

# Chatsworth Estate Peak District ENGLAND

**1 Start/Finish**  
Nether End car park,  
Baslow

GR: SK258721

Head over the village green, cross the A619, follow Eaton Hill to the grassy triangle, go R onto Bar Road and follow to the gate at the very top.

**2** Take the grass path to the R (not the main track), and follow through the woodland until you reach the A621.

**3** Cross the A621, go over the stile and keep R through the woods. Follow for 1.6km until you reach the A619.

**4** Go over the stile and head L along the road for 20m. Take the concession path on the R and follow the clearly marked route for 3km to pine woods.

**5** Follow the gravel road for 3.1km and keep L at all times. At the grassy triangle keep R. Go straight over the crossroads, then take first L where you will see a five-bar gate.

**6** Go over the stile and take the footpath to the R, as indicated by the second post. Follow the path down, go through the farmyard, into the meadows and drop until you reach Beeley village.

**7** Follow path onto Pig Lane, go R onto Church Lane, cross the B6012, go through the gate and follow the footpath to the bridge.

**8** Cross the bridge, follow the road for 50m, take the short path L through the woods, go L on the lane and straight ahead at the grassy triangle.

**9** Follow limestone path for 1.2km, through Calton Houses. Keep L at the first and second fork, follow the path around the woodland, and keep going up the hill until you reach another woodland.

**10** Take a hard R and follow for 2km, past the pond and another small woodland, to join the gravel track.

**11** Head R at the lane and follow it for 500m. Take rough track to the R and follow into Edensor village. Head towards Chatsworth House, over the bridge, then take the first L and follow the river all the way back to Baslow.

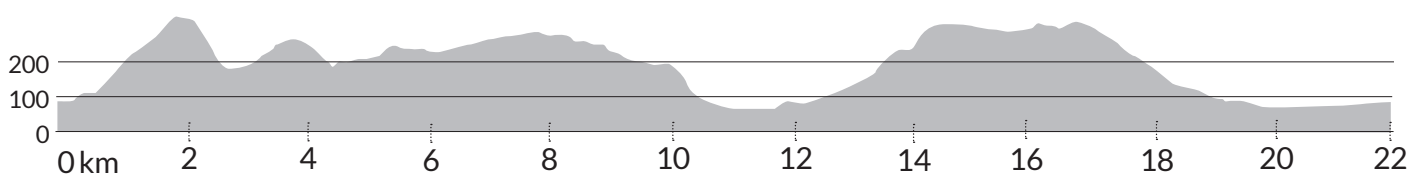


## Dan Hobson enjoys some quality father and son time

“IT’S A FINE DAY to be alive,” I say to my dad Dave, as we begin one of his classic routes around the Chatsworth Estate in Derbyshire. It’s May – and it’s hot. Lambs skip through wildflower meadows, blackbird chicks learn to fly haphazardly, bluebells transform woodlands into fairytale settings, and the hills shimmer with glorious heat. “Who needs foreign holidays, eh?” my old man says in agreement.

The beauty of the Chatsworth Estate, if you avoid the honeypots, is the feeling that time has stood still for the past 200 years. The ancient hedgerows and neat drystone walls, the quaint villages – all

### Gradient profile Metres above sea level





decorated in the distinctive 'Chatsworth Blue' – set among the rolling hills and soft pastures of the Peak District. It truly is a wonder to behold, at any time of year.

After a steep push up to Baslow Edge, you are immediately rewarded with fantastic views of the Estate. Those who fancy a short detour to Wellington's Monument (erected to counterbalance the memorial to Admiral Nelson on nearby Birchen Edge) can admire some pleasing panoramas.

As we make our way through the first of many bluebell woodlands and over Dobb Edge behind Chatsworth – for the most part in absolute solitude – the views keep coming, thick and fast.

After a fair jaunt along the limestone track, past Emperor Lake and Swiss Lake, we begin

the dreamy descent into Beeley. (At the time, there was a clearly marked diversion on one part, due to restoration work. However, the route should, hopefully, have reopened at the time of publication.) With lush wildflower meadows and newly leafed trees at the greenest they'll be, the walk into Beeley is British countryside at its best – whatever the season.

As we enter the village of Beeley, the scent of wisteria fills the senses. "Fancy a pint?" my dad asks. "It'd be rude not to," I say. So, with the sun beating down, we take a seat outside the Devonshire Arms to enjoy golden Chatsworth ale and a cheese and onion sandwich. Simple pleasures.

Refuelled, we set off along the River Derwent, behind the Chatsworth Garden Centre and begin the long jaunt up to the restored Calton Cottages.

It has to be said, the 12th Duke is doing an incredible job of preserving the landscape; there are many immaculate walls and tastefully restored barns.

As we wind through more bluebell woods, we stop for longer than we might usually to admire the flowers – and enjoy a spot of shade – before reaching the luscious pastures on the tops, which will soon be harvested for silage.

From here, all the hard work has been done and it's a steady stroll downhill to the delightful village of Edensor. The 6th Duke of Devonshire custom-built Edensor after demolishing the old estate village because it spoiled his view!

The final stretch of the walk via Chatsworth Estate back to Baslow, is honeypot heartland. My old man was always right and still is. Who does need foreign holidays, eh? 🇬🇧

[Captions clockwise from top] View over Baslow through a drystone wall; the wildflower meadows on the descent to Beeley are British countryside at its best; stunning bluebells on the pastures above Chatsworth

### Further information

**Maps:** OS 1:25,000 Explorer sheet OL24 (Peak District, White Peak); Harveys 1:40,000 British Mountain Map, the White Peak

**Transport:** Bus service 218 (Mon-Sat) and 215 (Sun) runs from Bakewell to Sheffield via Chatsworth House. Details from [derbysbus.info](http://derbysbus.info)

**Information:** Bakewell TIC, 01629 816558, [visitpeakdistrict.com](http://visitpeakdistrict.com)