

Halldale Wood (3.7 miles, 6 kms)

Route checked: April 2024

- Distance: 3.7 miles (6 kms)
- Time: 1.5-2 hours
- Grade: Easy/Moderate
- Terrain: Woodland trails, field paths, country lanes
- Accessibility: Uneven ground, stiles, gates
- Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL24



This short, easy walk is a great way to explore the beautiful Derbyshire countryside that surrounds the park. The route takes you on a series of pretty woodland paths into the peaceful Halldale Wood, always loud with birdsong, where the banks of the babbling Halldale Brook provide a perfect halfway rest and picnic spot. From there you meander back to the park on field paths and quiet country lanes which offer wonderful views across the landscape. There are some gentle ups and downs but the terrain is not very difficult to negotiate. Please note that parts of the route may be muddy, particularly after wet weather.

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 that continues straight.

The path bears right then straight until you reach a crossroads of paths at a wide clearing. Go straight over.

3. After about 400 metres, you'll see an area on your right where the trees have been cut down. As you draw about level with this, look out for a wooden fence with a low step in the wall on the left. Go over the step and carefully cross the road (Flash Lane). Turn left on the road and then almost immediately right through a wide metal gate across a forestry track (70 acres).

4. As soon as you have gone through the gate, take a narrow path on your right to enter a forest of tall trees. The path is a little indistinct at times but it winds roughly diagonally right through the trees and eventually after bearing left emerges on to a quiet lane (Back Lane).

5. Turn left on Back Lane and then almost immediately right, following a forestry track into Whitesprings, a woodland of young conifer and birch trees.

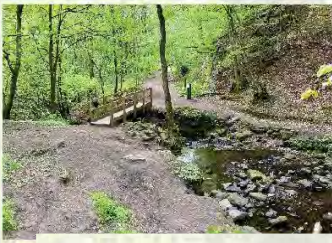


6. After approx 300 metres, turn off the gravel track and take a narrow grassy path on the left that leads into a line of mature trees visible in the distance.

7. As you reach the mature trees, you'll find yourself at a crossroads of paths. Go straight on through the stile (so you choose the left hand path that is straight ahead) and follow the narrow path that runs downhill with a stone wall immediately to your left. There are beautiful views on your left towards Matlock hillside.



8. As you go through a gap in the wall, continue heading straight down with saplings growing on your right. At the bottom of the hill the path goes through a gap in the stone wall on your left into Halldale Wood. Follow the clear path as it winds down through the mature trees.

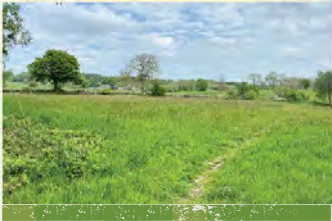


9. Follow the path downhill until you can hear and see the brook in front of you. The path then narrows, bears left and undulates with the brook on your right. You then go steeply downhill towards

Halldale Brook with the bridge in the bottom. The path can be a little steep in places so take care.

10. Walk down to reach the waters of Halldale Brook. Don't cross the pretty wooden footbridge but instead turn left and head uphill through the trees. Follow the clear top path on the left through the peaceful woods for approx 600 metres.

11. The path eventually meets a stile in a stone wall. Cross over the stile and turn immediately left to a metal gate leading into a field.



12. Go through the gate and follow the clear path diagonally right across two wide fields. When you reach a further metal gate, go through and turn left on to a

quiet lane. This is Back Lane that you walked along briefly at Point 4.



13. Follow Back Lane for just over 1km as it winds gently uphill with farms on either side and wonderful views over open countryside in all directions.

14. Soon after passing a small wood of pine trees on your left, you reach the brow of the hill and see a young conifer plantation on your left. Now look out for a staggered crossroads of paths. Turn right, passing through a wide gap in a stone wall.

15. Follow this clear path with tall pine trees to your left and young trees to your right. Continue straight on at all times, and ignore a clear path that leads off to your right after approx 250 metres.



16. The path eventually broadens and reaches the wide metal gate that you came to at Point 3. Go through the gate, carefully cross Flash Lane, turn left

and then immediately right to cross back across the low step in the wall.

17. Turn right when you reach the path and retrace your steps back through the pine forest to return to the park.

Along the way...

Hall Dale

The valley of Hall Dale, in which lies Halldale Wood, runs to the north-west of the village of Two Dales. It forms the second dale of the village's name, with Sydnope 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.

Back Lane

The same is true of the now-quiet track of Back Lane that you walk up for 1km at Point 13. In the early 18th Century this was a well-used packhorse route leading from Darley Dale to Beeley Moor.

