

Little Eaton, Eaton Bank & Peckwash Mill

Walk Information

Walk Area:	Little Eaton	OS Map:	Explorer 259
Distance:	3 Miles		Derby, Ashbourne &
Start Point:	Barley Close, Little Eaton		Cheadle
Map Ref:	SK 363 420		1:25000
Post Code	N/A		

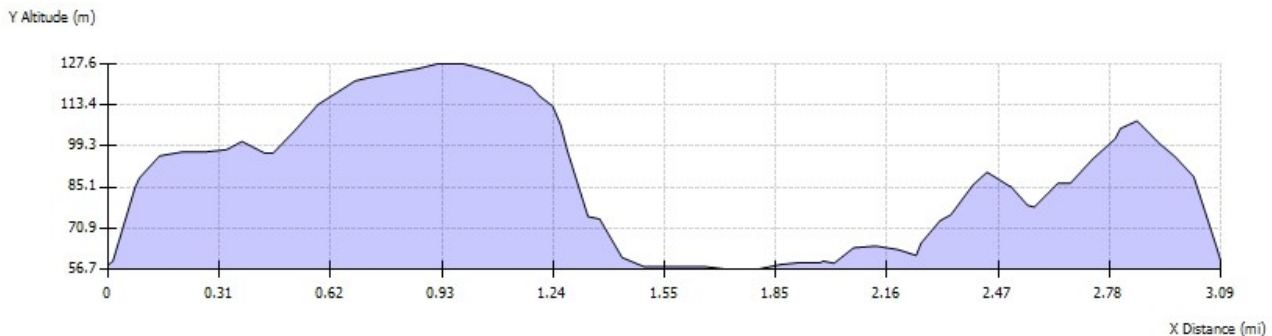
General Information

Parking:	Roadside
Tea Shops:	None
Duration:	2 Hours

Altitude Data

Start:	187 ft (57m)
Minimum	183 ft (56m)
Maximum	416 ft (127m)

Altitude Profile



Walk Start, Barley Close

A steady walk over high ground above Little Eaton, with two short steep stepped climbs, and a steep stepped descent to Eaton Bank.

Getting There:

From the north take the B6179 from Ripley for approximately four and a half miles, then take the first left (signposted Holbrook) shortly after passing under the A38, follow this road for one and a third miles until it swings left back towards the B6179. This is the start point for the walk. From the A38 pass through the village and bear right at the end of the Village signposted Holbrook, pass over the bridge to the junction and the start point for the walk. Trent Barton Bus services 9.2 and Amberline serve this route from Derby (both services). Ripley and Mansfield (9.2) and Heanor, Kimberly (Amberline). Parking for this walk is at the roadside on either Alfreton Road or Barley Close. Although there are no tea or coffee shops on this walk. Although there are Public Houses in Little Eaton and Eaton Bank.

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The Walk:

From the junction of a Alfreton Road and Barley Close look for a signposted pathway between the houses (see image left). This path quite quickly turns into a fairly steep climb via a set of well worn stone steps. There is a handrail from around the halfway point, but I have to say it was not overly robust at the time of this walk. Pass through a gate at the top of the steps, then continue through a wooded area keeping the fence to the left. At the metal kissing gate enter the field ahead, do not take the path to the right as this leads back to Alfreton Road. Turn left towards the farm buildings on the horizon and walk towards a second metal kissing gate. Go through this gate and turn right along the fence line signposted Holbrook. Follow the path along the edge of the field to a gate and stile at the opposite end of the field. Continue in the same direction along the next field and head for the two gates on the far side.

The meadows and grasslands in this area are rich in wild flowers, this can best be seen in late spring and early summer (June and July). Additionally the hedgerows are particularly narrow but have a lot of plant species with in them. This diversity of species points to the fact that they are old hedges, in many cases several hundred years of age. Both of these facts make this area a rich haven for wildlife.

