

WALK THREE - THE HIDE TO LINACRE RESERVOIRS (SHORT)

Summary: A 7km walk featuring farmland, woodland, reservoirs, and panoramic views over Chesterfield toward Bolsover Castle and Hardwick Hall. This shorter route takes in one of three Linacre Reservoirs, but is still very hilly, involves crossing some busy roads and sections can get muddy and overgrown, so take care, pack trousers and pull on your hiking boots!

Distance: 7.4km

Elevation gain: 206m

Difficulty: Very hilly walk through diverse terrain - farmland, woodland and reservoirs.

Start point: The Hide Hotel

Exit The Hide to the right and follow the pavement around the bend. When you're about halfway along this short straight stretch of road, cross when it is safe to do so then carry on along the grass verge until the junction.

Turn left up Top Lane, walking on the side where you feel safest. Shortly after the first bend, enter the field on the right hand side of the road via the public footpath and head to the right of the telecoms mast. From here, you should get your first panoramic view over Chesterfield. If you can find the crooked spire, Bolsover Castle should be directly behind it on the horizon. If you follow the ridge line 30 degrees clockwise, you should also be able to see Hardwick Hall. Follow the path until you reach the road, then turn right down the hill.

Cross the main road just after the school and head up School Lane. Where the road ends at a farm after about 300m, follow the bridleway to the left. After about 500m of walking mostly downhill, you will enter some woodland. Take the left fork in the path when you reach it. At the bottom of the hill, cross a

small stream and head out of the wood via a stile and small bridge.

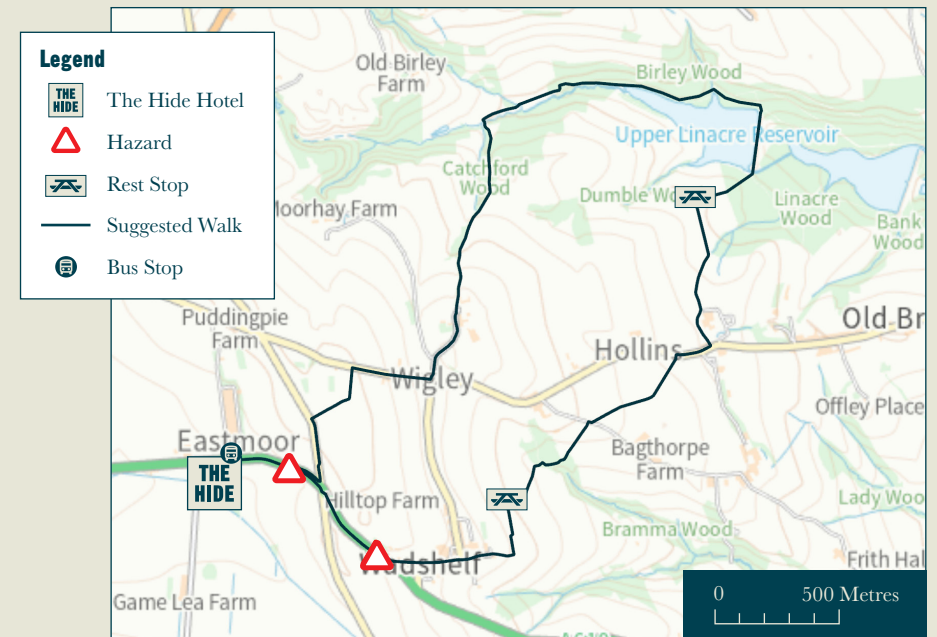
On leaving the wood, turn right and walk along the tree line. Cross the stream using stepping stones and carry on in the bottom of the valley. When you reach the wall, head up the hill a short distance and there should be a gate on your right. Be careful of the tree roots on entering the woodland, but this path eventually becomes a well-maintained track as you reach the Upper Linacre Reservoir.

The three reservoirs were built between 1855 and 1904 to supply water to Chesterfield. Keep walking through the woods, keeping the reservoirs to your right. When you reach the dam of the first reservoir, turn right onto the dam. This is the Upper Linacre Reservoir, the second of the reservoirs to be built, in 1885. If you have time, you may want to explore the boardwalk on the right hand side after you've crossed the dam.

After crossing the dam, there should be a narrow path across and slightly to the right of you. Head up here, and you should eventually leave the wood via a narrow gap in a wall. Keep walking through the field with the wall to your left, and eventually you will come across a bench, which may be an opportunity to have a short rest and enjoy an elevated view of the reservoir.

Continue the journey by crossing into the next field and turning left. Follow the wall through this and the next field. At the third field, walk up the hill diagonally to the right, aiming for a stile. Once over the stile, turn left and pass through a gate, following a hedge to another gate. Cross one final field to the gate to the side of a house and you should reach a road where you turn right.

As the road goes round a bend to the right, look out for a footpath sign on the opposite side of the road (should be before the black and white chevron sign). Be careful crossing



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the road, then go up some steps and you should be in a field. Walk along the hedge and pass through a wide gap at the top of the field. Cross the next field aiming for a narrow gap in the hedge opposite. Once through the gap, you now need to aim for a hidden stile which is about 20m to the right of the gate you see ahead of you. Once over the stile you should be on a farm track.

Turn right and almost immediately there is a footpath through a field on your left. Head diagonally through the field toward the larger trees and eventually a gap in the hedge marked in stone. Keep walking forwards through the open ground, eventually crossing a gap in a wall. Follow the grassy path and turn left after a short uphill section. After a short thorny stretch, cross the wall and you should emerge in a field. Follow the fence uphill where you should again see stunning views over Chesterfield. After the stile, turn right following the wall to the bench in the corner, where you may want to stop briefly

and enjoy the view. Carrying on, follow the wall and then fence up the hill, crossing two stiles at which point you should reach a track. Turn right.

After a short distance the track reaches the village of Wadshelf and becomes a road. Keeping to the right hand side of the road, pass through the village and you will eventually reach the A619. Turn right and cross the road at the bus stop where you should have a good view both ways and there is a pavement on the other side.

Follow this pavement all the way back to The Hide, being careful when crossing the road at the brow of the hill.

Scan the QR code
to follow the route

