

North Chesterfield Way

Take a walk through the rolling countryside on your doorstep. This nine-mile stroll along quiet country tracks takes you through the lovely villages of Cutthorpe and Barlow. The way markers will guide you through the fields and woods linking Chesterfield and Dronfield.

Frequent bus services link Dronfield and Chesterfield and the route crosses bus routes at Cutthorpe and Barlow giving the option of retuning to the start point after completing a shortened section of the walk. For information on timetables and routes call the County Council's Traveline on 0870 608 2 608

The information in this leaflet is subject to change and the authors can accept no responsibility for such. You are advised to refer to Ordnance Survey Explorer map 269 Chesterfield and Alfreton, for detailed 1:25,000 mapping showing public rights of way along the route.

Dronfield Footpaths and Bridleways Society have produced this leaflet with support from Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service, the Linacre Valley Project and the Three Valleys Countryside Project and with financial assistance from the Derbyshire Community Foundation.

The society does not accept any liability as to the safety or suitability of the walk. Individuals should take whatever action is necessary to ensure their own safety.

Cutthorpe Methodist church



Places of interest:

The walk begins by the classical Town Hall on Rose Hill, Chesterfield, opened in 1938 and set on a green slope looking over the town to the hills beyond. Much of the town section of the walk follows the way-marked cycle route to Holmebrook Valley Park. This park is largely reclaimed land used for sport and fishing in the artificial lake. There are public toilets and a large car park on the level above the lake. The picnic tables provided make this a good spot to take a rest.



Holmebrook Valley Lake

Cutthorpe is a linear village with a mix of attractive historic buildings interspersed with modern homes. Our walk takes us past the Methodist Chapel, erected in 1837 and enlarged in 1867, and the Three Merry Lads, a one-time coaching house. The North Chesterfield Way turns off the main road by the Coronation Tree planted on 22 June 1911 to mark the coronation of George V. Opposite this tree is the "Institute" formerly the village school. The old custom of well dressing in Cutthorpe takes place annually in July.

Barlow, now a quiet country village, was once a hive of activity with as many as 30 entrances to coal pits at the turn of the 20th Century. Little evidence now remains though the map marks an airshaft close to our route through Monk Wood and the row of 30 houses, known locally as long row and officially as Rutland Terrace, was built in 1875 on land owned by the Duke of Rutland for the miners of Monkwood Colliery. The miner's chapel, built in 1892 is still in use as a Methodist church. A short distance off of our route you can visit the Norman church of St Lawrence where Robert Barlow, the first husband of Bess of Hardwick, is buried. Close by there is a tearoom and the Old Pump public house, both serving refreshments. Barlow dresses its wells each August using whole flowers in contrast to the majority of Derbyshire villages where single petals are used. The Trout fishery on the edge of the village has a snack bar that is open to the public throughout the year.

The walk passes through Monk Wood and Lees Wood, formerly the sites of open cast mining with no sign of the busy industrial activity that would have been there years ago.

Cowley Mission chapel was built in 1893 by a group of local Christians with the help of others from Cliff College, Calver.

Dronfield is a market town with an interesting mix of old and modern buildings within a town centre Conservation Area. Nearby are the 14th Century parish church, the attractive 18th Century manor house, now used as the

town library, and other beautiful listed buildings. Our walk ends at the Civic Centre close by the Peel Monument, which stands as a tribute to Sir Robert Peel's efforts in repealing the Corn Laws in 1846.

