

Geographygeek Explorer Trail 3: Castle Gresley, Derbyshire (3 miles)



Really Important Health and Safety bit:

- Make sure you take someone responsible with you on this walk.
- Pay attention as you are walking as there are steep drops along this route.
- Look both ways when crossing the roads.
- Wear footwear suitable for uneven (and sometimes muddy) paths.

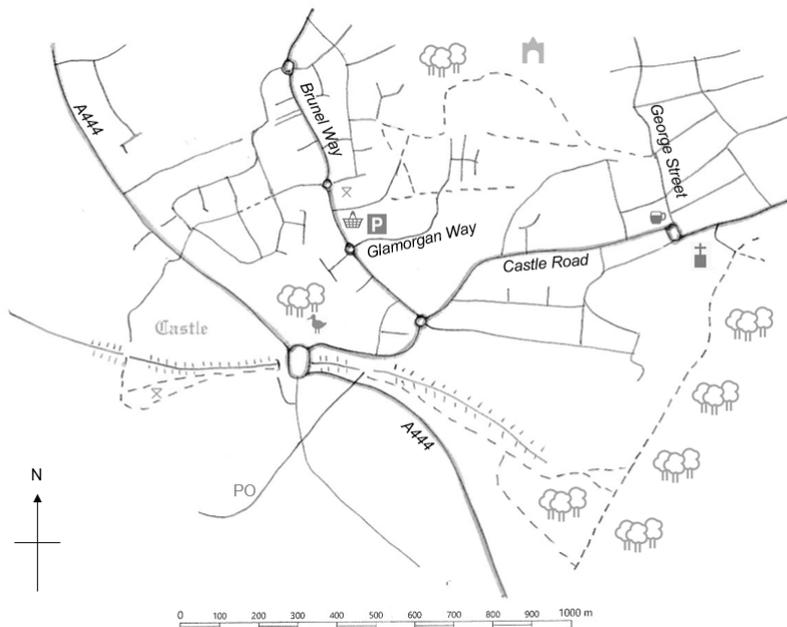


Start your walk in the car park by Sainsburys Local on Glamorgan Way (DE11 9GB). **P** This is a free car park.

You will also need:

- A compass or a compass app

Fill in the boxes to answer the questions as you go along. For now, ignore all of the small letters that are shown in the bottom of some of the boxes, but try not to write over them as you'll need them later!



KEY	
P	Car park
	Church with a tower
	Historic building
	Shop
	Pub
	Woodland
	Castle
	Post Office
	Picnic/play area
	Nature reserve
	Railway line
	Footpath



1. From the car park, walk NNE, in between the Spice Touch restaurant and Gresleydale Health Centre. This takes you onto a footpath that runs roughly east to west. Walk to the west. Look out for 'Fairy Glen', a temporary settlement for fairies that can sometimes be found to the north of this path.
2. When the footpath reaches the main road, cross over and bear 350° north along Brunel Way. Walk to the roundabout and take a bearing of 265°.

What is the name of this road?

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- Continue along and cross over Hope Way/Edinburgh Road into Morley Walk. At the very start of Morley Walk there is a green plastic container beneath the signpost.

What has the green container got in it? (hint: you don't need to open it, it says on the top!)

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- Continue all the way along Morley Walk (you'll need to cross Hope Way a second time) until you reach Suffolk Way. Cross over Suffolk Way and take a bearing of 208° SSW into Plymouth Walk.

What colour are the metal fences either side of Plymouth Walk?

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- At the end of Plymouth Walk, carefully cross the busy road, walk slightly to the right and then take a bearing of 225° SW into Mount Road. Walk along this road, counting the street lamps, until you reach house numbers 16 and 18 on the right.

How many street lamps have you passed on Mount Road?

- There is a green 'public footpath' sign on your left, so follow it on a bearing of 120° SE. This will take you through to the site of a Motte and Bailey castle (a castle on a hill with a moat around it). The castle isn't there anymore, but there is a sign at the bottom.

What is the name of the castle?

d	r				

- Carefully climb to the top of the hill. Once at the top, look 180° S down to a cold war nuclear shelter below. This shelter is locked as it isn't safe so you shouldn't try to enter it. Whilst on the top of the hill, look at the tree growing out of the top (picture below). Use the images below to identify the tree.

What type of tree is growing here?



Source: Woodland Trust Nature Detectives.

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- Come back down the hill and either go back and re-join the road (and then bear 195° SSW) or continue through the field on a bearing of 205° SSW and re-join the road further along.
- Continue in a southerly direction and cross the railway bridge at the end. Once over the bridge you will see Cluckinghen Palace Farm gate to your right. Once outside that gate, walk for 40 paces and stop.

What products are for sale?

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10. Shortly after you will reach a sign for Mount Road and a green public footpath sign pointing to your left. Bear east through the metal gateway and onto the footpath. There is a bench to your left and a small wooden sculpture ahead.

What type of bird is shown in the sculpture?

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11. You may be able to see the stream to your right. You will pass two bridges and the path will slowly go uphill. You will come to another metal gate, which opens out to a field and house on the right. There is an arrow on the tree, which shows that this is a recognised footpath.

