



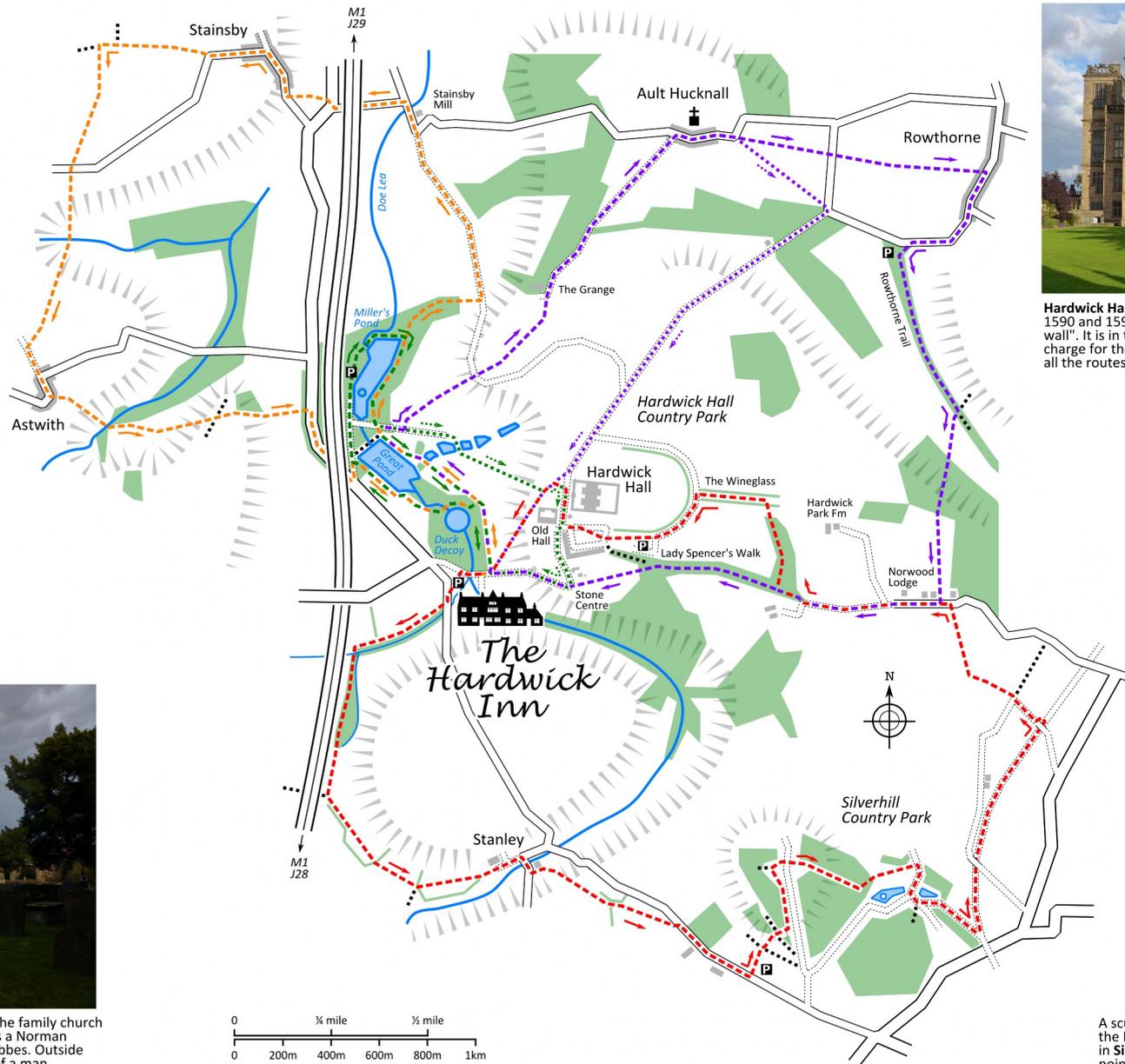
Stainsby Mill is a working watermill built in the late 18th century and powered by the waters of the River Doe Lea. It is operated by the National Trust; flour is still ground and available to buy.



Stainsby village is an attractive hamlet centred on an ancient chestnut tree.



The **Church of St John the Baptist at Ault Hucknall** is the family church of your hosts at the Hardwick Inn. Within the church is a Norman chancel arch and the grave of philosopher Thomas Hobbes. Outside is a notable blocked Norman doorway with a carving of a man fighting a dragon (thought *not* to be St George, since the carving was made *before* he was adopted as patron saint!).