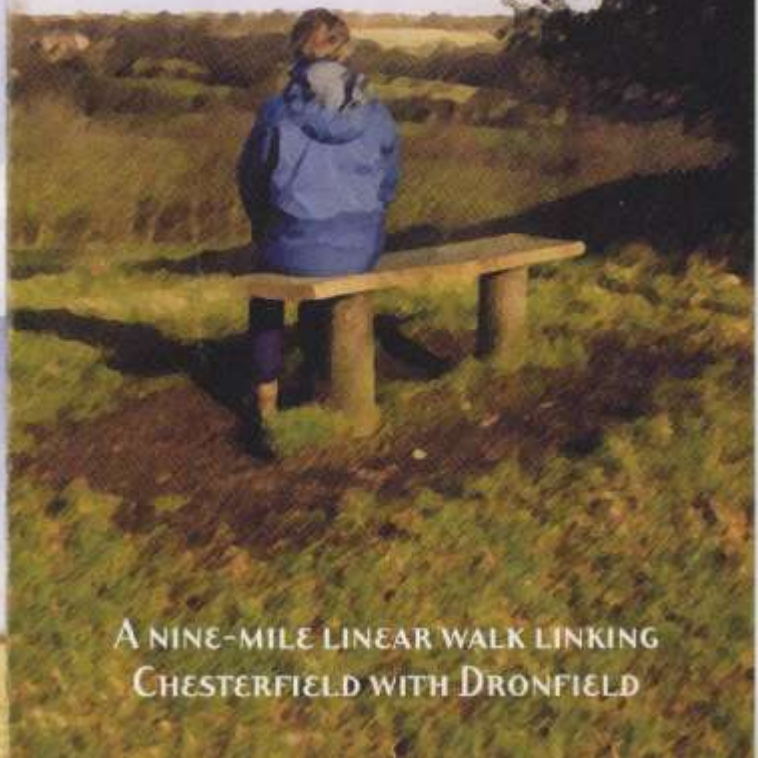


Barlow Trout Fishery



North Chesterfield Way

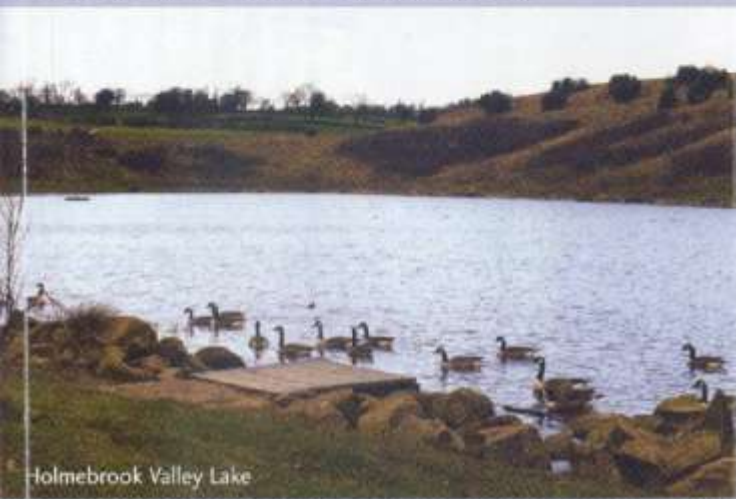
A beautiful walk on your doorstep



A NINE-MILE LINEAR WALK LINKING
CHESTERFIELD WITH DRONFIELD

Natural History notes:

Along the Holme Brook, which we follow upstream from Chesterfield centre, there have been sightings of Leaches, Voles and Kingfishers in recent times. Holmebrook Country Park fishing lake attracts water birds such as Mallard and Canada Geese. Around the lake are clumps of Yellow Irises and here the hedgerows are filled with the scent of wild roses. In midsummer the meadows have Ox-eye daisies, Red Campion, Herb Bennett, Herb Robert and Ragged Robin providing a colourful display.



Holmebrook Valley Lake

The woods are at their best in spring time when the bluebells are in bloom along with the red and white of the Red Campion, Wild Garlic and Greater Stitchwort. Along the hedgerows Honeysuckle grows thickly and Violets, Celandines, Foxgloves and Rosebay Willowherb add splashes of colour in season. In the woods by the Gosforth Stream in Dronfield there are rare Autumn Crocus to be found.

In the Lees Common area Grey Heron and Kestrel have been seen along with numerous small birds including Wren, Robin, Gold Crest, Long Tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Chaffinch and Yellow Hammer. The woods around Lee Bridge have Kingfishers, Cuckoo and Woodpeckers and in the open fields between here and Monk Woods Skylarks can be heard singing.

On the final section of the route you pass hedgerows which attract local people who enjoy gathering in the harvest of wild blackberries, elderberries and sloes.

Links with other way marked walks:

- ◆ Linacre and Cordwell Valley Circular walk follows the same route as North Chesterfield Way from the Coronation Tree at Cutthorpe to the road at Wilkin Hill, Barlow. This is a 10 mile walk beginning and ending at the Linacre Reservoirs car park, near Cutthorpe.
- ◆ Dronfield 2000 Rotary Walk joins us as we leave Monk Wood and leaves our route just beyond Lees Wood. This is a circular walk of 14 miles around the town of Dronfield.
- ◆ Round Holmesfield Walk joins our route as we leave the 2000 Rotary Walk and stays with us until we turn sharp right towards Hills Farm just before entering Dronfield. This is a way marked 14 mile circuit of the ancient parish of Holmesfield to the west of Dronfield.

