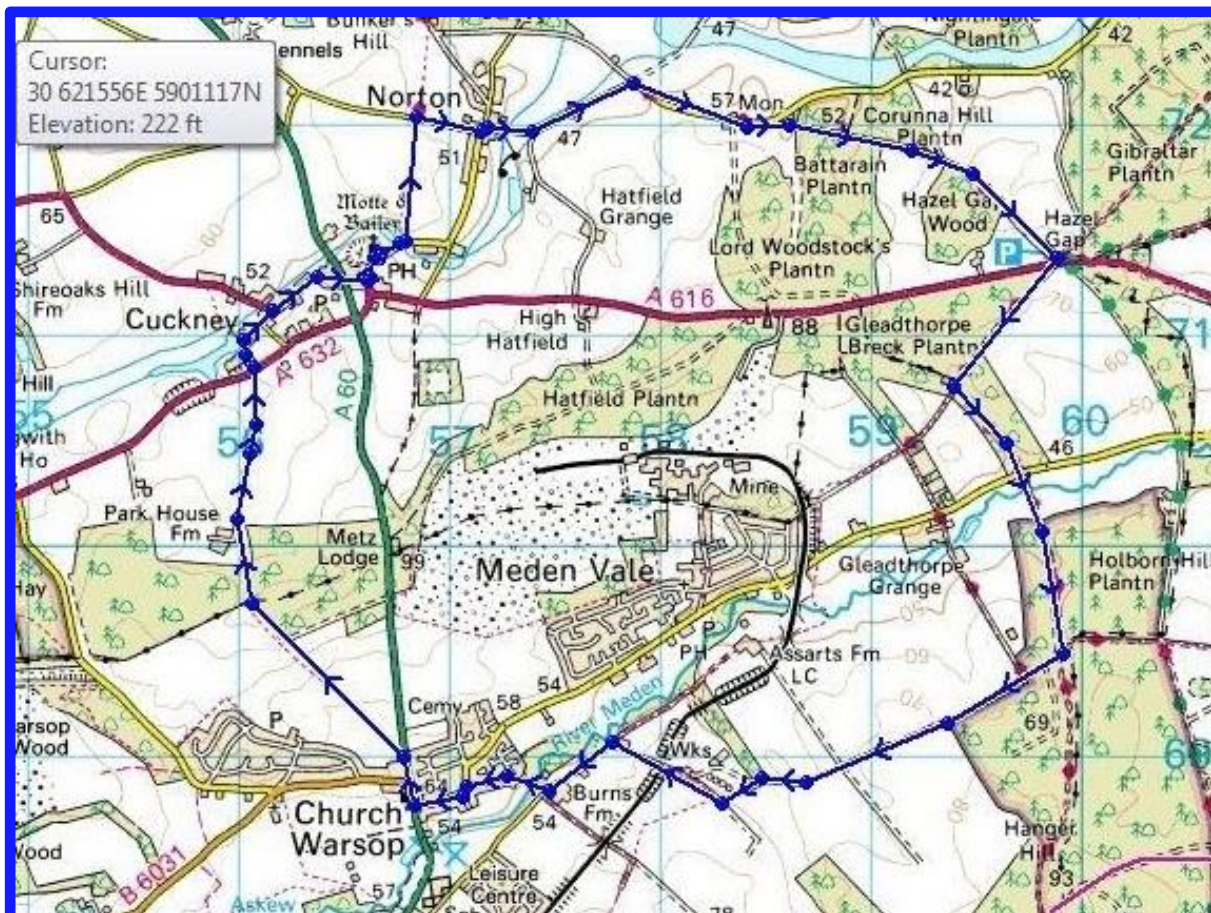


STRIDERS WALKING 2014

JANUARY 2014: CHURCH WARSOP

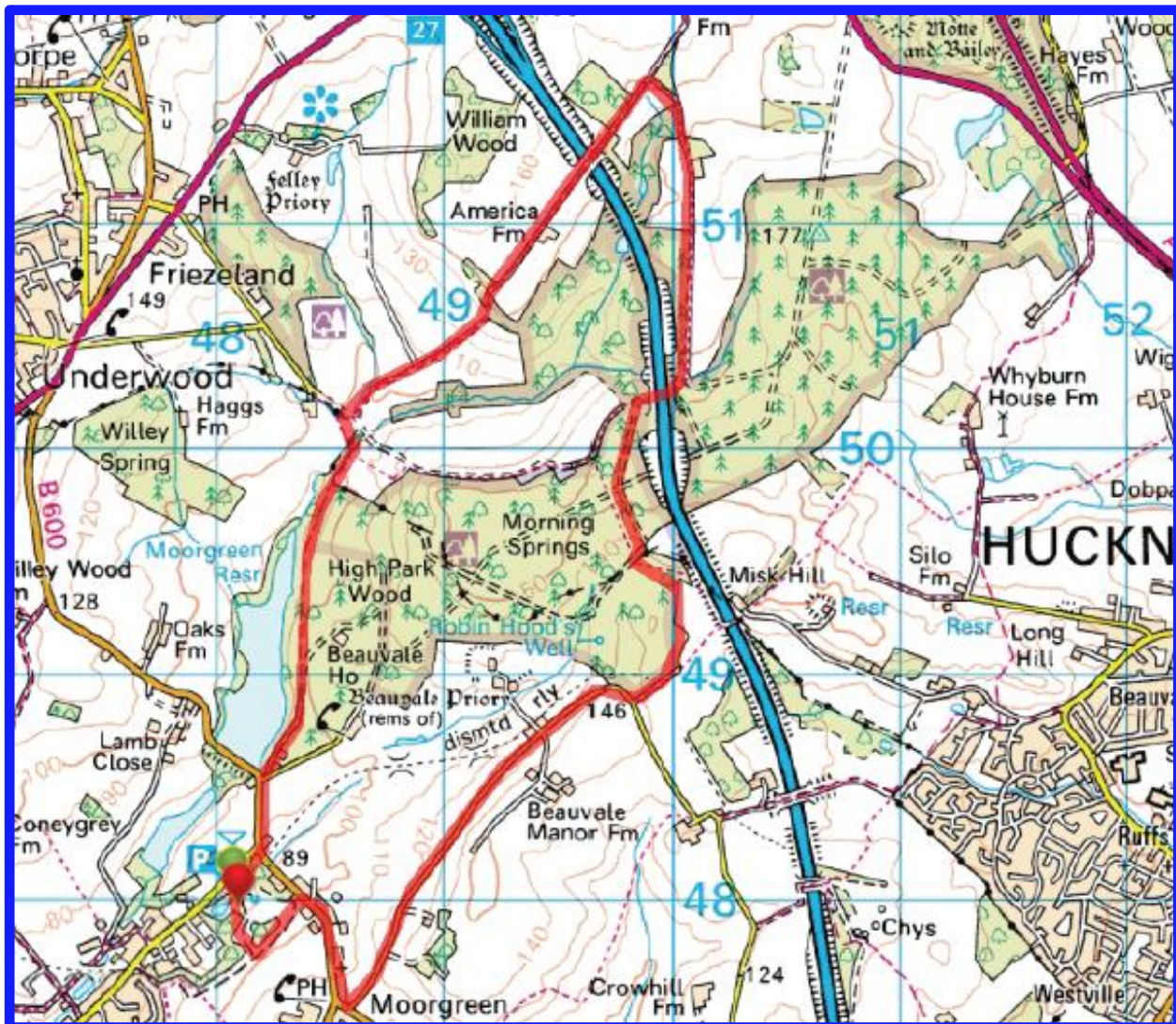
There was a lot of mud about but we manage to avoid the worst of it by sticking to forest tracks and minor roads. Despite this we still enjoyed some wonderful views and were entertained by Sue, who could not resist the Tarzan swing towards the end of the walk. After a picnic on the banks of the River Meden at Church Warsop we returned to the Greendale Oak Pub in Cuckney for refreshments, where we observed a torrential hail storm which ended just before we left the comfort of the pub.



FEBRUARY 2014: MOORGREEN

21 of us enjoyed a 6.7 mile walk which took in splendid views of the M1 as well as the West Nottinghamshire scenery. The birdsong during the walk through the woods made us realise that spring was just around the corner as did the snowdrops that we saw along the way.

