

Woo Dale Circular Walk

Distance: **10 miles / 3 1/2 hours approx.**
Going: Mostly field tracks
Pace: Moderate walking with a steep downhill section and several stiles.

A lovely circular walk exploring this little-known dale. A fairly easy walk with one steep descent as you leave the regally sounding village of King Sterndale.

- 1 From the station turn right and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing on the left. Continue down Station Approach and pass the taxi rank. Cross Terrace Road at the pedestrian crossing and continue straight ahead past Cavendish Arcade, formerly the Thermal Baths, and Turner's Memorial.
- 2 Continue past the Crescent hotel on the right and the Pump Room and St Ann's Well on the left. At the end of the buildings cross The Square and continue along Broad Walk. At the end of Broad Walk cross Burlington Road and turn left. Cross Macclesfield Road at the pedestrian crossing and continue along College Road on the left. At the end of College Road cross Green Lane and continue along the sign posted lane directly opposite.
- 3 At the end of the lane cross the field keeping to the right. Turn right onto the tarmac road and turn left after the cattlegrid and continue along the grass path and enter Sherbrook wood. Follow the path to the left after crossing over the bridge. Go through the gate at the end of the path which takes you directly onto the busy road at Harpur Hill. Cross the road and turn left. Cross the A515 and turn onto Dukes Drive.



- 4 Continue along Dukes Drive and take the sign posted bridleway on the right. Continue along the bridleway and go through the gate on the left. Continue along the grassy footpath and through the gate and follow the path round to the right passing the caravan park on the left. Continue across the field to the stile in the left-hand corner of the field next to the caravan park. Continue along the path and enter the caravan park passing the farm shop on the left. Go through the gate and take the grassy track straight ahead. Go through the next gate and continue along the path keeping the wall to the left.
- 5 Continue through the gate keeping the farm buildings to the left and proceed straight ahead following the signed footpath. Continue over the stile and head down the left side of the field keeping the wall on the left. Continue over the stile and follow the grass path across the field towards the farm buildings. At the end of the path go through the gate and over the stile in the wall opposite. Continue along the path past the house on the right and through the gap in the wall as you enter the village of Cowdale.
- 6 Continue to the right and on the left just before the bench cross over the wall into the field using the steps in the wall. Cross and at the end of the farm buildings go through the gate in the wall and continue across the field keeping the wall on the left.



- 7 Go through the gate and follow the faint path across the field keeping the wall on the left. At the end of the fencing go through the gate in the wall and enter the field. Follow the grass path keeping the wire fence on the right towards the house ahead. Continue through the gate and turn left passing the church towards the village of King Sterndale.



- 9 At the end of the dale continue through the gate and along the grass path. Go through another gate and join the path coming from the left. At the end of the path cross Redgap Lane keeping Bailey Flatt Farm to the left and go through the gate in the wall.
- 10 Take the grass path along the field keeping the wall to the left. Go over the stile in the wall and then through the gate in the wall diagonally opposite. Go through the next gate in the wall diagonally opposite and immediately over the stile in the wall. Follow the grass path downhill keeping the rocky outcrop to the left and go over the stile and continue to follow the rocky outcrop until you reach the path at the bottom of the hill.
- 11 Turn right along the path and pass through a stile onto Dale Lane. Passing the allotments on your right, follow the lane around to the left and up the hill. Turn right onto Ashwood Road, exiting next to the 19Th Hole pub, and turn left onto Waterswallows Road.
- 12 At the end of the road turn left onto the A6 Fairfield Road and cross over to follow St Peter's Road past the church on your right. Bearing left take the signposted path on the right. At the end of the path turn left along Nunsfield Road ignoring the footpath opposite. At the end of the road cross Lightwood Road and proceed onto Charles Street directly opposite. Continue along Charles Street under the two railway bridges. At the end of the street turn right and proceed along Station Road to return to the train station.

8 Enter the village and continue ahead taking the path past the Old Barn on the left and the memorial on the right. Continue down the stony track signed unsuitable for motors. Take the signed footpath to the right over the stile. This is a very steep descent to the railway line. Cross the railway line and the A6 with care. Take the signed bridleway opposite across the bridge, through the gate and continue along the signed footpath to the left along the dale.

