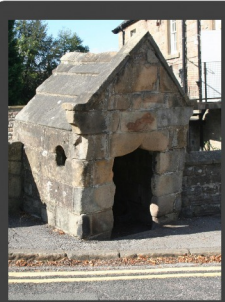


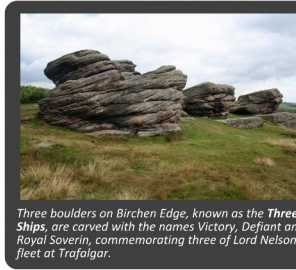
Three walks from The Robin Hood Inn Baslow, Derbyshire



Wellington's Monument was erected in 1866 by Dr Wrench, physician to the Duke of Devonshire and a military man. He also donated Baslow church's unusual clock. The nearby Eagle Stone is an impressive natural gritstone boulder.



Baslow Bridge over the River Derwent is Grade I listed and dated 1607. This stone building is thought to have been a toll house. The best views of the bridge are from a viewpoint by the riverside beside the churchyard.



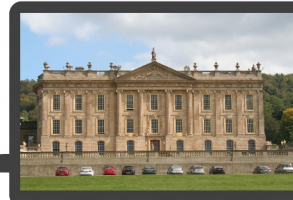
Three boulders on Birchen Edge, known as the Three Ships, are carved with the names Victory, Defiant and Royal Sovereign, commemorating three of Lord Nelson's fleet at Trafalgar.



Nelson's Monument was erected in 1810, 30 years before the more famous column in Trafalgar Square!



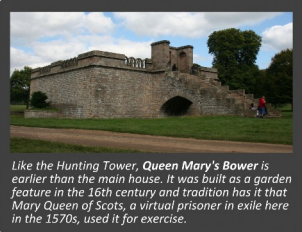
This indistinct but enigmatic carved rock on Dobb Edge was only discovered in 2012 but is thought to date back 5000 years. It lies right beside the permissive path at more or less the highest point between the Robin Hood and Chatsworth, and is now protected from further erosion by strategically placed boulders.



Chatsworth House is one of the finest country houses in the country. The current house was begun for the 1st Duke of Devonshire in the late 17th century and further extended in the early 18th by the 6th Duke. Entrance to the House and Gardens is by admission charge, but this route sticks entirely to the freely available areas of the estate. The house has a priceless collection of paintings and antiques and the gardens are full of sculpture, fountains, groves and other follies, and include a topiary maze, a farmyard and an adventure playground.



The Hunting Tower, also known as the Stand, was built in 1582 – a century before the oldest surviving part of Chatsworth House.



Like the Hunting Tower, Queen Mary's Bower is earlier than the main house. It was built as a garden feature in the 16th century and tradition has it that Mary Queen of Scots, a virtual prisoner in exile here in the 1570s, used it for exercise.

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The Robin Hood is a friendly traditional Derbyshire inn. Nestling below the gritstone edges of Birchen and Gardom's, we are surrounded by miles of open moorland and are within a couple of miles of Chatsworth House.

With ample free parking and walks right from the doorstep, the Robin Hood is the perfect base from which to explore rural Derbyshire, and the stunning Peak District National Park.

Birchen Edge 1½ miles: Easy

See Nelson's Monument and the Three Ships - a short walk with lots of interest and great views over Derbyshire.

Gardom's and Birchen Edges 3 miles: Fairly easy

Pleasant woodland and moorland walking with two contrasting edge walks and more great views.

Chatsworth and Baslow 7½ miles: Moderately strenuous

A walk full of interest and contrast, from prehistoric rock art to grand architecture to classic Derbyshire gritstone.

Birchen Edge

1½ miles: Easy

One short scrambly climb and a steep descent, with vertical drops along Birchen Edge. Allow 1½ hours.

1 From the car park entrance, turn left and walk along the B6050 for a short distance, passing the public car park and a property on the left. **2** Immediately beyond the house, at the entrance to a driveway follow a short path leading to a gate into Access Land. **3** Follow the obvious path beyond, along the foot of the slope. **4** Keep straight on past a hawthorn tree with a boulder beneath it and a steep path opposite (*this is our return route*). **5** The path gradually leaves the field edge on the left and climbs through trees towards the rocks of Birchen Edge. **6** Look out for the pillar of Nelson's Monument on the crag above, and when you find yourself below it, pick your way up through the rocks to the right of the Monument. **7** At the top of the edge, having admired the view and examined the Monument and the adjacent Three Ships, turn right and walk along the top of the edge, with the rocky drop beneath you and to your right. **8** The rocks eventually peter out and the slope to your right becomes less severe until, by an inspection cover, the path turns sharp right. **9** Follow it steeply downhill for a short distance to rejoin the path at the boulder and hawthorn tree you passed earlier. **10** Turn left and retrace your steps back to the road. **11** Turn right to return to the Robin Hood Inn.

Gardom's and Birchen Edges

3 miles: Fairly easy

Although the paths are clear and easy to follow, this route crosses open moorland that can be bleak in bad weather. The path passes some steep drops and there is one (optional) steep scramble and descent on Birchen Edge. Allow 2 hours.

