



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 country lanes 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.

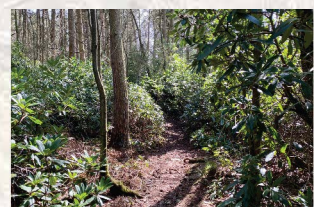
3. At an obvious crossroads of paths turn left and go through a wooden gate beside a wide metal gate to emerge on to a quiet lane (Flash Lane). Turn left and walk along Flash Lane. Be aware that there is no pavement here but there are wide verges and minimal traffic.



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

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 through the area of felled woodland and enter 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 field. Go left, keeping the fence on your right and the woods on your left. At 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.



7. This narrow path twists and turns through thick rhododendron bushes. Continue straight on as it widens out to a broad track with pine trees on both sides. Stay on the track and ignore paths off.



8. 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 path into trees.

9. When this path reaches an obvious T-junction with another path, turn right, keeping a stone wall to your left and trees to your right.

10. 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.

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



12. 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.

13. 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.



14. 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, taking time to appreciate the views over to Matlock on your right.

15. 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.

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



17. 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 awhile and have a break if you've brought a picnic.

18. 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.

19. 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. Turn left on the path just before reaching the trees, keeping the trees and a stone wall to your right.

20. Where the wall ends, turn right and walk diagonally left across the grassy field through a series of three wooden gates set in stone walls.



21. After the third 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.

22. 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 that you walked along at Point 4. Turn left to walk along this quiet road.

23. Continue walking along Jaggars Lane, past Matlock Farm Park on your left, ignoring footpaths off. When you reach a road junction, turn right, signposted towards Darley Dale and Stonedge. Retrace your steps along this quiet lane for approx 800 metres, going straight on at the crossroads of roads from Jaggars Lane onto Flash Lane.



24. Retrace your steps through the wooden gate on the right to enter back into the woods that surround Darwin Forest Park. Turn right at the crossroads of paths that you first met at Point 3 and retrace your steps back to the Evolution Health & Fitness building.

Along the way...

Farley Wood

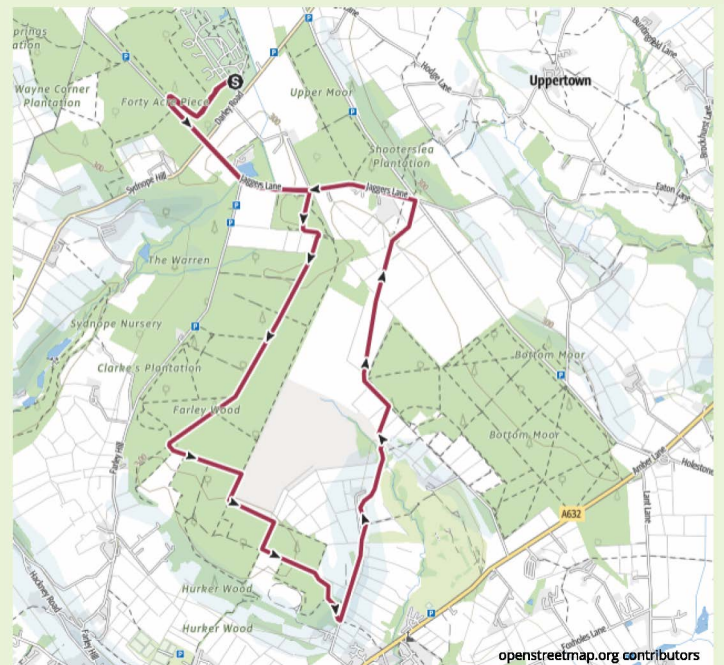
The huge expanse of Farley Wood is a mixed forest of coniferous and broadleaf trees, forming part of Matlock Forest, which in total covers almost 500 hectares. Situated on Matlock Moor, a plateau above the valley of the River Derwent on the southern edge of the Peak District, the area is dominated by 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.



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