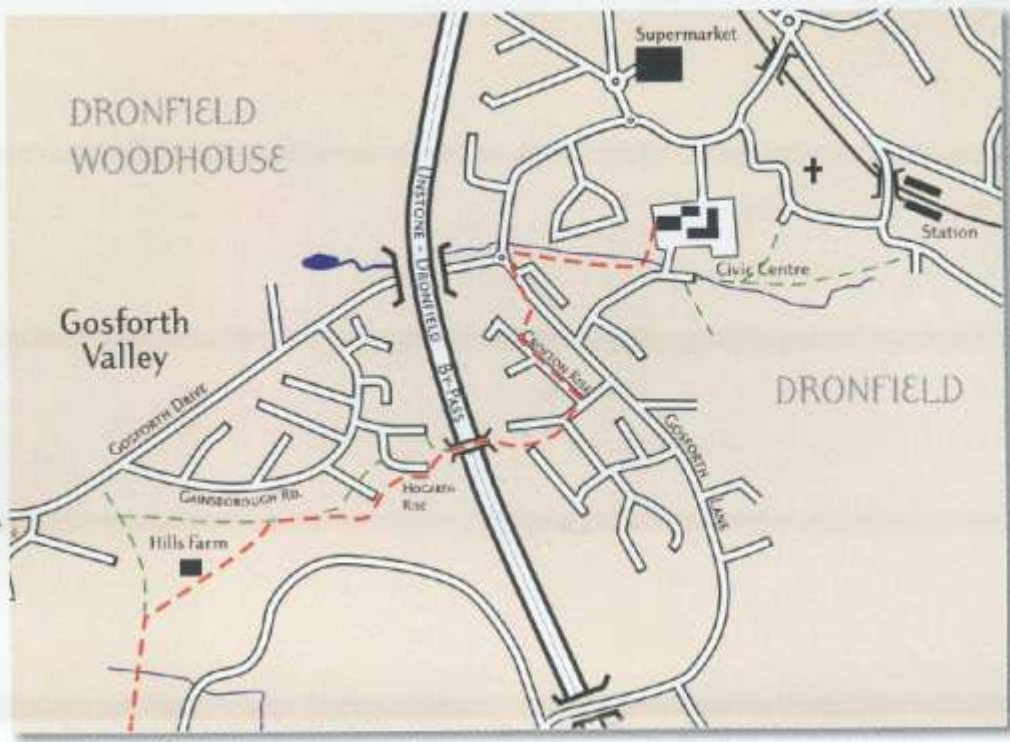
Short Cuts:

It is possible to leave the walk in a variety of places and return to the start by bus, but it is also possible to shorten the walk to Dronfield by taking the steep path through Lees Plantation, just beyond the trout fishing lakes, and passing by Lees Farm to rejoin the route at the end of Lees Wood. This means though, that you miss the beautiful walk through Monk Wood. Another possible diversion for anyone wishing to get to south Dronfield (Hill Top and Hallowses.) is to turn right in Monk Wood and cross the footbridge over the Dronfield By-pass and then follow the well used paths into the town.