1 From the car park entrance, turn right down the main road past a stone farmhouse and a campsite entrance. **2** 100 yards on, cross a stile in the wall on your right. **3** Follow the path uphill, with views to Moorside Farm opening up to your right. **4** Shortly after passing a prominent gritstone outcrop (the Cat Stone) on your right, you reach a stone-flanked gateway. **5** Ignore the obvious path heading downhill straight ahead, instead turning right and following the wall as it curves uphill and to the left onto Gardom's Edge. **6** Pass through a gateway in a crossing wall and pass a line of three cairns (the "Three Men"), ignoring a wall stile on the right (*this stile gives access to birch woodland, on the far edge of which is a fine replica of a piece of prehistoric rock art, protecting the original beneath – it's difficult to locate but if you have a GPS you will find it at SK27297304*). **7** Keep on along the wall, with the crags of Gardom's Edge below and on your left, as the terrain becomes more wooded. (*Beyond a short cross wall, a wooden gate on the right gives access to a standing stone which some archaeologists believe was used as a form of sundial*.) **8** The wall

on your right becomes a fence and the woodland beyond it gradually peters out. **9** As you near the valley containing the Sheffield Road, turn right through a gate above a gritstone outcrop. **10** Follow the path beyond, approximately parallel to the road, for half a mile. **11** Just before the path meets the road at a junction, turn right on an obvious path across the moor. **12** Walk across the moor towards Birchen Edge; as you approach the edge, the terrain becomes more wooded and you pass a number of free-standing boulders. **13** Look out for the pillar of Nelson's Monument on the crag above, and just beyond it, pick your way up through the rocks to the top of the edge.

Now follow steps **7** to **11** from the **Birchen Edge** walk (above) to guide you back to the Robin Hood Inn.

Chatsworth and Baslow

7½ miles: Moderately strenuous

Although the paths are clear and easy to follow, this route crosses open moorland that can be bleak in bad weather. The path passes some steep drops and there is a long climb out of Baslow and one (optional) steep scramble and descent on Birchen Edge. Concessionary paths through the Chatsworth Estate may occasionally be closed for events. Allow at least 4 hours.

For a shorter walk (4½ miles) walk to Chatsworth House and return by the same route.

1 From the car park entrance, turn right down the main road past a stone farmhouse and a campsite entrance. **2** Just before road signs warning of bends ahead, turn left, crossing the road and following a signposted concessionary path into woodland. **3** The path drops down some steps to cross a stream, then climbs up the far side, crossing a track and running beside a forest edge. Beyond this it runs along the top of Dobb Edge (*beware steep drops*). **4** The path eventually passes a stile into pastureland and then back through a stone squeeze stile into bracken woodland, before finally returning to fields above the slope. **5** At the end of the field cross a wall stile and climb up a bracken slope beyond. Partway along, after the path levels off, look out beside the path on the right for a ring-marked rock set in the turf (*see map*). **6** Head to the right of the woodland ahead, then enter it via a wall stile. **7** Turn left inside the wood for a short distance until you meet a track. Turn right. **8** Follow this track past a farm entrance on the left. **9** After ¼ mile you reach a T-junction; turn right and pass below the Hunting Tower. **10** A steep shortcut leads directly to Chatsworth House, but if you keep on along the track you will descend more slowly and pass the Aqueduct, an impressive folly. **11** Shortly afterwards, at a junction of paths, turn sharp right. **12** This track runs behind the Cascade, along the outside of the garden wall, and deposits you near the entrance to the Farmyard. **13** Turn left and walk across the car park by the tourist entrance to Chatsworth House. **14** Pick up the access road beyond that leads to the bridge over the Derwent. **15** Just before you reach the river, turn right past Queen Mary's

Bower. **16** Follow this track parallel to the Derwent for a mile, passing a cricket pitch and then a caravan park along the way. **17** Shortly after passing through a novel "vertical kissing gate", turn left by a house. **18** Cross a field to a footbridge over the stream (Bar Brook). **19** Keep on below the buildings of the Cavendish Hotel to emerge on the main road; turn left. **20** Pass the entrance to Baslow Cricket Club then cross over and turn right at the roundabout into Baslow village. **21** You will probably want to visit the church and bridge; either way, to continue leave the main road at a mini-roundabout by the churchyard and walk up School Lane. At a triangle with benches, turn left into Bar Road. **22** Keep along the lane past Ladywell House, beyond which the road reduces to a track. **23** At a junction of tracks beyond the Lady Well, with a memorial seat, turn left. **24** Follow this track ever upwards until you reach open moorland at a gate accompanied by large stone blocks. **25** Follow the path beyond to the right of some old quarries as it ascends the slope. At the junction where the left-hand path leads to the prominent Eagle Stone boulder a short distances away, take the right-hand path, following the path to Wellington's Monument. **26** Continue along the edge beyond the monument. **27** This path eventually becomes a track and is joined by a wall as it descends to meet a road. **28** Turn right and walk down to the main road. **29** Cross over and go through a gate on your right at the start of the road opposite. **30** After a short paved section, the path divides; take the more obvious path straight on, heading for Birchen Edge and its monument. **31** Walk across the moor to meet the Edge – as you approach the rocky slope the terrain becomes more wooded and you pass a number of free-standing boulders. **32** Keep an eye out for the pillar of Nelson's Monument on the crag above, and just beyond it, pick your way up through the rocks to the top of the edge.

Now follow steps **7** to **11** from the **Birchen Edge** walk (above) to guide you back to the Robin Hood Inn.



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