

## Calton Lees, Emperor Lake & Chatsworth House

### Walk Information

Walk Area:	Chatsworth	OS Map:	Explorer OL24
Distance:	5 Miles		White Peak area
Start Point:	Chatsworth Garden Centre		1:25000
Map Ref:	SK 258 686		

### General Information

Parking: Pay and Display  
Tea Shops: Two  
Duration: 2 Hours 45 Minutes

### Altitude Data

Start: 390 ft (119m)  
Minimum 337 ft (103m)  
Maximum 859 ft (262m)

### Altitude Profile



Chatsworth House

A fairly easy two tea shop walk with all of the climbing done in the first half of the route. The walk starts from Calton Lees car park then crosses the river Derwent up to Beeley Hilltop, from there it completes the climb across bracken moorland into Chatsworth Estate. The route then progresses through woodland past Emperor Lake to the Hunting Tower. The walk then concludes with a descent to Chatsworth House followed by a leisurely stroll along the river back to Calton Lees and the car park. Tea rooms for this walks are located in the Garden Center near to the Calton Lees car park, and in the Carriage House at Chatsworth House.

### Getting There:

The B6102 Baslow to Rowsley road goes through Chatsworth Park. To reach Baslow take the A619 Bakewell - Chesterfield road or the A623 Chapel-en-le-Frith to Chesterfield road. Rowsley lies on the A6 between Bakewell and Matlock. For those with Sat-Nav the postcode for the Garden Centre is given in the information block above. To reach the car park follow the signs for Chatsworth Garden Centre and Carlton Lees, the car park is on the right immediately after leaving the B6102. There is plenty of parking space for vehicles large and small at Calton Lees, the car park charge is paid on entry at a wooden kiosk, at peak times additional parking space is opened on a large grass bank.

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### The Walk:

From the car park walk towards the Garden Center then left down through the wooded area to the road below. On the morning I did this walk a Green Woodpecker was busy hammering away near the top of one of the trees next to the path along this part. On reaching the road cross the river by



Beeley Hilltop Toadstools

The bridge, take care as the footpath is really narrow, the parapet is quite low. Once over the bridge carry on along the B6102 for a short distance to Beeley Lodge, once again take care as there is no footpath along this short stretch of road. At the lodge take the road to the left and follow it up the hill to Beeley Hilltop. On reaching Beeley Hilltop there is a fine collection of large stone Toadstools on the grass to the right. Pass these and follow the road as it bends left around the farm and becomes a track. At the end of the farm buildings take the

signposted stone step stile in the wall to the left of the track, the footpath on the other side is a concessionary path across open moorland. There are signs of erosion along this stretch so please stick to the maintained path to prevent the wear on the hillside from becoming any worse.

From the stile walk diagonally to the right a short distance to another stile in the wall ahead, here there are two choices an nice easy low wooden stile, or a five step stone step stile over the high wall. On the other side of these stiles is a deer fence with a tall kissing gate, go through the gate then up the obvious path across the hillside. There are several board-walks over small streams and boggy patches, even so in parts the path is a bit squishy under foot but firm. At the top of the path is a second deer fence with another tall gate, once again go through the gate then onto the vehicle track at the top, here turn left towards a woodland a short distance ahead. At the Estate boundary wall there are fine views to be had back down over the hillside into the valley below, climb the stone step stile over the wall and into the woodland and Chatsworth Estate.



View From The Top Of The Walk

Follow the track forward into the woodland over a small stream, here the track turns to the right with a less well defined track off to the left. Continue to the right on the main track to a crossroads of tracks, carry on straight ahead (signposted "Robin Hood"). While walking along these tracks please bear in mind that they are in regular use by estate vehicles. After a while the track passes through an area of Rhododendron and swings to the right, carry on along this track as it winds through the parkland until after around three-quarters of a mile it reaches the first of the lakes. This one is on the right with a fine view across the water to the "Swiss Cottage".

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Staying on the same track carry on forward until Emperor Lake becomes visible on the left. The Emperor Lake was built by the 6th Duke to provide the water for the Emperor fountain which rises to a height of 300 feet in front of the house. A little further on the track bends to the left around the head of the lake, here there are one or two benches should you choose to stop and take in the view. From the Emperor Lake continue along the same track after a while another track joins from the left. This new track is the one that went to the left when the route first entered the woodlands. Follow the original track as it bends to the right until it comes to a junction of paths. It is worth taking a



Emperor Lake

while to enjoy the views from The tower down to Chatsworth House and across the northern parts of Chatsworth Estate.



Turn Right Here

From the front of the Hunting Tower have the steps down the slope to rejoin the track that has been followed for the for the past mile and a half. Turn left and follow the track down the slope towards Chatsworth House. Continue down the hill until another path crosses the track at an angle, turn right here and walk through the woodland, down four steep steps until the vehicle track is rejoined once more. Turn right and follow the path behind some estate buildings until Chatsworth House and it's main car park come into view, look for a signed pedestrian exit in the black metal fencing to the right. Take the exit gate

then walk down the slope towards Chatsworth House. To the left is the old Stable block and carriage house which now houses a café, restaurant and a shop. This is one of the two tea rooms of the walk.

From the Carriage House take the main exit under the clock tower and walk down the slope towards the main car park. at the car park walk to wards the house then continue down the hill with the house then a fence immediately to your left. At the bottom of the hill is a stock gate, pass through this and walk down to the bridge. On the right at this point on the other side of the road is Queen Mary's Bower it is worth a short diversion should you want to pay it a visit. Once over the bridge take the path on the left at the end of the parapet and walk across the grass to some steps in a hill in the distance, climb the steps then follow the river bank until you reach the old mill building. Just beyond the derelict mill building turn right and walk up the slope to the road, turn left and pass through the estate gate. The entrance to The Calton Lees car park and the end of the walk is now directly ahead. Should you feel like a nice cup of tea or coffee the tea room in the Garden centre is well worth a visit.