What colour is the arrow on the tree to the right of the metal gate?

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12. Walk through the gate. The railway is to your left. Keep going on a bearing of approximately 90° E until you reach a stile (a small wooden fence that can be stepped across). Cross the stile and bear 160° past some houses.
13. When you reach the junction with Burton Road, cross over and bear 174° S. At the first opportunity, bear 45° NE. This is Bridge Street, which is a dead end for cars. This is shown with a sign that looks like a red and white T.

What colour is the background to this 'T' sign?

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14. Walk all the way along this road and you will see a tunnel that goes beneath the A444 road above. As you walk through the tunnel, look out for the words PASSING THE CASTLE that appear in the tiles beneath. There are two numbers after these words that show when the tunnel was built.

When was the tunnel built?

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15. Once through the tunnel, you will see a railway bridge ahead. Before the bridge, bear 102° ESE. Pass a National Forest sign and there is a second on this path. It says 'Forestry Commission England' at the top and gives the name of these woods.

What is the name of the woods?

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			x		

16. Follow this track through trees and past the railway to your left. The bearing changes from 102° to 122°.

17. Eventually the trees will begin to clear and you will reach a fork in the path, where a gravel path follows a bearing of 150° and a grass path follows a bearing of 110°. Here you can choose between the easier (but longer) path and the harder (but shorter) path! Both will lead to the same place.

<p>Easier (but longer) path.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the gravel path on a bearing of 150°. • Follow the path around to 200° and then 135° until you reach a crossroad. • Bear 30° NNE at the crossroad. 	<p>Harder (but shorter) path.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the grass path on a bearing of 110°. • When the path forks, walk on a bearing of 50° (not the fork that goes out to 100°). • There is a sharp drop to the left and you will see that you are passing over the railway tunnel. Take care here! • You will come to a white arrow and the path starts to go uphill on a bearing of around 125°. Follow this path around as it winds through the trees. • The path then joins up with another, but you'll keep heading roughly SE. • 45 paces after joining the last path, there will be a fork. Bear 75° (rather than 140°). • After 20 more paces you will reach another fork, where you bear 60° (rather than 145°). • These paths are generally well-worn, but if ever in doubt, keep going to the east and you'll eventually come out in the right place! • You will eventually join up a path that runs on a bearing of 30° NNE.
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18. Continue to walk at approximately 30° until you pass through some trees and then reach a field on your left hand side. On a clear day, you will see housing in the distance. Midway along this path there are 4 metal bars (old railway tracks) sticking up out of the ground. Walk through them and continue along, on a bearing of around 40°. When the field on the left disappears, you will see signs for Church Gresley Plantation on your left.

What phone number can people call for more information about this plantation?

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19. Don't go into the plantation, but keep to your original path. The path will meander slightly, but always continue roughly to the north. Near to the end of this path, you will pass Cotton Haulage and Integrex to your left.

What colour is the sign for Integrex?

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20. Bear 345° until the road bends and then follow it 45° NE. Cross over Church Street and bear 285°. You will pass the church and come to a roundabout with the Miner's Arms pub. Bear to the north and walk along George Street on a bearing of 25° NNE. Pass Chapel Street and Oxford Street to the east.
21. When you reach Windmill Street you will see a gate on the opposite side of the road. Go through the gate and follow the path. There is a small fork near the start of the path, but this just goes around a tree and meets up again so take either route!

22. Continue in a NW direction until you come to a crossroads in the paths with a gap in the fence in front. Go through the gap and bear 10° NNE towards Gresley Old Hall.

How many windows can you count above the front door to Gresley Old Hall?

23. Walk around the southern edge of the hall and around the south of the other buildings found alongside. When the buildings stop, there is a gap in between the buildings and the woodland. It looks like there should be a fence here, but it is a well-worn permissible route, which means that you can go through here.
24. Walk through and follow a bearing of 295° NW. Follow the path until it forks. Take the path bearing 160° SSE (rather than the path bearing 300° NW). This path winds a little, but will eventually take you to the south east and bring you onto a housing estate.
25. Don't go into the housing estate, but bear immediately to the west, following a path to the right of a black metal fence. When the fence stops, take the grass path (on a bearing of approximately 220°).
26. Follow this grass path, bearing 220° (rather than 255°) when the path forks. When you reach a crossroads, go straight ahead on a bearing of 205°. Look at the sign for Castle Hill Wood.

What type of bird lives around here? (hint: the sign says it has an orange-red tail and breast)

27. Continue down the hill until you reach a path running roughly east to west. Follow the path to the west. You will soon reach the car park where you started.

NOW USE THE ANSWERS TO CRACK THE CODE AND COMPLETE THE INFORMATION ABOUT CASTLE GRESLEY:



Castle Gresley is a settlement of around ,000 people in South Derbyshire. It lies around m above sea level. It's location in the of the country means that temperatures here can get very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. The settlement lies on a rock called stone, which was formed over 300 million years ago during the Carboniferous Period. This rock contained valuable and so many mines were located here. To the south of Castle Gresley (along Mount Pleasant Road) is of much younger stone. This area is part of the National Forest, which was set up in 19 . This means that lots of trees grow here.