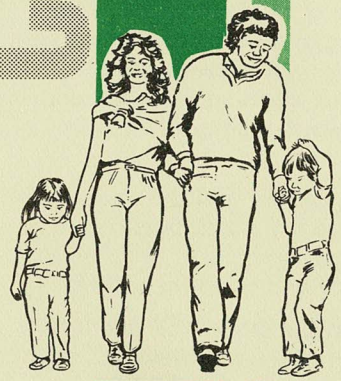
COUNTRY WALKS

EREWASH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DALES · VALLEYS · MOORS

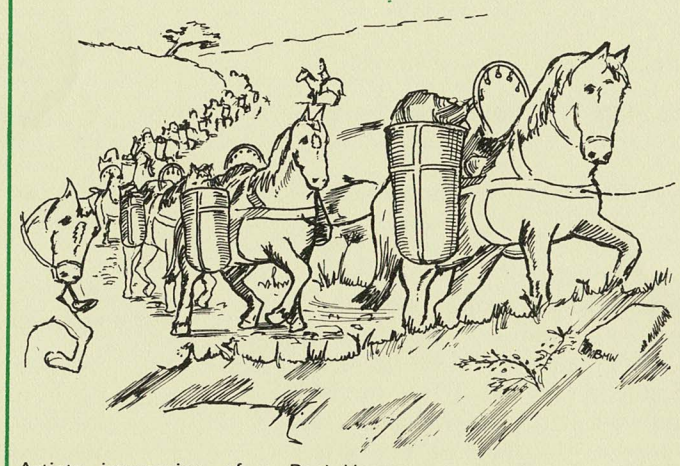


COUNTRY WALKS 9

IN AND AROUND EREWASH

The Pack Horse Trail

3½ miles



Artists impression of a Pack-Horse Train winding over the hills round Little Eaton.

A walk along an ancient trackway, by the River Derwent, through woods and disused quarries around Little Eaton.

Supported by the
COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION

GROUNDWORK
EREWASH VALLEY

Groundwork Environment Fund supported by the Department of Environment

The Ramblers

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The Pack Horse Trail — 3½ miles 2 hours

Start: Barley Close, off Alfreton Road,Little Eaton. (Alternatively from Bridge Inn car park, off Eaton Bank.

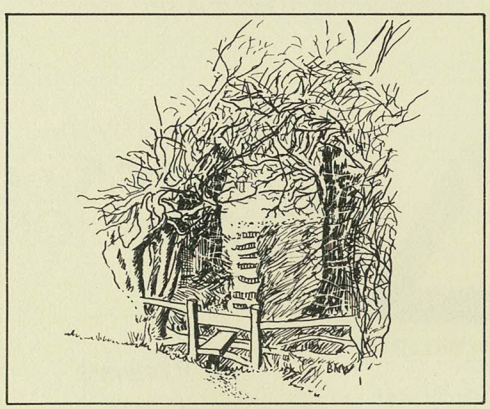
Buses: Trent Services 124, 125, 243 & 245.

Time: Allow 2 hours.

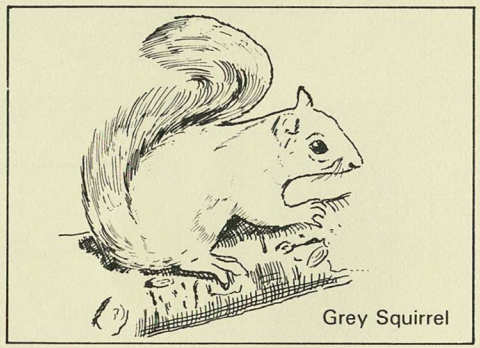
OS Map: Pathfinder Series — Belper SK 24/34.

Type of Walk: Over high ground with one or two steep climbs.

Near junction of Barley Close/Alfreton Road look for signpost pointing up a very steep path with old stone steps between houses. Set off up steep path to stile at top. Cross stile out of wood and walk left to reach stile by double signpost. Over stile turn right towards Holbrook keeping hedge on right. At end of field cross over stile beside gate and proceed to next field corner and two gates. Take stile beside left gate.



