

Walk 4 Calton Lees

Distance: 6.6 miles (m)

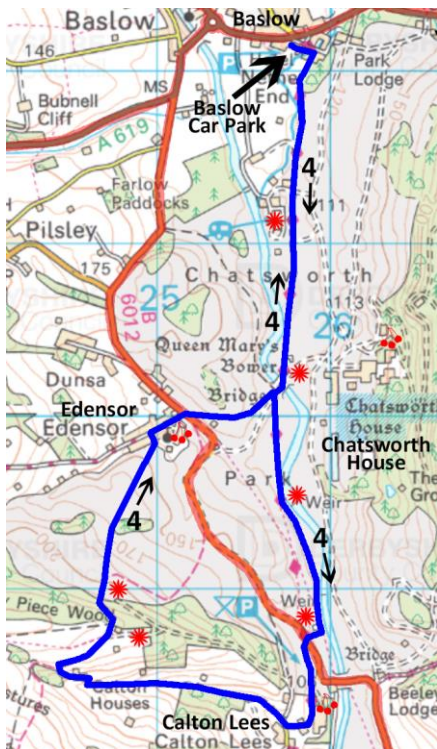
Elevation: 740ft

Difficulty: Easy

Start point: Baslow Carpark DE45 1SR

Grid reference: SK 25877217

Summary: This walk goes south of Chatsworth Park, following the river Derwent before looping back to Edensor, then back to Chatsworth. Although longer than most it is easy terrain throughout.



Exit the car park and turn right crossing the old Bar Brook bridge by the Malt House. Immediately turn right and follow the path to the revolving kissing gate entrance into Chatsworth Park (350yd). Go through the gate and straight ahead on the rough path parallel to the river. Continue on this path, past the lodge, caravan park and the cricket field to *Queen Mary's Bower*, a stone structure by the river below Chatsworth House. Go through the gate to the bridge (1.3m).



Cross the bridge and the road, to take the path on the left to Carlton Lees and Beeley. Follow the river Derwent, across the field, and up the steps on the far side. At the top of the steps (1.7m) you can take the lower or the middle path going forwards. Both follow the river at different levels, the middle path being drier in the winter months. You pass 2 weirs before coming to *Paine's Mill*. From the mill house climb sharply uphill on a narrow path or loop back

on yourself to climb the wider easier path. When you reach the road by the cattle grid cross it and take the pedestrian gate on the far side, out of the park (2.3m).

Follow the pedestrian walkway towards Carlton Lees car park, keeping to the edge of the lane through to Carlton Lees village. Ignore the turning to the garden centre (toilets and a café available) and continue straight on. At the junction at the end of the village take the track ahead signposted to Ryecroft and Pingle cottages.



View from Ryecroft & Pingle cottages

Continue on this track with a stream on your left, past the spring, and up to the cottages. You look back from here across to Eastmoor down the valley. Continue past the cottages to the end of the lane (3.6m). Go through the right hand gate and veer right up the hill to the gate at the top. Across from this gate

the *Russian cottage* is on your right and a barn straight ahead. To the left of the barn is the gate for the path. You are on the South Peak loop bridleway as you go through the trees, coming out through a gate at the bottom back into Chatsworth Park. There are great views of *Chatsworth House* from here (4m), with the parkland designed by Capability Brown to show the House at its best.

Go straight ahead to a signpost in the grass, then continue forwards keeping the fenced coppice on your right. Keep the next fenced coppice also on your right, and as you round this Edensor church spire appears diagonally ahead. The path here becomes very indistinct, so aim to the left of the spire until you see another short signpost in the grass. This marks the entrance into *Edensor village* in the valley below. Take the steps down into the village to the road (4.7m). Turn right to continue the walk, down to the church with the graves of the Cavendish family, including that of Kick Kennedy, sister of JFK. At the village green fork left down to the gates into the village. Leave the village, cross the road and take the path ahead that climbs uphill, over *the Crobbs*. This then descends back to the bridge by Chatsworth. Cross the bridge (5.3m) and turn left back along the river the way you came to the

kissing gate, continuing on to Baslow carpark.



Queen Mary's Bower

Points of interest

Kitchen Gardens/Caravan Park

The high walls of the caravan park hide the old kitchen gardens built in 1760. Joseph Paxton, the celebrated head gardener, lived nearby.

Queen Mary's Bower

This is an ancient structure, said to have been used by Mary Queen of Scots when she was detained at Chatsworth in the late 1500s. At the time it was a feature within the gardens of the house. Archaeologists say that it was built on the site of an even older prehistoric burial mound.

Weirs

There are two weirs downstream from Chatsworth, both designed to make the river look like lakes – a fashionable feature in the mid 1700s showing the house reflected in the still water.

Paine's Mill

Paine, the architect created many features in the area in the 1760s including the bridge by Queen Mary's Bower, the Stables, the weirs and this Mill – just before Capability Brown landscaped the main Park. It was used until 1950 grinding flour and cattle feed. It is now a ruin and a Grade 2 Listed Building.

Russian Cottage

Following a visit by the 6th Duke to Russia, he commissioned Russian Cottage to remind him of the trip. It is one of the quirky features dotted around the estate to amuse the Duke and his visitors.

Gate into Park

The panorama from here is of fields and trees, with Chatsworth House and the Derwent Valley in the distance. This rural scene, meticulously planned by Capability Brown, creates a feeling of English countryside. When viewed from Chatsworth House the adjacent woods frame the park, as in a painting.

Edensor

Edensor is a model village, a showpiece created by the Dukes of Devonshire in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Each house is different. It is still a Chatsworth Village, with most houses occupied by present or retired employees. The Church dating back to the 1100s, was completely rebuilt and expanded in the 1860s. Most of the Dukes of Devonshire are buried here, including Kick Kennedy, sister of John F Kennedy and wife of William, who was killed in the war before he could become the duke.

The Crobbs

The first Duke spent vast sums of money in the late 1600s and early 1700s transforming Chatsworth. Part of the project was landscaping the hillside to create the gardens. Surplus soil was used to make the little hill between Edensor and Chatsworth now called The Crobbs.