



Walk on the

WILD SIDE

SET IN THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY, ELVASTON CASTLE AND ITS GROUNDS PROVIDE A MEMORABLE SAUNTER FOR JO VAUGHAN



JUST FOUR miles from the centre of Derby stands Elvaston Castle, surrounded by over 200 acres of wood, parkland and formal gardens, with the quiet and secluded Elvaston Castle Club site right on its doorstep. The castle is a Gothic Revival masterpiece, designed in the early 1800s and based on the site's original house which was built in 1633 for the 3rd Earl of Harrington. It remained within the family

until the estate was sold in 1968, and since then the council has operated it as a country park. You can't visit the house, but there is a wonderful little tearoom within the courtyard, as well as a small shop. What you can explore to your heart's content are the many acres of wood and parkland, incorporating a lake, picnic areas, a children's play area and formal gardens. Our walk takes in some of the outlying

land, which is laced with good gravel paths and tracks, making this an easy afternoon stroll that everyone can enjoy. Sadly, the lack of funding and attention from the council has resulted in the castle running heavily into disrepair. As a consequence, it is rarely open to the public, and there is a continuing fight to save both the fortification and its grounds from being sold to a hotel chain. So visit soon – you may not get another chance.



General information

NEAREST CLUB SITE: Elvaston Castle Country Park Caravan Club Site, Borrowwash Road, Elvaston, Derby DE72 3EP. Tel 01332 573735.
DISTANCE: 3 miles/4.8km
TERRAIN: Good footpaths – mostly suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs
NUMBER OF STILES: 0
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: Ordnance Survey Explorer 259 – Derby, Uttoxeter, Ashbourne and Cheadle
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy
REFRESHMENTS: Elvaston Castle
TOILETS: Elvaston Castle

Tourist information

Derby TIC, Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby DE1 3AH. Tel 01332 255802.

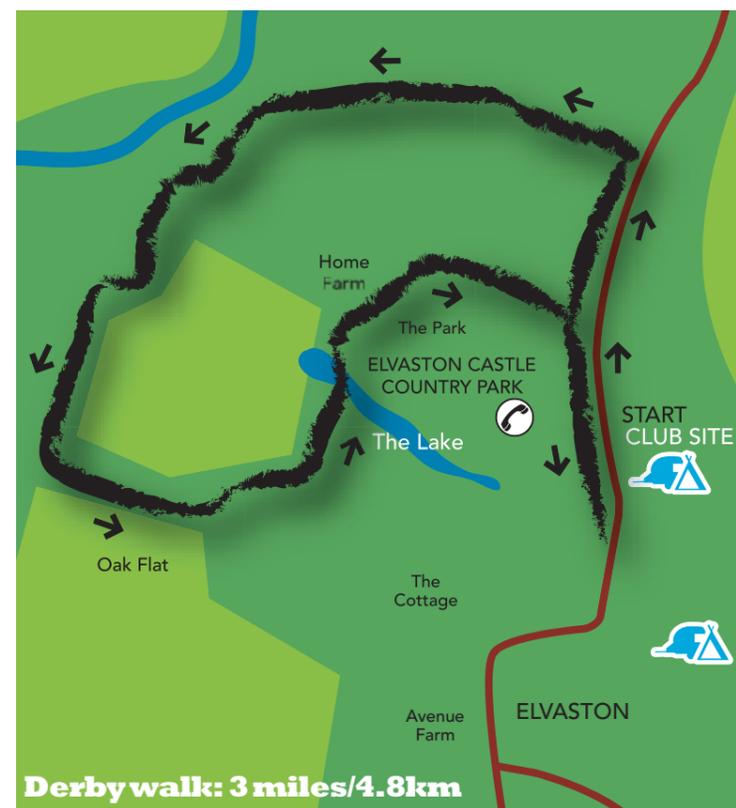


DIRECTIONS

- 1 Leave the Club site gates and turn right towards the road. At the road, turn left along the tarmac footpath.
- 2 Continue along the road, past a traffic light sign, but just before the 'Beware, Bridge' sign, at some black gates, turn left. Walk past some boulders, and continue through a wooden gate following the 'National Cycle Network, Route 6' sign.
- 3 Follow the path as it bends to join the river. Keep the river to your right. Just past the end of the weir, turn left

- 4 down a smaller gravel path, past an electricity pylon.
- 4 Continue ahead down the gravel path. At a large path crossroads turn left following the 'Elvaston Castle' sign. Keep straight ahead at another junction, and at a small red-brick bridge.
- 5 At a T-junction marked with a white horseshoe sign, turn left following the 'Park, Centre and Castle' signs. Continue until you're almost at the castle, passing through two concrete columns and past what looks like an old chapel on your left.

- Here, unless you fancy a cuppa at the teasop, which is straight ahead, immediately turn left following a white horseshoe sign and arrow, signposted 'Car park' and 'Showground'.
- 6 At the crossroads ignore the 'Car park' and 'Showground' signs and continue straight ahead.
- 7 Pass through a wooden gate across a lane, and then past another wooden gate. Pass through yet another wooden gate and turn right at the road junction. Walk past the toilets and return to the site.



Derby walk: 3 miles/4.8km



Local attractions

- **Elvaston Castle Country Park**, Borrowwash Road, Elvaston, Derby DE72 3EP. Tel 01332 571342. A 200-acre country park with woodland, landscaped parking and formal English gardens with exhibition, shop and tearoom. Disabled access – to much of the grounds
- **Royal Crown Derby Visitor Centre**, 194 Osmaston Road, Derby DE23 8JZ. Tel 01332 712800 or see royal-crown-derby.co.uk. Large displays of china dating from 1750 and guided working factory tours. Disabled access – all ramped and accessible apart from the museum
- **Derby City Museum and Art Gallery**, The Strand, Derby DE1 1BS. Tel 01332 716659 or see derby.gov.uk/museums. Displays of porcelain, paintings and antiques, as well as information on local history and hands-on activities for children. Disabled access – fully accessible