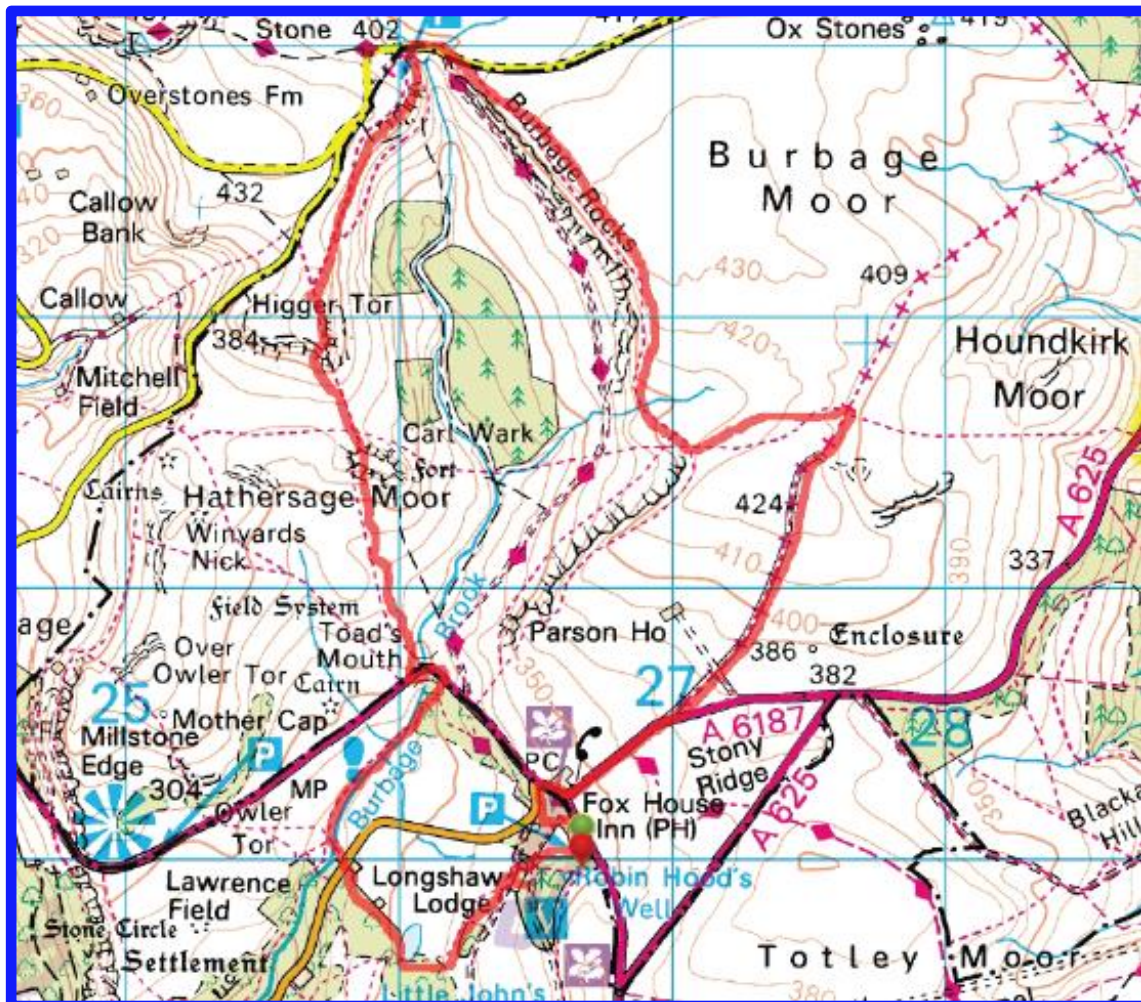
Despite heavy rain through the night we escaped with just a brief shower on the walk, however once again we returned to the cars just before a fierce hail storm. Refreshments were enjoyed at the Horse and Groom at Moorgreen before we returned to Gedling.



MARCH 2014: BURBAGE MOOR & HIGGER TOR

22 of us enjoyed a 6.4 mile walk across the Derbyshire moors. The walk followed an ancient road before crossing to Burbage Rocks where we picked up a path to Upper Burbage Bridge. The majority of the party continued over Higger Tor to the Iron Age fort of Carl Wark before descending to Burbage Bridge where they met up with those who had returned by the easier route down the valley.