From here you should have a good view over the Bottle Brook Valley to Drum Hill.



Grey Squirrel

The old gritstone wall over the hedge echoes the more desolate Dark Peak further to the north.

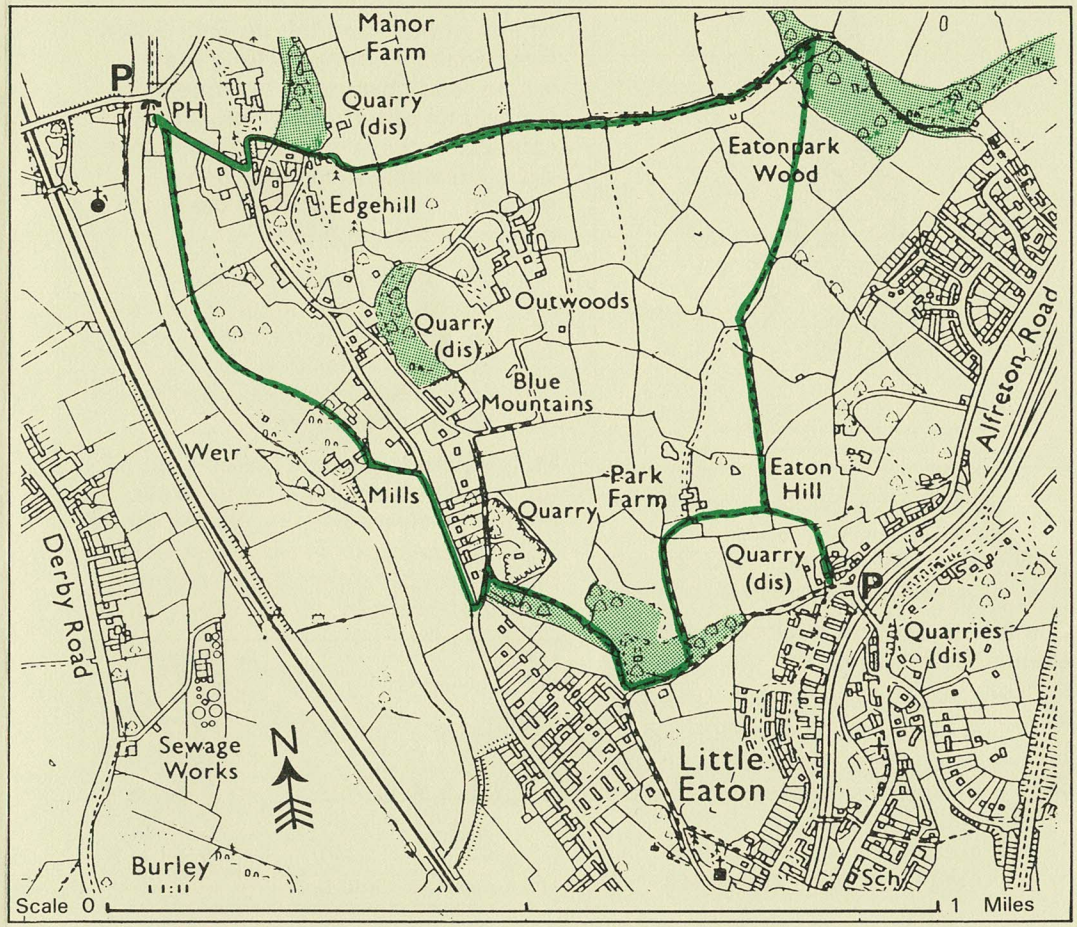
Carry on down field to reach stream. cross the "stepping stone" bridge and climb through next meadow.

The grassland here is particularly rich in meadow flowers in June and July, such as ribwort plantain, knapweed and meadow buttercups.

Climb next stile and keeping hedge on right cross next field. At end of field do not go through gate, but over stile some way to its left. Cross wooden footbridge and head for stile half way up other side of field and cross small stream. Proceed towards top LH corner of Eaton Park Wood ahead. pass through a wide opening in hedge and turn right towards corner of field by wood.

