

WEDNESDAY 18TH AUGUST 2021 BEGINNING FIELD LANE CAR PARK - BELPER

On an overcast Wednesday morning, 21 of us left Field Lane car park walking north along the A6 towards the mills, where we crossed at the lights and walked over the bridge towards Bridge Foot. Turning left we followed the footpath beside the Derwent for around half-a-mile or so and then we took the path in a south-westerly direction towards the fragrant water treatment works! At the junction with Chevin Road we turned left, eventually reaching the bridge over the railway line. Passing a row of cottages on our right, we turned south-west and made a steady ascent of Jacksons Lane. Around half way up we stopped for a breather with some of us spotting a couple of Deer in a nearby field.



Reaching the top of Jacksons Lane and pausing for a moment to gather our breath, we turned left onto North Lane then after a few yards turned right. We headed downhill following the track around a right-hand bend, passing a group of golfers on the hill to our right. Bearing slightly left in front of Court House Farm, we walked down a grassy slope and through the trees towards a gate, crossing the Midshires Way and then out into the light with far reaching views south-west towards Duffield, Derby and beyond.

After pausing here for coffee and fully refreshed, we continued north-west, towards Hazelwood Hall Farm and Wallstones Farm House.



On reaching the 'T' junction we turned left and headed down Spring Hollow towards Hazelwood, passing the waterspout (never known to have run dry) erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Approaching the junction with Hazelwood Road and Hazelwood Hill we turned west and then north-west to follow the latter for a couple of hundred yards before turning left onto a track passing a group of cottages to our right with lovely views ahead to the west and south. In the distance we could hear the occasional whistle blowing from the trains on the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway.



Heading west, we followed the path which gradually turned to the north-west, passing grassland and wheat fields with The Firs Farm coming into view ahead. Making a slight 'zig-zag' around the farm we encountered a few young bulls which seemed docile on the pre-walk a few days earlier. However, after a handful of us had climbed the stile and gathered on Nether Lane, we could hear behind us that the 'docile' young bulls were a little more feisty than some of us were comfortable with!! Luckily for us we had the 'cow whisperer' with us, (DD), who calmly shooed them away until all were safely over the stile!!

With some relief, we headed up Nether Lane, which becomes Hobbs Hill, towards St John The Evangelist church in Hazelwood.

Turning left onto Over Lane, we had a very welcome and pleasant lunch admiring the well tended gardens and using the seating around Hazelwood Bowls Club. As the club members arrived and unlocked the club house we were invited to use their 'facilities' of which a number of us were very grateful!



After lunch we continued to head north-west along Over Lane until we reached Lumb Lane on our right. Turning left in front of Lumb Grange we headed down hill crossing Lumb Brook.

Walking towards us we came across another group of walkers who turned out to be a Derbyshire Dales group. After a few greetings they



passed through a squeeze style on our right with us following behind. By this time the sun was shining and the temperature rising so we were grateful to reach the shade of the woodland ahead.

At the edge of the woods and climbing over a stone stile we crossed a field and along a track to meet up with Farnah Green Road. Turning right towards the Blue Bell we took a turn to our left ascending towards Chevin Mount and crossing the Midshires Way once again.

Pausing for a moment or two to admire the views towards Belper we descended east towards Chevin Road. Turning left and downhill for three or four hundred yards, we took the footpath to our right descending to the valley and the River Derwent once again. Following the footpath and retracing our steps with the Derwent to our right we continued in the sunshine towards Bridge Foot and along the A6 returning to Field Lane car park.

