

STRIDERS 2026

January 2026: SILVERHILL COUNTRY PARK

Despite the dire weather warnings, four hardy souls turned up for this month's walk. Unfortunately, unlike in November, the rain persisted all day. Luckily, we all had good wet weather gear so the rain did not spoil our day.

We started by climbing to the miners monument at the top of Silverhill, which I am told is the highest point in Nottinghamshire. When the weather is good there are good views across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire but not when we were there.

The rest of the walk was on good tracks and trails around Silverhill Country Park and the Teversal Trail and although the route had been chosen to avoid the worst of the mud, there was still plenty to negotiate. Hopefully, the weather will be better for our next walk which Chris is leading.



February 2026: CALKE ABBEY

Seven of us set off for a six and a half mile circuit around Calke Abbey, and although the weather forecast wasn't promising, the rain held off until we got back.

The walk took in Dimmingsdale Nature Reserve, where the snowdrops were still out en masse, then a path along the disused tramway took us through a tunnel into the Limeyards. This is a spectacular heritage site and SSSI, with plenty of evidence of past industry, but now more like a setting for a Lord of the Rings film.

A large herd of Muntjac deer, startled by a dog, completed the picture. After a cup of coffee and a picnic lunch at Calke, we made our way back via the deer park and by the side of Staunton Harold reservoir, with lovely views over the countryside and parkland.

A perfect walk for a grey day!

March 2026: BASLOW

Seven of us enjoyed a 6 mile walk on a bright spring day. After a delayed start due to roadworks we set off from the car park in Baslow and walked uphill to reach a path that went just below Baslow Edge.

We followed the path until we reached the road just below Curbar Gap. After crossing the road, we continued through birch woodland just below Curbar Edge, where Diane provided the entertainment, eventually climbing up onto the edge and returning to the cars via both edges.



April 2026: LIMESTONE COUNTRY

Our walk this month was in Limestone Country. We started the walk by ascending Deepdale which is an area of Special Scientific Interest due to the rare plants that can be found there. We were too early to see the Purple Orchids but there were plenty of other flowers and the banks of the dale were cloaked in Cowslips.

At the top of the dale, we walked across to the Magpie Mine where once again there were lots of different plants and we were particularly impressed by the Alpine Pansies. After passing through Sheldon we descended steeply to Ashford in the Water and returned on a precipitous path through the woods back to the car park.