

## Walk 2 Robin Hood

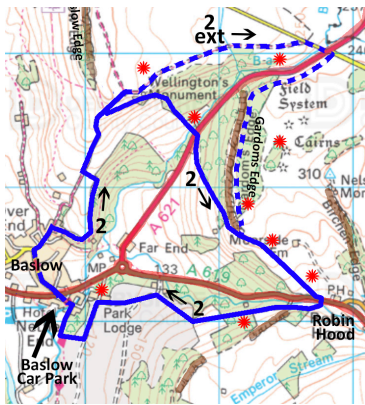
Distance: 4.6miles (Extended 6.6m)

Elevation: 590ft

Difficulty: A steep climb and uneven paths. Medium. Extended walk is easier and flatter.

Start point: Baslow Carpark DE45 1SRGrid reference: SK 25877217

Summary: A walk that explores the old carriageways out of Baslow, to circle the edges from Wellington's monument on Baslow Edge to Gardom's Edge, then back into Chatsworth Park to the main Golden Gate entrance. **THERE IS CURRENTLY A MISSING BRIDGE JUST AFTER THE ROBIN HOOD ROAD CROSSING. The walk should be taken as far as the junction of the extension at the far end of Gardom's Edge, then turn right, back across Sheffield Road and up to the top of Bar Rd in Baslow. Then retrace your steps to the Car Park**



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Exit the car park and cross the corner of the green to the pedestrian crossing. Cross the main road and go up Eaton Hill ahead of you. Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> road on the right, Bar Rd, by the Prince of Wales Triangle. (To your left is the village shop) Continue up Bar Rd, turning right by Moor cottage and entering Yeld Wood through the gate at the end of the cul-de-sac. Take the upper path and climb up the hill, following the edge round above the Golden Gates roundabout in the valley below. The path gradually comes along a wall on your left. Follow the wall to its end then take a sharp left back onto Bar Rd, following the wall. Continue right up the hill to the gate onto the moors (approx. 0.8m from start). The views behind you are of Chatsworth House and the Derwent valley towards Matlock.

Go through the gate and follow the wall on your right on the outside of the field. It is not very distinct at first but becomes more so once the hill rises to your left. [Alternatively you can follow the main track up the hill to a seat at the top for a longer walk. (see extension)]

Follow the path keeping the wall/wire fence in sight until you come to a point where it turns a right angled bend down the hill, with the path following it. Go down the hill, again keeping the wall on your right. The wall veers away at times but the path returns to it further down. Eventually you come to the back of a garden and a gate. Go through the gate between the garden railing and the wall, and follow the path down some steps and across a foot bridge. Above is the

newer road access bridge to 2 bungalows. The path then turns right, past some ruins, believed to be the old lead smelting furnace (*Cupola*). Continue up to a gate and stile onto the main Sheffield Road. (1.9m from start)

Cross the road carefully and go over the stone stile to the left of the house in front of you. After about 50yds you go over another wooden stile and into a birch wood. Keep right along the back of the garden then diagonally up the hill. Above you is debris from the millstone mining above on Gardom's Edge. At points the trees thin out to moorland before going into a mixed wooded area. Continue through the wood to a large flat stone at the top with views back over Baslow. (2.4m from start.)



The extended walk re-joins the main walk from here. Continue through the gateway and follow the path diagonally downhill for approx. 700yd. On your left, beyond the wall, is the *Baslow coal field*. In the far bottom corner is a gate and stone stile onto the Chesterfield Rd. (2.8m from start)

Cross the wall and turn left on the footpath for about 30yds until you see a signpost for “concession path to Chatsworth” on the opposite side of the road. The Robin Hood pub is about 100m further along on the road. To continue the walk, cross the road carefully, and take the steep steps down to Bar Brook at the bottom. Cross the river on the footbridge and follow the path until it rises, up a few steps, to a flat wide grassy path. Turn right and follow this old 1759 *turnpike road*, over a stile, along the track and into the field at the end. Continue straight across the field to the steps in the wall at the far side. Cross the wall and follow the grassy track ahead of you. You are now in Chatsworth Park. (3/4 mile from crossing the main road) At the brow of the hill, just past the first 2 trees on your right, branch right down the slope towards the bottom right hand corner of Chatsworth Park. Cross the stile at this point then turn right and follow the stony track. Turn left after going through an open farm gate into the fenced off area. Follow the track through this area and emerge with the ‘*Golden Gates*’, the main entrance to Chatsworth House, on your right. (4.1m from start)

Follow the main drive left towards the house until you see a sign on your right (about 300m) ‘Footpath to Baslow’. Turn right onto this to the revolving kissing gate. Once through the gate, follow the path round to *Bar Brook bridge*. Turn left over the bridge back to the village green and car park.

### Walk 2 Extension

Continue up the main track ahead to the top of the hill where there is a 4 way junction, just over a mile from the start. Take the right hand path along to *Wellington’s monument* on your right. Continue along the path, past the *Guide stoop* of the old road to chesterfield and the stone sculpture to its right, until the path meets Clodhall Lane. To the right of the guide stoop about 50 yards off the path is an old *millpond*. (1.9m) Go through the gate and turn right towards Sheffield Rd. Cross the main road with care and go through the gate on the junction. Take the stone footpath ahead then, after the stone finishes, take the right hand fork which goes parallel to and above the main road, towards the birch trees on *Gardom’s Edge*. As you get to the trees go through a gate and straight ahead to the edge. The path here is very indistinct, but follow the edge. Along the edge are the remains of *millstone quarries*. Cross a dry stone wall, where it has collapsed and then proceed alongside the wall, keeping it on your left. You come to 3 cairn like structures, *The 3 men*. Go through the gateway in the wall ahead and follow the wall to the large stone on the edge where you re-join the main walk (3.3m)

#### Points of Interest

**Cupola.** This hamlet takes its name from the cupola lead smelting furnace which was built here in 1760. Lead ore for smelting may have come by packhorse over the bridge that you have just crossed.

**Bronze age clearance mounds.** Near the top of the

long field leading down to the main road, are a series of mounds alongside the path, made up of stones piled up by Bronze age farmers as they cleared the land.

**Baslow coal field.** A seam of coal outcropped at Robin Hood. It was developed into the small Baslow coalfield worked from mediaeval times to the early 1800s.

**The 1759 Turnpike.** The first proper road was the 1759 Turnpike from Chesterfield through Baslow to the Manchester area. It is now a farm track leading down towards Chatsworth Park from Eastmoor.

**Golden Gates.** These gates were originally in the gardens of the house in the 1700s. They were retrieved from storage and used at the northern entrance to the Park when it was enlarged in 1824.

**Wellingtons Monument.** Dr Wrench a local doctor had recently served under General Wellington in the Crimea. He decided that Wellington should have his memorial as did Nelson. He built it as his own expense - £10 in 1866.

**Millpond.** There is a small pond by the stream 200 yards below the road bridge. This originally served a lead smelter, from 1624 to about 1760. Later there was a flour mill. No traces of these old structures remain, only that of a fairly recent water pumping station.

**Gardoms Edge.** The flat land to the left is covered with traces of Bronze Age cultivation: huts enclosures and field walls, which was later abandoned.

In the flat area at the top of the slope there are old millstone quarries littered with the millstones, some incomplete and damaged. Several tracks lead down to the quarries, which were abandoned in the 1700s.

**The Three Men.** The Three Men are stone cairns on the crest of Gardoms Edge, erected it is said, in memory of 3 clergymen, 2 of whom died in a blizzard in 1740.