



## Buxton Heath and Stratton Strawless

This walk begins at the Bure Valley Railway car park in Buxton which can be found at the end of Stracey Road near the school. If you are intending to visit the Black Lion, you may wish to start there instead (check opening times).

1. From the car park, proceed down Stracey Road to the end where you turn right into the main Aylsham Road.
2. Cross over Aylsham Road and follow the pavement towards a junction (A). The main road turns sharp right, but you continue straight on down Crown Road past an arcade of shops.
3. At the top of the road, beside the Black Lion, cross the road (B) and take the track immediately ahead to enter Dudwick Park.
4. Follow the path through parkland towards Dudwick House (C) straight ahead
5. At the entrance to Dudwick house follow the wall round to the right and pass between it and Dudwick Cottage (D), the older of the two buildings.
6. Beyond the buildings the track rises slightly and meets another track at a cross-roads. Turn left and follow the track down and then round to the right, through woods.
7. The path dog-legs round Ivy Farm and leads you to a gate. Pass through this into an open field and follow the path over a bridge to the end of the field. Evidence of Roman activity has been found in this area (E).
8. At the end of the field go through another gate and follow a track straight on and slightly up hill.
9. The road becomes metalled and eventually leads to a group of farm buildings where it joins a main road. Continue straight on keeping the Church (F) on your right.
10. As the road swings right, take the road that goes straight on past Church Cottages (G). Proceed on this for 100yds, then take the left-hand road and follow this until it reaches a T-junction with a major road.
11. At the T junction cross over and take the footpath slightly left across a field (not the track going straight on). Head towards a group of houses in the distance.

12. The path enters "The Heath" via a grassy track. Follow this past the quiet hamlet of Buxton Heath, turning left to head towards a phone box. In the phone box you will find a potted history of the area.
13. Turn left onto the road and follow it round and downhill past the site of a Baptist Chapel (H). This is known as Gallows Hill(I).
14. Just before the main road, at a crossroads, turn right until you reach a footpath sign by a thicket of woods on the left. Follow this into the woods but turn right before you reach a modern housing estate. Follow the path until it re-joins the road near a junction.
15. At the junction with the main road, turn left towards the Church.
16. After the church proceed past the schools (J) and turn back up Stracey Road to the car park where you started.

*Historical notes taken from the North Heritage Explorer website, unless otherwise stated*

<https://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/home>

#### **A. Crown Inn**

A 17th century pub, of brick on a flint plinth. It has an ornately shaped east gable. Now a private house.

#### **B. Roman road, Brampton to Thorpe St Andrew**

This is supposedly part of the Roman road that ran from Brampton to Thorpe St Andrew. Archaeological interventions have so far failed to identify any trace of this road, including a trial trench that was excavated across its line in 1973.

#### **C. Dudwick House.**



This appears to be the site of the original Dudwick Manor house. It is thought to have been rebuilt in the seventeenth century and in Whites 1845 History of Norfolk it is described as an ancient mansion with a well wooded lawn and good estate, belonging to John Wright, the occupant, and formerly the seat of the family of Dudwick. In 1842 the young John Wright made extensive alterations to the house. There are pictures of the old house in 1935 before it was rebuilt by the Briscoes with

R.G.Carter as builder and Sir Guy Dauber as architect in 1938 after they inherited it from Ted Sewell.

#### **D. Dudwick Cottage.**

Originally the farmhouse, and probably dates from the seventeenth century. It was occupied by the Wrights and then the Sewells from 1830 - 1937. It gives evidence of having been several times added to and altered. In 1872 Philip Sewell added rooms on its west end.

"House. Possibly 17th century in origin with 18th century remodelling and a 19th century block to north, forming a double pile. Limewashed brick; flint with red brick dressings at southwest corner. Pantiled roofs, hipped over 19th century range. Two storeys and attics; later range of two storeys."

### **E. Undated iron working site**

In 1958 pieces of iron slag were recovered from this location. This debris may relate to a metal working site of unknown date.

A possible Roman kiln has been excavated approximately 250m southwest of this find (NHER 31783), indicating possible small-scale industrial activity within the surrounding area. Additional slag finds have been recorded at NHER 7638, NHER 15448, and NHER 7644.

### **F. St Margaret's Church, Stratton Strawless**

This church has Saxo-Norman origins, but is also notable for incorporating a great quantity of Roman tile in the 14th century chancel. The tower dates to the 15th century but has been subject to several alterations. Inside, one of the aisles contains the very important 17th century Marsham tombs. However, much of the interior was remodelled in the Gothick style in around 1830.

Historic Building Recording during conservation work to the monuments in the south aisle. The monument to Thomas Marsham was dismantled revealing an opening to a previously unrecorded rood stair. These discoveries also suggests that the Gothick interior is the result of the late 19th century restoration. Bone handled iron knife found within monument of c.1638.

### **G. 1 and 2 Church Road**

This pair of cottages date to the late 18th century. They are built from red brick with pantile roofs. The cottages have three-light casements and parapeted gables with internal chimneystacks.

### **H. Site of former Buxton Heath Baptist Chapel and burial ground**

This is the site of the former Buxton Heath Particular Baptist Chapel, also known as 'Heath Chapel'. It was built in 1796. The chapel is recorded as having been demolished although a small outbuilding of early 19th century date remains. Monuments dating between 1837 and 1864 are listed as mounted on the front wall.

### **I. Site of a post medieval gallows, Gallows Hill**

The site of a post medieval gallows mound, levelled in the 18th century.

Field is not on a hill which confirms that the name came from a mound. It does however rise slightly to some old trees at its highest point, but these now surround a modern shed (this may be just in the next parish).

### **J. St Andrew's Church, Buxton**

The church consists of a west tower, nave, chancel, north and south aisles with chapels and a south west vestry. Construction is of flint, with limestone dressings and some brick. The chancel is 13th century, the aisles, nave and north chapel 14th century. The tower, south porch and south chapel were added or rebuilt in the 15th/16th centuries, when new windows were placed in the rest of the church. 19th century restoration included rebuilding the tower and south porch, and adding a north porch and a vestry.

Early English sedilia and piscina, and priests door. Decorated aisles chancel arch and north chapel; one window of this period. Mostly Perpendicular with windows, south porch and tower (but these rebuilt) and south chapel. Former vestry or priest's house to southwest. Tower and vestry rebuilt 1852, porch and roofs 1881; north porch added. Contains some interesting tombs. Restored part of rood screen.

#### K. Former Buxton Infant School

The small two-roomed school was built in 1855. The building is constructed in a plain cottage style from brick with a mixture of clay pantiles and slate roof. Since closure before 1940 the building has been converted into a private dwelling.

#### Buxton Primary School

The school was built in 1833 by John Wright but there is little of this original building still visible due to modern extensions.

