

The **Wedgwood Monument** commemorates local mine-owner John Wedgwood (1760–1839) and was erected in 1845 as dictated in his will (though his wish to be buried beneath it was not carried out and he is buried in Audley churchyard). The obelisk was once much taller, but was reduced to a quarter of its former height after a storm in 1976, though a local campaign seeks to restore it.



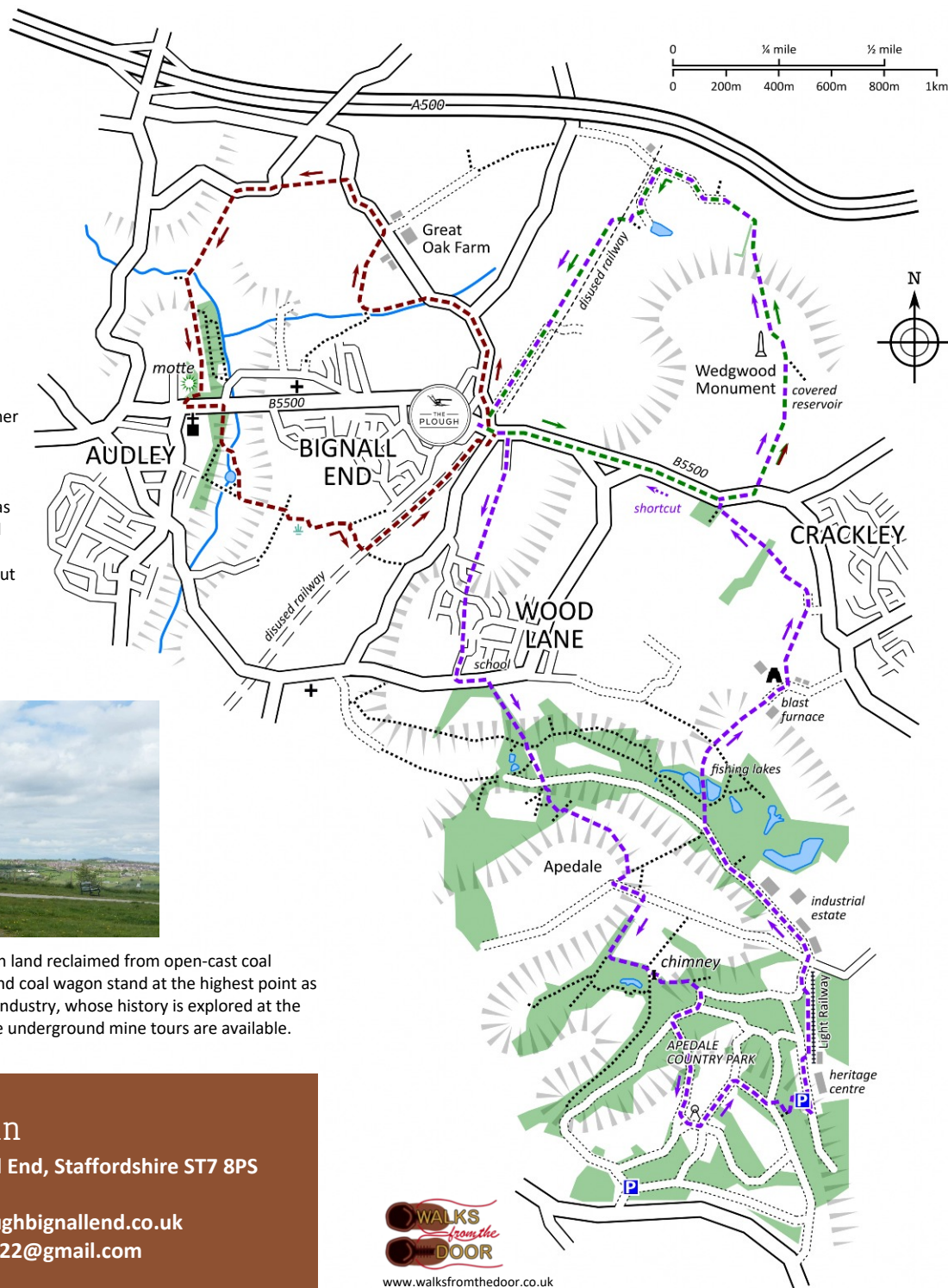
Apedale Country Park is built on land reclaimed from open-cast coal mining. This former pit wheel and coal wagon stand at the highest point as a memorial to the local mining industry, whose history is explored at the Apedale Heritage Centre, where underground mine tours are available.