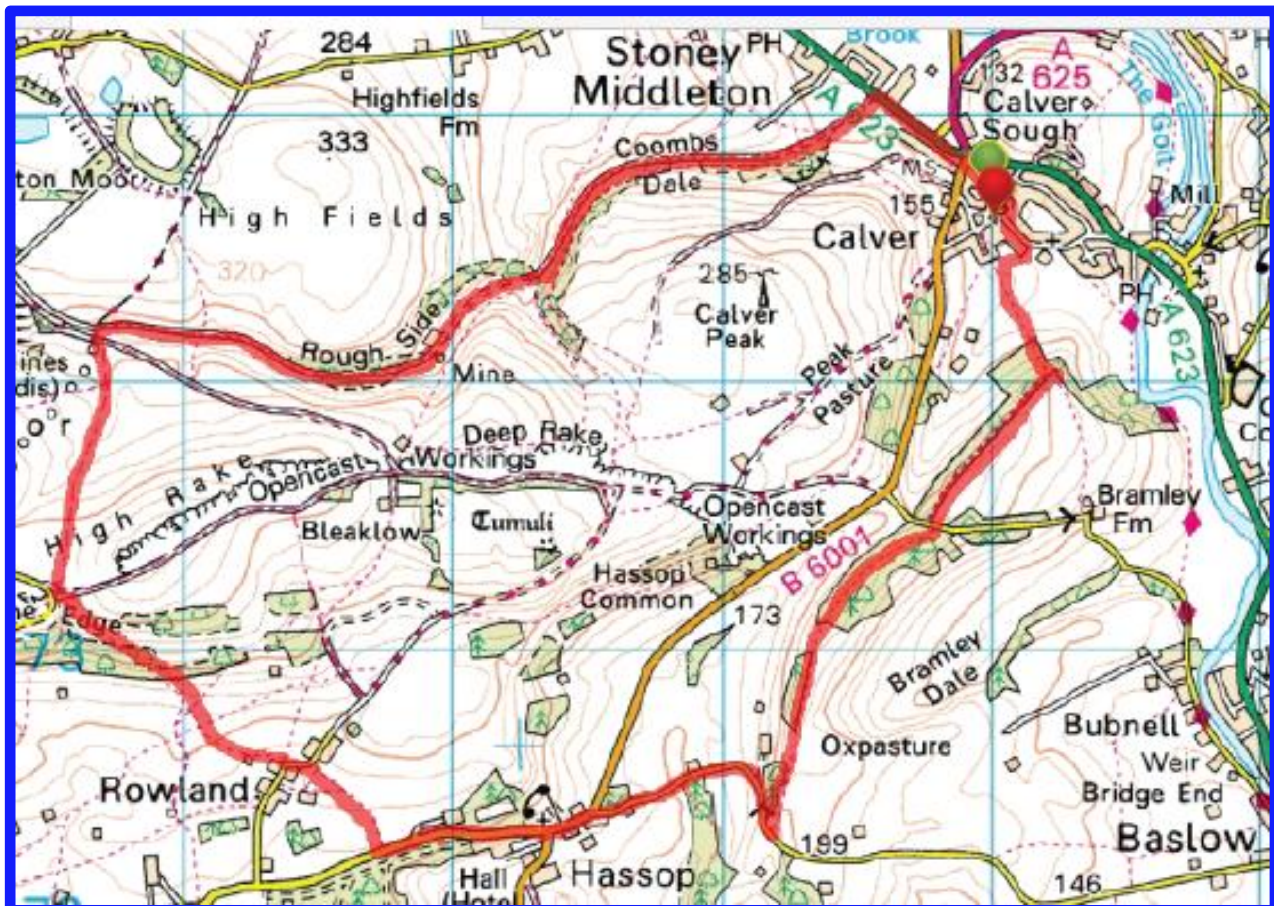
A pleasant walk by Burbage Brook led us into the upper reaches of Padley Gorge before we returned to the car park in the Longshaw Estate. Once again we escaped with just a brief shower on the walk and for the third time in a row we returned to the cars just before a fierce hail storm. Refreshments were enjoyed at the Fox House Inn at before we returned to Gedling.



APRIL 2014: CALVER AND HASSOP

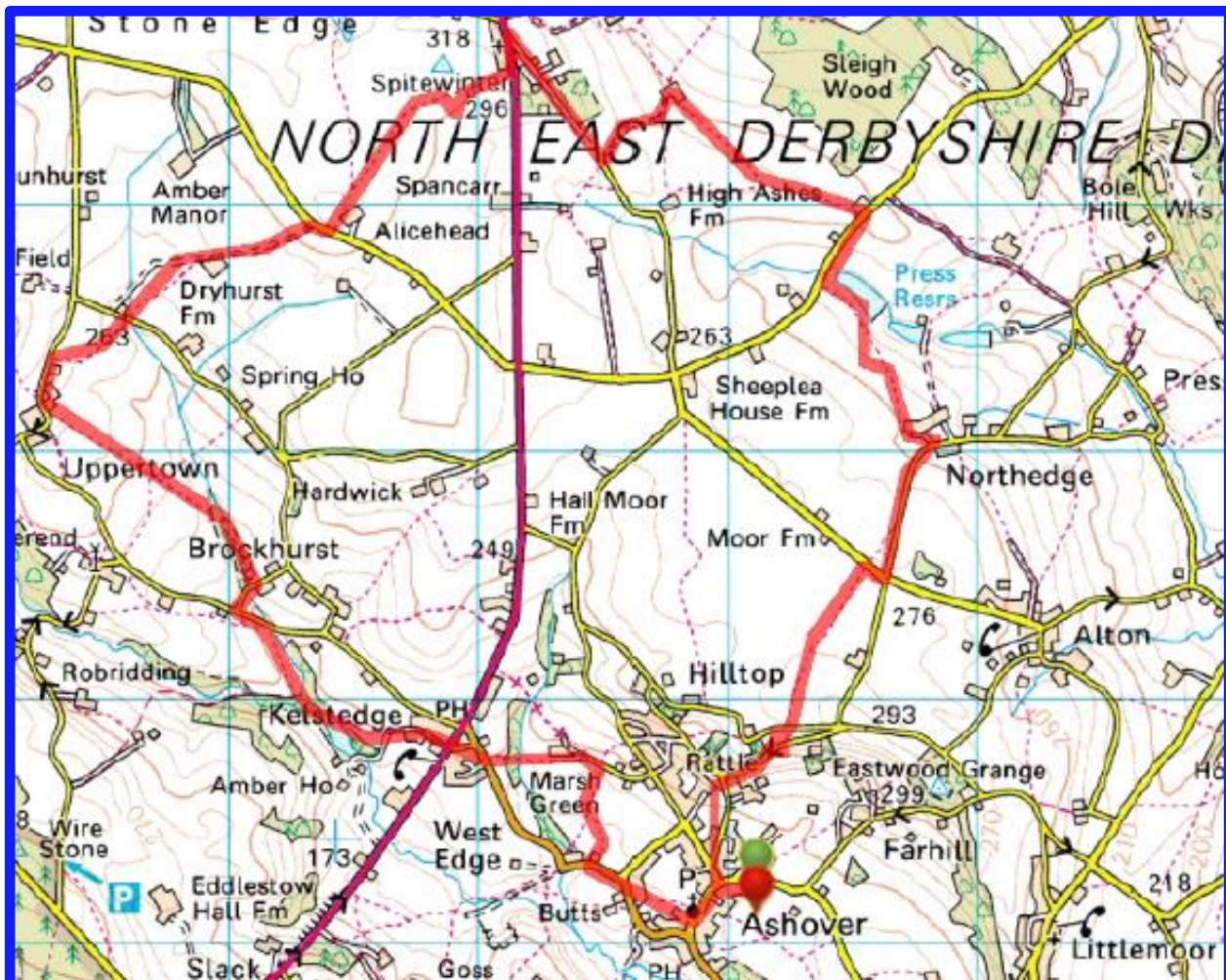
17 of us enjoyed a pleasant walk in the Derbyshire sunshine. Good visibility provided splendid views from Longstone Edge and Banks Wood. The leader's back improved as the day progressed and the paths were dry enough to avoid having to take any detours.

