

# Beeley Moor & Halldale Wood (4.8 miles)

## Route checked: May 2024

- 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. It has some steep sections.*

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. Continue until you reach a crossroad of paths and then turn right onto the track with the pond on your left.

3. Continue following the track until it begins to bear left at the corner. Look out for a wooden post with a blue square sign and then take a grass path across the grassy section to your right, towards the trees.

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. Please keep dogs on a lead due to livestock and ground nesting birds.

5. Continue until you see a wooden stile ahead of you that is between a stone wall and a fence. Continue following the path, keeping the 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 very slightly left and cross over the lane, to go over a further step stile and follow a public footpath signposted to Rowsley Bar Road. (This can be a bit hidden in summer!)

7. Follow the clear path across the field through three hand gates, and then on between two fences, in a wooded area.

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 because the traffic travels very quickly and there is no footpath.



10. After 150 metres turn left on to Bent Lane. There are fantastic views over to Beeley Moor and Halldale Woods on your left.

11. Continue on the tree-lined road for approx. 1.2km. You will go past Bumper Castle Farm then downhill until the trees give way to more open farmland. Look out for a public footpath sign on the left. Take the footpath, crossing over a step stile beside a wide metal gate.

12. Follow the bottom grassy path. It goes straight ahead and then curves to the right at the foot of the small hill. As you round the corner, walk towards a charming ruined stone barn.







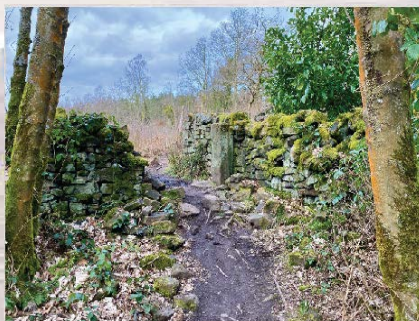
13. Continue straight past the barn heading down over the open field towards the trees. A 'broken' stone wall will appear on your left. Continue downhill with the wall on your left.

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. This is steep and slippery. Take care.

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

16. This path winds through the mixed woodland. At a fork in the path, take the right hand path and continue through the woodland up the steep hill. The path eventually goes through a gap in the stone wall.

17. You will now see a plantation of young trees ahead. Turn right and follow the footpath up hill keeping the stone wall closely on your right and the young trees on your left. Ignore all paths that go through the young trees.



18. The path then enters more mature trees still keeping the wall on your right. The path eventually meets a squeeze stile in a stone wall and emerges at a crossroads of paths. Go straight on and walk into a 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 through a gap into mature woodland.

21. Follow the path (roughly diagonally right) 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).

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 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

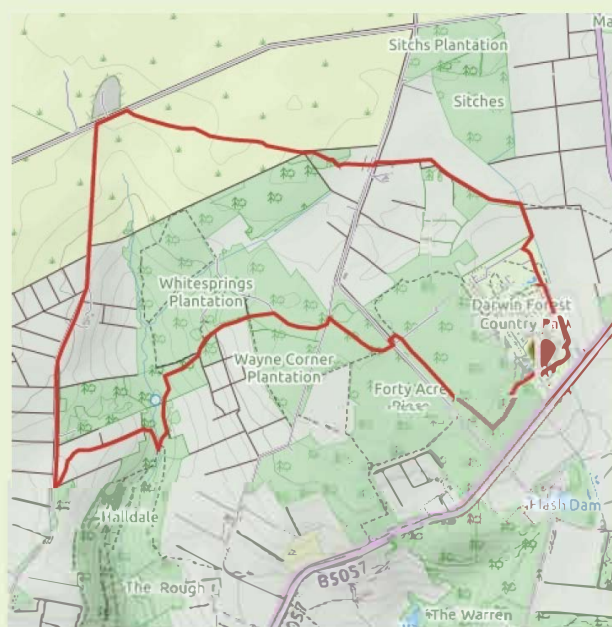
Beeley Moor is an upland area of gritstone moorland between the Peak District villages of Baslow and Beeley. Wild and sometimes desolate in the winter, it's transformed by bright blooming heather in the summer months. This prehistoric landscape contains many protected Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including 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](http://www.darwinforest.co.uk/peak-district/walking)