

Amberaid 30 – Route notes

Starting from High Ashes duckpond (a socially acceptable send off) follow the footpath east across the fields to the pedestrian gate on the RH side of the farm in front of you. Aim for the marshall who will see you across the road. It is a blind summit so heed the marshal's instructions.

Left down the road for 70m before turning right over stile onto farm lane. Follow lane until it forks and take the grassy RH fork. Cross stile continue straight down, through large stone gate posts and turn right on FP over stile into field. Head SW to field corner, cross stile and hug field boundary on right until FP veers over field SW to the left of a small building in the dip.

Cross stile straight on to a mangled metal gate, through and up track to farm. In the farm the FP turns right (in front of grey tractor) and over a stile into a house garden. Take care, stile is a peculiar angle! Through drive gate (please close gate) to road and left until final house on right. Through stone squeeze and on to pastures heading SE before eventually reaching track.

On track to road junction. Caution here! Road is narrow and restricted by buildings yet cars still drive fast! Turn L to phone box then right. After 100m right again (Brownhills Lane) and climb up to junction (500m). Cross road junction with care to take footpath straight ahead.

Climb through heather to the rock, catch your breath before turning right for a few metres and then descend down worn stone steps on the left heading to Ashover village. Keep straight on until you reach a lane, turn left until you see an narrow opening in the RH stone wall. Follow this FP down steps under arch and then continue straight down.

Under another arch and reach a kissing gate. Straight on right hand field boundary to kissing gate and then right at the road. 50m then left at the junction follow road downhill through Ashover village until junction. Cross road with care to bridleway on left of The Old Poets Corner PH.

Caution, route very rough downhill here so exercise care, cross the river Amber and gradually climb until you see a pedestrian gate on left, go through and up worn stone steps over pasture. At path junction go straight on to track and at next track junction go straight on FP to the woods.

Climb through woods reaching a clearing (disused quarry), keep climbing and eventually path becomes a slim tarmac track. Look out for pedestrian gate on left, through this and follow path along bottom edge of field for 250m pass a fallen tree and to the pedestrian gate on LH fence.

Through gate and down 3 steps lies **self clip 1**, then descend between old standing stone squeezers to reach wooden steps heading L steep downhill (some steps are deteriorated so exercise caution). Follow path through undergrowth until a faint path on right (this will be taped). Pass in front of a large stone cottage (uninhabited) to faint path beyond yellow skip to reach and climb over stile.

Keep on left field boundary through corner gap to a hidden stile and then through field heading East to next stile. Aim 100° up slope to reach stile and on to lane. Turn left and pass posh house head down drive by electric gates and after passing house on right, TR onto FP. Through 2 metal gates on to field then 170° through fields to gate onto road.

Right on road to junction, fast road so exercise caution and listen to marshal's instructions. Straight over onto stony track down into dip and then up (likely to be muddy) track peters out as you reach

field, follow RH boundary to squeeze and straight over next field through stone wall before turning L up hill to farm.

In field corner is a stone stile with a pallet 'gate' go through ensuring pallet remains in place, through another and then straight over farm drive to metal gate above stone steps. Through this then follow up hill, briefly on the drive but then TR on to FP (**do not continue up drive – private**).

Follow path through trees, to a metal gate at top and into a field, head 200° across field to stile and on to road. Take care, straight road – high speed cars and cyclists!. L up road to **self clip 2** at first green gate at Highoredish view point car park. (view from here is the Amberaid cover photo).

Continue along road and after farm turn left on rough track and left again on tarmac road around and steeply down to first house on right. Follow FP onto drive and then over stone stile R of drive. Keep to LH field boundary until reaching the corner of a wood, over stile into wood and then steep down in wood to next field.

LH boundary across field to next gate and take care as stepping out onto road. L on road and then R onto another field. Follow path to FP junction and then take the R FP over fields and stile heading towards the houses. Through gate and onto lane heading through houses (Brackenfield).

At junction with road, cross with care to travel along large village green following road south, at minor junctions keep straight on gentle uphill to Wessington. At main road junction keep Lon path and pass pub, road junction and chip shop to reach **CP1** at village green car park. Check in with marshals. (9.5 miles)

Cross busy main road via pedestrian island and head back up hill to Slack Lane on left, follow lane for 800m to FP on L. Cross stile into field and diagonally down to corner through hedge and down to wood. Over footbridge and into wood.

After 30m turn on RH FP and emerge out of wood on RH field boundary. Cross lane and keep on to KG on R. Through and follow this hedge line for next 4 fields In final field head diagonally to top LH field corner and over stile into narrow woodland. Rough path with hidden obstacles so take care as you progress to Wheatcroft hamlet. Road is narrow with blind bend ahead so cross with care to climb steps straight ahead.

Follow drive ahead to pass houses and onto grass in front of final house. KG down on L into pasture and climb following the trod in a southerly direction. After 400m metres reach field corner by gate and pass through heading 180° up slope and to pedestrian gate at road. Close gate chain behind you!

Continue bearing 180° over stone walls and down to small farm. Onto farm drive and L to road. R at road and straight on at LH road bend heading up track to Cliff farm. Keep straight on past farm and house, through gate and up wood sheltered path eventually climbing to meet path junction at Crich quarry.

Turn R and follow path around quarry fence down past tram lines (beware of vintage trams!) and straight on down path into woodland. **This whole section from the quarry to the far end of the canal is popular with walkers / bikers so exercise caution / respect / distancing.** Keep on main path down hill to reach small caravan site then L on tarmac drive to reach road.

Cross road with care turn R for 30m and then L onto FP. Follow FP across fields and into wood and then the stony track down through wood for 1km to reach road crossing. Cross with care to reach

metal gate and **self clip 3** right of gate before continuing down track to Cromford canal. Cross bridge over canal and turn L to follow canal for the next 3km to its terminus.

