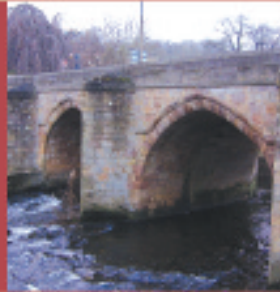


Matlock

Town Trails



Trail 1

The Matlock Level Trail
(Wheelchair Friendly) Page 4



Trail 2

The Old Matlock Loop
Page 17



**Matlock Civic
Association**

MATLOCK - ITS HISTORY AND BACKGROUND



Matlock Bridge



Riber Castle

In 1848, Matlock town centre, as we see it today, did not exist. Apart from one or two buildings near **Matlock Bridge**, there were no properties at all along what is now Dale Road. The north side of the river, (presently occupied by Crown Square, lower Bank Road and Causeway Lane), was similarly largely free of any building, except for Bridge House (now incorporated into the Town Hall) and a smithy & adjacent property (long demolished) situated by the bridge at the edge of what is now the Hall Leys Park. At that time, the **nucleus** of Matlock was in the vicinity of St Giles' Church and Church Street (now referred to as Old Matlock), Matlock Green and Knowleston Place.

When the **railway** arrived from the south in 1849, the station was called Matlock Bridge. This heralded the beginning of change, but very slowly at first.

Hydrotherapy (the treatment of illness by the external application of water to the body) was becoming fashionable at the time. It fascinated the local textile

entrepreneur **John Smedley**, who, having himself benefited from such treatment at Ben Rhydding (in Yorkshire), opened a small hydropathic hospital (hydro) at his Lea Bridge mill (near Matlock), for members of his own workforce. It would appear that around the same time, a local man, **Ralph Davis**, opened a **small hydro** on **Matlock Bank**. In 1851, the two men joined forces, but within two years, Smedley had bought out his partner. He already had the wealth. Perhaps he also had the vision to realise how his new venture could benefit from the proximity of the railway.

Under the leadership of Smedley and his wife, the establishment grew very rapidly as wealthy clients from all over England came to **Smedley's Hydro** (as it was known) for treatment. Smedley encouraged his ex-bathmen to open their own smaller hydros to cater for the less well off. In addition, businessmen from surrounding towns began to invest in this new growth area. By 1898, there were



Dale Road

possibly as many as thirty hydros on Matlock Bank, as well as extra housing to accommodate the growing population.

Many of the visitors to the hydros arrived by train, prompting the parallel development of the Dale Road, Matlock Bridge and Crown Square areas. By 1876, the **Old Market Hall** and a few other additional buildings had appeared in the **Dale Road/Matlock Bridge** area. Within 23 years, Dale Road was lined with properties, and the newly named **Crown Square**, now overlooked by buildings on all sides, was the terminus of a **cable tramway** which conveyed visitors and locals alike up Bank Road (formerly Dob Lane) to their hydros or homes on the hillside.

During the early 1900s, further development took place, especially on Bank Road and Causeway Lane, firmly establishing the centre of town on this north-east bank of the river, with **Crown Square** as the **focal point**. With the onset



Band Stand, Hall Leys Park

of the First World War, many hydros closed. Most did not re-open. And with the introduction of bus services in the late 1920s, the tramway closed. The heyday of the hydro was over. Today, Matlock is a predominantly administrative and residential town, with tourism important and the local quarrying industry providing a significant amount of employment (either directly or indirectly).

The town possesses many examples of interesting Victorian architecture, together with a number of properties of special historical interest, as well as lovely open spaces, a pleasant riverside walk, and colourful gardens (seasonal). In addition, there are fine views of the surrounding hills from a number of vantage points.

Enjoy walking the trails.

TRAIL 1 -

THE MATLOCK LEVEL TRAIL

A MAP CAN BE FOUND ON THE CENTRE PAGES

Approx length: 1½ miles plus ½ mile extension.

Time: 2¼ to 2½ hours plus 30 mins for extension.

The Matlock Level Trail has an optional ¼ mile extension via Allen Hill. As the main trail is free of gradients of any significance, it is generally suitable for wheelchairs, although care is required at certain locations. Whilst the Allen Hill Extension itself is not suitable for wheelchairs, an alternative wheelchair friendly route to points 44 and 45 is suggested. All the points of interest are numbered according to their locations on the map on the centre pages of this booklet.

The Old Matlock Loop, which is considered as a separate walk (see Trail 2; page 17), begins and ends in Knowleston Place. If time permits, the Loop may be combined with the Level Trail. However, as the Loop includes some rough sections of path, together with a number of steep gradients, it is not recommended for wheelchairs. The Loop is approximately 1 mile in length, and an additional hour should be allowed for this.

Both the trail and the Loop include good views of Matlock's best known landmarks: Riber Castle, County Hall (formerly Smedley's Hydro) and St Giles Church. To help with speedy recognition, a few buildings are identified with shop and bank names etc. as they are at the time of writing (ATW). It must be borne in mind that such names may be subject to change.