Unfortunately the Derwentwater Hotel was closed at the end of the walk, so we returned to Gedling where well-earned refreshments were enjoyed in the sunshine on the patio at the Willowbrook.



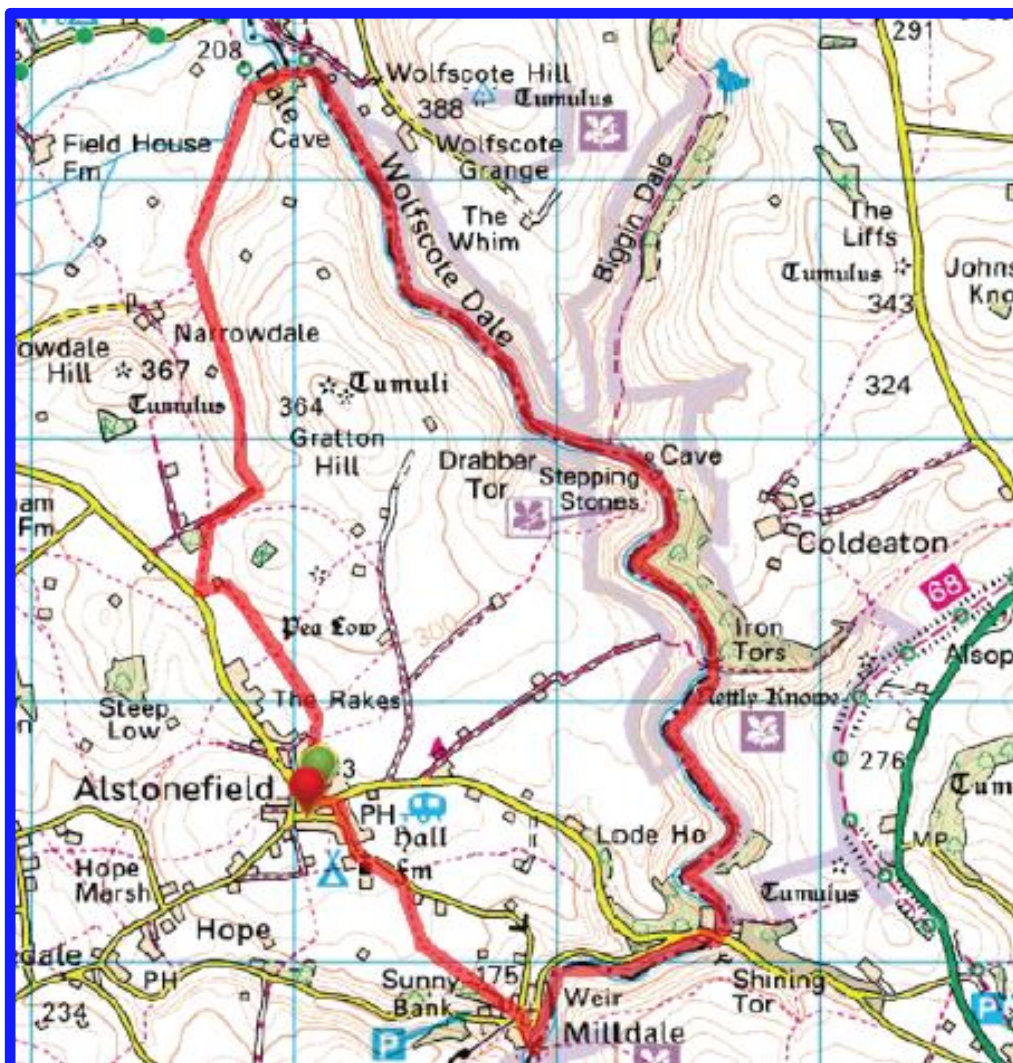
MAY 2014: ASHOVER

Despite 2 days of torrential rain and a less than impressive weather forecast 12 hardy walkers set off for Derbyshire and were rewarded by a window in the weather and some splendid views. The area around Ashover is less popular as a walking area and as a result some of the paths are