

Strolling Whitworth

Simply lovely little Walks

STROLL 9 LANDGATE

START Turn into Landgate and park by the side of the road, one side or other of the cattle grid

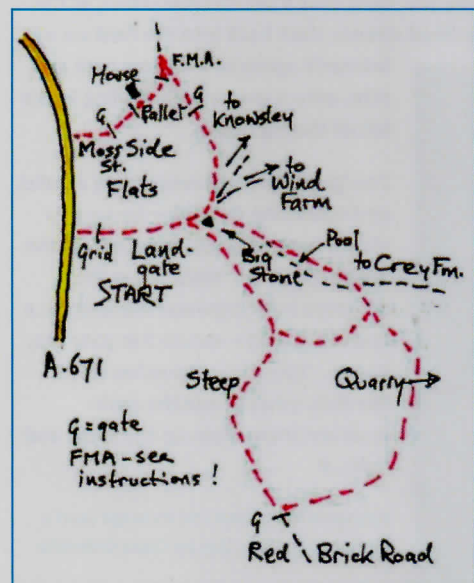
DISTANCE Short **BUS STOP** Red Lion, Shawforth

NATURE OF WALK Starts on solid roadway, but then rougher and maybe muckier tracks. Some rise. *Please keep dogs on lead for extension.*

Walk up from the cattle grid, with a farm on your left and a variety of pens on your right. Where the land opens out head for the big stone and the

track just to its right. This area used to be a tip, until, as the plaque on the stone tells you, it was reclaimed for recreational use.

The simplest walk is up past the barrier, then left at the first junction – but a better, if more challenging, walk can be had by continuing up the twisting slope – though it is steep for a little while. Where the gradient slackens, you'll be rewarded with wider views - across the valley; ahead, on a good day, south to Manchester; and



behind you, as you stop to catch your breath, across the slightly wild landscape of Shawforth - and you'll be able to appreciate the way the Whitworth valley bends elegantly westward on its way up to Britannia.

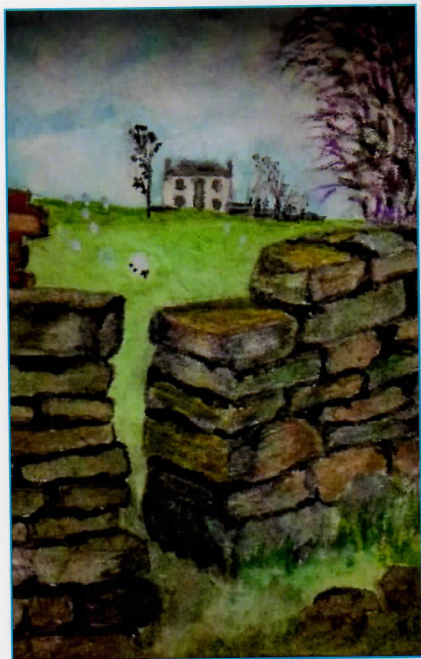
Walk up to the gateway marking the start of the Red Brick Road, built of waste brick piping dumped half a century ago by a company that had ideas of mining around Brown Wardle...but failed to get planning permission, and abandoned. Handy for walkers and mountain bikers, mind you.

At the gateway, turn left, onto a downward-sweeping track that will lead you past an abandoned quarry, now landscaped with an attractive pool. *Under no circumstances should you go into the water.* Here the path links up with the track mentioned earlier. You can go left on that, or continue in the direction you were going. This track rises briefly, then crosses the Crey Farm track. There's a parallel path that pops down steps, over a boardwalk, and round a pool, returning you to the farm track and then a red letterbox.

POSSIBLE WALK EXTENSION – dogs firmly on leads, please.

At the letterbox select the road directly across – it winds up past a settlement on the brow of the rise. Over the rise the views are lovely, especially if the sky is blue. Pass through a gate - a notice says why you must shut it behind you - then, at the end of the field to your left, by a tree-lined stream, duck back into the field via a

fatman's agony of a narrow gate and stile, onto a grassy path leading to the left of the big house.



The 'gate' here involves sliding a pallet and squeezing through – be sure to slide it back securely, especially in the lambing season. Walk down the concrete track between the long barn and the school – secure this gate too, please. Your car is the other side of the flats: you can use the path between them, then up the steps and right. JF

Fatman's Agony and Old Vicarage (and a typical Shawforth sky) by Claire Entwistle

