

Cuckoostone Walk

5.6km
approx.

Moderate Walk

The walk shown on this leaflet is less than 5.6km long. It can be walked in a couple of hours or so.

Enjoy your walks and the beautiful views in and around Matlock.

- Bus route X17 takes you from the town to the start of the walk. Ask for Highfields School, Lumsdale Site.
- Limited lay-by parking is also shown on the map.

The Countryside Code

There are five sections of The Countryside Code dedicated to helping members of the public respect, protect and enjoy the countryside.

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

For more information www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

This is a walk around the Matlock Moor area, the route mainly follows tracks and roads. Much of the route is way marked to help you find your way.

After walking along Chesterfield Road towards Matlock itself take the second right turn into Sandy Lane. As you continue straight on (ignoring the left turn into Gritstone Road) the lane soon becomes a track. Follow this as it bears round to the right for about half a mile.

You will soon be walking beside trees on your left with a wide view of Matlock Golf Course and Chesterfield Road to the right. On the skyline are the Forestry Commission plantations on Bottom Moor.

Eventually you come to a gate with Cuckoostone House approximately 300 metres ahead. Take the grassy track through the gate heading slightly downhill by the wallside. Then, ignoring

the walled track leading towards the golf course on the right, keep straight forward towards the marshy area. You may have to keep slightly to the left of this to avoid getting your feet wet. Head in the general direction of Cuckoostone House and walk into the field just to the right of the farm (the legal line of the footpath is in fact slightly different from the walked line at his point. It is the walked line that is described in this leaflet). Keep on the topside of the field until you have crossed the boggy strip of ground. Then head to the far right corner of the field and through a gate into the adjacent field.

At this point if you look to your right along the fairway you will see 350 metres or so away a rock, 5 or 6 feet high, beside a thorn tree, this is the Cuckoo Stone from which the area got its name – the locals call it “cuckerst’n”.

Follow the path forward, descending slightly to a concrete slab bridge over Bentley Brook.

After crossing the bridge clamber up the steep path through the heather. Do not pass through the squeezer stile in front of you. Turn left in front of it. Take the narrow but distinct path through the bracken. Follow this before crossing the stile on your right at the end of the wall. Walk up the right side of the field towards the trees and the grassy track running across the top of the field. Turn right onto the track until you reach Chesterfield Road.

As you walk along this track (Cuckoostone Lane) the view to the right opens out to Riber Castle and to its left Crich Stand will be visible.

Turn left along Chesterfield Road for 150 metres. Then cross the road and walk down the farm drive straight through the farm buildings of Wayside Farm passing through two gates – one after the other – to come out into the field beyond the farm. Keep the wall on your left as you pass through the fields toward the house in front. Go through the squeezer stile to the right of the house. Walk alongside the wall passing through two more stiles and a ditch beside the caravan park, from here bear slightly right to the stile and signpost which brings you out onto the drive of Packhorse Farm.

As the name suggests Packhorse Farm is on the line of an ancient packhorse route or saltway running from Matlock towards Ashover and beyond – perhaps it was even a packhorse inn.

Turn left along the drive away from the farm. At the crossroads turn right along the quiet country lane. Take the stile 6 or 7 metres to the left of the field gate where the lane turns sharp left. Once in the field walk alongside the wall and pass through the field gate in front of you into the trees. These trees hide old quarry workings so do not cross any fences. Stay on the main path through the trees on a confusion of mountain bike and walkers tracks in a westerly direction to the edge of the wood which gives onto the track between Tansley and Lumsdale with a dry stone wall on the western side. Turn right and follow the wall taking the right fork

when descending. Proceed along the path to the right and 300 metres later you will come out in front of Highfields School.

It will not be obvious to you but this last stretch of path will have taken you alongside what remains of an old dam or mill pond – long silted up. This was the topmost dam in the Lumsdale Valley. An interesting collection of ruined mill buildings lie in the valley further downstream. They are being restored as far as possible and made safe by the Arkwright Society which is based at Cromford Mill.

If you have the time do explore the rest of the valley as Bentley Brook tumbles down towards the River Derwent a mile or so away.

This walk is free of obstruction but, if you encounter any problems, please report them to Matlock Town Council, Imperial Rooms, Matlock.

The public footpaths used on this walk are in general, in good condition but there may be some mud. Good shoes or possibly trainers are therefore recommended although walking boots are always best.

Finally it is advisable to use the Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure Map No.24 (“The Peak District White Peak Area”) in conjunction with the Matlock Footpath Map. The O.S Map gives you more detail and can, of course be used as you explore other areas. Enjoy your walks and the beautiful views in and around Matlock.

Public Transport Information
0871 200 22 33 • www.traveline.info

Rail Times and Fares Enquiries
03457 48 49 50 • www.nationalrail.co.uk

Acknowledgements

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Matlock Town Council

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For more information about the town and things to do in Matlock visit www.matlock.gov.uk

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Cuckoostone Walk

-  Walk
- sa* Squeezer
- g* Gate
- st* Stile
-  Road
-  Wall
-  River
-  View
-  Wire
-  Raised Ground

