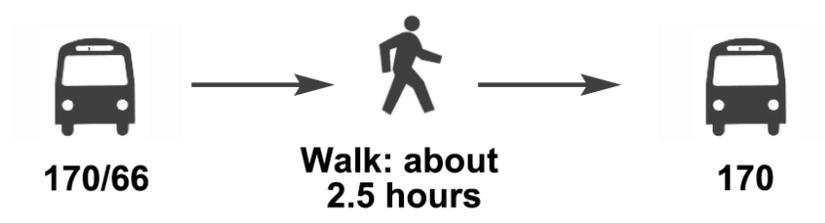


A series of 6 walks in the Peak District, researched and published by Transition Chesterfield, that can be reached by public transport from Chesterfield, for people without cars, or who want to leave the car at home. Unfortunately constant changes to the bus timetable, ticket costs, in some cases routes and even bus numbers make keeping this information updated impractical. Instead, we suggest you check the current status online at: <http://www.derbybus.info/times/>. For the other walks see: www.transitionchesterfield.org.uk.

Walk No. 1: Baslow to Bakewell via Chatsworth

Summary: A fairly easy walk through three classic English landscapes; tended parkland, farmland and old woodland. Has fine views of Chatsworth that can't be seen from any road, and passes through the unusual "model" village of Edensor. Distance: 5 miles or 8 km (with shorter option 3.5 miles, 5 km), time: 2-3 hours.



Walk description:

1. From the bus stop walk back a few metres and turn right onto the road that leads to a small bridge; cross this and turn right onto the path which is signposted to Chatsworth. Follow this, going through the rotating kissing gate and then take the right hand path. Continue on this as it runs roughly parallel to the river; ignore any other paths you cross, until you see Chatsworth House to the left ahead of you.

2. Just past the stone tower (Queen Mary's Bower) you come to the road that leads up to the house. Turn right across the bridge over the Derwent and take the footpath that bears right away from the road. At the top of the hill are excellent views back towards Chatsworth, with the water cascade behind it. Go down the other side of the hill and cross the road into the village of Edensor (pronounced Enzor), through the blue gate. There is a small shop and a tearoom in the village, on the road to the left of the church.

3. Walk through the village, keeping the church on your left hand side. For a shorter route (5km/3 1/2 miles) follow the lane (which becomes a sunken track) until it merges with a road at the top and, bearing left, continue along that for a few hundred metres (this will mean walking along a minor road without a pavement). Then go down the bridleway through the woods on your left (see 7 below). Otherwise, past the church and a few houses, there is a signpost pointing left to Carlton Lees and Rowsley; go up the steps and then straight away turn left, up more steps into the field at the top.

4. The path across the grass isn't clear but, about 45 degrees on the right and a few metres into the field, is a post with a footpath marker on it. Walk past this and then carry on in the same direction across the field skirting the right tip of the wood at the bottom of the slope. From here climb the hill in front, still in the same direction (this is steep but reasonably short). This is the edge of the Chatsworth estate. There are seats at the top where you can enjoy more fine views of Chatsworth. Go through the gate or over the steps into the wood; walk through and out the other side.

5. A few metres past the wood there is a footpath marker where a bridleway (in the form of a grassy track) crosses; turn right onto this and follow it to the top of a hill, heading for an isolated stand of trees. Just before the trees is a pond; go round it on the left, passing through two gates. There are now two options, one either side of the stand of trees (a) slightly easier and (b) which is steep, very rough and can be slippery; decent walking shoes and a proper stick are the minimum requirement for this route.

6 (a) To the right of the trees; signposted Ball Cross. The path isn't clear at first, but it can be seen on the rise in front of you. Go straight across the field, then up the hill past a small plantation which will be on your right. There are views of Bakewell from here. Walk through the gate and along the track to where it meets the road.

7 (a) Turn left at the road and immediately left onto the bridleway; follow this (it may be slippery if it's been wet) down and across the golf course. Where it joins a road, bear left (not the sharp turn back) and across the old railway bridge and turn left again onto a road which leads into Bakewell town centre. Staying on the road (in 6a) may be an easier walk than through the woods if the weather has been wet, but it is slightly longer and there is no pavement.

6 (b) To the left of the trees; signposted Bakewell. Follow the faint path, heading for the edge of the wood at the lowest point of the dip, where you will come to a gate. Follow the path down through the wood, continuing straight down the very rocky path (shared with a stream) where a wider track crosses at the breeze block bunker. (the track to the right joins the bridleway described above). Lower down there is path on the left, past a sign ("Haddon Estates"); ignore this but go straight on down. Leave the woods and cross the golf course, go over the disused railway line and follow the path down to the road. Turn right onto and walk along to the bridge; cross this into Bakewell town centre.

Some paths may be rough or, if it has been wet, slippery, so wear appropriate clothing, especially footwear. Where there are steep or long hills this will be mentioned in the route description; however, it should be borne in mind that this is the Peak District and descriptions of conditions are relative to the area. The route map is very simplified so we recommend that you also carry an OS map, either Explorer OL24 (1:25,000) or Landranger 119 (1:50,000), which both cover all the walks in this series - maps can usually be borrowed from public libraries. Remember the Countryside Code: leave gates and property as you find them, protect plants and animals, take your litter home, keep dogs under close control and please consider other people.