

# Farley Wood & Bentley Brook (6.7 miles)

## At A Glance

- Distance: 6.7 miles
- Time: 2-3 hours
- Grade: Moderate ●●●○●
- Terrain: Forest trails, field paths, country lanes
- Accessibility: Uneven ground, stiles, gates
- Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL24

*This wonderful route takes you on quiet country lanes to Farley Wood, a large and beautiful area of mixed woodland, home to a wide variety of wildlife. It continues down to the edge of Matlock and offers spectacular views across the town, before crossing the stream of Bentley Brook at a pretty footbridge. It then follows field paths through open countryside and forest trails back to the park.*

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



2. Head into the forest and follow the well-marked path. At a small fork in the path soon after you've entered the woodland, take the left hand fork. Continue on the path as it bears right after approx 300 metres.

3. At an obvious crossroads of paths turn left and go through a wooden gate beside a wide metal gate to emerge on to a quiet lane (Flash Lane). Turn left and walk along Flash Lane. Be aware that there is no pavement but there are wide verges and minimal traffic.



4. After approx 300 metres you'll meet a crossroad of lanes. Continue straight over and on to Jagers Lane. Again, there is no pavement but it's not usually a busy road. The road forks after approx 300 metres, and you should take the left hand fork, staying on Jagers Lane.

5. After approx 350 metres take a wide track on the right that leads into the trees, opposite a private lane to Charlestown Farm. Go straight on into Farley Wood, a large expanse of mixed woodland, ignoring paths off. The track soon narrows to a path; be aware that it may be muddy underfoot after wet weather.

6. The path bears left at a metal fence which surrounds a horses' field. Go left, keeping the fence on your right and the woods on your left.

7. There is a fork in the path roughly in line with where the metal fence ends. Take the right hand fork, and at a small crossroads of paths very soon afterwards go straight on into the woods.



8. This narrow path twists and turns through dense rhododendron bushes, with the horses' field still occasionally visible on your right. Continue on the path as it emerges into pine trees and then widens out to a broad track.

9. Continue straight on along the broad track with towering pine trees on both sides. Ignore all the many smaller paths and tracks off to both sides and stay on the main track.



10. After approx 1.2km the track bends sharply to the left. Follow the track to the left, but when it bends back to the right after a further 250 metres go straight on instead, taking a grassy path into the trees.

11. This path reaches an obvious T-junction with another path. Turn right, keeping a stone wall to your left and trees to your right.

12. The path narrows after approx 300 metres, at which point you should turn left through a gap in the stone wall. Follow the clear path through the trees, with a wire fence to your left.

13. Follow this path for approx 300 metres. Look out for an unusual double section of stone wall on your left and immediately afterwards turn right on a grassy path through pine trees, with a stone wall to your left.



14. The path widens and meets a crossroads of paths. Go left and follow this clear path, firstly through trees and then through a wide clearing of heather and young conifers.

15. Upon reaching an area of mature pine woodland, continue through a gap in the stone wall and into the wood. At a fork in the path very soon afterwards, take the left hand fork and follow the winding path down through the trees, skirting around the edge of a large dip filled with biking tracks and ramps. Do be careful here to avoid the mountain bikers that use this wood.



16. On reaching a small hand gate, go through the gate to leave the wood and emerge on to a wide track (Sandy Lane). Turn left and take time to appreciate the magnificent views over to Matlock on your right.

17. Where Sandy Lane becomes a private drive, take the well-signposted footpath through the small hand gate to the right. Follow the path that leads downhill with a stone wall and a row of beautiful beech trees to the right. Where the stone wall ends and the path forks, take the left hand fork and head slightly uphill towards a farm.

18. On nearing the farm follow the path as it bears right and down, reaching a small wooden hand gate. Go through the gate and head diagonally left across the rough grassy field ahead. The path eventually skirts to the left of tees at Matlock Golf Club.



19. Continue following the path through the bracken towards an area of mixed woodland. The path leads down to a pretty footbridge over a stream, Bentley Brook. This is a wonderful spot to sit and have a break for a while if you've brought a picnic.

20. Continuing the walk, cross over the footbridge and immediately take the left hand fork in the path to walk uphill through the trees with the brook to your left. Do take care as this path is quite steep in places with uneven ground.

21. The path bears left as it reaches the top of the slope and eventually meets a stone wall. Turn left and walk with the stone wall on your right. Where the wall ends turn right and go through a gap in the fence. Walk diagonally left across the grassy field to meet the tree line ahead of you.