The Trail begins on the downstream (Hall Leys Park) side of Matlock Bridge. This town centre viewpoint is one of the most dramatic in the area and is an ideal place to start. From the centre of the bridge, look straight ahead towards the top of Riber Hill for an excellent view of:

1. Riber Castle (off map)

Situated some 600 feet above the River Derwent, Riber is pseudo castle, complete with four turreted corner towers. It was built in 1863 as a private residence by John Smedley, the wealthy local mill owner who established the largest and most successful of Matlock's hydros. In 1892, the castle was purchased for use as a school. Following the Second World War (during which it was used as a food store), Riber was derelict for almost twenty years and the building gradually deteriorated. In 1963, its empty shell became the centrepiece of Riber Wildlife Park. The Park closed in 2000. At the time of writing (2006), planning permission has been granted to convert the ruin into apartments.

Walk a few metres towards the roundabout in Crown Square. Stand in front of the entrance to Hall Leys Park, opposite the Tourist Information Centre (ATW) and look up the steep Bank Road, which rises from the roundabout. Towards the top of the hill (left), is a very large rectangular building with a central tower, complete with flag pole:



2. County Hall

(Smedley's Hydro / off map)

This huge building has grown from the hydro, founded by John Smedley in the early 1850s. Following the hydro's closure in 1955, the premises became the administrative centre for Derbyshire a year later, when Derbyshire County Council moved its headquarters from Derby to Matlock. The turreted tower behind County Hall is part of Rockside, another former hydro. More detailed information about these hydros is contained in the Matlock Bank Figure-of-Eight Trail. (Separate booklet to be published.)

Take a few more steps to the junction with Park Head Road. Now look back across the 'Square' towards the Tourist Information Centre, and turn slowly to the right through 135 degrees in order to view the buildings which face:

3 – 5. Crown Square

Crown Square (which is not really a square at all) developed in the 1880s and 1890s as the growth of hydropathic centres (hydros) on Matlock Bank created a demand for more shops and services. Nowadays, it is the accepted town centre of Matlock. The properties, mostly retail outlets, arranged around the curve (3) linking Matlock Bridge with Bakewell Road include the **Jubilee Buildings**; the **Archway**, dated 1881; and the **Princes Buildings** (1894). Turn towards the Bakewell Road/Bank Road junction for a look at the former **Crown Hotel** (4), built in the 1880s, but now converted into retail premises. Further to the right, the **Crown Buildings** (5), dated 1889, are located at the junction of Bank Road with Causeway Lane. The small tower at the top of the corner building

appears to be a replica of the much larger tower which crowns County Hall (formerly Smedley's Hydro), at the top of Bank Road. Remaining at Crown Square, look along Bakewell Road. About 60 metres down the road, on the right immediately beyond the pedestrian crossing is:

6. The Crown

This town-centre public house opened in premises which were completely rebuilt in 1998, using stone from the site's earlier building of 1899.



The Original Crown Hotel

Retracing your steps, walk 50 metres or so to the war memorial, just inside Hall Leys Park, and face the shelter-cum-clock tower (a former 'tram' shelter), with Park Head Road on the left:

7. The 'Black Elephant'

The 'black elephant' emblem, which may be seen on a gable end at the back of the buildings in Park Head Road, was the trade mark of Burgon's, a former tea merchants and provisions company. (ATW, the premises are occupied by the Derbyshire Building Society.)

8. The Former Tram Shelter and Clock Tower

This simple building symbolises Matlock's former importance as a spa town. Originally located at the tram terminus in the centre of Crown Square (where the roundabout is



The Former Tram Shelter



today), it was given to the town in 1899 by Robert Wildgoose, a prominent member of the local community. The Matlock Cable Tramway, which operated between 1893 and 1927, provided easy access to the hydros on Matlock Bank from the railway station at Matlock Bridge, at a time when the majority of visitors arrived by train.

9. The Hall Leys

In 1898, Henry Knowles made available an area of land between Crown Square and Knowleston Place for use as 'a promenade and pleasure resort'. This ultimately became part of the Hall Leys Park in 1908 following the Council's purchase of additional land. The park was enhanced when a group of shops between Matlock Bridge and Park Head was demolished in 1926. A major refurbishment in 2005 included improvements to the bowling green, tennis and children's play area as well as the provision of a skate board facility.

Walk about twenty-five metres to the Matlock Bridge viewing area:



The downstream side of Matlock Bridge, as seen from the viewing area

10. Matlock Bridge

Dating from the fifteenth century, Matlock Bridge was widened in 1904. Look at the underside of the arches to verify that this is, indeed, a bridge of two halves. An annual Boxing Day charity raft race with around 60 competing home-made

rafts, has started from a location near the bridge since 1962. This event attracts hundreds of spectators.

Proceed to the controlled pedestrian crossing near the bridge. Cross the road and walk back over the bridge (on the upstream side), turning right into the Station Approach. Continue towards Matlock Railway Station for a look at:

11. The Former Station Master's House

This distinctive house, which is opposite the entrance to the railway station's former ticket office, was designed c1850 by the architect Joseph Paxton (who was also the sixth Duke of Devonshire's head gardener at Chatsworth). Paxton's best known project was London's Crystal Palace (for the Great Exhibition of 1851). The Ambergate-Matlock-Rowsley section of railway line, which opened in 1849, connected Matlock Bridge (as it was then called) with Derby and the south. Whilst Matlock still retains this link, the extension to Manchester, completed in 1867, was closed in 1967. Stone dressing was an important activity in the station yard area during the late nineteenth century; reflecting the local importance of quarrying at that time. Indeed, local quarries provided stone for the construction of a number of important buildings including London's Savoy Hotel and the Birmingham Eye Hospital.



