



station using the town centre map in the inset.

After passing the town's historic mills, and going under the 1795 'gangway' bridge, turn right and find the way to the path upstream to Belper Bridge.

Turn left onto this prehistoric highway, called North Lane, and enjoy the extensive views of the valley and Belper below. Just before the lane turns 90 degrees to the left, turn right into fields (thereby leaving the Midshires Way) and go downhill, turn left at the road and then soon right. Head past the house on the left, then cross a series of fields downhill to the River Derwent and follow the path upstream to Belper Bridge.

tracks until a main walled track is reached.

between the greens. The walk climbs steadily uphill crossing golf club along a track and over a stile, then round right and up follows the route of the Midshires Way around the rear of the immediately right towards the golf club. The walk now and continue on to turn left into Avenue Road then turn right along the main A6. Pass the site of Duffield Castle Leave the station car park into Station Approach and then

town of Belper.

eventually dropping down into the historic along the ridge of the Derwent Valley, hillside following the ancient Portway A walk with a steady climb over the Chevin

DUFFIELD - BELPER WALK 1 DISTANCE 4 MILES

BELPER - DUFFIELD WALK 2 DISTANCE 6 MILES

BELPER - AMBERGATE WALK 3 DISTANCE 8 MILES

Explore THE DERWENT VALLEY

Duffield to
1
Ambergate



GENERAL INFORMATION

These walks in the beautiful Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site have been designed to link together the stations along the scenic Derwent Valley Line. Choose one or more walks to create a circular route or use the train to get back to the start.

The train service through the Derwent Valley provides a great opportunity to leave the car at home, relax and enjoy the great views along the way. Trains on the Derwent Valley line operate a frequent service between Nottingham, Beeston, Attenborough, Long Eaton, Derby and the local Derwent Valley Line Stations.

However, if you do travel to the Derwent Valley by car, there are car parks at each of the stations, from where you can start your circular or linear walk and travel back by train or on various bus services.

For train times call National Rail Enquiries 08457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk
Alternatively for local bus times call Traveline 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses



All walks have been carefully waymarked by green discs bearing a coloured arrow, yellow indicates footpath status to be used by walkers. Blue arrows indicate bridleway status and can be enjoyed by walkers, cyclists and horseriders. All the discs bear the legend Derwent Valley Walks.



The four walks in this leaflet are part of a collection of 12 walks exploring the Derwent Valley. The other eight walks are detailed in two more leaflets'

HAPPY WALKING!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Middleton Top Visitor Centre,
Tel: (01629) 823204

This leaflet was produced by Derbyshire County Council for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site



DERBYSHIRE
County Council
Improving life for local people



4 scenic station to station walks

Cross the A6 and go left to the A610. Go under the railway arch and turn right to reach the station.

At the first main fork, turn right (leaving the Midshires Way) and then right again just beyond the former Youth Hostel, continue to the Mermaid's Pool and veer left up to a main track. Turn left and follow this until the road is reached. Turn left, over the river to the A6.

Turn right, then left on Longwalls Lane for about a mile. Emerging out onto a metalled road turn left downhill, then right into fields. Still following the Midshires Way follow the ridge up hill quite a way through a series of "knee trapper stiles". After the summit and on entering a large field veer off to the right to two more stiles next to gates and up to another stile, then aim for a small footbridge. At the lane turn right past Sandyford Lane to the T-junction. Turn right then left into fields then into Netherpark Farm. Go through the yard and cross the road onto a track into Shining Cliff Wood.

Turn right onto the route of the Midshires Way and go downhill for 100 yards at Farnah Green to a fingerpost on the left. Keep to the left side of the wall and follow the path as it leads into a wooded valley, the "Depth o' Lumb". Keep to the edge of the wood before entering fields and descending to Lumb Lane then downhill to the road.

footpath leading to North Lane.

house on to Chevin Road. Turn left and soon right up a the valley side to eventually emerge by the side of a large the river. Pass through a stile on the right and begin to climb and head on for some way to where the path forks towards the river. Take the footpath left immediately after crossing the bridge Using the town map in the inset find East Mill and the river.

farmland and ancient woods.

