

WALK TWO - THE HIDE TO LINACRE RESERVOIRS (LONG)

Summary: A 10km walk featuring farmland, woodland, reservoirs and panoramic views over Chesterfield towards Bolsover Castle and Hardwick Hall. This very hilly route around all three Linacre Reservoirs involves crossing some busy roads and sections can get muddy and overgrown, so take care, pack your walking trousers and wear boots!

Distance: 9.9km

Elevation gain: 303m

Difficulty: Very hilly walk through diverse terrain - farm land, 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

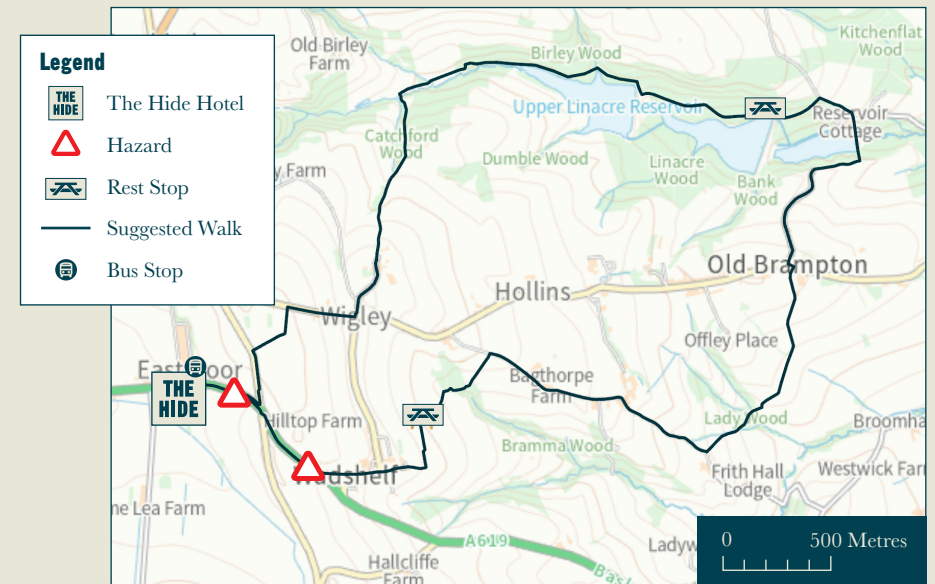
small stream and head out of the wood via a stile and small bridge.

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 wood, keeping the reservoirs to your right. When you reach the dam of the second reservoir, there are some picnic tables which might be a good opportunity for a break as you are also halfway through the walk.

After the second reservoir, you go up a short hill, through a gate and onto a quiet road. After a short distance, take the path and steps downhill and onto the dam of the third reservoir. If the weather is good, you should have a nice view of the lake and surrounding woodland. At the end of the dam, head up the hill and take the footpath to the right, making sure not to leave the wood. Follow this path as it turns left then right then left again, eventually becoming a track as it goes uphill towards Old Brampton.

When you reach the road, turn left and almost immediately cross the road where a footpath starts at a gate. You are on private land here so follow the clearly marked path until you reach a stile. Cross the next field diagonally to the right. If you're lucky, you'll get more views over Chesterfield and beyond. Cross the stile then hug the hedgeline to your right as you pass through the next two fields. At the third field, there should be a woodland in front of you. Enter the wood when you see the path.



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Be careful as you go downhill, cross a small bridge then head up some steps. The path could be overgrown but after a short distance you should reach a stile, then a bridge and emerge in a field. Turn right and walk up the hill. After about 100m, aim diagonally left towards the gate in the corner of the field.

Once through the gate you should be on a farm track. Turn right and follow this path uphill. When you reach the farmyard, turn left and head out via the road in front of you. After a short distance, you will pass another farm. About 200m after the second farm leave the road at the footpath on the 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 turning 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