The former Station Master's House



Return to the main road, keeping to the right, to the junction of the Station Approach with Dale Road/Snitterton Road:

12. The Royal Bank of Scotland
Accessed through a distinctive Grecian-style portico, this early nineteenth century building was at one time owned by the Nuttalls, a family of surveyors who produced plans and maps. In the 1860s, the property was used as a ladies' boarding school.

Glance up Snitterton Road to the property which looks down towards the junction of Snitterton Road with Dale Road:

13. The former Post Office
This building (ATW housing a florist's shop) was used as a post office prior to 1912. Before 1811, the nearest post office was in Matlock Bath. The road to the left of the property is Holt Lane, which was the main route to Matlock Bridge from Matlock Bath before Dale Road (the current A6) was constructed.



The former Queen's Head

Look at the properties at the far side of Snitterton Road:

14. The Former Queen's Head
It is thought that a hostelry occupied this corner site, facing what is now Snitterton Road, as early as the seventeenth century; apparently bearing the name 'Queen's Head' since the 1780s.

The present building, also formerly known as the 'Queen's Head', but now containing shops, dates from 1868.

Cross Snitterton Road to the former Queen's Head, and proceed along the right hand (western) side of Dale Road towards Matlock Bath. Glance across the road. To the right of the red-brick building (ATW the Nat-West Bank) is a stone-built double-fronted property:

15. The Former Brown's Hotel
(23 Dale Road) This building was known as Brown's Temperance Hotel in 1878. By 1880, it had become a branch of the Derby and Derbyshire Banking Company (later; Parr's Bank), but was purchased by Mr James Potter, a solicitor, following the bank's move to the adjacent brick-built property in 1902. ATW, the firm founded by Mr Potter still occupies the premises.

Continue to the pedestrian crossing. Cross to the left hand (eastern) side of the road and stand outside the former Brown's Temperance Hotel. Look back across the road to view:

16. The Former Market Hall
(8 & 10 Dale Road)
Dating from 1867, the old market hall was designed by W Hall, of Northampton, and housed shops and market stalls on the ground floor, with an assembly room, seating 500, above. Council business was also conducted from here. ATW, the premises are occupied by a general store and sports shop.



The former Market Hall



Continue along Dale Road (towards Matlock Bath) as far as the junction of Dale Road with Olde English Road:



The Old English Hotel

17. The Old English Hotel (77 Dale Road)
This Victorian Gothic building replaced an earlier hotel, which was destroyed by fire.

From the bus stop outside the Old English, look up for a view of Pic Tor, crowned by a

war memorial. The view of the monument, which is featured in the Old Matlock Loop, may be obstructed by tree foliage. Cross Olde English Road and continue along Dale Road towards Matlock Bath, passing, on your left:

18. W Evans & Son Ltd (95 Dale Road)
William Evans founded his jewellery business in Wirksworth in 1850. His son, Walter, brought the company into these newly built premises in 1894.

19. The Former Picture Palace (133 Dale Road)
This building dates from 1913. ATW, it is occupied by a firm of auctioneers.

Continue along Dale Road (A6 towards Matlock Bath) as far as the railway bridge. Immediately before this bridge is a small retreat, located between the A6 and the river:

20. The Ship Loads
The garden was created on this site by Matlock Civic Association in 1983. The

plaque carries the following information: "In 1848, the Great, Little and Upper Ship Loads were the names of three fields between the river and Holt Lane (opposite). In 1767 a 'Shiploades' Mine existed. 'Le shiploades' is recorded in 1417. It means 'a river crossing for sheep'".



The former Brown's Temperance Hotel, showing the brick-built Nat-West Bank (ATW) to the left.

Retrace your steps as far as Olde English Road. Bear right and walk for a short distance down this road as far as the right hand bend. With the car park on your left, continue straight ahead through:

21. The Sensory Garden
Originally dedicated to blind people, the garden between Olde English Road and the footbridge (into the Hall Leys) was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Matlock, in conjunction with Matlock Urban District Council in 1954. Following refurbishment in 2003, it was rededicated as a sensory garden to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Matlock Rotary Club.

Leave the garden via:

22. The Footbridge over the Derwent
A wrought iron lattice bridge with timber planking, has linked Olde English Road



Derwent Footbridge



with the Hall Leys since the 1920s. The River Derwent at Matlock has been prone to flooding in the past and marker boards, at the Hall Leys end of the bridge, indicate the height of the river in 1960 and 1965, when the last major floods occurred.

Having crossed the bridge, turn sharp right on to the Broad Walk, which runs parallel to the river through the Hall Leys. On the approach to the exit ramp at the end of Broad Walk, with the children’s playground on the left, look right towards the river. At the top of the river bank, notice:

23. The Memorial Stone to P.C.Wright

The inscription reads: “To the memory of P.C. Arthur Wright who lost his life by drowning whilst attempting to save another. March 27th, 1911. Rededicated 23/3/97 courtesy of Derbyshire Constabulary Mutual Welfare Fund”.

