

Beeley Moor & Halldale Wood (4.8 miles)

At A Glance

- Distance: 4.8 miles
- Time: 2-3-hours
- Grade: Moderate ●●●○●
- Terrain: Moorland trails, country lanes, woodland paths
- Accessibility: Uneven ground, step stiles, squeeze stiles, gates
- Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL24

This beautiful route takes you across the heather-clad expanse of Beeley Moor, with fantastic views in all directions. It then follows a quiet country lane into mature woodland, where a pretty wooden footbridge crosses a crystal-clear stream, before returning via forest trails back to the park.

1. Start your walk on the road beside the Reception building that runs past the Little Monkeys Play Centre. Follow the signs to the Recreation Area and from there join the Trim Trak that leads around the edge of the park.



2. Follow this clear path beneath beautiful beech trees with a small stream to the right. Bear left on the path after passing the 'Shuffle Bars' exercise point.

3. At a T-junction of paths, turn right. After approx. 100 metres leave the main path and take a path across the grass to your right, marked with a wooden post topped with a blue square.

4. Follow this path as it bears left under a further avenue of beech trees. Go through a hand gate at the end of the path and immediately turn left, walking with a stone wall to your left and open fields to your right.

5. Follow the course of the stone wall as it turns to the left after approx. 400 metres and walk past a series of farm buildings on your left.

6. The path ends at a step stile over a stone wall to emerge on to a quiet lane (Flash Lane). Veer slightly left and cross over the lane, to go over a further step stile and follow a public footpath signposted to Rowsley Bar Road.

7. Follow the clear path across the field through two hand gates, and then on between two fences, with a collection of buildings to the left and trees to the right.

8. The path continues through a narrow squeeze stile in a stone wall and enters the heather-clad expanse of Beeley Moor. Follow the clear path diagonally right through the heather.



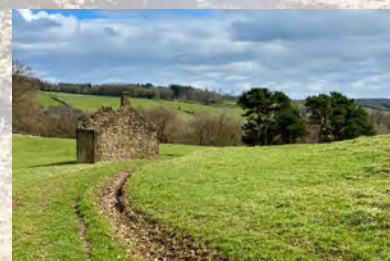
9. Follow this path for approx. 700 metres, with stunning views all around. The path ends at an extremely narrow squeeze stile; do take care not to get stuck here, especially if you have a dog with you. Go through the stile and turn left to walk along the verge of the road (Chesterfield Road). Take care here because the traffic travels very quickly and there is no path.



10. After 150 metres turn left on to Bent Lane. Follow this quiet lane for approx. 1.2km. There are fantastic views over to Beeley Moor and Halldale Woods on your left.

11. The lane heads downhill slightly and passes through a copse of trees. Soon afterwards look out for a public footpath sign on the left and take the path, crossing over a step stile beside a wide metal gate.

12. Follow the obvious track ahead, that curves away to the right at the foot of a small hill. As you round the corner, walk towards a charming ruined stone barn.



13. Bear left immediately after passing the stone barn and walk downhill towards trees keeping a stone wall on your left.



14. At the end of the stone wall go through a hand gate into Halldale Woods. Follow the clear path as it zig-zags down through trees towards Halldale Brook.

15. Cross the stream by way of the pretty footbridge on the left. Immediately after crossing the footbridge, take the path that heads up the hill diagonally left.

16. This path winds through the mixed woodland. Watch out for a lovely waterfall on the left as you walk up and away from Halldale Brook. At a fork in the path, take the right hand path.

17. After approx. 150 metres the path leads through a gap in a stone wall. Keep following this main path as it turns right, with the stone wall on your right, ignoring other paths off.



18. The path eventually meets a squeeze stile in a stone wall and emerges at a crossroads of paths. Go straight on and walk into an open clearing of young conifers. Where the path meets a wide forest track, turn right and head towards mature conifer woods ahead.



19. On reaching a metal gate and a junction with another forest track, turn left on the track and then almost immediately right on a path that leads through a stone wall.

21. Follow the path through the woods until reaching a forest track. Turn left on the track and walk through a wide metal gate to meet a quiet lane (Flash Lane, that you crossed at point 6).

22. Turn left on the lane and then after approx. 50 metres turn right, to enter woodland by way of a low stile beside a fence. Walk straight on for approx. 50 metres and then turn right on a clear path through pine trees and silver birch trees.

23. At a crossroads of paths continue straight on, and follow the path that leads through the trees back to the park. At a fork in the path, take the right hand fork and carry on through a gate to emerge behind the Evolution Health & Fitness Building, opposite your start point.

Along the way...

Beeley Moor

Beeley Moor is an upland area of gritstone moorland between the Peak District villages of Baslow and Beeley. Wild and sometimes desolate in the winter, it's transformed by bright blooming heather in the summer months. This prehistoric landscape contains many protected Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including cairns, burial mounds and guidestones. Although peaceful now, with the only noises the cries of curlews, skylark and sheep, 300 years ago Beeley Moor was an area of busy industry used for mining coal for lead smelting.

Bumper Castle

Halfway along Bent Lane you'll walk through the area known as Bumper Castle. This region was the site of intensive settlement and human activity in the Bronze Age, with some of the largest and best-preserved ancient field systems in Northern England. A prehistoric ring cairn is also located at Bumper Castle, a historic ritual monument dating back to the Early Bronze Age, around 2000BC.

Halldale Woods

The beautiful mixed woodland of Halldale Woods spans a steeply sloping valley, at the centre of which runs Halldale Brook. Predominantly made up of oak, ash and birch trees, it's a peaceful, shady spot with a wide variety of bird and animal life. The route through the woods is likely to have been an old packhorse trading route to Chesterfield.



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Download the instructions or GPX file at
www.darwinforest.co.uk/peak-district/walking