The Plough Inn

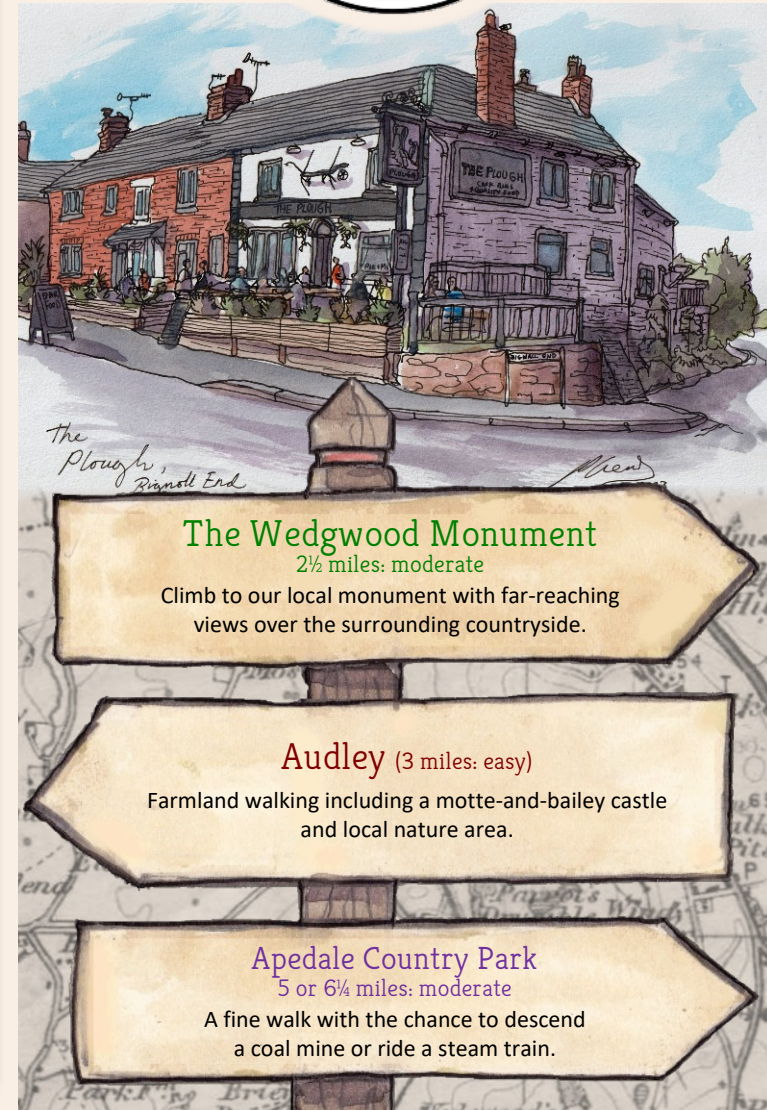
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three circular walks from



The Wedgwood Monument

2½ miles: moderate

Allow 1–2 hours. One moderate climb; the first half-mile is along pavements. Several stiles.

