



Walk 2: Bonsall, Masson, Ball Eye - Directions

Start Point: Bonsall Market Cross, outside The King's Head public house. Map Reference SK279583. The streets of Bonsall are narrow and car parking can be difficult. There is however, a car park, off The Clatterway, at Map Reference SK282577, about 600 metres from the actual start point.

Maps: 1:25000 Explorer Sheet OL12, Peak District, White Peak Area or 1:50000 Landranger Sheet 119, Buxton, Matlock & Dovedale.

Public Transport: There is a bus service (158) to Bonsall village from Matlock, Wirksworth and Clay Cross.

Public Toilets: Bonsall village, Map Reference SK278579.

Distance: 3½ miles (4 miles, if Barrel Edge quarry is included).

Time needed: 2 - 2½ hours.

Description: A walk of medium difficulty, with some steep climbs and descents, along country lanes, quiet village streets and public footpaths. There are good, distant views of the quarries in the area and High Tor.

Route Directions:

(1) From the village cross, walk up Church Street, passing the church on your right. Just beyond the church, turn left up Ember Lane (2) (notice the old village pump at the junction). When you reach the top of the hill (3) Dean Quarry can be seen on the right. Just to its right, and in front of it, is Slinger Quarry. To the left is the natural outcrop of Black Rocks. Further to the left, on the horizon, is (4) Crich Cliff Quarry, with Crich Stand above it. Continue along the lane, slightly downhill now, to where the tarmac ends, at the entrance to Ember Farm, on the left.

Directly in front is a metal gate, blocking the lane, with a squeeze stile on the left. Go through the stile and walk ahead and slightly left, for about 25 metres, to another squeeze stile and a public footpath post, signed to Matlock, together with yellow way marked arrow, "Derwent Valley Walk". Go through the stile and walk downhill, along the path in the trees. After about 100 metres, there is a gully on the left revealing (5) rock strata, with a deep ravine on the right (possibly an old quarry).

Continue along the path, which soon crosses a tarmac drive with the entrance gate to The Heights of Abraham on the right. The path continues for a short distance, alongside the boundary fence, to a low stonewall with a way marked post. Follow the path, diagonally right, downhill, as indicated by further posts. Matlock can be seen in front, with cliff face of (6) High Tor on the right. Riber

Castle is on the hilltop behind. At the bottom of the grassed area is a fork in the path. Turn right, downhill, to cross a low stone wall at the side of a metal gate.

The path curves left, along the hillside before turning downhill. Follow the "Derwent Valley Walk" way marked posts to Masson Farm. There are more good views of High Tor on the right. Here you cross a wooden stile and walk alongside the garden boundary to a small flight of stone steps. (These can be extremely slippery in wet weather). Continue along the path, through the trees and then downhill alongside a high stonewall, to reach a tarmac lane.

Cross the lane, to a wide limestone track with a public footpath post, signed No.69, Matlock Bath. Walk along this track to the gateway of Masson Farm and the Private Road sign. (Notice the fence on the left made from an old steel hawser). Leave the track at the gate, onto the footpath on the left. This path meanders up and down along the hillside, with steps on the steeper sections. You can see (7 & 8) High Tor on the left and should also notice the remains of a landslip, which destroyed two houses down on the A6 road, during the 1950s.

