

The Miners Way Walk links the three historic villages of Barlborough, Stanfree and Clowne in the District of Bolsover and County of Derbyshire.

The walk follows in the footsteps of the miners who worked at the Oxcroft Drift Mine. This leader is dedicated to the memory of those gallant men who spent their lives working underground to mine the 'black gold' so vital to the industrial heritage of Great Britain. We will follow the route the miners took from Barlborough to access the mine, returning via Stanfree and Clowne.

Barlborough, formerly Barleburg, 'Fort by Bear Wood' documented in the 1086 Domesday Book has many fine buildings including the Chapel, Church, Barlborough Hall, Barlborough Old Hall, The Cross and Memorial Gate. The walker will take the public footpaths and bridleways guided by the 'Miners Lamp' walk markers.

Stanfree, Saxon name Stone-Free, is a rural hamlet straddling the main Clowne to Bolsover Road within sight of the historic Bolsover Castle. It is said to be called after the 'stand free' land between two major land-owning families. Stanfree came to national prominence in the 1990's when a campaign to stop the proposed Hoodcroft Opencast Coal Site hit the headlines. The walk follows field paths with views of the Peak District and Mount Pleasant where miners' cottages once stood.

Clowne, a place of many springs and the site of a former Roman fortress has evolved from farming, railways and mining to the busy market town of today. The building of the Tesco and Wilkinson Stores and the innovation of a new Clowne Campus have moved the town into the new millennium. As a detour from the route a visit to the Church of St. John passing the Village Cross would interest the walker.

The return route crosses the Barlborough Golf Course, formerly the site of the Glebe Pond, known locally as Brickly Pond. This land was part of the Monument Field where, it is said, in 1587 plague victims from Barlborough and Clowne were buried. On the hillside stand the former miners' cottages of Pit Row, now named West Lea, in close proximity to the site of the Barlborough No.1 Colliery.

Along the way look out for roosting Little Owls, Skylarks, Coal Tits and the vivid blue of the Kingfisher. In the summer months Bee Orchids, Yellow Kettle and Coltsfoot bloom. Follow public byways to village pubs where refreshments can be enjoyed and where miners of yesteryear quenched their thirsts.

Barlborough

Barlborough is situated off Junction 30 of the M1. It is within easy travelling distance of Sheffield, Chesterfield and Worksop.

Take care when walking and follow the Country Code.

Walking for Health

- Enjoy the exercise and walk to your heart's content.
- Discover new footpaths and bridleways of the Bolsover District
- Join with family and friends of all ages for a group activity.
- Take pleasure in observing nature - its free.

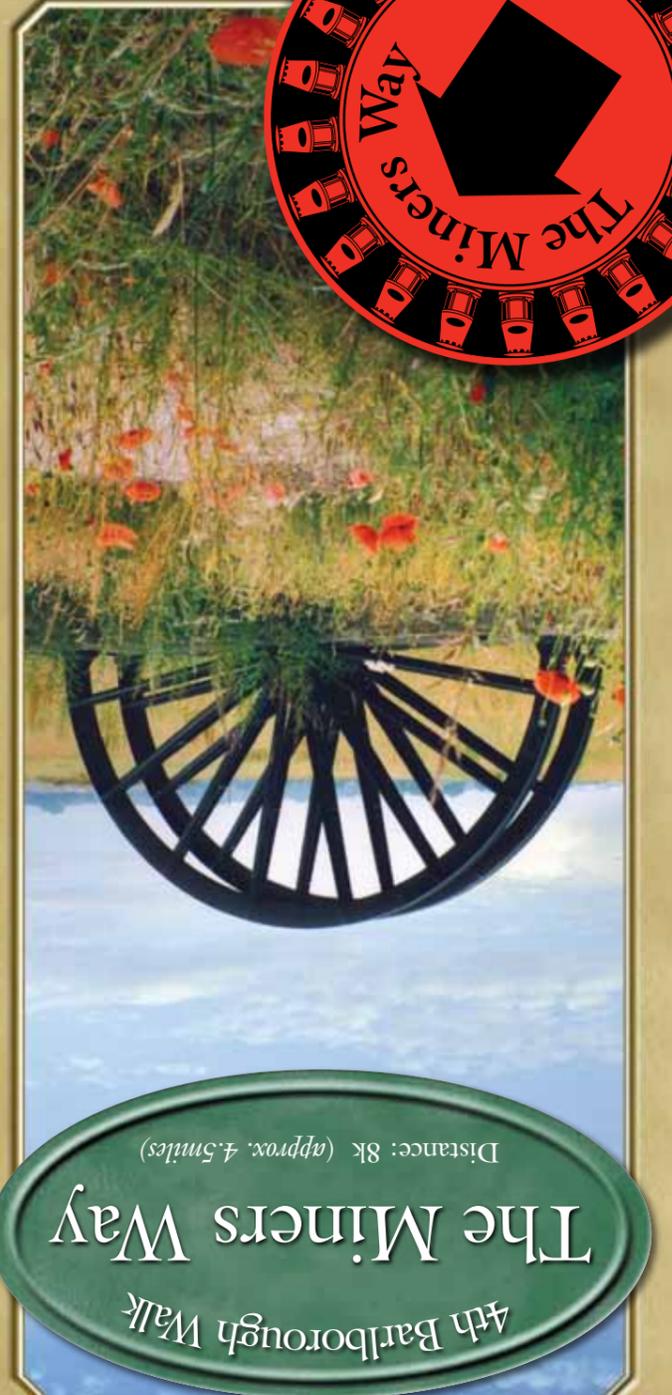
If you have enjoyed this walk why not undertake the other walks in this series:

- Fox and Magpie Walk
- The Millennium Walk
- The Chaffinch Trail

Researched and compiled by Barlborough Dayaway Group with valued support from Andre Bradley, Historian and Clowne Wildlife Group. Funded by Sport Relief.

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4th Barlborough Walk
The Miners Way
Points of Interest

Front Cover
Barlborough & Clowne Miners Memorial Wheel

The Miners Memorial Wheel was erected on Barlborough Country Park in 1991 at the close of extensive coal excavation from Slayley Opencast Coal Site. It stands as a memorial to the mining communities of Barlborough and Clowne.

Peacock Butterfly

- 1 Barlborough Methodist Chapel**
The Chapel was built in 1913 and opened in 1914 by the oldest lady member, Mrs. Jepson. The building replaced the Primitive Methodist Chapel on California Lane. The schoolroom was built in 1939 and was first used by soldiers billeted in Barlborough during the 2nd World War. In recent years the schoolroom has hosted the thespian talents of the Chapel congregation.
- 2 The Monnies**
The Monnies, remains of the Monument Field, lies on the east gorse covered side of the lake on the Links. It was reputed to be the burial place of the 1587 plague victims. The site is also described as Parson's Folly on some Ordnance Survey maps.
- 3 Tesco Distribution Centre**
The distribution centre known locally as 'The Big Shed' was opened in 2005 providing many jobs for the area. When constructed it was the largest commercial warehouse in Europe.
- 4 Midland Railway**
In the 1870's a branch of the Midland Railway was constructed from Clowne to carry the newly mined coal from local pits to the main line in Staveley. The branch line is no longer in use, but remains as part of a legacy of the rural railway system constructed by the Victorians.
- 5 Oxcroft Drift Mine**
Situated 1½ miles from Bolsover, the drift mine was one of the fourteen collieries in the North Derbyshire coalfield. Production from the Clowne seam started in July, 1949 employing 455 men. Men employed at the mine walked to work from local villages. As there was no pit head baths at the time the men had to return home in their 'pit muck' at the end of their shift. The mine finally closed in the spring of 1974 when the workforce was transferred to neighbouring collieries.

- 6 Clowne Church Of St. John**
As a detour from the walk a visit to the Church is recommended. Built in the 12th century it is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. A former Rector of Clowne William Inskip founded the first school in the 16th century. A Miners Chapel was dedicated in 1954.
- 7 Heritage Community School**
Also known as Boughton Lane, started out as a girls school. It opened as a secondary school at the end of the 2nd world war and became a mixed entry school in 1953. The school has around a thousand pupils and is under the headship of Donovan Spencer. Proposals are now in place to build a new school on the site.
- 8 Church Institute**
The Institute was built in 1908 converted from a Glebe Barn and since its inception has served the community as a meeting place. During the war years it was used by the Lowestoft evacuees and by the villagers as a meeting place for dances and recreation. It was extensively refurbished in the early 1990's and is well used by members of the public.
- 9 Stone Croft**
Originally a laundry, the house has been restored and extended and offers passing travellers bed and breakfast accommodation in the heart of the village.
- 10 Barlborough Medical Practice**
The Old Malthouse off Church Street has been successfully rebuilt and houses the Barlborough Medical Practice which offers a wide variety of services to its patients.
- 11 Chandos Pole House**
Built in 1752 by Margaret and Mary Pole to house six poor parishioners. They received 2/- per week and an allowance of coal per year. It was modernised in the 1980's and now contains four flats.
- 12 Parish Church Of St. James The Greater**
Built on a high vantage point in the mid 12th century on or near the site of an earlier Saxon church. The northern part of the church is the oldest part of the building. In recent years, after a vigorous fund raising campaign, the stonework on the tower has been repaired, new clock workings and shields installed in the windows. In the churchyard there is a memorial grave of miners who died in the 1938 Markham mining disaster. Two Lord Mayors of London Sir William Holles and Sir Richard Pype are also interred in the Church. In 2006 an appeal to repair the roof was launched.