The hedges around the narrow field here are magnificently old with many species of tree, shrub and herb and good for wildlife.

Climb stile in old stone wall and turn left through wood on bridleway. Cross stile at end of wood into field. You are now on an ancient trackway.



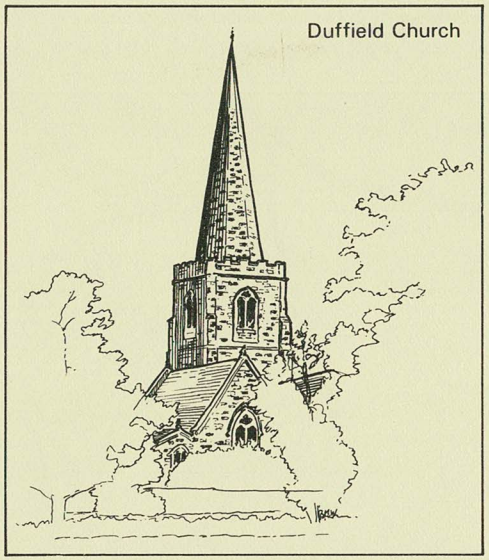
This is thought to be part of an old Pack Horse trail from Wirksworth to the river Trent crossing at Nottingham. Until the 17th century, columns of 40 or 50 horses carrying goods in panniers or baskets either side the saddle would have been a common sight along this track.

Carry on along track for 5 fields through avenue of old oak trees.

The path along this section offers splendid views over Quarndon and the Dove and Trent Valleys.

On through old corrall (ignore stile to left), keep hedge on left towards small gate ahead. Follow path down through scrubland, then flight of steps. At bottom, turn left, pass some houses, then right at main road down Eaton Bank. Just before Bridge Inn, take footpath signposted on left alongside pub car park. Cross stile into field and carry on along path towards tall chimney and wood.

Duffield church lies across the Derwent to your right. It has the interesting and rare dedication to


Duffield Church

St. Alkmund. Dating from Saxon times, though no trace remains today, the building has undergone much modification over the years.

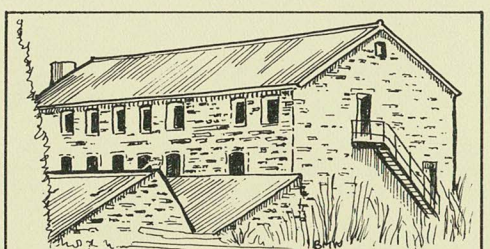
Climb stile into wood. Observe the old abandoned buildings to right of path.

The impressive derelict gritstone building of Peckwash Mills dates from the late 18th century. It has iron windows, a slate roof and a magnificent chimney of 1895. it produced a variety of goods during its history, but is best renowned for being one of the biggest paper mills in the country by the 19th century.

At end of path turn left up onto Eaton Bank again. Turn right along road. Where road changes to become Duffield Road turn sharp left up cobbled track. Then take second sharp right (signposted) up steep bank through chestnut woods to pass old quarry over stone bridge.

The long abandoned quarry is typical of many in the area. All were worked in the past to extract gritstone for salting stones, coping stones, sinks, troughs and scythe whetstones.

Follow path to Vicarage lane. Turn left up lane all way to Park Farm. Walk though farmyard keeping farmhouse on right to cross stile ahead. Cross field back to double signpost and retrace steps back to start.


Peckwash Mill, Little Eaton.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

GUARD AGAINST FIRE Every year, carelessness costs thousands of pounds.
FASTEN GATES - even if you find them open. Animals will wander if they can.
KEEP DOGS UNDER CONTROL - on a lead wherever there is livestock.
KEEP TO PATHS - if they exist.
AVOID DAMAGING FENCES, HEDGES AND WALLS
LEAVE NO LITTER
SAFEGUARD WATER SUPPLIES Do not pollute streams or cattle troughs.
PROTECT WILDLIFE, PLANTS, TREES
GO CAREFULLY ON COUNTRY ROADS Keep in single file, facing on-coming traffic, on the right.
RESPECT THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

For Further Details

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