Lees Wood

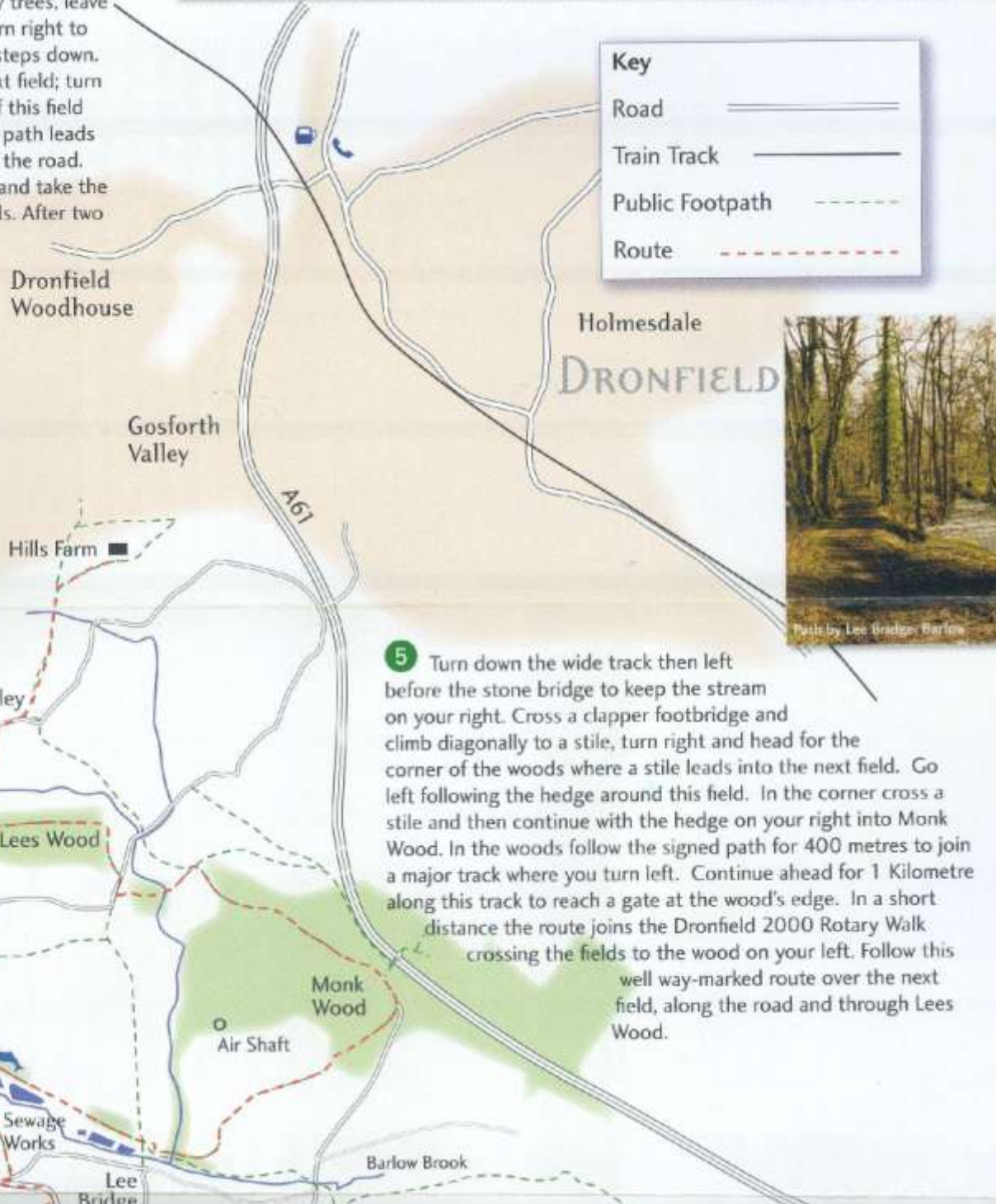
7 Climb a stile onto a fenced track; take the right hand track into the next field passing below Hills Farm. Turn diagonally uphill to cross the wall where the fenced boundary begins. Continue uphill to cross two stiles and continue along the fenced path on the edge of the housing estate. Continue to the far end of Hogarth Rise, then left along a path onto a footbridge crossing Dronfield by-pass. On reaching a cul-de-sac continue downhill following a signed footpath. Go left down the next road and then take the second road left (Crofton Rise). Towards the end turn right into a path between numbers 26 and 24. Cross the main road and join the valley bottom footpath along the side of the stream. Cross the footbridge and climb the steep path, which leads to Dronfield Civic Centre where the walk finishes.



6 On leaving the wood cross the wall by a stile hidden from view by trees, leave the Rotary Walk route and turn right to follow the field boundary to steps down. Cross the stream into the next field; turn right and keep to the edge of this field to reach the top corner. The path leads into a paddock and out onto the road. Pass Cowley Mission Chapel and take the footpath on the left into fields. After two fields cross a stream and go ahead up the hill.