Bee Orchid

- 13 The Cross**
The base was constructed in the 14th century with the column and sundial added in the late 17th century. A memorial stone and plaque at the base commemorates the successful campaign to keep Barlborough in Derbyshire 1969-1971. A protest walk to London was led by Dennis Skinner M.P. and Norma Machen supported by villagers.
- 14 Little School**
A barn conversion in 1798 by the De Rodes family allowed the church to form a poor school holding 30 pupils. In 1874 it became an infant school. Over the years it has been used for a doctors' surgery, gym, library, meeting place and Darby & Joan room. After considerable deterioration it was restored and refurbished in 2005 as a community building.
- 15 Doreen's Garden**
The garden is dedicated to the memory of Doreen Haywood who lived in the Old School House and was deputy head of Barlborough Primary School. The land was donated to the village by The Co-operative Society as a community garden.
- 16 Golden Gate And Memorial Garden**
Erected in 1869 by William Hatfield Rodes as a memorial to his wife Sophia. The garden was constructed as a Peace Garden in 1951 in remembrance of the men of Barlborough who died in the two world wars. A cannon which guarded the entrance to the garden was 'taken away' to aid the war effort. When the memorial plaque was restored in 1990 the original King's shilling was discovered and is now on display in the Village Hall.
- 17 Barlborough Village Hall**
The community centre was built in 1993 and opened by Sir Reresby Sitwell of Renishaw Hall and Dennis Skinner, M.P. for Bolsover.
- 18 Barlborough Primary School**
The school built by the Rodes family of Barlborough Hall was opened in 1870 under the headship of Mr. William Hodgson. In its central location the school has been responsible for educating the village children for over a century. In the year 2000 two new classrooms were built and a further classroom two years later.

Coal Tit

Walk Directions

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 269

The walk starts at the car park on Ward Lane, Barlborough. Walk down to High Street then proceed forward down New Road and across the pedestrian crossing on to the Barlborough Links estate.

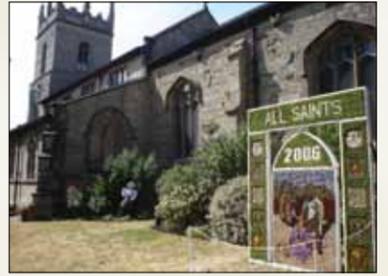
Turn right and at the roundabout follow Oxcroft Way to a second roundabout. Cross both roads and take the footpath down to the lake. Follow the path right to Slayley Lane. Turn right and first left on to Hoodcroft Lane, under the bridge and along the fields to Romley Lane. Walk left and at the brow of the hill turn right onto a muddy footpath which gives access to the Bridle Road leading to the B6418 road at Stanfree. To access the Oxcroft Drift Mine, the local miners would turn right and walk along to the hamlet of Oxcroft.

Our route turns left taking us to the Apple Tree Inn. At the pub take the minor Appletree Road right and at the top take the lane left to a series of stiles. Walk up field paths to access a meeting of footpaths at the top right hand corner of the field. Follow the right path then first left on to Clowne High Street. At Boughton Lane walk until Monnies End is reached then at a footpath sign walk left following the road before accessing the footpath leading down to cross the Barlborough Links Golf Course. With care cross the Golf Course down to the lake visited earlier.

Retrace the path around the lake up to the Vesuvius roundabout. Taking Slayley View Road access Slayley Green on the left and walk to a junction of footpaths. Take the right path up to Sycamore Lane to join the A616 at Clowne Road. Return to the start by turning left to access Church Street.



A Barlborough Resource Centre
Formerly the Old School House, the adult learning and training centre opened in 2002. The centre hosts two I.T. suites and Multi-function rooms providing courses for the public.



K Barlborough Church Well Dressing
Every year in the Church of St. James the Ladies Fellowship hold a Flower Festival and Well dressing following an old Derbyshire custom.



J De Rodes Roundabout
Traffic island on the busy A616 crossroads planted by Van Dyk Nurseries.



I Barlborough No.1 Pit Oxcroft No.3
The Staveley Coal & Iron Company sunk the first shaft to the Top Hard seam in 1873. The Oxcroft Colliery Company acquired the colliery in 1930. Five hundred men were employed at the pit. Working in the High Hazel seam, geological conditions led to closure in 1945.



H Clowne Campus
The impressive frontage of the new education college opened on 19th October, 2005 by Phil Hope M.P. replacing the original Institute built by Miners Welfare Funds on Rectory Road.



B Barlborough Methodist Chapel
Built in 1913 replacing an early chapel on California Lane. The school room was the first pre-school and hosts theatrical events.



C Fred Greaves V.C.
Ex-miner Fred Greaves, a corporal in the Sherwood Foresters, was the first Derbyshire soldier to be awarded the Victoria Cross in the first World War. He lived on New Road from 1920-1952.



D Lake on Monnies
The lake on the Monnies was excavated after completion of the Slayley Opencast Coal Site. Little grebes, mallard, moorhen and kingfisher can be seen on the lake.



E Slayley Lane
View from a gateway on Slayley Lane, of a 1940's opencast weighbridge.



F Romley Hall
Built in the 1500's, formerly owned by prominent families including Dr. Thomas Gisborne, physician to King George III. The Hall was burned down in the last century.



G Apple Tree Inn
Originally a beer house owned by the Scarsdale Brewery. Saved from closure in 1997. Meeting place for villagers campaigning against the proposed Hoodcroft Opencast Coal site.

