

Hall Dale and Whitesprings Plantation (3.9 miles)

At A Glance

- Distance: 3.9 miles
- Time: 1.5-2 hours
- Grade: Easy ●●○○○
- Terrain: Woodland/moorland trails, country lanes
- Accessibility: Uneven ground, squeeze stiles, gates
- Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL24

This beautiful walk takes you on shady woodland trails through a mix of broadleaf and pine forests, home to an abundance of wildlife. There are pretty streams along the way and wonderful views across the open countryside to Hall Dale and Beeley Moor.

1. Starting your walk from Reception, cross over the driveway and join the Forest Trail that starts behind the Evolution Health & Fitness building.



2. Head into the wood and follow the clear path through this lovely pine forest. At a fork in the path soon after you've entered, take the left fork. Continue on the path as it bears right.

3. At an obvious crossroads of paths turn left and go through the wooden gate to emerge on to a quiet lane (Flash Lane). Cross over Flash Lane and turn left to walk along the road for a short distance.

4. After approx. 50 metres take a narrow footpath on the right beside a wide metal gate into pine woodland known as Forty Acre Piece.

5. Follow the path through the wood and continue as it emerges into a clearing of birch trees, young conifers and gorse bushes. Stay on the main path and ignore smaller paths off.



6. The path bears left at an intriguing ruined stone house, a relic from the time when this area was open moorland. Almost immediately after you've passed the house the path forks. Follow the left hand fork to walk on the narrow path through the trees.

7. At a gap in a stone wall the path emerges onto a rough track (Back Lane). Turn left on to the track and then almost immediately right (after approx. 50 metres) to take another narrow path through trees. You are now entering Wayne Corner Plantation.

8. Follow this path as it runs beside a stone wall to the left with pine trees to the right. Take the time to admire the beautiful views to your left over Hall Dale.



9. At a small crossroads of paths continue straight on, crossing into an area of deciduous woodland with a wonderful line of beech trees along the wall to the left.

10. As the trees thin out and the stone wall ends, look out for a squeeze stile in the wall on the left. Go through the stile and follow the path as it tracks to the right of a stone wall. You are now entering Whitesprings Plantation.

11. The path forks after approx 200 metres. Take the left hand fork, still beside the wall, with views over to Hall Dale. The path bears left and goes through a gap in the wall to re-enter woodland.



12. After approx 150 metres the path forks again. Take the right hand fork to pass through dense rhododendron bushes and emerge into a clearing of young birch trees. Walk straight on towards the trees ahead of you.



13. The path goes through a gap in an old stone wall and enters another area of pine woodland. Follow the path as it winds through the trees, at times with

the pretty stream of Halldale Brook babbling away to your left.

14. The path emerges from the trees with the wonderful heather-clad moorland of Beeley Moor to the left. As you draw level with an old wooden gate on your left, turn right and follow a track through young conifers and into more mature pine woodland ahead of you.

15. This track eventually emerges from the trees at a rough crossroads of paths in a wide clearing. Continue straight on towards the mature pine woods ahead.



16. At a wide metal gate the track reaches a junction with Back Lane, along which you briefly walked at point 7. Turn left on to Back Lane and then almost immediately right, to enter woodland via a gap in the stone wall. Follow the path through the trees in this pretty mixed woodland.

17. The path emerges on to a wide forestry track, at which you should turn left and continue until you reach a road (Flash Lane). Turn left on Flash Lane and then after approx. 50 metres turn right over a low stile beside a section of wooden fencing.

18. Walk straight on for a further 50 metres and then turn left to follow a path through the pine trees. This path winds gently before meeting the Forest Trail path on which you started.



19. At the fork in the path turn left and go through the gate ahead of you to emerge back behind the Evolution Health & Fitness building.

Along the way...

Matlock Forest

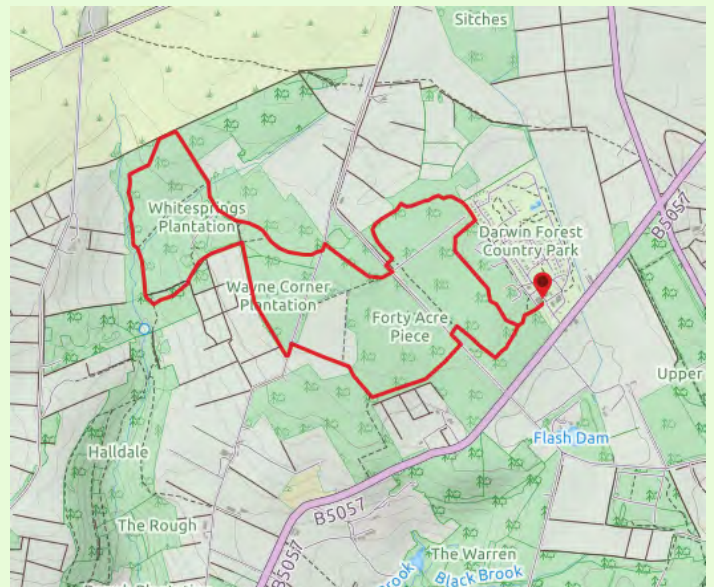
The woodlands of Forty Acre Piece, Wayne Corner Plantation and Whitesprings Plantation are part of Matlock Forest, which in total covers almost 500 hectares. Situated on Matlock Moor, a plateau above the valley of the River Derwent on the southern edge of the Peak District, the area is dominated by mature stands of conifers, interspersed with areas of wet woodland, heather moorland and acidic grassland. It provides a vital habitat for plant life and wildlife.

Hall Dale

Hall Dale runs to the north-west of the village of Two Dales, forming the second dale of the village's name, with Sydnop Dale being the first. The trickling Halldale Brook runs through its centre before flowing down to meet the River Derwent. This beautiful area was the site of a paper mill in the early 19th Century and the now-peaceful woodlands were once a place of busy industry.

Beeley Moor

Beeley Moor is an upland area of gritstone moor between the 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. It's also the site of Hob Hurst's House, an unusual square Bronze Age burial cairn. Although peaceful now, with the only noises the cries of curlews, skylark and sheep, 300 years ago Beeley Moor was used for mining coal for lead smelting.



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