Hardwick Hall was built for the formidable Bess of Hardwick between 1590 and 1597 and has famously been described as "more glass than wall". It is in the care of the National Trust; there is an admission charge for the house for non-members, though the wider estate and all the routes described here are freely accessible without charge.



Hardwick Old Hall, built slightly before the "New" Hall, is now ruinous but retains some of its internal plasterwork. Both buildings are Grade I listed.



A sculpture called *Testing for Gas*, dedicated to the miners of the Nottinghamshire coalfields, stands on an artificial mound in **Silverhill Country Park**. It has been claimed as the highest point in Nottinghamshire, but amateur surveyors determined it to be a few feet lower than a point on Newtonwood Lane, near the communications mast visible a mile to the southwest.

SIX CIRCULAR WALKS FROM

The Hardwick Inn



Hardwick Park (1¾ or 2¼ miles)

A level lakeside and woodland stroll with an optional climb through open parkland to Hardwick Hall.

Stainsby & Astwith (5 miles)

Two pretty hamlets with superb views over the Doe Lea valley to Hardwick Hall.

Ault Hucknall (3½ or 5 miles)

A parkland walk to a historic church, with an optional shortcut via Hardwick Hall.

Silverhill Country Park (6 miles)

A gradual climb to the one of the highest points in Nottinghamshire, returning via Hardwick Hall.



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www.walksfromthedoor.co.uk

THE HARDWICK INN
 Hardwick Park, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S44 5QJ
 Tel: 01246 850245
 Website: www.hardwickinn.co.uk
 Email: contact@hardwickinn.co.uk

OPEN: Mon to Sat: 11.30am-11pm
 Sunday: 12 noon-10.30pm

FOOD SERVED: Mon to Sat: till 9.30pm
 Sunday: till 9pm

Hardwick Park

1¾ or 2¼ miles: Easy/Moderate

Allow 1 hour, plus additional time if visiting Hardwick Hall. One steep climb on the longer walk. Woodland and field paths may be muddy.

1 From the car park entrance, turn right towards the entrance to Hardwick Park. **2** Go through the gate to the left of the cattle grid and turn left along the woodland edge. **3** After about 300 yards, turn left through a kissing gate into the wood (signposted “The sculpture walk”). **4** Skirt to the right of the duck decoy and cross the stream. **5** On exiting the woodland, bear right and follow the path alongside the Great Pond. At the end, bear left onto the car park entrance road and turn right to pass the Visitor Centre. **6** Continue through the car park, following the signposted “Miller’s Walk”. **7** Cross the footbridge over the outflow of the Miller’s Pond, then bear right around the bottom end. **8** At the far side, go through a gate and turn right, still with the pond on your right. **9** When you reach a wider track, you have a choice: for the longer walk visiting Hardwick Hall, jump to “Longer walk” below. For the shorter walk, go straight ahead to a gate, and follow the path beyond, with the Great Pool on your right. **10** Leave the lakeside to pass below a smaller pond, the lowest of the Row Ponds. **11** Beyond the next gate, head across the field to meet the wood on your right, and follow the woodland edge back to the Hardwick Inn.

Longer walk

(Continued from step 9, above.) **10a** Turn left up the track, passing the quarry entrance on your left with a sign reading “The Story of Stone at Hardwick”. **11a** Ignore a footpath on the left and go straight on through a gate, until you reach the end of the track. **12a** Bear right and pass between two of the Row Ponds. **13a** In the open parkland beyond, bear left (uphill), aiming for the ruin of Hardwick Old Hall. **14a** At the top, turn left through a gate and walk up below the buttressed wall to emerge opposite the entrance to the New Hall. **15a** Turn right through the gateway and pass Hardwick Old Hall on your right. **16a** Ignore the archway on the left into the stableyard, instead following the descending road on the right. **17a** Pass the Stone Centre and follow the curving drive back to the Hardwick Inn.

Stainsby and Astwith

5 miles: Moderate

Several moderate climbs. May be muddy in places after rain. Allow 2½–3 hours.

