

Over the hill to Cowbyre Farm



Roe deer

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Route Description - start here!

- 1 Turn right out of the car park and immediately left. Bear left along the marked track between stone walls. The track winds along behind cottages. Ignore the path to the right and climb steeply through the trees. Reaching the broad track at the top go left. After 100m turn right and instead of going through the gate to the left, follow the path up through the wood to a ladder stile over a wall. These woods are fantastic for bluebells in late spring and early summer.

- 2 Head across the pasture. From here you have fine views across the Derwent Valley to Buckshott Fell and Edmundbyers Common. Go through the gate, keeping a fence and then a wall on your left, until you reach a stile and go through a stand of young trees. Continue over another stile to Cowbyre Farm.

- 3 Cross another stile to reach the road and turn left. ⚠ There are some fine traditional farm buildings to the left and a good view of the Derwent Reservoir ahead. Walk along the road for 200m before taking the ladder stile on the right and the permissive path which follows the burn before crossing at a way marker. Follow the stream keeping between a fence and the remains of an old field boundary before veering left near a gate, to drop down to the burn and a footbridge.



© Marcus Byron

What a view!

Derwent Reservoir is the second largest reservoir in the North East. The south-western area of the reservoir has been managed as a nature reserve since 1967 for its breeding birds and wildfowl.

The surrounding farmland is used as a breeding ground by a host of waders. Species such as lapwing, redshank, curlew, oystercatcher and snipe can regularly be seen in spring and summer. Look out for the bright red beak of the oystercatcher and the green metallic sheen of the feathers of peewits (lapwings) an obvious name when you hear their call - peeee...wit!



© Marcus Byron



- 4 Go right and carry on along the edge of a lovely birch wood with a fence to the right, until you reach a footbridge and ladder stile. This brings you to the River Derwent at Carrick Bridge.

- 5 Go right and follow the path along the river. There are several stiles and a diversion which avoids an eroded riverbank. Eventually you come to a walled junction.

Heron

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Blanchland Bridge and the River Derwent

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- 6 You now have a choice of route:
i) Take the green lane to your right. This brings you to the road which enters the village. The hedgerows along this bridleway are covered in sloe berries and rosehips in the autumn.
ii) Follow the river back to the village and go up through the village to the car park. Along the river near the mast, you can see a good outcrop of shale and thin layers of sandstone. For more information on the geology of the area contact the AONB Partnership.



Rosehips

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Common valerian

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