

## Tracks of YesterYear (approx 4 - 5 miles)

This walk is a moderate walk that should take approx. 2 hours. It follows a disused railway track and Earls Drive - the main thoroughfare to Alton Towers travelled by the Earl of Shrewsbury in his horse and carriage in the 1800's. The paths are generally good. There are a couple of inclines one being quite steep.

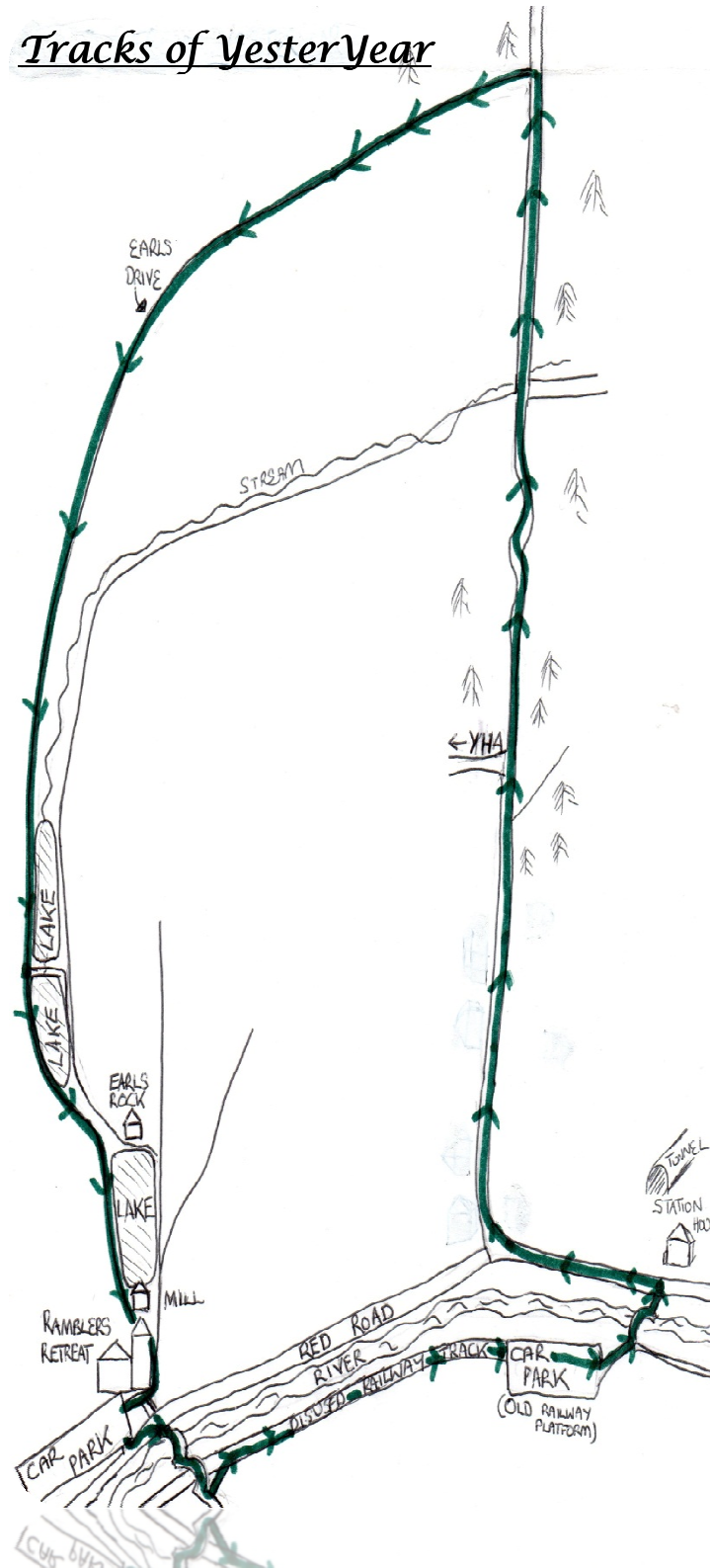
Starting point – Car Park Ramblers Retreat (postcode ST10 4BU)