overgrown at this time of the year, however Keith's navigation was unerring and a good day was enjoyed by all.



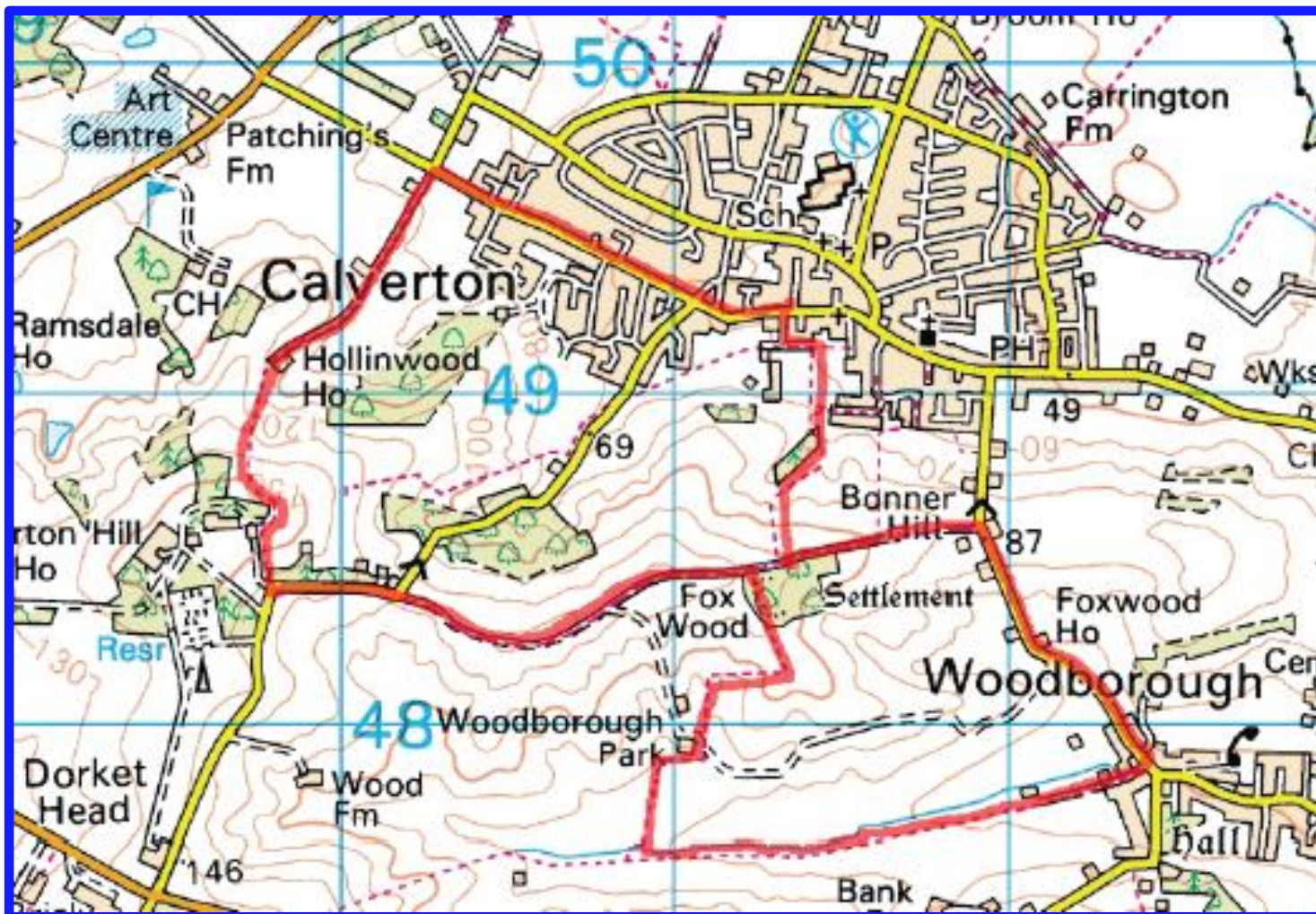
JUNE 2014: ALSTONEFIELD

21 of us enjoyed a beautiful summer day in the White Peak. After a steep descent into Milldale and a short coffee break we followed the River Dove to Wolfscotedale. Leaving the river we walked up Narrowdale where the more adventurous in the party decided to ascend the ridge before returning to The George in Alstonefield for some well-earned refreshment.