Before leaving the park via the humped exit ramp, notice the ground plaque, which is set into the main path. The inscription reads “Matlock Parks 2003 – 2008 Hall Leys Park”; a reference to the Matlock Parks Refurbishment Project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Pause on the ramp:

24. Flood Prevention Measures

In 1983/4, Severn-Trent Water carried out major works in an effort to prevent future flooding in the town centre. These works included the installation of a low perimeter wall (from Crown Square, along Causeway Lane into Knowleston Place) and three access ramps into the Hall Leys Park; one of which is here, where Broad Walk

joins Knowleston Place. Other ramps were located at the junction of Knowleston Place with Causeway Lane; and opposite the junction of Firs Parade with Causeway Lane. The wall and ramps, together with a pair of retractable flood gates (by the bus bay in Causeway Lane, between points 36 & 37) enable the park to be used as an emergency ‘containing reservoir’; as it was, successfully, in November, 2000.

Having continued straight ahead into Knowleston Place, stop just beyond the access to the new footbridge (erected in 2006 as part of the Matlock Parks Project). Take a look at the properties on the left:

25. Derwent House

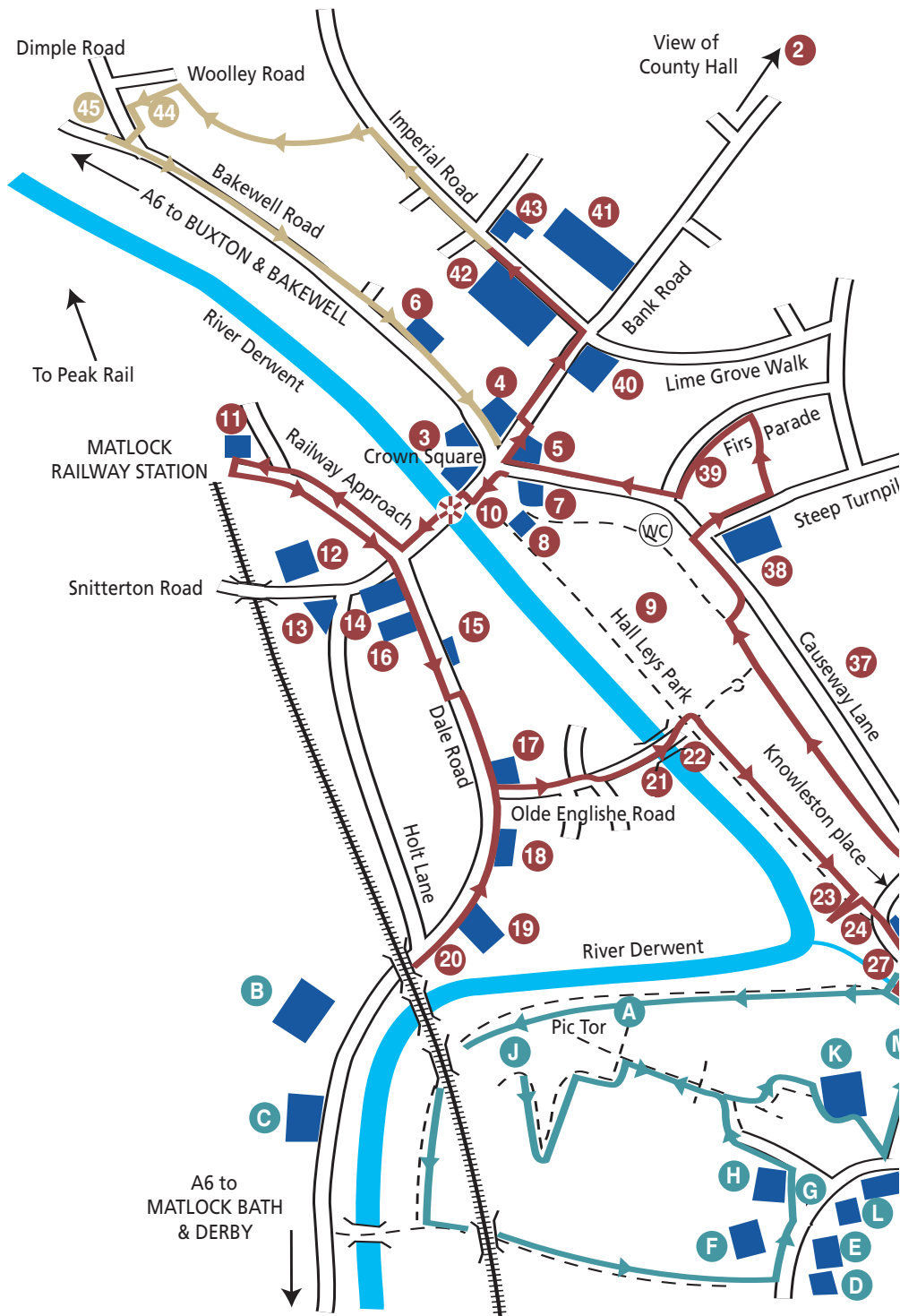
A cottage (no 3; dated 1621), followed by a bay to Derwent House (dated 1772) and Derwent House itself (no.5; 1753), indicate that this part of Matlock was settled relatively early. During the 17th and early 18th centuries, various industrial processes, including lead washing, tanning and flax dressing were carried out along this final stretch of the Bentley Brook (the small stream running through the gardens opposite).