At end of canal follow path left uphill, over stile and up through clearing before veering right onto grassy track. Follow this for 450m reaching a sloping meadow and metal gate leading NE on another grassy track to wooden gate and stone track sheltered by trees.

At main road cross with care (busy and limited visibility) listen to marshal's instructions. Carry straight on down into Fritchley, through the village and eventually dropping into a steep downhill R/L s-bend. 80M m past bend and take FP into field on R.

When it splits take L FP and when this splits in small woodland take path straight through hedge and then L up LH field boundary to cross minor road. Straight on up track, through KG and on to FP junction. Do not cross stile, instead take footpath heading R towards old windmill ruin.

Follow path over fields to farm track, L on track and follow as it curves into small farm (Bass pub sign on building gable). Look for barn on your LH side – KG is to the R of this barn. Into field down in front of house with Tibetan flag (cue everyone Google Tibetan flag!) down to hidden squeeze in stone wall trees enclosure R 8m and another hidden squeeze out of trees into field.

Down field, cross road with care and on to FP ahead. Follow FP as it turns L after 100m metres and then the obvious diagonal across field to stile and another field / stile before running parallel (below) railway line). Emerge at road turn L up road for 400m and R onto house drive. Drive gate may be closed, if so please close it behind you.

Head down drive and just before house gate is FP crossing over stream on L. Follow this as it veers around eventually passing through trees and below the ruins of Wingfield Manor. Keep on most obvious track down and at junction with track / stream, turn L. Follow this around to pass well kept houses, up steep tarmac slope and reach main road.

Turn R following road through South Wingfield for 1km until junction for High Road heading to Wessington. Keep heading down for 20m and then cross main road with care to ascend pedestrian route (by toilets) up onto High Road. Follow this for 400m to Wessington Lane, turn L and after 180m on bend take FP L into field.

Head diagonally across field down to corner, quick R and L into next field and then due North to KG. At KG it's 320° down into woods and over stream before climbing up field. Follow path 350° across fields to reach a stile and a farm track. After 50m at track junction turn L and follow track to road. Turn R at road to reach the busy main road. Cross only when safe to do so, it is particularly busy at weekends. At village green head up to **CP2** and check in / retrieve food bag. (21 miles)

Depart on lane through houses and cross road head R and 10m after house drive take FP L into field. Head diagonally to far corner, cross stile onto lane, turn R. Follow FP 70° to reach corner, through gate and up hedge to reach minor road. TR follow road into bends then FP on left heading through trees at 70°. Along FP, pass dilapidated old shelter then descend towards railway line.

At end of field TR and run parallel to rail line for 150m to take FP on left under railway bridge. Over the River Amber and over next field at 40° until FP junction near ponds. Take kissing gate in RH corner and up LH field boundary to reach road. Caution, this road is dark, narrow and pinches in at the top....exercise caution. L up road to reach junction and left again following road through the pretty village of Higham.

Keep straight on pavement at road junction with busy main road. Another 70m and then L through white gate onto Ogston Lane (**self clip 4** behind White Gate on metal sign post). Follow lane down, over bridge to another gate and TR along track heading past dam / waterworks, up the service road to road junction and TR up narrow road past small cluster of houses.

After 1.2km there is a FP through hedge on L, don't go through here cos it's overgrown, instead continue to entrance 30m further on and enter field running around boundary on R for 50m to rejoin FP heading 300° across next field, onto grassy area and with caution over road to FP opposite.

Continue along FP to next road, cross with care and head up single track road opposite for 500m to Handley village. At junction cross road and 50m up Woodhead Lane, taking FP in hedge on R. head diagonally to far corner and then follow FP along boundary for 3 fields, finally reaching 2 FP options. Take the RH path (they both go the same way!) below imposing stone wall and as the wall curves left look ahead to take FP in next field, keep to RH field boundary and through another 3 fields before joining a grassy track and up to road.

R on road and at next junction TL onto Holmgate Road and follow this for 1km. At farm take FP on L past plastic wrapped bales and through 3 fields, climb over metal stile (proper shin knocker!) over house drive and through gate to reach road. L up road and after park homes estate finishes on R take FP stile into field and up to farm. Head toward old van in corner, gate is behind that.

Close gate behind you (cattle farm). Through farm and up drive straight ahead. **Water station** is on RH side of drive just past gate posts and stone stile. There's enough bottles for 1 litre each. At end of drive cross fast road with extra care, you need to climb stile into field to the left and climb towards wood. Through wood and at top TR to follow path along high ground. After 700m enter Bolehill Wood through stone squeezer and follow main path through to road.

Continue straight along road as it eventually drops into a steep descent past a farm on your right. At road junction exercise extra care as you are on a summit, cross to steps and climb into field. Aim 320° over hillock down to KG and over bridge. Along stone flags to field corner, TR on road and R again at the lake along the dam road.

L up next road and where the road turns sharp R take the FP over stile (**self clip 5**) and then head straight on into the field. Cross next stile into woodland and keep to high path. As paths diverge keep to path heading west dropping out of wood and through small nature reserve. Leave wood / reserve over final field to climb steps in stone wall and R on road.

At road corner take tarmac track (signposted dead end) to a large poultry farm, skirt to left of farm on small track climbing to a house in trees. FP cuts across house garden in front of greenhouse.

At KG head straight on and at next field (likely hosting cattle) head 200° uphill to stone stile over next field to another farm, through metal gate into farm (keep gate closed behind you) and follow FP right up farm track past holiday lodges.

At road junction turn L and follow road enjoying your final grand views. Round the LH bend the finish is straight ahead. Light the afterburners and look tasty sprinting to the finish line marshal.

Well done! 31.4miles chalked up.