Cowley Mission Church

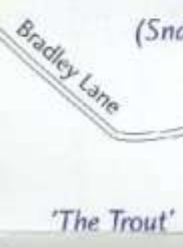


Key	
Road	—————
Train Track	—————
Public Footpath	- - - - -
Route	- - - - -

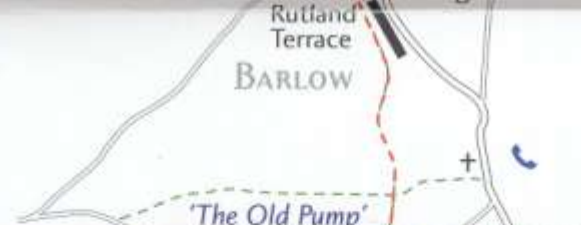
5 Turn down the wide track then left before the stone bridge to keep the stream on your right. Cross a clapper footbridge and climb diagonally to a stile, turn right and head for the corner of the woods where a stile leads into the next field. Go left following the hedge around this field. In the corner cross a stile and then continue with the hedge on your right into Monk Wood. In the woods follow the signed path for 400 metres to join a major track where you turn left. Continue ahead for 1 kilometre along this track to reach a gate at the wood's edge. In a short distance the route joins the Dronfield 2000 Rotary Walk crossing the fields to the wood on your left. Follow this well way-marked route over the next field, along the road and through Lees Wood.



Path by Lee Bridge, Barlow

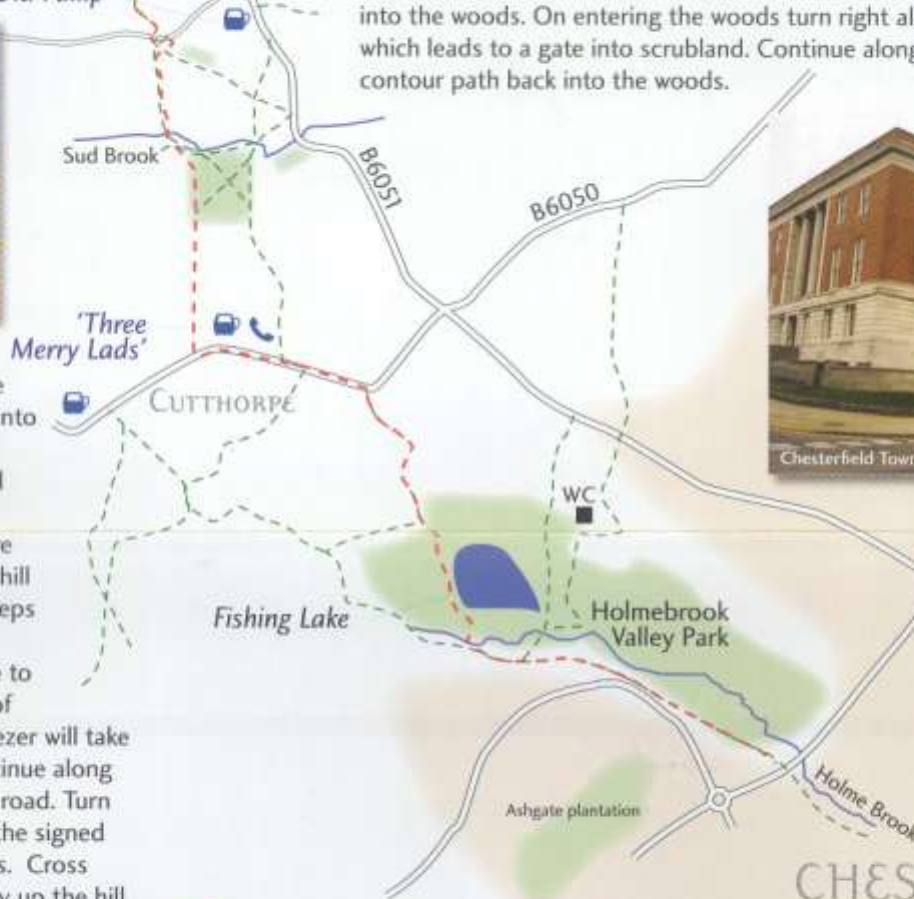


'The Trout'



3 Beyond the Three Merry Lads turn right into Common Lane joining the Linacre & Cordwell Valley circular walk. In 500 metres, just before the entrance to Abbeyhill Farm, go right down steps to reach a bridge over the stream. Keep close to the hedge to the top of the field where a squeezer will take you onto a track. Continue along this track to reach the road. Turn left and cross over to the signed footpath into the fields. Cross the first field diagonally up the hill and then head for the stile on the wall corner across the field. Keep close to the field boundary on your right as far as the back gardens of the terrace of houses in Barlow (Rutland Terrace). Just beyond the gardens turn right to follow the hedge down to the road.

