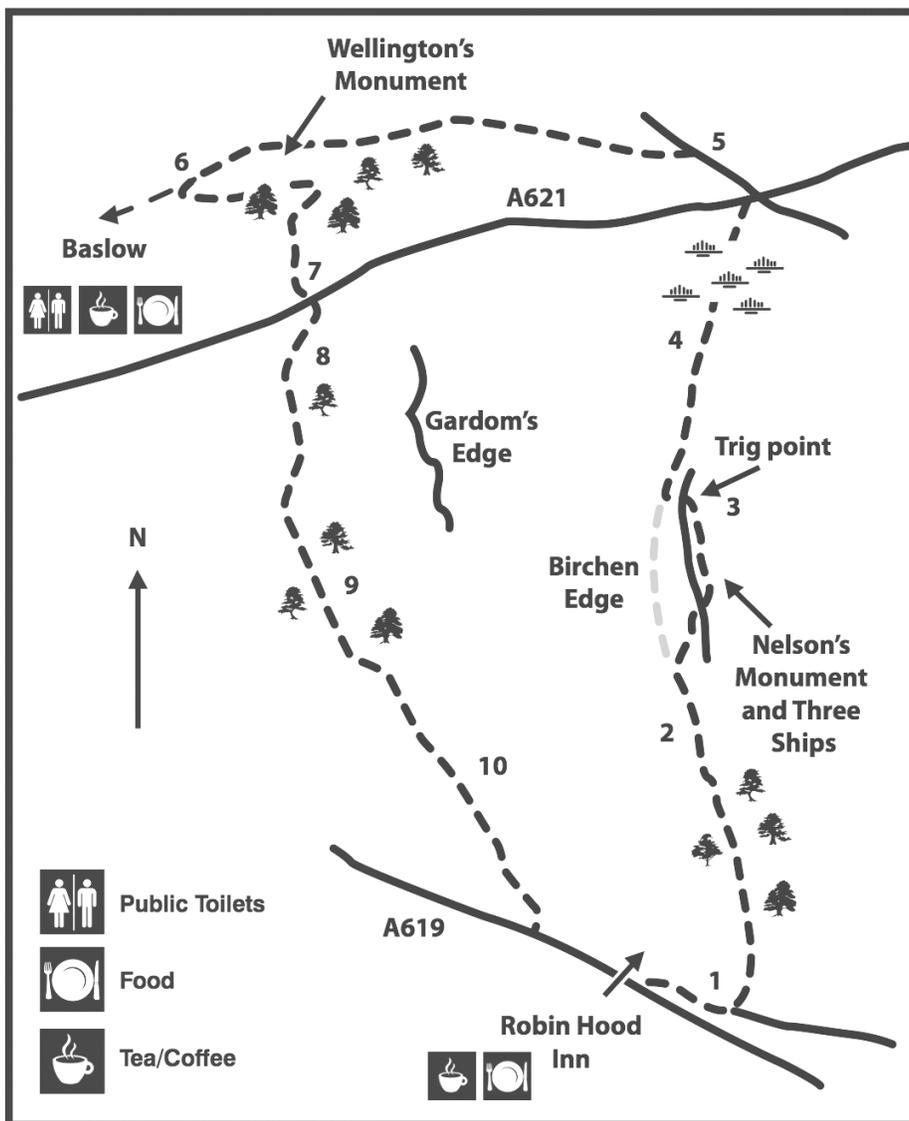


A series of 6 walks in the Peak District, researched and published by Transition Chesterfield, that can be reached by public transport from Chesterfield, for people without cars, or who want to leave the car at home. Unfortunately constant changes to the bus timetable, ticket costs, in some cases routes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

## Walk No. 2: Robin Hood Inn Circular

**Summary:** A fairly easy circular walk with fine views, passing a variety of antiquities and through different types of woodland filled with moss-covered rocks. Distance: 6.5km/4 miles; time about 2.5 hours.



## Walk description:

**1:** Alight from the bus and cross the road. Walk back past the Robin Hood Inn and the Birchen Edge car park and up the minor road on the left; be careful here as there is no pavement and some drivers don't slow down as they leave the main road. Just past the house take the path on the left; go through the gate and then left up some steps.

**2:** Follow the sandy path as it climbs up alongside the wood, keeping the stone wall on your left; this falls away after a while, but stay on the main path, which leads more steeply up to the base of Birchen Edge. At some point you will see the stone obelisk which is Nelson's Monument; although the ascent may look difficult, there are several places where you can scramble to the top (or see 3). Once there, as well as the monument and plaque, are three large rocks carved with the names of ships in Nelson's fleet: Victory, Defiance and (quaintly misspelt) Royal Soverin. You may also meet some rock climbers.

**3:** Continue to the rather hidden Trig point (a concrete column about 1m tall) further along the Edge. There is a path from the base of this, down a little cleft, leading you back to the bottom of the Edge to rejoin the original path that comes in from the left, meeting near a large rock. (You can use this path to get to the Trig point instead of climbing up from below the monument; it is worth it for the uninterrupted panoramic views over Chatsworth Park and the surrounding Dales).

**4:** Continue along the original path, now almost due north, which goes down across open land. If it has been wet, waterproof boots are recommended as there are places near the bottom which may be very boggy. There are short wooden walkways and logs to balance on for crossing some of the streams that may form, although the water has mostly bypassed them, rendering them ineffective. The path may be slightly unclear in places, but it goes more or less straight down, and obvious parts of it should be visible.

**5:** The path finishes at a crossroads; cross over the main road and go straight up the small rising road opposite, signposted Curbar. Near the top of the short rise is a signpost (Restricted Byway) pointing left; go through the gate and follow the clear twin tracks (this is the old Chesterfield Road – don't miss the ancient stone sign) along to Wellington's Monument. This part of the moor is home to some spectacular highland cattle and the impressive Eagle Stone.

**6:** At Wellington Monument there are three options. The path you need is immediately below you, which can be reached by a fairly steep scrambled descent down the side of the hill – there are several vague paths. The easiest route is to continue along the main track for a few hundred metres, keeping left at a junction, down past the old quarries. Just before the gate, turn sharp left along the path next to the wall and fence, and back beneath the monument (not visible in summer) – this path may be overgrown when the bracken is up. Instead of turning sharp left here, you can vary the walk by going straight on down the main path, which leads into Baslow, where there are cafes and shops; the buses pass through here as well, about 3 minutes earlier than the time at the Robin Hood Inn.

**7:** Follow the rocky path down through the woods, through a gate next to some houses, (where you get a glimpse of Kitty Lockyer's beautiful garden), over the old bridge and out onto the main road.

**8:** Opposite you, slightly to the left, is a signpost next to a cottage; take this path. Go up it, over a stile and then turn right, onto the path behind the garden.

**9:** When the wire garden fence ends, keep to the main path bearing left gently up the hill. Continue up this path, past the right-angled end of a stone wall, until you reach a gap in another wall. Go through it and continue up the path, into woodland with moss-covered rocks, crossing an interesting old sunken pathway, then through another gap in a wall.

**10:** At the crest of the hill, next to a large flat rock, continue straight on through another gap in a wall and follow the path as it runs downhill, past some ancient cairns with a distant view of Nelson's monument away to the left. The view from the Moorside Rocks on your left is worth a diversion. Go down the hill until the path reaches the main road, turning left for the bus stop or the Robin Hood Inn.

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.