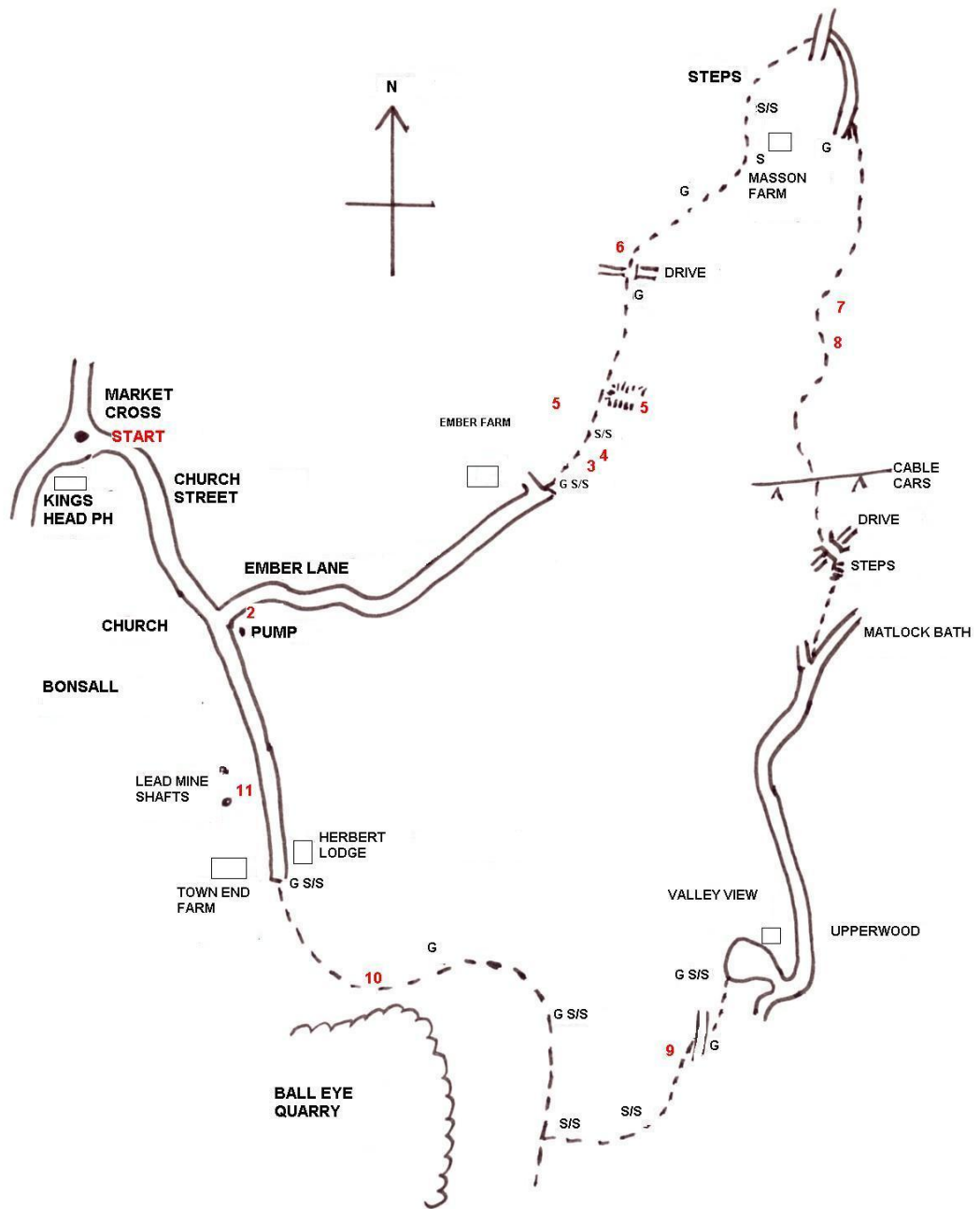
You eventually pass under some cable car wires, cross a wooden footbridge and descend a flight of steps. A short distance further along another flight of steps leads down onto a tarmac lane in the higher part of Matlock Bath. Turn right, uphill, and continue along the lane, leaving the houses of Matlock Bath, to reach the hamlet of Upperwood.

There is a house called 'Valley View' on the right, at the summit of the lane. Just beyond this the lane bends sharply down hill, with a turning area off to the right, at the side of 'Valley View'. Turn right and walk to the far side of the turning circle, where there are several way marked posts and an old metal gate. On the left of the gate are a squeeze stile and a green metal public footpath sign post. (The direction arm at the top of the post is missing). Go through the squeeze stile and up the track a short distance to a second metal gate, which leads onto a concrete farm track.

Cross the track, continuing along the path, uphill, passing another public footpath post with the arm missing from the top, to enter some trees. You soon arrive at a squeeze stile leading into a field. Cross the field to another squeeze stile in the large hedge opposite. There are good views of (9) Dean and Slinter Quarries from here. A few metres beyond the stile you reach a T-junction with another path, with a high mesh and barbed wire fence in front of you. This is the boundary fence to (10) Balleys Quarry.

Turn right, uphill and follow the path to a metal gate and squeeze stile. The path then becomes a wide track, still following the line of the quarry boundary fence. The track bends left, going through further gates. Part of the quarry can be seen from the fence after the 3rd gateway. Continue along the track to a gate and squeeze stile at the end of a tarmac lane. Walk along this lane to reach the start point, noticing (11) the old lead shafts in the field to the left.

WALK 2 BONSCALL - MASSON - BALL EYE



G = GATE
 S = STILE
 S/S = SQUEEZE STILE

R.J. STERLAND MBE
 G.F. SELBY-SLY

Walk 2: Bonsall, Masson, Ball Eye - Points of interest

- 1 **Start:** Bonsall Village Cross.
- 2 Bonsall village pump. Erected in Memory of Robert Clay 1876
- 3 View of Dene Quarry with Slinter Quarry to the right and slightly in front.
 - To the left of Dene is a gritstone outcrop known as Black Rocks.
 - Dene is a working quarry for Carboniferous, Eyam Limestone for aggregate.
 - Slinter Quarry closed in 2007, quarried limestone and barytes.
 - Slinter Quarry now houses a cementing plant.
- 4 A view on the horizon of Crich Cliff Quarry and to the right is a memorial to the Notts and Derbys Sherwood Foresters Regiment known as Crich Stand.
- 5 The rock outcrop on the left of the path may have been a small quarry, possibly opened for a specific construction like the nearby farm buildings.
- 6 View of High Tor. This distance view gives an overall view. There are closer view points further along the route.
 - High Tor is a natural cutting of Carboniferous Limestone formed by what is now the river Derwent.
- 7 To the left of the path is the site of a landslip which demolished two houses in the 1950s.
- 8 Closer view of High Tor.
- 9 Another view of Dene and Slinter Quarries.
- 10 A view into Ball Eye Quarry.
 - Fluorspar mined on site, Wulfenite and anglesite also found on this site.
 - The quarry is now closed but there are plans to develop it as a spa using the thermal springs, caves and the fluorspar workings.
- 11 To the left of the path are disused lead mine shafts.