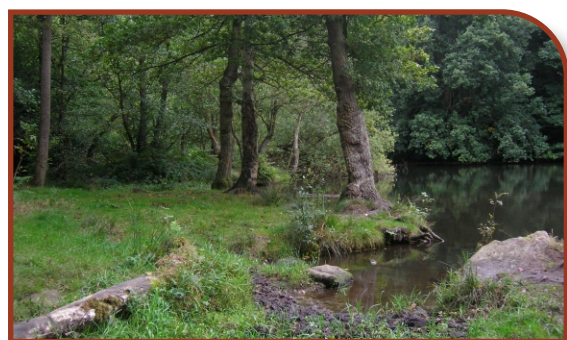
A longish walk from Belper, along the valley ridge with 2 steady climbs through

Duffield - Belper & Belper - Ambergate: Walks 1 to 4

1. Shining Cliff Woods

Shining Cliff Wood is important both historically and naturally. The area has been wooded for over a thousand years (probably much longer) and is a remnant of the Duffield Frith hunting forest.

Changes have taken place in the wood over the centuries with new species being introduced, e.g. sweet chestnut and larch. Shining Cliff, however, still provides an excellent example of an ancient semi-natural woodland, with birch, holly and hazel prevalent. Part of the wood is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of its plant life.



2. Belper

Excellent views over Belper can be seen from North Lane. The northern part of the town is dominated by the Strutts' cotton mill. Jedediah Strutt was a business partner of Richard Arkwright and built his first mill here in 1776. The North Mill which stands overlooking the Derwent was built in 1804 by Jedediah's son, William Strutt and is a forerunner of the modern skyscraper - inside, a museum explains the story.

One of Strutt's workers, Samuel Slater, learnt the cotton production process at Belper, before quietly emigrating to America, disguised as a farm labourer, to revolutionise industry there.

There are other town trails around Belper available from the Visitor Centre at Strutt's North Mill. For further information phone (01773) 880474.

3. North Lane

Derbyshire is crossed by many ancient trackways, some dating back several thousand years. North Lane is part of the Anglo-Saxon Portway, an important track running roughly NW and SE across Derbyshire. This stretch was also used by the Romans to carry lead from the Wirksworth area to Duffield and - even earlier - is believed to have been a Celtic ridge route.

Along the route, an unusual stone wall can be seen on the right. This is part of the firing range, a shooting butt built in the nineteenth century for the local militia to use for target practice.