22. Turn left on the path just before reaching the trees, keeping the trees and a stone wall to your right. There are wonderful views over to Matlock to your left. See if you can pick out Riber Castle on the hill.

23. Where the wall ends, turn right and walk diagonally left across the grassy field towards the first of a series of three wooden hand gates set in stone walls. Go through the gate and continue walking in the same direction across the field, going through two further gates.



24. After the third such gate, head diagonally right across the field in the direction of a large cattle shed in the distance. On reaching a gap in the wall with a wide metal gate, go through the gate and then turn almost immediately right to go through a small metal hand gate. Walk with the stone wall to your left.

25. Go through a further metal hand gate in the wall on the left, and head diagonally right across the grass field to the furthest corner. Go through a final metal hand gate and emerge on to Jaggars Lane. Turn left to walk along the road. As before, there is no pavement but there is little traffic.

26. Walk along Jaggars Lane until just past Matlock Farm Park on your left. Soon after, look out for a wide metal gate on the right. Go through the gate to enter a rough field and walk straight on.

27. As you draw level with a line of pine trees on the left after approx 100 metres, turn left at a small crossroads of paths to walk just before the trees. Turn right after approx 150 metres to follow a narrow but clear path through pine trees on the right and birch trees on the left.



28. At a crossroads of paths go straight on, walking with a stone wall to your left, under an avenue of magnificent arching beech trees to the left and tall pines to your right.

29. At the end of the path you will reach the B5057. Turn left to walk along the road. This is quite a busy road and there is no pavement so take great care, but there are wide grass verges. Look out for Darwin Forest Country Park on your right after approx 350 metres.

## Along the way...

### Farley Wood

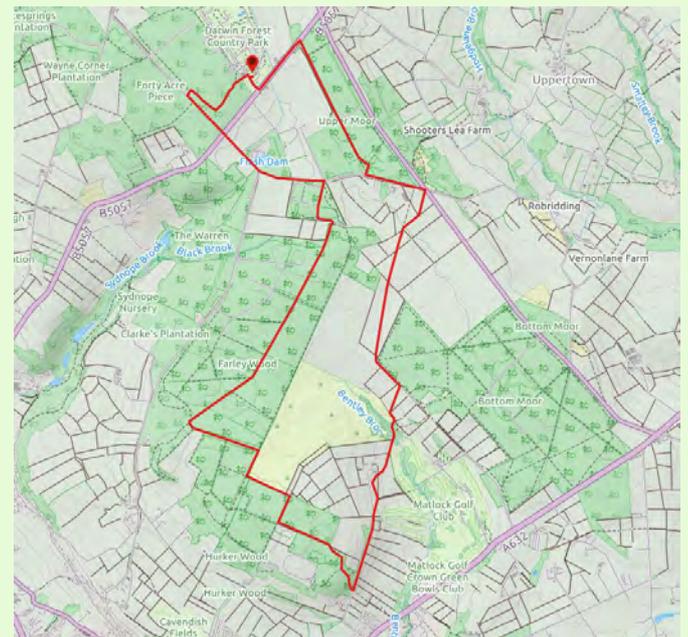
The huge expanse of Farley Wood is a mixed forest of coniferous and broadleaf trees, forming part of Matlock Forest, which in total covers almost 500 hectares. Situated on Matlock Moor, a plateau above the valley of the River Derwent on the southern edge of the Peak District, the area is dominated by mature stands of trees interspersed with areas of wet woodland, heather moorland and acidic grassland. It provides a vital habitat for plant life and wildlife.

### Matlock

The pretty town of Matlock lies just outside the Peak District, surrounded by wooded hillsides and set along the River Derwent. A booming spa town in the 19th Century, Matlock was one of the most celebrated centres for 'taking the waters' in England for over a hundred years. It's still a wonderful place to visit, with a wealth of independent shops, a wide choice of cafes, pubs and restaurants, and a stunning park, Hall Leys Park.

### Bentley Brook

The pretty stream of Bentley Brook rises on Matlock Moor and flows onwards for 5 miles before reaching the River Derwent. It has never been known to dry up, so you're pretty much assured of a peaceful waterway beside which to eat your lunch! During the mid 19th Century Bentley Brook supported and powered numerous mills, particularly those further down the valley in Lumsdale, a centre of industry from as far back as the 1600s.



Maps © Thunderforest.com, Data © www.osm.org/copyright

Download the instructions or GPX file at  
[www.darwinforest.co.uk/peak-district/walking](http://www.darwinforest.co.uk/peak-district/walking)