1 From the car park entrance, turn right towards the entrance to Hardwick Park. **2** Go through the gate to the left of the cattle grid and turn left along the woodland edge. **3** Ignore the gate into the wood on your left, instead continuing alongside the wood. **4** Walk across the grass to a gate and pass below a pond (the lowest of the Row

Ponds). **5** Follow the path beyond, with the Great Pond on your left.

6 Go through a gate at the end of the lake and take the path straight ahead. **7** Cross a track and follow another path in the same direction as before, now with the Miller’s Pond on your left. **8** At the far end of the pond, ignore the gate on your left and follow the path ahead through the wood, which gradually curves uphill and to the right.

9 Leave the wood through a wooden kissing gate and walk up to the entrance drive. **10** Turn left past the cattle grid and follow the drive through fields to exit the Park. **11** At the public road, turn left past Stainsby Mill. Keep left at the war memorial to pass below the motorway. **12** At the junction, cross carefully and take a footpath slightly to the right that leads up the wooded bank to a stile. **13** Cross the field beyond, keeping to the left of the farm building to reach a gate. Drop down to the road and turn right. **14** Walk uphill through Stainsby village, keeping left at the junction with the chestnut tree in the middle. **15** Beyond a farm, keep along the lane as it climbs out of the village. **16** When the lane bends left, take a field path on the right; keep along the bottom (right-hand side) of the first field. **17** Go through a gate and follow a farm track along the top of the second field. At the end, keep right, along the top of a third field, and cross a stile into a fourth. **18** When the hedge on your left turns left, follow it round. **19** Swing right along the field edge to a stile on your left. **20** Bear right (uphill) in the next field to another stile, and cross the next field to a gate. Beyond a further field, cross a narrow lane and take the path opposite. **21** Follow the right-hand edge of the field down to a footbridge over a small stream. **22** Keep to the right of the narrow field beyond, climbing to a stile in the far right-hand corner. **23** Head half-right to a double stile into a driveway, where you turn left to emerge in Astwith village. **24** At the road, go straight on then, when the road bends right, take a signposted footpath on the left (between some old barns on the right and a brick outbuilding on your left) to reach a stone-built cottage. **25** Cross a damson orchard to reach a gate, beyond which head downhill to pass a small water works and cross a stream. **26** Keep to the woodland edge on your left as far as a waymark, then bear right to a gate. **27** Follow the path up the field beyond, aiming to the right of a solitary tree. **28** On reaching the far corner, follow the right-hand edge of the wood, heading downhill with fine views to Hardwick Hall. **29** Beyond the wood, follow the hedge on your left to a stile, and drop down the wooded bank to the road. **30** Cross and turn right along the pavement, shortly passing under the motorway once more. **31** Turn immediately left into Hardwick Park. **32** Follow the first footpath on the right, near the corner of the Great Pond, and turn right along the waterside path, with the lake to your left. **33** Follow the path as it enters the woodland along a boardwalk, to cross the stream below the duck decoy. **34** Follow the path through the wood away from the decoy pond when it bends left, to emerge in parkland below the Old Hall. **35** Turn right and retrace your steps along the woodland edge to return to the Hardwick Inn.

Ault Hucknall

3½ or 5 miles: Moderate

Some moderate climbs. Allow 2 hours for the shorter walk (plus time to look round Ault Hucknall church) or 3 hours for the longer walk.

Follow steps **1** to **6** of the **Stainsby and Astwith** walk, above. **7** At a crossing track, turn right, passing a quarry entrance on your left with a sign reading “The Story of Stone at Hardwick”. **8** Just before a gate, turn left into open parkland and head right, uphill. **9** Under a clump of trees, cross a tarmac drive by a waymark and continue uphill. **10** At the top of the hill, bear slightly left to a gate by a house (The Grange). **11** Keep right of the house and follow the drive to emerge in Ault Hucknall. **12** Turn right past the church and walk through the village. **13** Beyond a farm, where the road swings left, there are two footpaths radiating across fields to the right. For the shorter walk, take the right-hand path and skip to “Shorter walk”, below. For the longer walk, take the left-hand path and walk across the field to a squeeze stile and continue uphill across the next field to meet a road. **14** Take a few steps to the left and then go through a gate on the other side. **15** Follow the left-hand side of the field to a kissing gate, then walk up the next field, passing to the left of a lone tree. **16** Cross a paddock between two kissing gates and continue out to the road. **17** Turn right and walk through Rowthorne village, keeping straight on past Hall Farm (signposted “Rowthorne Trail”). **18** Beyond the speed delimit signs, turn left by a small water treatment works and join the Rowthorne Trail. **19** After about half a mile, at the bottom of a slight dip, leave the Trail on a footpath to the right. **20** Aim slightly left across the field, and cross a footbridge over a small stream to enter the wood. **21** Follow the uphill path beyond, through the woodland. **22** Emerge from the wood (ignoring a crossing path) into a field. Cross the field, aiming just to the right of a white-painted house to reach a narrow path between gardens that leads out to a road. **23** Turn right and walk past a series of houses. **24** When the drive bends at a farm gate, take a path on the right, Lady Spencer’s Walk. **25** Follow the path down and up steps, keeping towards the left-hand edge of the wood. After half a mile, turn left by an interpretation board and follow a descending path along the bottom of the wood. **26** Exit through a gate and cross the field to meet the Hardwick Hall drive on a bend just below the Stone Centre. **27** Turn left and walk down the drive back to the Hardwick Inn.

