

## Chatsworth, Calton Houses, Edensor

### Walk Information

Walk Area:	Chatsworth	OS Map:	Explorer OL24
Distance:	4.0 miles		White Peak Area
Start Point:	Calton Lees Car Park	1:25000	
Map Ref:	SK 258 685		
Post Code	DE4 2NX		

### General Information

Parking:	Pay At Kiosk And Display
Tea Shops:	Two
Duration:	2 Hours 30 Minutes

### Altitude Data

Start:	390 ft (119m)
Minimum	341 ft (104m)
Maximum	767 ft (234m)

### Altitude Profile



A popular (two tea shop) walk, from Calton Lees car park up through a valley heavily populated with Pheasant to Calton Houses, across Chatsworth Park to Edensor, then on towards Chatsworth House and back along the River Derwent to the start point. This walk includes the highest stile I have yet to encounter, and a very confusing way marker!

### Getting There:

The B6102 Baslow to Rowsley road goes through Chatsworth Park. To reach Baslow take the A619 Bakewell - Chesterfield road or the A623 Chapel-en-le-Frith to Chesterfield road. Rowsley lies on the A6 between Bakewell and Matlock. For those with Sat-Nav the postcode for the Garden Centre is given in the information block above. To reach the car park follow the signs for Chatsworth Garden Centre and Carlton Lees, the car park is on the right immediately after leaving the B6102. There is plenty of parking space for vehicles large and small at Calton Lees, the cost is currently £2.00 per day paid on entry at a



Edensor Tea Room

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wooden kiosk, at peak times additional parking space is opened on a large grass bank. I have yet to see this car park full even on the busiest of days.

### The Walk:

Exiting the car park via the pay kiosk, turn right and walk the length of the car park, at this point the first of the tea rooms is to be found by taking the left fork of the road down to the Garden Center in which the Tea Room is located. I tend to visit after the walk, and changing out of my walking boots. The walk route continues along the road ahead with the Garden Center wall to the left. At the end of the wall the road curves right in front of some cottages continue to follow the road until it cuts away sharply to the left signposted Rowsley. Do not follow the road as this route is along the gated



Calton Houses

bridleway directly ahead indicated by a small blue arrow way marker. Pass through the gate and continue along the track for around three-quarters of a mile. The path climbs steadily with a stream and ravine on the left and pasture to the right, this valley is heavily populated with Pheasant, so don't be too surprised if birds run across the track in front of you as you walk, or peer at you menacingly from the pasture. At the top of the valley, the track switches back on itself as the track steepens on the approach into Calton Houses. Just before the gate into Calton Houses, there is a rudimentary bench should you choose to stop and take in the view or rest a while after the steady climb.



Confusing Way Marker

Walk along the track through Calton Houses with the derelict Calton Barn (marked for restoration) to the right and garden walls to the left, the track soon narrows to a footpath through a wooded area still climbing steadily as it goes. At the top of the footpath there is a wooden gate, go through the gate into an area of open grassland, follow the footpath along the wall to the right of the gate, note the rather confusing way marker to be found at this point, what the image above does not show is that there are more blue arrow plaques on the other side of the post. After a short distance the path bears left up the slope away from the wall to cross another path at right angles in the middle of the meadow. Quite often at this point birds of prey can be seen hovering above the field and nearby barn, occasionally stooping to catch prey (probably mice). Follow the path across the field to the gate in the wall to the left of the barn. Beyond the gate the path is wide but a bit rough under foot. Passing through a stretch of woodland the highest point of the walk is around a third of the way along this track. The track ends at a tall gate

and the highest ladder stile I have yet come across anywhere, this barrier is the boundary of the grounds of Chatsworth Estate. Although the image does not show it too well the gate in the picture is over 6ft (2m) tall. Personally I use the gate! Once through the gate, or over the stile there are some benches to enjoy the views of Chatsworth House and the Hunting Tower in the distance.