1 From the front door, turn left past the mini-roundabout. **2** Follow the road uphill for half a mile, ignoring a turning to Wood Lane on your right about halfway up. **3** At a second turning, cross to the right-hand pavement and continue uphill, passing the pithead wheel at the end of the Audley/Bignall End 30mph speed limit. Continue past Bignall Hill Cottages (left) and a wood (right), ignoring a footpath at the end of the latter. **4** At the brow of the hill, cross with care and take the footpath over a stile to the right of a farm gateway. **5** Follow the field edge beyond, heading towards a covered reservoir, with views to the Monument. **6** At a second stile, go straight on past the reservoir on your right. Climb past a third stile to the Monument. **7** Descend a steep slope half-right and continue along the grassy ridge. **8** Follow the fence downhill towards the distant A500 until the path meets a hedge on the left then crosses a stile. **9** Cross a field to join a hedged green lane. **10** When the lane meets a track, turn left, parallel to a disused railway cutting on your right. **11** At a grassy corner, turn right onto a footpath that drops down into the trees. **12** Turn right at a junction of paths to wind through bracken and emerge into open fields. **13** Turn left and follow the field edge for a couple of fields. **14** The path meets a farm drive at a gate; ignoring the underbridge on your left, continue straight ahead. **15** Beyond a gate, walk past Cinder Cottage and out via the driveway to emerge at the rear of the Plough.

Audley (3 miles: easy)

Allow 2 hours. Some road walking, and paths may be boggy after wet weather, or overgrown in places. Several stiles.

1 From the front door, turn left and left again into Bignall End Road. **2** Walk past the ends of Tibb and Hope Street (left) and a play area (right) and continue out of the village. **3** At a junction, take the road straight on (Greatoak Road). **4** Pass a couple of houses then take a footpath on the left, over a stile beside a stream (*for a shorter walk, continue up the lane past Great Oak Farm and jump to step 8*). **5** Follow the fenced path beside the stream over a second stile to a footbridge. **6** Do not cross, but turn right and walk up the side of the field. **7** Keep to the right of the second field and climb past farm buildings on the right to rejoin the lane. Turn left. **8** Follow the road for 200m then take a footpath on the left, over a stile. **9** Cross the field to a further stile, then cross a second field to another lane. **10** Turn left, and follow the lane round a right-hand bend. **11** After 150m, leave the lane via a stile on the left and follow the hedge on your right to another stile in the corner. **12** Cross the next field to a stile before a bridge over a stream. **13** Beyond the stream, walk up the slope and

turn left before a gateway. **14** Follow the hedge on your right, climbing slightly to a gate. **15** Continue above a wood. At a junction of paths, continue ahead then descend past a stile, and the foot of some steps, to the road (the steps lead up to the Castle Hill motte). **16** Cross at the lights and turn left down New Street, unless you wish to visit Audley village. **17** Opposite the end of Old Road (left), turn right through a wooden kissing gate into Leddy's Field. **18** Follow the footpath through the wood, then, at a junction, turn left to a bridge over the stream. **19** Follow the path right, past some ponds, then bear left past some metal picnic benches. **20** Bear left through a metal kissing gate into a field and climb the slope. **21** In the corner of the field, cross a plank boardwalk. Ignoring a path through a wooden barrier on the left, turn right and bear left along the fence past a waymark post, then cross the field (possibly boggy) to a stile and footbridge. Squeeze past a further stepless stile into a farm track (possibly muddy). **22** Turn right and follow the hedged track round a left-hand bend. **23** At the bottom, bear right along the hedge, then go through a wooden barrier on your right. **24** Bear left along the bottom of the field to a wooden kissing gate (you may need to skirt a boggy pond via higher ground on your right). **25** Cross the end of the next field to a hand-gate next to a gate and underbridge below the old railway. **26** Climb the steps and turn left over the bridge. **27** Follow the former railway line for 600m, ignoring a crossing path about halfway along. **28** Beyond Bridge Close on your left, bear right to emerge in Boon Hill Road. **29** Turn left to return to the Plough.

Apedale Country Park (6¼ miles: moderate)

Allow 3–4 hours, plus time to visit the Visitor Centre and railway. May be overgrown in places, particularly at the start. Can be shortened to 5 miles by omitting the Wedgwood Monument loop.

