

Follow the Countryside Code

Respect, Protect, Enjoy!

Respect other people:

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths, unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- plan ahead and be prepared
- follow advice and local signs

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code



Cycle Hire

Do you prefer to cycle rather than walk? Visit our Cycle Hire Centre at Middleton Top. The High Peak Trail offers 17.5 traffic-free miles of cycling through beautiful countryside, and connects with the Tissington Trail at Parsley Hay. www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/cycling/cycle_hire or call **01629 533294**.



Middleton Top Engine House

This Scheduled Ancient Monument contains a superb pair of beam engines. Built in 1829 and driven by steam, the winding engine raised and lowered waggons on the Middleton Incline of the Cromford and High Peak railway. The Engine House is open on some weekends during the summer months. Admission charges apply. www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/countryside_sites/visitor_centres

Walking Around Wirksworth

With a fascinating history, and a maze of back streets to explore, Wirksworth is a thriving, vibrant and welcoming place to live and visit. There are plenty of cafés, coffee shops and pubs to help revive the weary walker.

The paths on this route may be rough and muddy at times, so be prepared and wear appropriate footwear. The route should be easy to follow, and is waymarked with "Circuit Walks around Wirksworth" discs. Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure Map No.24 is recommended to enhance your walk.



How to Find Middleton Top

Middleton Top is easily accessed from the B5035 between Wirksworth and Ashbourne. Look out for the brown tourist signs. There is ample pay and display parking on site, as well as toilet facilities and a seasonal shop selling refreshments and drinks.

Public Transport

For details on public transport in Derbyshire, visit: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/public_transport



More Information

If you need to find out more, please contact: **Middleton Top** on **01629 533298**, or **Call Derbyshire** on **01629 533190**.

For information on all our Countryside Sites go to: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside

If you have difficulty reading this leaflet, it can be made available in other formats. Contact **Call Derbyshire** on **01629 533190**.

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Circuit Walks Around Wirksworth

1

Middleton Top - Wirksworth - Middleton Top 5.25 miles



Chimney at
Middleton Top
Engine House



DERBYSHIRE
County Council

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside

Circuit Walks Around Wirksworth

1

Middleton Top to Wirksworth

This walk is one of a series of waymarked and easy to follow walks around Wirksworth and the surrounding area. Allow 2.5 to 3 hours.

⚠ Start your walk by heading away from the Visitor Centre and Engine House along the High Peak Trail. If you start going down the steep incline, you've gone the wrong way!

2 At the first gate you come to across the trail, turn left onto an unsurfaced lane, and then almost immediately turn right, following the public footpath sign over some large rocks, then follow the slope down to a set of steps.

3 Go through the wicket gate into the field and turn right. Follow the line of the field boundary down the dip and up the other side, arriving at a ladder stile over the wall in the corner of the field. From here take the path that goes left to a stile by the gate leading onto a road.

4 It is here that your Ordnance Survey map is likely to be wrong, so follow these instructions carefully.

5 Turn right up the hill for about 75 yards before carefully crossing the road to climb through a stone squeeze stile into a field. These stone stiles have colourful local names such as knee-trapper and granny-stopper!



From left: A knee-trapper, or granny-stopper stile, a view of Carsington Water from Point 7 on the map, Tiremare Lane.

6 Go straight ahead across two fields, through the bumps and hollows left by old lead mines. Keep the stone wall to your left until you come to a wicket gate into the third field. The path now goes slightly downhill to another wicket gate in the wall opposite.

7 There are magnificent views to be had throughout the whole walk, none more so than the views of Carsington Water and Pitty Wood directly in front of you.

8 From the gate, head downhill towards the prominent spoil heaps of Smithycove Mine left behind by more ancient lead miners. Keep the workings on your left, and follow them until you reach the remains of an old gateway. You are now on a section of an ancient highway which linked Derby and Bakewell, known as Tiremare Lane.

9 From the gateway turn left for a few yards. Then go right through a wicket gate by another gateway. Keep straight ahead and cross the field towards a pair of wicket gates hidden in a bend in the wall. Once through the gates, drop diagonally across the field to another wicket gate in the righthand corner by the road below.