JULY 2014: CALVERTON

This month a leaderless Striders group chose to wander round Calverton. The walk was mixed, with a good degree of property and garden envy, field and woodland walking, some archaeology (a ditched enclosure), controversy (the wind turbine) and beauty (the rose field). The weather was, in a word, scorching, but this did not slow the pace. Brian returns for the August walk.



AUGUST 2014: CROMFORD AND CRICH

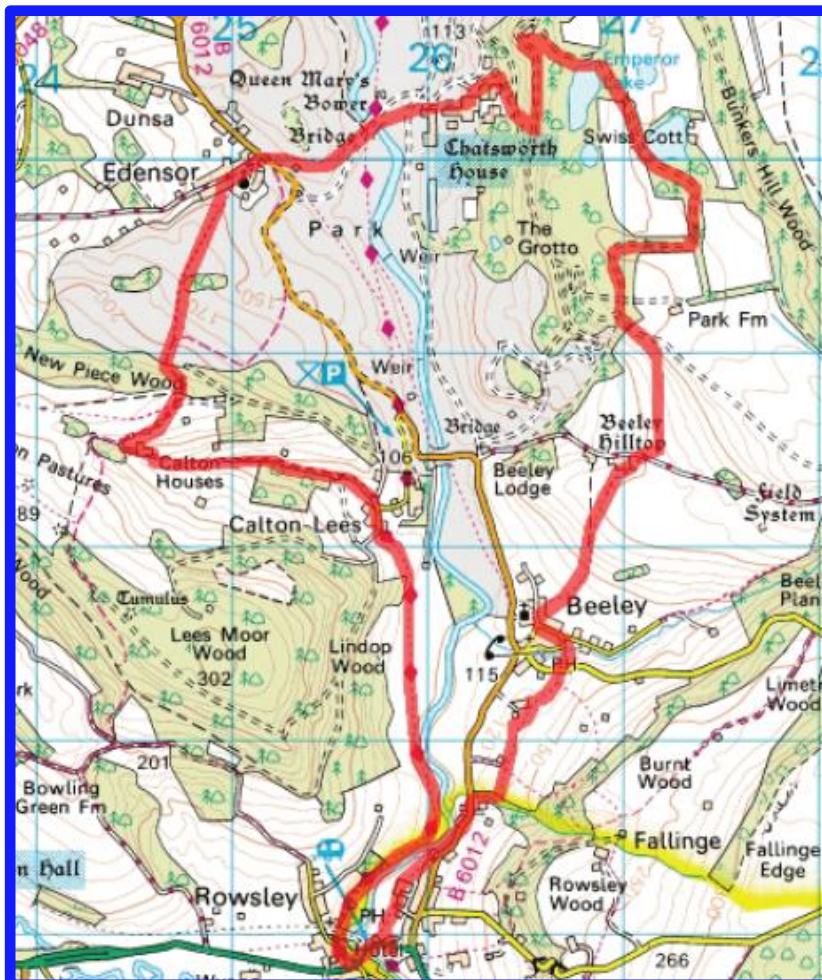
21 of us left the rain behind in Nottingham and headed for sunny Derbyshire. After a gentle walk along the Cromford Canal we climbed steadily up to Crich Stand, pausing to admire the vintage tram on the way.

Splendid views across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire were enjoyed from our picnic spot before we descended back to the Cromford Canal, which we followed back to the cars at Ambergate. Refreshments were eventually enjoyed at the Hurt Arms where once again we were entertained by Sue, this time displaying her skills on the bouncy castle.



