Car Free Walks – Chesterfield railway station to Royal Hospital circular

1. Come out of the railway station and turn right onto Crow Lane (you will need to cross over the road as there is no pavement on the side nearest the station). Follow the pavement downhill and under the railway bridges. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing just past the railway bridges and take the path leading past the giant snail shell. When you reach the end of this path turn left onto Wain Avenue and follow the road round to the left and across the bridge and straight on until you come to Piccadilly Road.

2. Across the road to the left a little you can see a footpath sign. Follow this narrow footpath up a steep hill until it reaches the golf course.

3. Cross over the golf course to almost directly opposite - there is a wooden marker post somewhat hidden in the bushes. As you cross the golf course look backwards for a good view of St. Mary’s Church. Watch out for flying golf balls! Follow that path until it opens out again with the golf course on your left (and a small green bin on the left). Keeping the hedge on your right walk up the hill until you are almost at the top. Just over the top of the hill before the golf hole, ignore one grass track off to the right, and take the right hand track just past the golf bunker.

4. Follow it round past a waymarker sign until you come to a fork with another waymarker sign. Take the right fork of that track and follow that until you reach the golf course again.

5. As the track emerges back onto the golf course turn 90 degrees to the right (a farm is off to your left) and cut across the golf course, on a raised mound – aiming for an opening with a sign hidden in some bushes over the other side. Follow this track which runs along the side of Peter and St Paul School until it reaches the main road (A632 - Hady Hill). To the right, next to the golf course, you might be able to see a miniature railway in the school grounds.

6. Turn immediately left down a quiet road leading to some houses and follow the fenced-off footpath which runs on the right. Just past a storage reservoir carry straight on through a grassy area between two rows of houses until you come to a hospital access road.

7. Cross over the road and carry on to the right and walk along a small road in front of houses parallel to the main road. Continue walking ahead on the grass towards the hospital car parks.

8. Cross the hospital access road here with care (or walk down to the pedestrian crossing) to the path opposite and bear left on this path which runs between two the carparks. The Main Entrance to the hospital is to the left at this point. Follow this
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path all the way round to the trees on the right beyond the carpark heading back out to the main road.

9. At the main road turn left and walk a short distance until you see a bridleway sign on the right, cross over the main road (A632 – Chesterfield Road) with care from the old pub Somerset House to Chesterfield Cycle Centre. Take this unsurfaced track (marked on OS map as Dingle Lane) and follow it past a farm until you reach a railway bridge (marked on OS map as Dingle Bank).

10. Before you go under the bridge, there is a path on the right going up the steps to the top of the embankment. Turn right at the top and follow this path which emerges on Hady Lane.

11. Cross over Hady Lane and turn right until you come to a footpath sign indicating the path through Hady Plantation.

12. Follow the main path through the plantation ignoring paths off to the right or left until you come to a fork with a waymarker sign pointing uphill. Take the right fork uphill and follow that until you come to the top of Alexandra Road East. Halfway up the hill is a bench, if needed.

13. At the top of the road, continue ahead, it soon joins another footpath, take the path to the left then go past the top of the next road (Hartington Road) and continue along the footpath that veers left heading downhill. Follow this until you come to the top of Valley Road, turn down to the left and enter the park on your right with a playground/sports field. Cut across the park which emerges onto Hady Hill.

14. Turn left down Hady Hill towards town and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing, follow the road downhill to the traffic lights. At the traffic lights turn right onto Piccadilly Rd. Cross over a safe distance from the traffic lights and take the first left, Wain Avenue.

15. Cross over to the right of Wain Avenue and turn right along the cycle path/footpath with the river on your left. Cross over at the first bridge and turn right so the river is now on your right. Follow this path until you come to the next bridge (which you crossed in step 3). Turn left and retrace your steps back to the railway station under the railway bridges.