26. Knowles’ Terrace

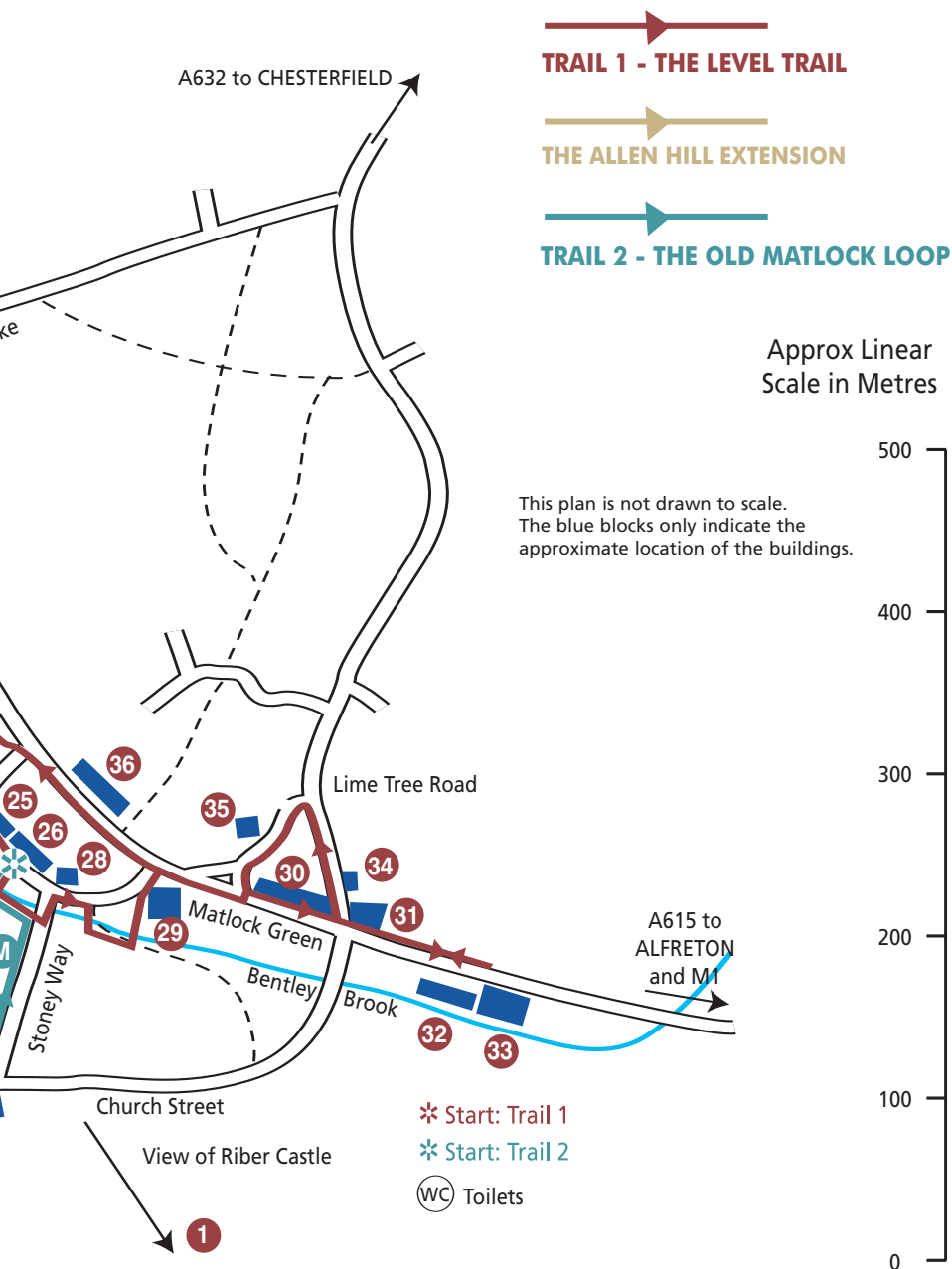
Beyond Derwent House is a fine terrace (nos 7-13) built by John Knowles in 1857 (Hence Knowleston Place). Notice Knowles’ decorated stone obelisk, which stands in the garden of number 9.



Knowles’ Terrace



THE MATLOCK LEVEL TRAIL AND THE OLD MATLOCK LOOP





Cross over Bentley Brook via the small footbridge opposite the obelisk. Wheelchair users may avoid the steps by proceeding along Knowleston Place for a few metres, turning right into Stoney Way and immediately right again, through a narrow gateway at the far side of the brook. This path joins the 'short cut' from the obelisk. On the right (as approached from the small footbridge), in a secluded grassy area, is an old:

27. Stone Base for a Gas Light

The inscription on the stone reads: "A gift to his native parish by John Knowles Esq. 1867". It appears that this was actually the base for a gas light, which used to be located at the centre of Matlock Green. The gift referred to may have been the gas light, complete with stone base.

The Old Matlock Loop may be included here. The Loop, which is not suitable for wheelchairs, adds approximately 1 mile and 1 hour to the overall time. For a route description of the Loop, please turn to page 17.

If you are not taking the Old Matlock Loop, bear left at the footpath T-junction immediately beyond the gas light base, proceed through a gateway and turn left into Stoney Way.

Facing you is:

28. Brook House

This fine property has a 19th century portico.

Turn right in front of Brook House to rejoin Knowleston Place. Immediately beyond the block of terraced houses, take the narrow footpath on the right. From the footbridge over Bentley Brook, look up to the right for a fine view of St Giles' Church. Brief details about the church are included in the Old Matlock Loop (point K).