SEPTEMBER 2014: ROWSLEY & CHATSWORTH

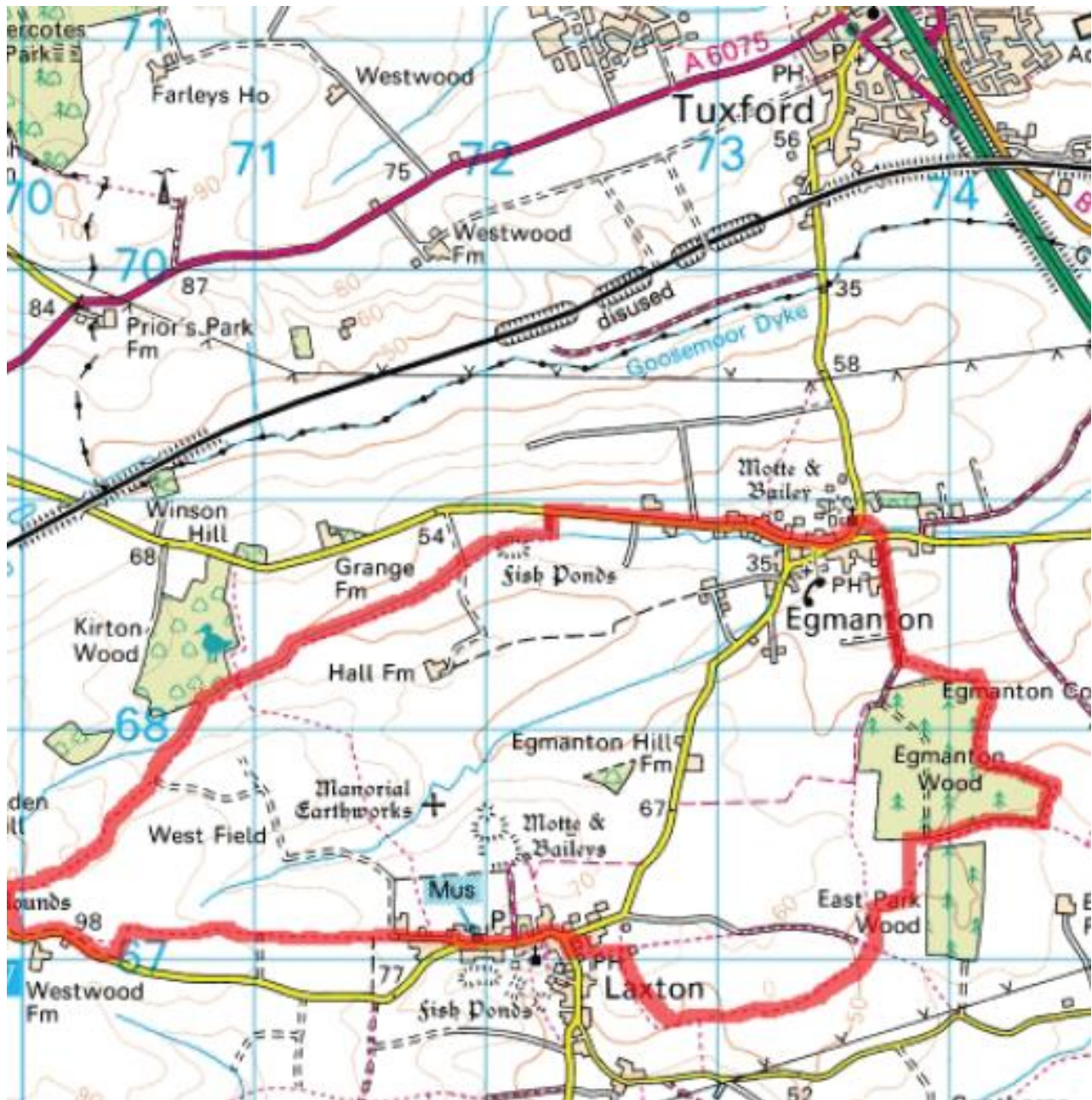
We started in Rowsley and walked by the river Derwent before ascending to the ridge to the east of Chatsworth House. A walk through the woods took us to the Hunting Lodge where we had our picnic while enjoying spectacular views across the Chatsworth estate. After descending to the house the party split into 2 groups where 12 of the party returned to Rowsley via a riverside route. The remaining 7 crossed to Edensor and ascended the ridge to the West of Chatsworth before returning to Rowsley for a well-earned pint.



NOVEMBER 2014: LAXTON

This month's walk took us to Laxton and Egmonton for a bracing seven and a half mile walk. Laxton still has the fields that were used in medieval times for strip farming. Unfortunately the weather reduced visibility to a few hundred metres so we saw very little of them. We did see the remains the fishponds. The wall of church of the shrine of Our Lady of Egmonton provided a convenient lunch stop.

The team coped magnificently with the wet and muddy ground and the numerous extremely slippery stiles and slopes. Things went so well that at one point they burst into song but that was to wish one of our party a happy birthday.



DECEMBER 2014: BURTON JOYCE

12 hardy souls ignored the icy conditions underfoot and were rewarded by some beautiful winter scenery. We walked from Ranmoor Road car park to Netherfield Lagoons, then along the river to Burton Joyce where 3 of the party decided to finish the walk and take refreshments at the local café while our intrepid cross country skier returned home due to a lack of suitable snow.

The rest of the party carefully ascended a very icy Lambley Lane to obtain splendid views over Lambley itself. We then returned across the fields to our starting point where some of the party enjoyed the hospitality on offer at The Willowbrook Pub.

