

Dinosaur Quarry and the Llamas

In contrast with most of the other walks, this one starts by going uphill into the village; it can be strenuous at times so maybe pop into John's Bakery for a pasty to take with you. Cross the road by the Derwent Pub (now closed) and when you reach the village 'green' angle right and then continue straight up the Clough - when the tarmac ends makes sure you take the right fork, the left goes to Clough House.



It's a proper grunt up the clough but there are a couple of seats to rest on! As you puff upwards take care to get out of the way of 4x4s and trail bikes which love this climb up and down. You will hear them long before you see them! A good place to sit and view Win Hill is where you will find a welcoming wooden seat.



As you reach the top take time to admire the 'air touchstone, placed here in 2001. If you do the whole of the 'Touchstone Trail' (guides available in the Post Office or at Blackberry) you will come down here. This is a fearsome journey, really hard on the knees and ankles.



Continue straight up to the road - unless you are a very fit fell runner you can ignore the 'slow down' sign near the top. This top road is called New Road as it was made to be a new road into our valley. Turn right here and after 50 metres or so



there is a stile on your left: now it's decision time, the path to Dinosaur Quarry leaves the road here and returns here after circling round on Bamford Edge.

Assuming you are going dino hunting, hop over the stile and take the path that angles slightly right up through the bracken; keep on this path upwards. The main path is clear although there is a minor path off left and then a couple off to the right. After a short while you reach the pass into the bowl of the quarry, it got its name from one of our grandchildren who felt it would have been a great place for dinosaurs to gather. In fact it is the place where the stone to build Bamford Church - and probably some houses as well - came from. Have a good look round, it's a great spot for a picnic.





You leave the r, either by heading straight through it and out the opposite end from where you came in, or there is a path to the right up the side just after the entrance. Any way get to the quarry lip diametrically opposite the entrance and then follow a short sheep track to Bamford Edge with great views over the valley. You can take a left here and follow the well marked track back down to the stile; or head right and wander along the edge to take in the view; go far enough (a few hundred metres) and

you can head off across the heather and bracken to the Cannon, a very conspicuous rock right on the edge of the edge. When you've had an elegant sufficiency of living on the edge head back down to the road.

We are back on the road, one possibility is to head back the way you came up, or follow New Road back down into the valley, meeting the main road very near the Yorkshire Bridge Inn: however it's much better to continue away from Bamford and complete the whole walk. A much deeper and fulfilling glow will result at the end.



Keep to the road for a hundred meters or so (don't count steps it's a very rough approximation) and as the road curves down and left you can cut down a narrow track, full of deep ruts caused by trail bikes but preferable to taking chances with vehicles on the road. This track cuts the corner and rejoins the road more or less at its lowest point. Now a bit more road tramping till the footpath sign off to the right is attained.



Gratefully leave the road and continue down a very pleasant grassy track for several hundred metres, keep looking right and you soon see a stile in the wall and a very prominent

footpath sign. Not sure if the invitation to join up is still relevant. Hop over the stile and follow the path down across several fields. Once upon a time there were llamas (or maybe alpacas) in the penultimate field hence the name of the walk.





At the end of the fields there's a stile out into the tarmac lane, turn right on the land and follow your nose. Eventually reach the entrance to Nether Hurst and cut down right on the rough track to join up with the last part of the Hathersage walk. The track goes right



and the path from Hathersage comes in from the left via a gate. Keep on the track and after a few yards you can veer left into the field - don't



worry if you miss this as the track and the path meet up again at the bottom. The path across the field stays fairly close to the hedge line and then goes slightly left towards a gap in the next boundary and you may spot a yellow path marker; the path is usually clear on the ground anyway.

Here we are heading towards the gap into the wood and a very steep downward path which can be quite lethal after rain; as long as you pick your route and

ricochet from tree to tree it's great fun; but be prepared to emerge at the bottom with a muddy bum (only joking, you'll be fine!)



When you reach the track again turn right and then left across the bridge (if you have come down the track all the way it is, naturally, a right onto the bridge. Then it's up 110 steps, carefully set to be just slightly greater than a comfortable distance apart. Try to get all the way up with out stopping. That aching feeling in your calves is caused, as I am sure you well know, by the production of lactic acid; completely reversible and harmless, if a touch uncomfortable; at least it makes you feel you've achieved something significant when you emerge at the top hot sweaty and breathless.



On your right is now the Severn Trent filter works; you could slow down and admire the engineering but I prefer a speedy passage to the end of the metal fence; then you cut slightly right through the path by the hedge; giving Ian's woodstore an admiring gaze as you pass by. At the end of the path you reach the road up to the water works. Turn right onto the road and it looks as if you are heading straight into the works; at the last minute veer left and down towards the only kissing gate on the route so I hope you are well enough accompanied to enjoy it.





