



Cuckoostone

Walk

Approximately 5.6 km



Moderate Walk

MATLOCK TOWN WALKS

The walk shown on this leaflet is less than 5.6 km. It can be walked in a couple of hours or so.

Bus routes 17, 64 and 163 take you from the town to the start of the walk. Ask for Highfields School, Lumsdale site.

Limited lay-by parking is also shown on the map.

Enjoy your walk and the beautiful views in and around Matlock.

The Countryside Code

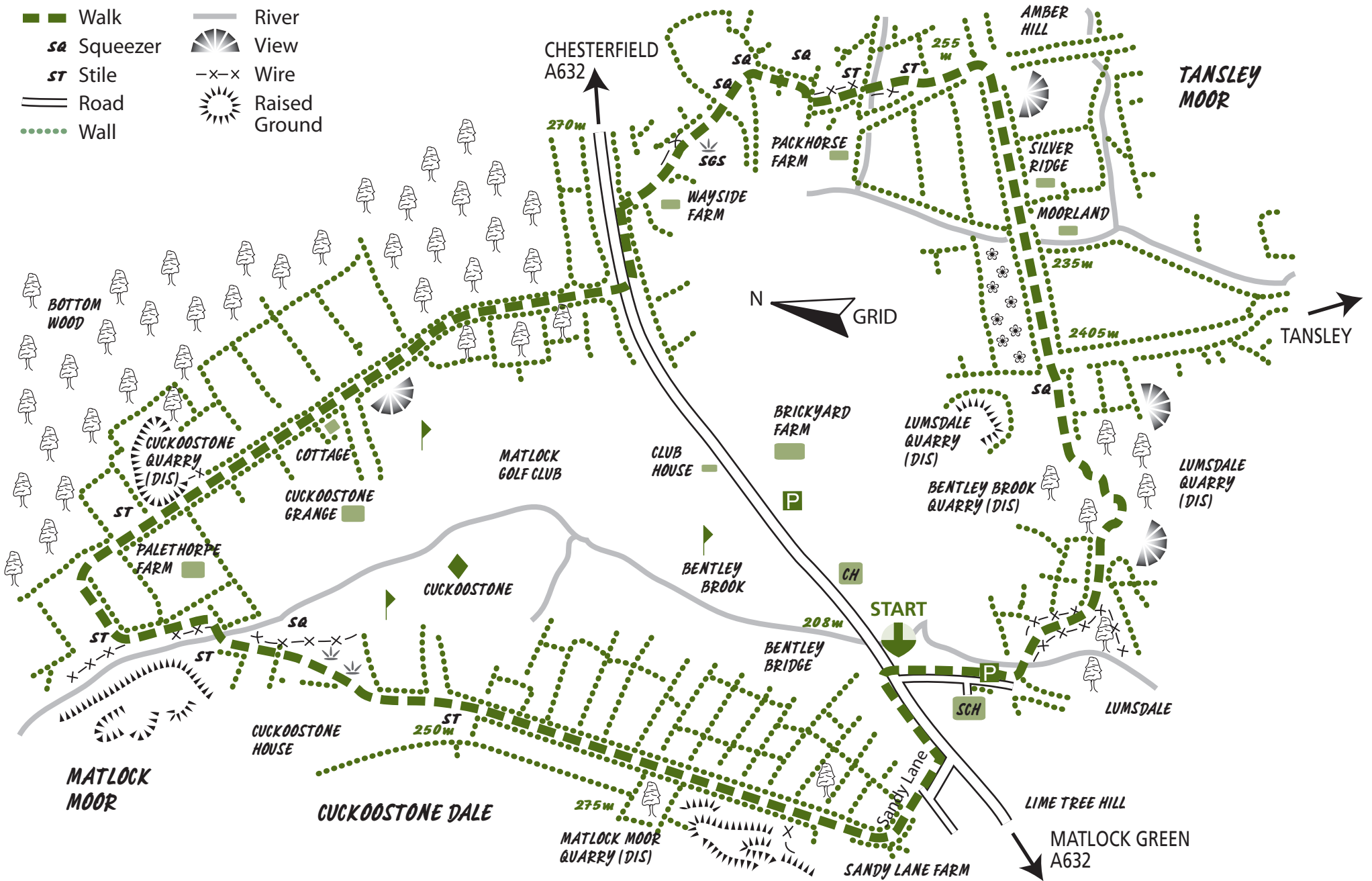
There are five sections of The Countryside Code dedicated to helping members of the public respect, protect and enjoy the countryside.