10 Turn right towards Hopton along a quiet lane. In about one hundred yards take the left turn down the Severn Trent circular route to the main road. Cross the road with care, and turn left onto the surfaced track around Carsington Water.

11 Follow this track around the reservoir, looking out for a finger post indicating a footpath to your left. Climb over the stile and follow the footpath across the field. At the field boundary continue to climb ahead to the Holly tree in the corner of the following field. Continue up the next field and at the crest bear left to the far corner of the field where there is a wicket gate onto Stainsbro Lane.

12 Turn left on to the lane, and follow it downhill whilst watching out for traffic.

13 After passing Stainsborough Hall on your left, and ignoring the footpath directly opposite, look out for the footpath on your right that goes up a wide track. Follow the track to the right as it gets narrower, ignoring a stile on the left. At the summit turn left over a stile opposite a wooden bench. From here there are superb views of Wirksworth nestling in the valley below. Wirksworth has amenities such as cafés, shops and pubs, should you wish to explore further.

14 The footpath now heads downhill, crossing a number of fields. In the bottom field the path passes to the left of a stone barn to a wicket gate that leads onto a road called Yokecliffe Drive. Turn left here and head slightly downhill, ignoring two road junctions to the left. Continue until you are alongside some bungalows. Turn left up a small alleyway between No's 34 and 36, which leads to a short flight of steps on to an old lane.

15 Turning right here, follow this track to eventually arrive at a road. This is West End, Wirksworth.

Circuit Walks Around Wirksworth

Wirksworth to Middleton Top

1

Pictured from left: View over Wirksworth from Babington House, Summer Lane leading towards Wirksworth, a view of Stoney Wood.

If you visited the town, or have started your walk from Wirksworth, follow the detour shown on the map back up West End. If you chose not to visit the town, Bowling Green Lane is opposite the track that brought you on to West End.

Follow this alleyway, ignoring all right turns as far as the next road, The Dale. The property opposite you now, No 31-33, was restored in the early 1980's by the Derbyshire Historic Building Trust as part of a programme with the Civic Trust to save key buildings from dereliction.

The path now goes to the left of, and behind, Nos 31-33 and rises steeply uphill. Again, ignore any side alleys and follow the main path until it levels off. Stop here to catch your breath and take in a fine view across the town.

16 The large house below you is Babington House. Built in about 1630 as a private residence it has served as both a Workhouse and a Cottage Hospital. It is a private residence today. The footpath now crosses another steep road, Greenhill, where you'll turn left and then right onto a surfaced path to the left of The Croft.

17 The path here passes an entrance into Stoney Wood, Wirksworth's Community Woodland. It is worth exploring the site with its interesting installations - none more so than The Star Disc, a large artwork depicting the night sky, which is located at the very top of the site.

Back on the path, follow it as it drops down towards another road. Carefully cross the road to the pavement on the other side and turn right down the hill. At the junction with the main road, turn left and follow the pavement until you reach Old Lane.

18 Turn up Old Lane, which soon becomes a wide, unsurfaced track. Follow the main track, ignoring others that branch off, under a disused railway bridge and uphill into the site of the National Stone Centre. This is a fascinating place to explore.

19 Although not on the walk route, a few hundred yards uphill from the Stone Centre, you will find the Derbyshire Eco Centre. This is the county hub for courses and activities focussing on education for sustainable development. It supports Derbyshire County Council's work to address climate change issues, promotes creativity through the arts, and teaches skills to help conserve the natural world and encourage healthy lifestyles.

20 Leaving the National Stone Centre, go uphill and follow the path just to the right of the arch of another railway bridge. This leads directly to the High Peak Trail. From here, turn left and return to Middleton Top via the steep incline that soon looms into view.

Now you have explored this route try one of the others available from our Visitor Centres. There are 4 'Circuit Walks around Wirksworth' leaflets in total.



KEY

- Start and finish
- Main walking route
- Detour
- Parking (Pay and Display, Honesty box at National Stone Centre)
- Cycle Hire
- Toilets
- Disabled toilets
- Refreshments/snacks (seasonal)
- Picnic area
- Information (seasonal)
- Railway station

Scale: 0km to 1km

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