### Directions:

1. Exit car park, crossing the road & through the wooden gate, walking away from the Ramblers Retreat.
2. Continue over a bridge (crossing the River Churnet) & follow path to a second bridge that crosses a disused railway track.
3. Immediately after crossing the second bridge, take sharp turning left, descending the steps onto the disused railway track.
4. Turn right onto the railway track, walking away from the bridge. The river will be on your left hand side.
5. Follow the track for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. Keep an eye open for herons on the river or in neighbouring fields. In spring, the banksides on the right will be full of bluebells.
6. Pass through the gate at the end of the track into a car park, you will see the remains of the station platform on the right hand side of the car park.
7. Walk through the car park, keeping the river on your left hand side. At the end of the car park, bear left, crossing the bridge over the river onto Mill Lane, a single track road. Stop for a moment to view the Old Station House and tunnel behind it, now home to bats!
8. Turn left onto Mill Lane and follow this quiet, single track road. The river will again be on your left hand side
9. After approx. 200 yards, the road bears right. Follow the road, right. The road ascends up and away from the river. Do not take the left hand road (Red Road).
10. Stay on this single track road for approx  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. The road will ascend passing cottages, woodlands & fields. Before winding down to the bottom of the valley,
11. At the valley bottom you'll come to a crossroads. Continue straight on and up bank on the single track road (it is quite a steep climb).
12. After about a third of a mile, towards the top of the bank, turn left onto a well-defined track. This is Earls Drive.
13. This woodland track slowly descends for approx. 1 mile back to the Ramblers Retreat for a well-deserved break! It passes three lakes on the left hand side of the track. Take time to enjoy the views & keep an eye open for an unusual Round House, located in the fields on the opposite side of the lakes..

See map opposite

## Tracks of YesterYear



## *Suggested Walks round Dimmingsdale*



are many walks around Dimmingsdale, ranging from gentle strolls to half day hikes. leaflet has been produced by Helen from the Ramblers Retreat and details a couple of suggested walks so you can enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of this valley.

note, distances and timescales are estimates & should only be used as a guide.

paths are maintained by Forestry Commission & Shropshire County Council & vary from hard-core paved tracks to muddy paths, therefore sensible footwear is recommended.

Dimmingsdale is a special place and we ask all visitors to follow the Forest Code to ensure it is protected

- Leave no litter;
  - Protect trees, plants and wildlife;
  - Keep dogs under control & clean up after them;
  - Have things as you find them, take nothing away;
  - Guard against risk of fire;
- avoid damaging fences, hedges, walls or buildings

for more information about Dimmingsdale, visit  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/england](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england).

## *A gentle, picturesque stroll.*

If you are looking for a very gentle stroll then follow the directions below.

This is a picturesque walk passing two lakes, streams, woodland and rocky outcrops.

It is an easy, flat walk suitable for small children or those who simply cannot walk very far. It is also suitable for pushchairs.

At a gentle pace it will take approx. ¾ hour.

Starting point – Car Park at Ramblers Retreat  
(postcode ST10 4BU)

### *Directions:*

1. Exit car park and take left-hand path past the Ramblers Retreat. The path will pass a converted Smelting Mill located on the right hand side of the path.
2. You will reach a lake, located on right hand side of the path. Here you can enjoy beautiful views of the lake and valley. Children can also feed the ducks that live on the lake.
3. Continue on this path, passing woodland on your left and streams on your right. On your left, you may be able to see an outcrop of sandstone rock which looks like a lion's head, however when the trees are in full bloom it may be difficult to view.
4. Follow this path until you arrive at a second lake, again located on the right hand side of the path.
5. When ready, simply turn around and retrace your steps back to the Ramblers Retreat car park.

## *Castle View Walk*

