

# Mills and Hills

## BELPER AND THE STRUTTS

An excellent 7.5km or 12km walk through 'Strutt Country' with far reaching views of the Derwent Valley.

**Parking:** At North Mill Heritage Centre.

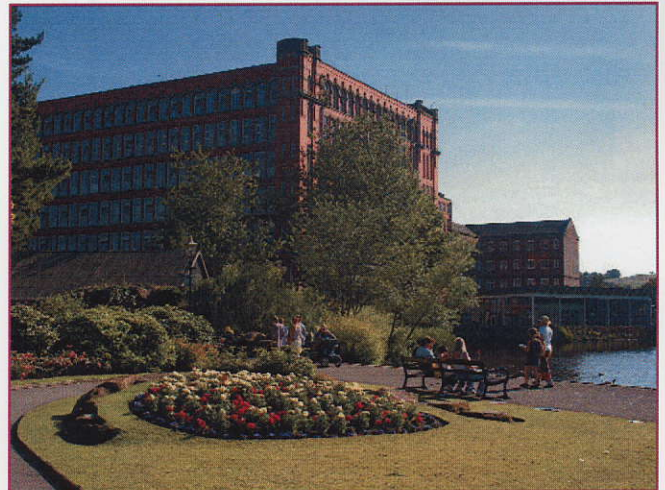
*Rarely can one man and his family have created such a lasting impact on the economy of a small town as the Strutts did on Belper in the 1770's. Up until then it was only a small village surrounded by fields, but when Jedediah Strutt went into partnership with Sir Richard Arkwright and Samuel Need of Nottingham to develop water powered mills along the Derwent he transformed Belper into a place at the heart of the Industrial Revolution. The inventor of the 'Derby Rib Machine' for producing close-fitting ribbed stockings, he built South Mill at Belper in 1776, followed ten years later by the first North Mill (later destroyed by fire and rebuilt by his son William in 1803). The Strutts provided good quality houses and education for their workers and model farms where food was produced for them at reasonable cost. The town today is largely a product of the Strutts, under whose influence the population rose from just over 500 to 10,000 in fifty years. All around Belper are signs of their benevolence.*

**A** From the North Mill Heritage Centre car park turn right and cross over the River Derwent. Immediately across the bridge take the tarmac road on your left and follow this down stream passing to the right of a pumping station. Follow the obvious route keeping the river on left past the sewage treatment works and continue alongside the river going underneath the railway line before emerging onto the Chevin Road by a bridge and the entrance to the railway tunnel.

Turn right and then take the first road on the right at the end of the terraces up the hill (Jackson's Lane). Continue up the hill until you meet the ridge top track. Turn right up the hill between the golf course and follow this track between the walls until it starts to descend .

*Derbyshire is crossed by many ancient trackways, some dating back several thousand years. You are on one known as North Lane, part of the Portway, an important track running roughly NW to SE across Derbyshire. This stretch was used by the Romans to carry lead from the Wirksworth area to Duffield. Excellent views over Belper can be seen from here.*

Continue until a large house Chevin Mount appears in front of you. Here you can choose the shorter route back or the longer one.



Strutt's North Mill

### Shorter route

**B** Turn right down the hill and when you reach the Chevin road after two fields turn left. Then after the 30 mph signs take the first turning on your right and follow the series of paths to rejoin your outward path alongside the river to the mill. **7.5 km**



Houses built for workers at the mills

### Longer route

**B** Follow the track around to the left in front of the house to a road. Turn right and after 100metres turn left before the letterbox. Continue past Spring Cottage and into the woods gently descending to cross over a track to the valley floor and continue until you cross over the A513. At the next field corner take the right hand path to cross a stream on a footbridge before emerging onto a road. Turn right and left up the hill and continue in the same direction past the amazing topiary of Handley Grange. Continue to the corner of the next field and after you cross the stile turn right beside the pond. Cross over the ridge track and follow the path diagonally down the hill towards the village. Turn left on the road and walk into the village.

*continued overleaf...*

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continued...

Take the road (Belper Lane) on the right opposite the Bulls Head and after 100metres take the footpath that skirts around the hill, passing through Wyver Farm and dropping down to emerge by Wyver Pool. Turn right here and follow the road back alongside the Derwent to cross back to North Mill. 12km

There are several town and countryside trails around Belper available from the Derwent Valley Visitor Centre at North Mill. Particularly worth seeing are the rows of workers cottages built by the Strutts such as the beautifully cobbled street named Long Row.



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Route 14

**PEAK DISTRICT**  
AND DERBYSHIRE