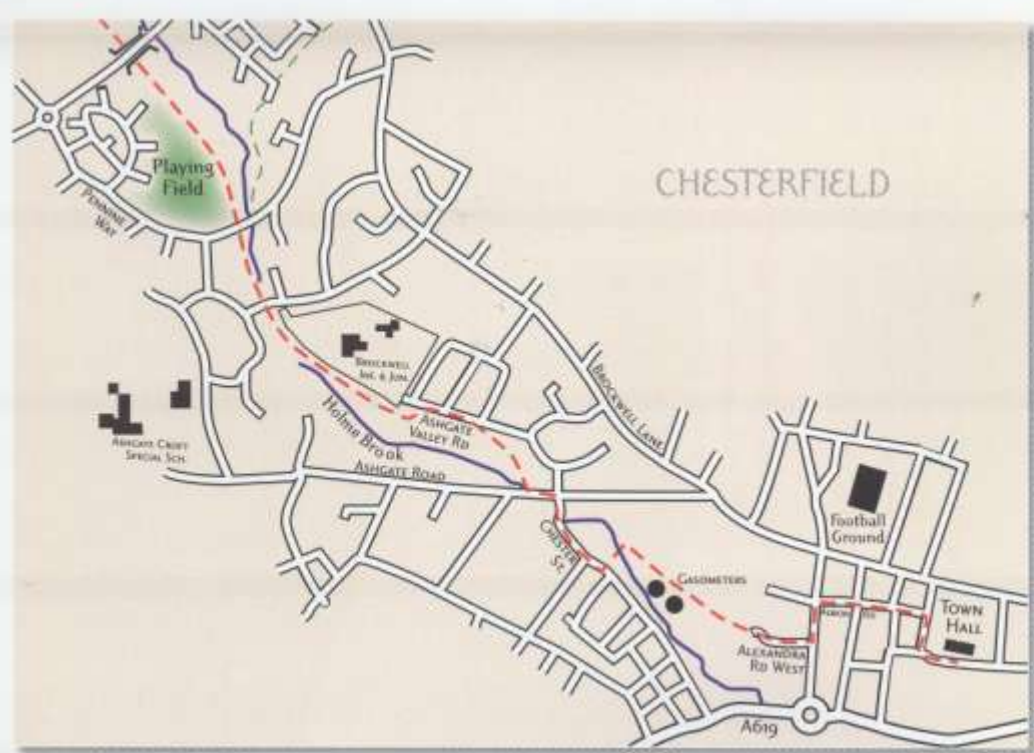
4 Go left down the hill to the junction with Keepers Lane. Turn into this lane then left just beyond a gas pumping station. After two fields join a farm road, head towards a wire gate then left through a squeezer into the field. At the bottom cross the footbridge and keep straight ahead over the causeway between two fishing lakes. Bear slightly to the left heading for a stile beyond the bushes and into the woods. On entering the woods turn right along the path, which leads to a gate into scrubland. Continue along the narrow contour path back into the woods.



2 Follow bridleway signs to Cutthorpe with the stream on your right. After 1 Kilometre cross the stream by the footbridge and walk ahead along the path with the lake below to your right. Beyond the lake take the left fork and then turn right leading to a flight of steps. At the top turn left along the lane to join the main road and then left into Cutthorpe village.



CHESTERFIELD



1 Beginning from Chesterfield Town Hall walk up Rose Hill West and turn left into Albion Road. After two road crossings turn left downhill along Foljambe Road to the way marker pointing right along Alexander Road West to Holmebrook Valley Park. Follow the stream, crossing it to join Chester Street, continuing to follow signs to Holmebrook Valley Park. Turn left along Ashgate Road to pass the filling station then cross over to enter the public footpath and continue by the stream. Join the way marked route again towards Holmebrook Valley Park. At the path junction bear right and in a short distance cross two roads. Take the path along the right hand side of the open parkland to reach an underpass beneath a busy main road.