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs**
- Leave gates and property as you find them**
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home**
- Keep dogs under close control**
- Consider other people**

For more information
www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk



- Walk
- sa* Squeezer
- st* Stile
- Road
- Wall
- River
- View
- Wire
- Raised Ground



CUCKOOSTONE WALK

This is a walk around the Matlock Moor area, the route mainly follows tracks and roads. Much of the route is way marked to help you find your way.

After walking along Chesterfield Road towards Matlock itself take the first right turn into Sandy lane. As you continue straight on (ignoring the left turn into Gritstone Road) the lane soon becomes a track. Follow this as it bears round to the right for about half a mile.

You will soon be walking beside trees on your left with a wide view of Matlock Golf Course and Chesterfield Road to the right. On the skyline are the Forestry Commission plantations on Bottom Moor.

Eventually you come to a gate with Cuckoostone House approximately 300 m ahead. Take the grassy track heading slightly downhill by the wallside. Then, ignoring the walled track leading towards the golf course on the right, keep straight forward towards the marshy area. You may have to keep slightly to the left of this to avoid getting your feet wet. Head in the general direction of Cuckoostone House and walk into the field just to the right of the farm (the legal line of the footpath is in fact slightly different from the walked line at this point. It is the walked line that is described in this leaflet). Keep on the topside of the field until you have crossed the boggy strip of ground. Then head to the far right corner of the field. Cross the stile in this corner beside the golf course.

At this point if you look to your right along the fairway you will see 350 m or so away a rock, 5 or 6 feet high, beside a thorn tree, this is the Cuckoo Stone from which the area got its name – the locals call it “cuckerst’n”.

Follow the path forward, descending slightly to a concrete slab bridge over Bentley Brook.

After crossing the bridge clamber up the path through the heather. Do not pass through the squeezer stile in front of you. Turn left in front of it. Take the narrow but distinct path through the bracken. Follow this before crossing the stile on your right at the end of the wall. Walk up the right side of the field towards the trees and the grassy track at the top. Turn right onto the track until you reach Chesterfield Road.

As you walk along this track (Cuckoostone Lane) the view to the right opens out to Riber Castle and to its left Crich Stand will be visible.

Turn left along Chesterfield Road for 150 m. Then cross the road and walk down the farm drive straight through the farm buildings of Wayside Farm passing through two gates – one after the other – to come out into the field beyond the farm. Bear half left and with the wall on your left pass through the stile at the end of the field. Proceed across the next field toward the house in front. Go through the squeezer stile to the right of the house. Walk alongside the wall passing through two more stiles and a ditch beside the caravan park, from here bear slightly right to the stile and signpost which brings you out onto the drive of Packhorse Farm.

As the name suggests Packhorse Farm is on the line of an ancient packhorse route or saltway running from Matlock towards Ashover and beyond – perhaps it was even a packhorse inn.

Walk along the drive away from the farm. At the crossroads turn right along the quiet country lane. After passing rhododendrons on both sides of the lane take the stile six or seven metres to the left of the fieldgate where the lane turns sharp left. Once in the field walk alongside the wall towards the heather. Keep straight ahead into the trees. These trees hide old quarry workings; at the side of the path is an unfinished millstone. Stay on the main path through the trees until it forks. Follow the right fork between the banking – the path bears first right and then left and out into the open.

Ahead of you, in the distance, is Highfields School and Matlock, whilst somewhat nearer is a wall jutting out towards you. Proceed along the path to the right and 300m later you will come out in front of Highfields School.

It will not be obvious to you but this last stretch of path will have taken you alongside what remains of an old dam or mill pond – long silted up. This was the topmost dam in the Lumsdale Valley. An interesting collection of ruined mill buildings lie in the valley further downstream. They are being restored as far as possible and made safe by the Arkwright Society which is based at Cromford Mill.

If you have the time, do explore the rest of the valley as Bentley Brook tumbles down towards the River Derwent a mile or so away.

This walk is free of obstruction but, if you encounter any problems, please report them to Matlock Town Council.

The public footpaths used on this walk are generally in good condition but there may be some mud. Walking boots, strong shoes or trainers are recommended.

The Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure Map No.24 ("The Peak District White Peak Area") can be used in conjunction with the Matlock Footpath Map.

Bus routes 17, 64 and 163 take you from the town to the start of the walk. Ask for Highfields School, Lumsdale site.

Public transport information

0870 608 2 608

www.traveline.org.uk

Rail Times and Fare Enquiries

08457 48 49 50

www.nationalrail.co.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Matlock Town Council, Imperial Rooms, Imperial Road,
Matlock DE4 3NL tel: 01629 57488
email: townclerk@matlock.gov.uk

For more information about the town and things to do in
Matlock visit www.matlock.gov.uk