With the stream on the left, continue along the footpath (known as Brookside) for forty metres or so, before crossing back (left) over the brook at the next footbridge. Once across the bridge, stop and look back and upwards over a rather high wall on your right for a closer view of Riber Castle (point 1). Proceed through the narrow alley ahead into Matlock Green. On the right is a fairly large building, whose front faces the main road:

29. Tawney House, formerly the Parochial Hall

Funded by a Mr Bailey, the Parochial Hall, complete with gymnasium and reading room, opened in 1897. In 1962, the Workers' Educational Association took over the establishment (which later included the adjoining house) to use as an adult education centre, which renaming it Tawney House in recognition of Professor R.H.Tawney's pioneering work for the Association. The centre which closed in 2004, has been converted into apartments.

Using the controlled pedestrian crossing, cross the road (Matlock Green) and turn right, passing in front of:



30. The Matlock Green Shops

The shops on the Matlock side of the junction with Lime Tree Road date from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The former post office, with its rare VR Post Box and Victorian front, stands on the corner of Matlock Green with Lime Tree Road.

Cross Lime Tree Road (with considerable care!) for a look at:

31. The Horseshoe

This traditional pub dates from 1880. Notice the old outside toilet at the back (off Lime Tree Road) and then take a look at the tethering rings on the walls to each side of the front entrance (off Matlock Green). Several hooks are inserted into the right-hand wall of the adjacent car park. For a period commencing in 1880, a fortnightly cattle market was held on the Green, and it is likely that these hooks were used as anchorage points for livestock pens.

Continue along Matlock Green to a point opposite and just beyond the filling station. Glance across the road for a look at a couple of contrasting properties:



Paxton's Swiss-Style Cottages

32. The Swiss Cottages

Designed by Joseph Paxton, this fine pair of cottages, built in 1813, underwent major refurbishment in 2005.

33. The Old Corn Mill

The old water-powered corn mill, just beyond the Swiss Cottages was converted into luxury apartments in 2005/6.

Retrace your footsteps to The Horseshoe. Having crossed the junction, turn right into Lime Tree Road. Look (right) to the back of The Horseshoe to see a single-storey stone built property:

34. The Blacksmith's Shop

John Froggatt, a one-time landlord of the Horseshoe, ran a wheelwright's business from here.

Continue along Lime Tree Road for a few metres before turning sharp left at the Red Lion car park into a walkway, which leads back to Matlock Green. The walkway opens out into a triangular area, overlooked (on the right) by:

35. The Red Lion

There has been a public house on or near this site since the seventeenth century, with the name 'Red Lion' going back to at least 1780.

Return to Tawney House via the controlled crossing. Turn right and walk up the rise towards Matlock town centre (using the rather narrow footpath on the left hand side of the road). Beyond the top of the rise, on the right are:



The Victorian Shop Fronts, Matlock Green



The Harrison Arms Houses

36. The Harrison Alms Houses

The foundation stone for this block of six units to 'provide rest for the aged poor' was laid by Margaret Harrison on 22nd June, 1897, the day of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Mrs Harrison was the sister of Dr William Harrison who lived nearby.

Continue for a few more metres towards Matlock, along a particularly narrow stretch of footpath as far as the junction with Knowleston Place. This is where Matlock Green ends and Causeway Lane begins. Enter the Hall Leys Park via the humped access ramp at the corner of Knowleston Place with Causeway Lane. Take care crossing the end of the road. (See point 22, Flood Gates and Access Ramps, Hall Leys Park). Continue towards the town centre through the Hall Leys, along the path which runs parallel with Causeway Lane:

37. Causeway Lane and Matlock Town F.C.

Now part of the A615 from Alfreton and the M1 Motorway, Causeway Lane links Matlock Green with Crown Square. As its name implies, it is a causeway raised above the flood plain of the River Derwent. The causeway was constructed from large blocks of stone in the 1830s to enable horse-drawn wagons to pass from nearby quarries at Tansley and Lumsdale to Matlock Bridge, across what had hitherto been a water meadow. Matlock Town Football Club played its matches on Hall

Leys Park until 1911, when it moved across Causeway Lane to its present ground.

Twenty-five metres beyond the Park Café, bear right through a gap in the wall into Causeway Lane. The walls at each side of the gap contain retractable flood gates. (See point 22 Flood Gates and Access Ramps, Hall Leys Park). Once through the gap, bear left and continue towards Matlock Town Centre. On the right (at the junction of Steep Turnpike with Causeway Lane) is:

38. The Former Cinema House

The Cinema, which has rendered brick sides and a front of local stone, opened in 1922 and survived as the 'Ritz' until 1999. It was sympathetically converted into shops and offices in 2002, with the original entrance providing access to a restaurant (ATW), which occupies the old cinema café.



The former Ritz Cinema

Using the pedestrian refuges at the mini-roundabout, cross Causeway Lane into Steep Turnpike, noticing the attractive Victorian-style canopy which protects the shop fronts; part of the 2002 Ritz conversion. Walk through the car park opposite to a narrow passage in the far corner. The passage links the Steep Turnpike car park with:



39. Firs Parade

This complex of shops and retail outlets dates from 1964 and occupies the former grounds of 'The Firs', a period residence (accessed from Steep Turnpike) which has housed the Matlock Library since the early 1940s.