Through the trees to the bottom then across the field; don't go too far to the left, the path is well marked till you end up at the next gate which is not so much a kissing gate as a cuddling gate.



Drop out onto the lane then almost immediately left across another field (you can keep on Joan Lane to reach Bamford City Centre and the Angler's rest); follow the path through the Brentwood housing complex and out onto the Main Road.

You can turn right to visit the village store and the Angler's Rest or go left and be tempted by

the Post Office - drinks and ice cream -



the Bakery - drinks and cakes -

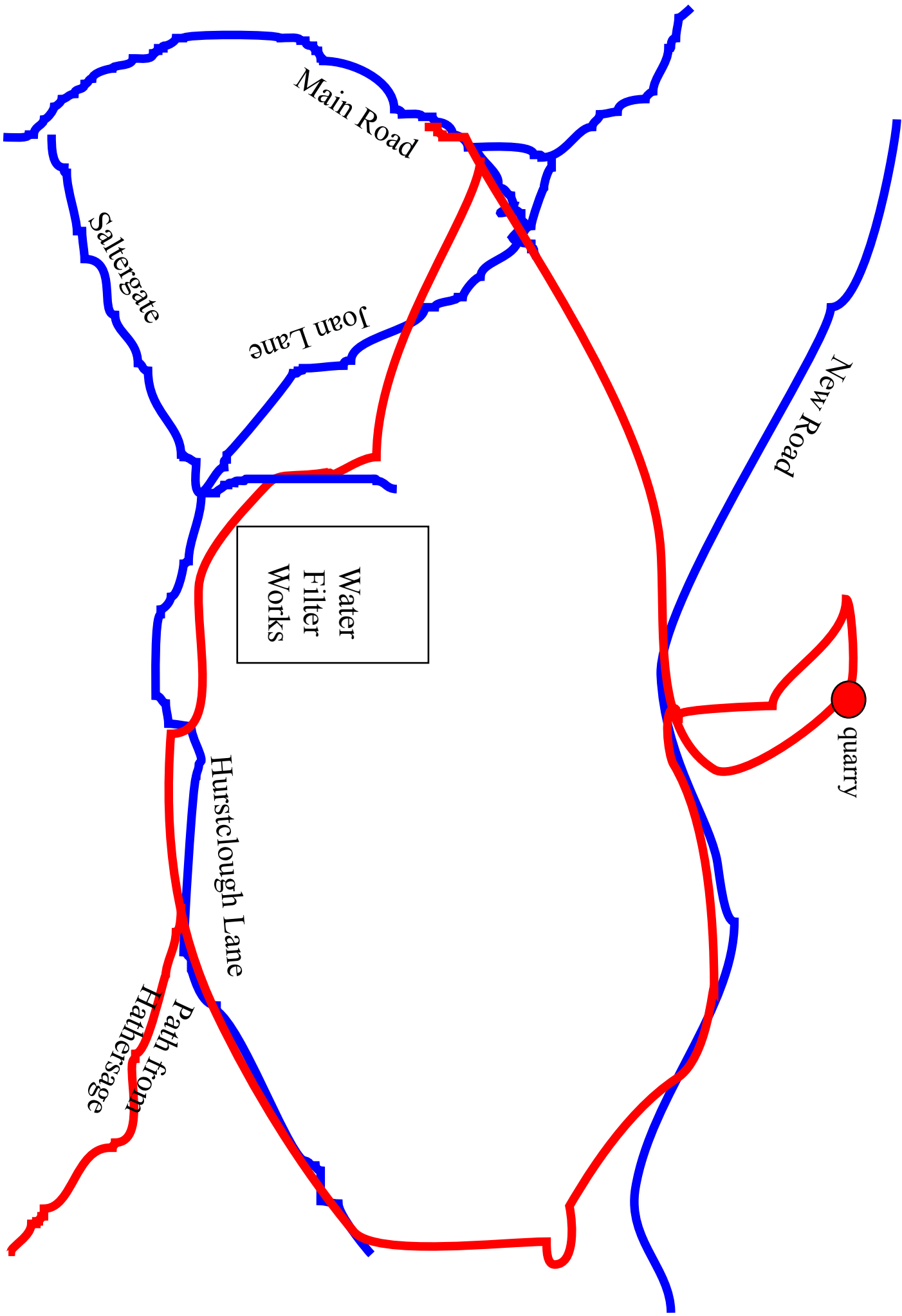


and St John's Church - quiet and reflective

Plan on 2 to 3 hrs for the walk depending on how much you

linger at various spots.





Main Road

Saltergate

Joan Lane

New Road

Water
Filter
Works

quarry

Hurstclough Lane

Path from
Hathersage