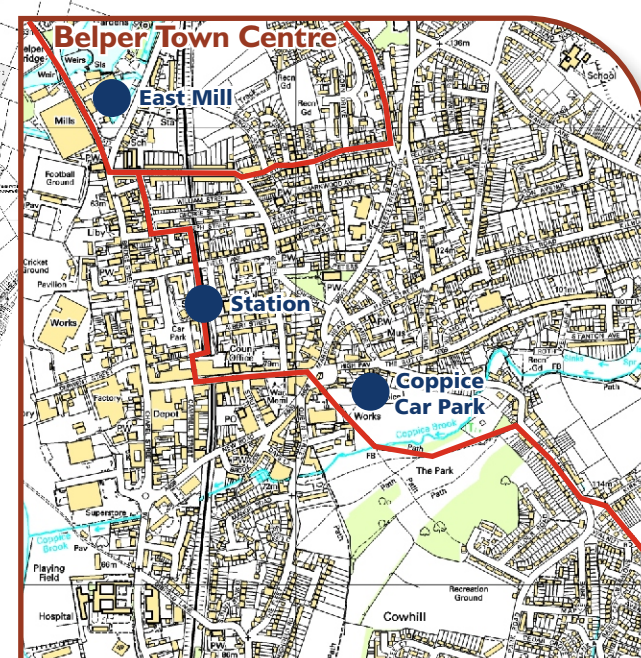
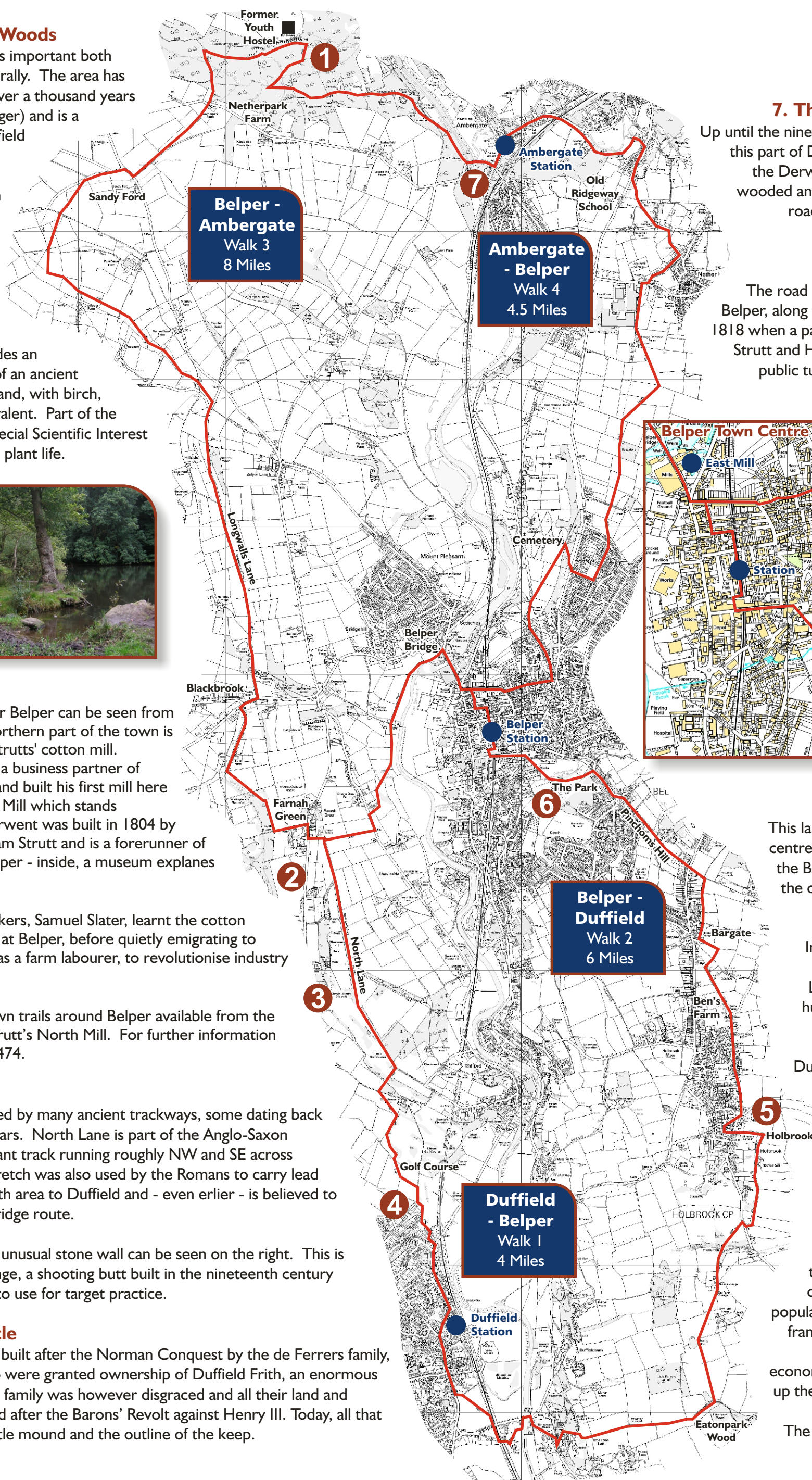
4. Duffield Castle

Duffield Castle was built after the Norman Conquest by the de Ferrers family, Earls of Derby, who were granted ownership of Duffield Frith, an enormous hunting forest. The family was however disgraced and all their land and property confiscated after the Barons' Revolt against Henry III. Today, all that remains are the castle mound and the outline of the keep.

7. The A6 to Cromford

Up until the nineteenth century, travel in this part of Derbyshire was not easy the Derwent Valley being heavily wooded and very marshy. A direct road link was made in 1759 between Cromford and Nottingham.

The road between Cromford and Belper, along the river, only arrived in 1818 when a partnership of Arkwright, Strutt and Hurt (of Lea Mills) built a public turnpike, the present A6.



6. The Parks

This large open space near the centre of town is a remnant of the Belper Deer Park, part of the old Royal Forest Duffield Frith.

In the Middle Ages it was owned by the Duchy of Lancaster and featured a hunting lodge, and later, a manor house. Several English Kings visited the Duffield Frith to hunt deer.

5. Holbrook

Holbrook is a pretty village situated on the southern edge of one of the most southerly parts of the Pennine Ridge. Its population grew quickly when framework knitting became important to the local economy, many people setting up their own frames at home.

The main street is part of an ancient Portway.