Turning left, proceed down Firs Parade. At the T junction, bear right, and continue along Causeway Lane to Crown Square. Turn right into Bank Road. Having crossed the road at the pedestrian lights, walk to the junction of Bank Road with Imperial Road (noticing en route the 1925 date stone on the block adjoining the Crown Buildings). Pause on the corner, and look across Bank Road towards:



The Post Office

40. The Post Office
Matlock Post Office was relocated from Holt Lane, Matlock Bridge, to these new premises on Bank Road in 1912.

Having walked round the corner (left) into Imperial

Road, look to the right. The large building, which is set well back from Imperial Road and extends to Bank Road is:

41. The Town Hall, formerly Bridge Hall Hydro

For a time, Bridge Hall Hydro was run by a Mr Nicholson, a chaplain who had worked with Caroline Smedley (John Smedley's

wife; see 'History and Background'). In 1894, the hydro was purchased by Matlock Urban District Council, which added a large wing & assembly hall (to the right of the original hydro, as viewed from Imperial Road) in 1899. The Town Hall was born. At this time, the complex accommodated the petty sessions and county courts, the fire brigade, a club and the telephone exchange, as well as the council offices. Following local government reorganisation, a large extension was completed in 1979 to provide accommodation for the administrative headquarters of West Derbyshire District Council; now the Derbyshire Dales' District Council.

Look to the left for a glimpse into:

42. The Lido

Opened in 1938, the original Lido had a small indoor pool as well as a large open-air pool. The roof, added in 1972, enabled the refurbished large pool to be used throughout the year. The original indoor facility became a teaching pool.

Opposite the Lido are:

43. The Imperial Rooms

A former Methodist Church and adjoining Sunday School which opened in 1913. Imperial Rooms has been home to Matlock Town Council since 1983 and many local groups use the halls and community rooms for their activities.

THE ALLEN HILL EXTENSION

Wheelchair users and others not wishing to walk the Allen Hill extension should return to Matlock Bridge via Crown Square in order to complete the Matlock Level Trail.

As the route of this extension includes an unsurfaced path and steps, it is not suitable for wheelchairs. Please note, however, that wheelchair users may approach Allen Hill Spaw and the Millennium Rose Garden (points 44 and 45) from Crown Square via Bakewell Road and the foot of Dimple Road.

With the Imperial Rooms (point 43) on the right, continue up Imperial Road. One hundred metres beyond the vehicular entrance, to the bus station, and just after the entrance to the roof-top car park, turn left and follow the footpath which snakes its way through woodland. Immediately before the exit into Woolley Road, bear left down a flight of steps to:

44. Allen Hill Spaw (Spa) Restored 1824

The chalybeate* spring and well, known as Allen Hill Spa, is situated in Allen Hill Park, the former garden of a residence belonging to the Woolley family. Plans to exploit the spa in 1893 never materialised. (* rich in iron; hence the orange-brown colour)



Allen Hill Spaw (Spa)

Leave Allen Hill Spaw (Spa) through the gateway and cross the foot of Dimple Road to Bakewell Road (A6) for access to:

45. The Millennium Rose Garden

This small piece of land at the junction of Dimple Road with Bakewell Road (formerly part on the area known as 'Hillside') was planted by Matlock Town Council in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, with roses that bear her name. It was opened by His Grace the Duke of Devonshire on the 1st July, 2000.

To complete the Allen Hill Extension, turn left out of the Rose Garden, and return to Crown Square and Matlock Bridge via Bakewell Road (A6).

During 2006, residents, businesses and community groups have been given the opportunity to help shape the future of Matlock Town Centre. The Masterplan will guide the developments over the next 10 – 15 years.

TRAIL 2 -

THE OLD MATLOCK LOOP

A MAP CAN BE FOUND ON THE CENTRE PAGES

Approximate distance: 1 mile

Time: Allow 1 hour

Please note that individual points of interest on this Trail are identified with letters.

The Old Matlock Loop begins and finishes in Knowleston Place, which may be approached from Matlock town centre via the riverside footpath known as Broad Walk, through Hall Leys Park. From Knowleston Place, cross Bentley Brook via the footbridge (opposite the obelisk in the garden of number 9) to John Knowles' stone gas light base (point 27 on the Matlock Level Trail).

At the footpath T junction, turn right, taking the riverside footpath - with Bentley Brook on your right - towards Matlock Bath. In a few metres, just past the confluence of Bentley Brook with the River Derwent (which flows from the right around a very sharp bend) is a limestone cliff (left), known as:

A. Pic Tor

Pic Tor (meaning *Pig Tor*) is crowned by the war memorial (which cannot be seen from here). On the right, across the river, are the backs of some Dale Road properties, including that of the former Picture Palace of 1913.

Having passed under the railway bridge, look to the immediate right towards:

B. John Hadfield House

On the far side of both the river and the

A6 road is the entrance to the former Harveydale Limestone Quarry. The quarry passed into the hands of Derbyshire Stone Ltd, whose headquarters were established in the modern block known as John Hadfield House, named after a leading figure in the organisation. Following a series of takeovers, Derbyshire Stone Ltd was ultimately absorbed (ATW) into Tarmac Ltd, whose Matlock office was subsequently closed. ATW, John Hadfield House is occupied by offices of the Derbyshire County Council. Please note that the view of the building may be obscured by tree foliage.

Next door to John Hadfield House is:

C. The Boathouse

This old pub takes its name from a small ferry, which once linked Matlock Dale with Old Matlock. The ferry was replaced by a footbridge in 1872. The present iron bridge, erected in 1922, was refurbished in 2005. Please note that tree foliage may obscure the view of the Boathouse from this side of the river.