1 From the front door, turn left and cross Bignall End Road, then cross the B5500 at the traffic island beyond the mini-roundabout. **2** Turn left, then right up a track (Farm Hollow). **3** Follow the track/driveway past house entrances to the end, where you go through the hand-gate on the right. **4** Follow the narrow fenced path alongside the field, then along a garden wall and over a metal stile to emerge in a residential road. **5** Cross straight over into the continuation of the path. **6** At the next road, again cross over and follow the path ahead, keeping to the right of a grassy play area. At the end of the path, follow a driveway ahead out to the road. **7** Carry on to a T-junction, and turn left. **8** Beyond the primary school and opposite the community centre, turn right onto a surfaced footpath by a dog bin. **9** At the entrance to Rileys Field, take the path on the left which leads downhill through trees. **10** At the bottom of the hill, cross a footpath and carry straight on over an area of former colliery spoil. **11** At the next path, take the waymarked footpath ahead, which may again be overgrown (a diversion to the right may be easier). **12** Keep on up the hill until you meet a crossing path near the top of the wood. Turn left, then shortly right over a stile into a field. **13** Walk up the centre of the field,

with wide views opening up. **14** In the far corner, turn right along a farm track to a gate, then left along Apedale Road, a roughly surfaced track. **15** Pass a stile on the left, then shortly turn right, climbing a stile to the right of a gate. **16** Follow the obvious hedged path beyond to the end of a wood. **17** Ignoring the path ahead into the trees, turn left along the woodland edge, which leads to a disused colliery chimney. **18** Turn left by the chimney and follow the path along the woodland edge. **19** When you meet another path by a waymark post, turn right, passing through a wooden barrier. **20** At the next junction, turn right along a track. **21** Ignore the first track to the left after 50m or so, then take the second after a further 100m. **22** Follow this track up to the winding wheel monument at the highest point of the country park. **23** Bear left past the wheel, then, at a crossroads of tracks, turn left and walk down the fence. **24** At a fork towards the bottom of the hill, turn right and walk down between trees to another T-junction. **25** Take the waymarked footpath opposite over a footbridge and bear immediately right, then left when you meet another loop of path. **26** Follow the path left as it descends through the trees. **27** At a waymark post, turn right and walk down steps then along a winding path that leads to further steps down to a car park. **28** Exit the car park via steps in the left-hand corner and turn left past the Apedale Heritage Centre. **29** Go through the kissing gate and continue along the main service track. **30** After 100m, turn right onto a footpath that runs alongside the Apedale Valley Light Railway. **31** After 200m or so, leave the railway to rejoin the main track and turn right to the junction with Apedale Road at the end of the railway. **32** Go through the barrier and follow the track opposite to a further barrier. Continue along the track beyond, past the Apedale Community Country Park sign. **33** At a five-way junction, take the main track ahead, which descends to the bottom of the valley. **34** Walk ahead between two fishing lakes, then follow an enclosed path ahead up the hill to the end of a driveway by a house. **35** Continue up the drive, passing a house and derelict blast furnace on your left, to a junction of driveways. **36** Here take a path over a stile ahead of you and bear left to cross an access track via two further stiles. **37** Aim for the top left-hand corner of the field, where a further stile leads onto a path continuing uphill towards the houses. **38** Turn left at the top to a stile beside a gate, then cross another to the left of the next gate. **39** Walk through a smallholding to a stile into fields. **40** Walk to the left of a fence and past another stile and gateway. **41** Partway along the next field, switch to the right-hand side of the fence and continue in the same direction. **42** This descends to a small wooded valley, where you bear right and descend into the trees to a stile and footbridge. **43** Climb the other side and walk along the right-hand side of the next field, before crossing a second to another wood. **44** In the corner, close to the road, climb a stile and turn right out to the pavement.

For the shorter route, turn left and walk down the road for half a mile back to Bignall End and the Plough. To extend your walk via the Wedgwood Monument, turn right and walk uphill to the brow of the hill, picking up the **Wedgwood Monument** walk at step 4.