To the right; fine views can be had along this stretch on clear days to Drum Hill. Exit the field via the stile next to the gate on the left. Keeping the fence to your right walk down the field and look for a gap in the fence to allow you to cross the stream into the meadow on the far side. Walk through the meadow to the next stile on the far side. Pass into the next field and continue forward keeping the hedge line to the right. At the far side of the field do not go

through the gate, rather look for a stile further along the field boundary to the left. A short way into the next field cross the small stream via the wooden footbridge and cross the field to a stile roughly half way along the hedge on the far side. From this point head towards the left corner of the woodland (Eaton Park Wood) ahead, then turn right towards the corner of the field.

Walk through the meadow to the next stile on the far side. Pass into the next field and continue forward keeping the hedge line to the right. At the far side of the field do not go through the gate, rather look for a stile further along the field boundary to the left. A short way into the next field cross the small stream via the wooden footbridge and cross the field to a stile roughly half way along the hedge on the far side. From this point head towards the left corner of the woodland (Eaton Park Wood) ahead, then turn right towards the corner of the field. The next stile has a wooded area on the other side, turn left once over this stile and follow the bridleway through the wood to a further stile and on into the next field. I found this short section of bridleway to be a little overgrown with holly, the path is there and passable; just not immediately obvious. On leaving the woodland and entering the field, you join an ancient track way.

The ancient track way in this part of the walk is understood to be a section of an ancient pack horse trail from Wirksworth to a crossing on the River Trent at Nottingham. Until sometime in the 17th century columns of tens of horses laden with goods in panniers (baskets on either side of the horse) regularly used this route.

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Follow the track way keeping to hedgerow to the left, and exit the field through a gate with a yellow and green footpath plaque into an avenue of oak trees. Walk along the avenue to its end, passing a wooden memorial seat along the way. Continue on through the next two fields keeping the hedgerow to the left. I have found that large areas of the track in both these fields can be very muddy as a result of farm activity. At the exit to the second field, look across the farm track (only a few feet) for a well badged low stile where the pathway switches to the other side of the hedge. Follow the path along the edge of this field keeping the hedgerow to the right, leave the field and progress through an overgrown area with a derelict building ahead to the right and the hedge to your left.



Exit To Avenue Of Oaks

Ignore the stile to the left exiting the scrub land to a steep

flight of steps that lead down to Eaton Bank. On exiting the decent pass left in front of some houses then on reaching the road turn right onto Eaton Bank. Walk down Eaton Bank towards the river and the Bridge Inn. Beware of traffic as Eaton bank can at times be quite busy and the footpaths are narrow in places. Just before the Bridge in take the signposted footpath at the side of the car park. Cross the stile into fields and follow the path parallel to the river Derwent. Looking ahead a lone tall chimney is clearly visible, follow the path heading towards this chimney keeping a stone wall to your right. The path enters woodland stay on this path with the wall of the old Peckwash Mill to your right and continue until you reach the base of the chimney that has been visible for some time.

Peckwash Mill dates from the late 18th century, and its unusual for the period as it has iron windows and a slate roof. Its chimney was constructed in 1895, during the period when Peckwash was one of the largest paper mills in the country.



Narrow Quarry Bridge

Shortly after the chimney exit the woodland and follow the private road left up the slope back onto Eaton Bank. Turn right and follow the foot path along the roadside until the last of the set of houses on the left is reached, At this point there should be two large trees growing in the wall to your right. Cross the road and take the cobbled path (sharp left) to the side of the last house. Walk up the cobbled slope and take the second path off to the right, this path is marked by a sign post on the opposite side of the path, and cuts back up a set of rough steps. Climb up the bank and through a chestnut wood to a narrow stone bridge over an abandoned quarry. At the far end of the bridge is the first of three squeeze stiles, the one at the end of the bridge is the widest of the three, with one requiring me to remove my backpack and pass through sideways. Continue along this well walked path until it exits onto Vicarage Lane. Turn left and follow the lane up to Park Farm. Pass through the farm keeping

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the farm house to your right and exit the area of farm buildings via a stile into a field. Take the path across the field to the double signpost encountered near the start of the walk. Exit the field via the metal kissing gate then turn right and on through second kissing gate. Walk through the wooded area ahead (do not turn left immediately after the second kissing gate) to the wooden gate at the top of the steps. At the bottom of the steps the walk returns to the beginning of the walk at Barley close, from here retrace you steps back to you car or the bus stop.