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Follow the path forward and head to just to the left of the fenced plantation of trees, (stags can often be seen there during the rutting season), from this plantation the spire of Edensor Church is clearly visible in the distance. Continue forward along the path until it forks, then follow the track to the right down the slope towards Chatsworth House and Edensor village.

On reaching the wall of village walk continue along the track towards the road and enter Edensor via the main gate or cattle grid. Walking into Edensor it is noticeable that there seems a a great range of building styles present; Norman to Jacobean, Swiss-style to Italian villas, all can be seen in the village. Just in front of the church where the road forks there is a small sign at ground level pointing left to the tea rooms. The Edensor Tea Room (see image top of page) is to be found by taking the first turn on the left into a short cul-de-sac off Japp Lane. Seating is available both inside and outside of the tea room, as a popular venue with both walkers and visitors to Chatsworth in general, as



Chatsworth Estate

a result it can become very busy on fine day's. Edensor Tea Room's tea's and cakes are served throughout the day as well as lovely lunches between 11:00 and 15:00 each day. Toilets are available in the court yard at the end of the cul-de-sac complete with honesty box for non-patrons. Should you wish to check opening hours the Edensor tea room can be contacted by email at

[creamteas@edensor.com](mailto:creamteas@edensor.com)

After enjoying the fine refreshments and exploring the mix of architecture that is Edensor, leave via the main gate and cattle grid, cross the B6102, this road can become quite busy so take care when crossing. Having crossed the road follow the broad path directly ahead and up the slope. Shortly after passing the crest of the hill Chatsworth House and the River Derwent will again come into view, continue along the path down to the river bridge. is possible from this point in the walk, given it's history it is well worth the extra few hundred meters it takes to visit Queen Mary's Bower. [See information panel at the foot of this document.]

From the bridge take the rough path to the right of the bridge towards the river, at the bottom of the slope there are two choices, firstly there is a path along the river bank, or a more direct path across the meadow to some rustic steps in the distance. These two paths converge at the foot of the rustic steps. At this point there is again the choice of two routes; firstly up the steps and over the hill, or continue along the river bank, the path along the river bank is rather rough and strewn with tree roots, and at one point a portion of the path has slipped into the river, even so it is quite easy to follow and walk. Once again the paths converge near a small wooded area and a weir, the path then continues along the river to a second weir. From the second weir continue to the disused estate corn mill, bear right and follow the path up the slope to a set of small stone steps. around three-quarters of the way up the slope there is a path that bears to the left and a five bar gate which seems to offer better access to the car-park, unfortunately this gate does not open should you go that way you will have to traverse the top of the slope back to the set of stone steps. At top of the steps cross the busy B6102 once more and pass through a gate, the entrance to Calton Lees car park is mediately ahead, and the walk has returned to it's start point.

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### Queen Mary's Bower.

Queen Mary (Mary Queen of Scots), was held prisoner at Chatsworth for a time (May to September 1569), whilst there she was permitted the indulgence of air and exercise. The bower became one of her favourite spots, and is shown to this day on maps of Chatsworth as "Queen Mary's Bower". I believe that in the time of Queen Mary's imprisonment this truly was a bower, being surrounded by woodland with a view onto a piece of open water. Now alas nearly all of the trees are gone.

#### Getting There:

Using the road bridge cross the River Derwent towards Chatsworth House. once on the other side of the river the bower is immediately visible on the left. Follow the path along the river bank to gate in the fence (this saves having to deal with a cattle grid). On approach to the bower the view is of an impressive set of stone steps. At the top of the steps is a large terrace; the gate to which is usually open for public access during daylight hours. To return to the walk pass back through the gate and cross the river via the road bridge.

#### "Lament of Mary, Queen of Scots," (Burns)

"Oh, soon to me may  
summer suns  
Nae mair light up the morn!  
Nae mair to me the autumn  
winds  
Wave o'er the yellow corn!  
And in the narrow house of  
death,  
Let winter round me rave;  
And the next flowers that  
deck the spring,  
Bloom on my peaceful  
grave."



Queen Mary's Bower  
Then



Queen Mary's Bower Now

Historic image by unknown author.