At the footpath T junction, turn 90 degrees left under another railway bridge. The path rises fairly steeply. After 200 metres or so, pass the entrance to the High Tor grounds, which joins acutely from the right. Continue following the path, now with a wall on the left, for just over 100 metres into Old Matlock. Look straight ahead, across a road (Church Street) towards:

D. The Former Matlock Town C.E. School

Opened in 1870, Matlock Town Church of England School closed in 1992, when it was



replaced by a new school, St Giles Primary, further up the road. The main school building has now been converted into residential units.

To the left of the old school is:



The Duke William

E. The Duke William Public House

Notice the chimneys at each end of this typical 18th century property, which is probably named after William Augustus, the Duke of Cumberland (1721-1765), who 'butchered' the Jacobites after the Battle of Culloden in

1745. The initials IWH on the date stone have not been identified,

Turn left towards the triangular green and St Giles' Church. Look down the first drive on the left for a glimpse of:

F. The Old Rectory

This building is said to date from the sixteenth century, although its façade is considerably later; probably eighteenth or nineteenth century.

Enter the private road which leads to St Giles' Church. On the right is:

G. The Triangular Green and Tree

The tree on the triangular green was planted in 1924 to replace an old sycamore. The name 'Matlock' is thought to be derived from 'moot oak', meaning 'the meeting place (moot) by the oak tree'. This spot would appear to be the most likely location for such a tree.

The building on the left, facing the green at the far end of the private road, is:

H. The Former Wheatsheaf Public House

Originally a farmhouse, the Wheatsheaf public house was run by the Lowe family during the late 18th and early 19th

centuries. Notice the central chimney (as compared with end chimneys of the later Duke William). The 1681 date refers to the remodelling of the façade by W & S Cocker (possibly accounting for the initials WSC). The property is now a private residence.



Wheatsheaf House

Continue beyond Wheatsheaf House. Ahead, through the gateway, is St Giles' Church. However, before taking a closer look at the church, it is well worth the effort to take a short detour (to the war memorial) by turning left here and continuing into the churchyard via the asphalt drive, which runs to the right of the private access to Wheatsheaf House. Follow the central pathway between the gravestones, bearing left, then right, before passing through a gateway at the far end of the churchyard and undertaking the short zig-zag climb to:

J. The War Memorial, Pic Tor

The memorial has been restored in recent years by Matlock Civic Association and Derbyshire Dales District Council. From its



base, there is a superb panoramic view of Matlock. Look down towards Harvey Dale Quarry and John Hadfield House (views of which may be obscured by tree foliage), and slowly turn in a clockwise direction to identify Trevelyan House, the Head Office of the Youth Hostels Association (which is a large, light coloured building); Matlock Town Hall (formerly Bridge House Hydro); County Hall (formerly Smedley's Hydro); Rockside (formerly Rockside Hydro); and St Giles' Church. Details about these former hydros will be contained in the Matlock Bank Figure-of-Eight Trail.

On the return through the churchyard to St Giles' Church, it is worth pausing to enjoy the excellent views of Riber Castle, Highfields Lower School and Starkholmes village. Then take a closer look at:

K. St Giles' Church

St Giles' Church occupies a prominent position on a bluff, overlooking the River Derwent. Only the Norman font and a mediaeval roof boss survive from the original twelfth century church. The tower is fifteenth century. In the latter half of the eighteenth century, both Peter Nightingale of Lea Bridge (uncle of the famous Florence) and Richard Arkwright of Cromford (the founder of the world's first water-powered cotton spinning mill) were responsible for extensive alterations. In 1871, both the chancel and nave were rebuilt; with the south aisle and chapel being added in 1898. Inside the church are several monuments to members of the local Woolley family, dating from 1576. Also of note is the stained glass by Lawrence Lee, installed in the east window in 1969, and presented to the church in memory of the Bailey family, local millers, of the Butts, Matlock (1838-1938).

Leave the churchyard via the lych gate. Pause here. Across Church Street, to the right, is:

L. The Former King's Head

Possibly dating from 1628, this old building has characteristic mullioned windows and well preserved hood moulds to some of the windows. Outside, an ancient mounting block projects into the road. The cottages (ahead) to the left of the property are also seventeenth century. Also note the Old Bakery, further to the left.

From the lych gate, bear left and continue left to negotiate the steep descent of:

M. Stoney Way

The wall on the left (as you descend) was rebuilt in 1978 following the collapse of part of the church yard into a large hole. Subsequent inspection revealed this to be the result of earlier lead mining activity.



St Giles' Church

Continue walking downhill to the point where Stoney Way meets Knowleston Place, with Brook House straight ahead. This is the end of the Old Matlock Loop. Either turn left to return to Matlock town centre through Hall Leys Park, or rejoin Trail 1 (the Matlock Level Trail) at point 28 (Brook House) on page 12.



Important Note

Precise information concerning the history of individual buildings and constructions can often be difficult to establish. Whilst care has been taken to ensure (as far as is possible) that the information contained in these trails is correct, total accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Readers or users of these trails who have access to interesting relevant additional details, or evidence to suggest that certain information is incorrect, are asked to contact:

Matlock Town Council.

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For more information:

about things to do in Matlock visit

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