Shorter walk

(Continued from step 13, above.) **14a** Pass a stile beneath an oak tree and cross to the right-hand corner of the next field to meet a road. **15a** Turn right at the road junction and walk down to a lodge at the entrance to Hardwick Park. **16a** Follow the drive for one mile to reach Hardwick Hall. **17a** Opposite the New Hall, take a path on the right (with a sign for the Lower Park). **18a** From the gate at the end of the buttressed wall, head straight on, through the trees and then downhill. You should encounter a flight of stone steps at the steepest part, beyond which head directly to the Hardwick Inn.

Silverhill Country Park

6 miles: Moderate

Field paths may be muddy or under crops. Allow 3–4 hours.

1 Turn left out of the car park and left again through the overflow car park to the road. **2** Take a few steps to the left, then turn right onto a path before a belt of trees. **3** Follow the woodland edge for two fields, then turn left into the trees. **4** Walk through the wood, with the M1 on your right. **5** On exiting the woodland, keep along the fence on your right. **6** At another path turn left, away from the motorway. **7** Bear right across the field, aiming for a yellow-topped post at the far end. **8** Cross the next field, bearing slightly left to another yellow-topped post. **9** Follow the contour to a stile into a garden. **10** Walk past the buildings and along the drive to the road. **11** Turn right (downhill) and then take a narrow path on the left alongside a house. **12** Beyond the property, cross two stiles in quick succession then aim for the far left-hand corner of the next field. **13** Cross a double stile and follow the hedge beyond; when the hedge turns left, keep straight on across the field to Silverhill Lane. **14** Turn right along the lane for 300 yards, then turn left into the car park. **15** Join the surfaced path beyond, as far as a T-junction with another path. **16** Follow a rather indistinct path uphill opposite, crossing another path partway up (if in doubt, head uphill). **17** When you emerge above a major track, turn left and walk along the bank to reach the sculpture. **18** Leave the mound down steps to the right, and cross the track onto another narrow and indistinct path. **19** Follow the path through pine trees and down a ride, then bear left, entering more open country. **20** On reaching a surfaced track, turn right and pass between two ponds. **21** Turn left by the information boards then bear left again at a three-way junction. **22** When you reach the Teversal Track, turn left and follow it for ½ mile, passing under a bridge after 300 yards. **23** At the second overbridge, turn left up some steps and turn right along a green lane. **24** When the hedged track bends left, walk along the left-hand edge of a field ahead, then turn right across the field to the first house on Norwood Lane. **25** Turn left along the lane, passing a series of houses. **26** When the lane turns left at a farm gate, take a path on the right (Lady Spencer’s Walk). **27** Bear left down some steps and walk through the woodland; at the foot of the third set of steps (with wooden rails), turn right. **28** Follow this woodland path to a kissing gate, then cross the field to a double avenue of trees. **29** Follow the farther avenue left until you reach a curving driveway, where you turn left, with Hardwick Hall on your right. **30** Bear right through the car park and go through an archway into the stableyard. **31** Pass under a second arch in the far corner and turn right to pass the ruined Old Hall on your left. **32** Opposite the Hardwick Hall gatehouse, cross the grass and take a descending path below the Old Hall wall to your left. **33** From the gate at the end of the buttressed wall, head straight on through the trees and then downhill. Beyond a flight of stone steps at the steepest part, head directly to the Hardwick Inn.