

ahead, skirting the edge of the wood next to the stone wall. (Over the wall are views of the Hurt family home, Alderwasley Hall, and their estate.)


6. Follow the path and go over the boardwalks. Continue straight ahead, climbing through the woodland. Take care to keep away from the old quarry edge. Keep children and pets under close control.

7. At the top of the hill take time to look at the view. Take care near the edge. There are good views down the Derwent valley. Landmarks such as Heage windmill and Crich Stand can be seen on a clear day.

8. Join the path again and follow it as it gently travels down through the wood. Eventually the path joins a wider path. Do not follow the path to the YHA but follow the path ahead. At the junction turn left to continue downhill.

This area of the wood belongs to the Grith Pioneers. The Grith Pioneers group originally began life as the Grith Fryd, or Citizens Peace Army. They were formed in the early 1930s, a time of great social deprivation especially amongst the working class. Unemployed young men were given the opportunity to live a lifestyle which encouraged self-sufficiency and co-operation with others, coupled with the chance to be part of and to understand their natural environment. The pioneers still uphold their original ideals and welcome folks into Shining Cliff Woods so that their beauty can be enjoyed by all.

9. At the bottom of the hill turn right to travel back the way you came through the old wireworks. Follow the path along the bottom of the wood and turn left along Holly Lane. Cross the A6 (beware of traffic). Turn left and then right to go under the railway bridge, right again, and right again up the wooden steps and back to the railway car park.

<b>WALK TYPE</b>	Hilly countryside with several steep climbs
<b>DISTANCE</b>	4 miles (6.8 km)
<b>TIME</b>	Allow 3 hours
<b>BUSES</b>	For up-to-date information call Barton/Trent busline on Derby (01332) 292200
<b>TRAINS</b>	For up-to-date information call rail enquiries 0345 484950
<b>WAYMARKING</b>	
<b>OS MAP</b>	Pathfinder (1: 25,000) Belper SK 24/34 Landranger (1: 50,000) 119 Buxton & Matlock

#### PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Fasten all gates.
- Keep your dogs under close control.
- Keep to public paths around farmland.
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- Take your litter home.
- Help to keep all water clean.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Take special care on country roads.
- Make no unnecessary noise.



Amber Valley  
Borough  
Council



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**AMBER VALLEY ROUTEWAYS**

**Walk 12**

**Betty Kenny Walk (Ambergate)**

**Circular**

**Start** Ambergate railway station car park (Grid Ref. 348 516)

1. Walk down the wooden steps and onto the road that leads to the A610. Turn left to go under the railway bridge and left again to walk along the A6.

2. Cross the road (beware of traffic) opposite Holly Lane. Walk down Holly Lane and over Ha'penny Bridge. Turn right and follow the single track road that runs along the bottom of the woodland. Follow the posts with the white stripes. Continue for ¼ mile and take the public footpath on the right (no vehicular access). Follow the path as it leads down through the old wire works. Continue all the way through the works following signs for the YHA until you reach the woodland. At the woodland do not continue to follow signs for the YHA but go straight ahead through the woodland (a mixture of sweet chestnut, oak and sycamore of approximately 100 years old) travelling parallel with the River Derwent and A6.

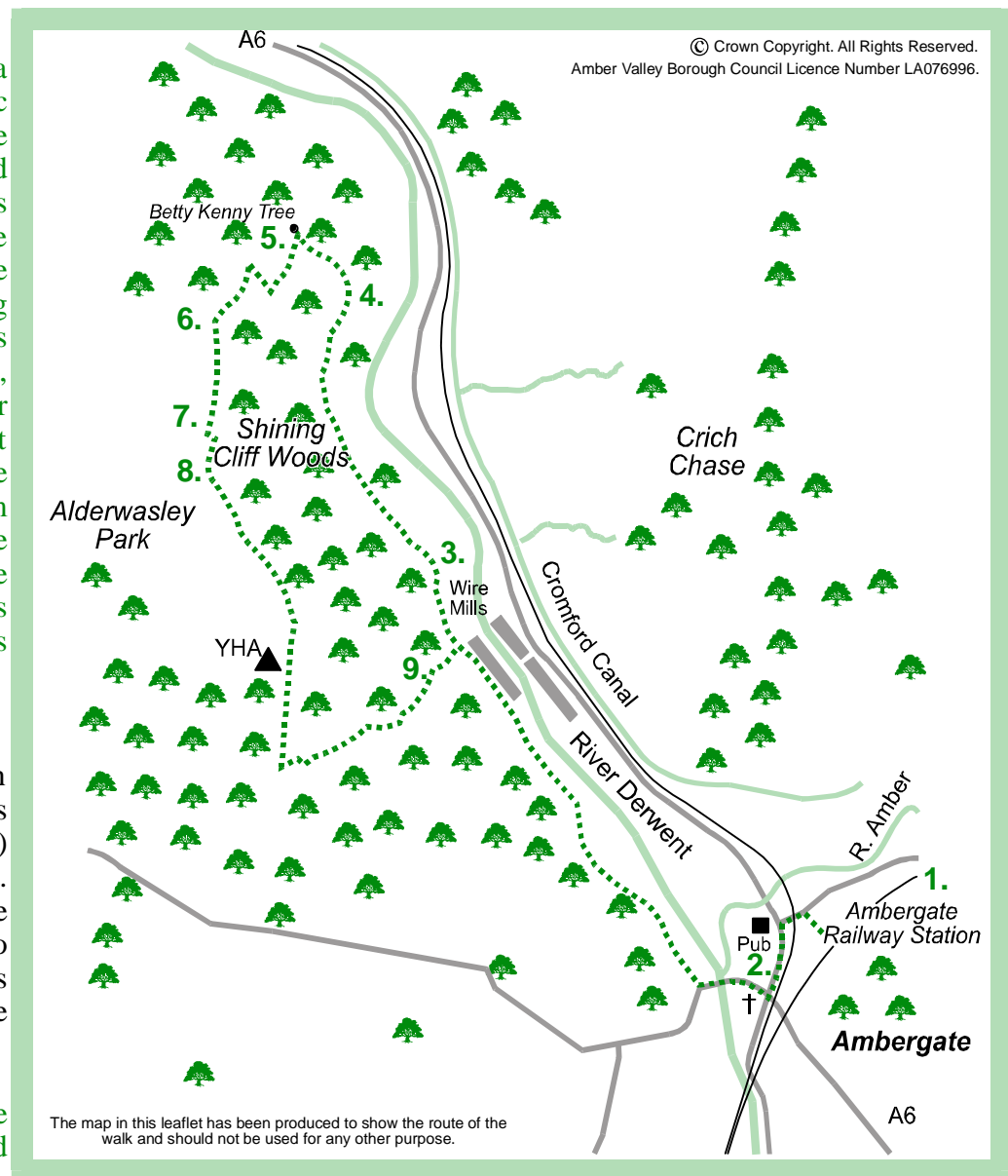
Shining Cliff Woods is a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the huge variety of plants and animals found in this ancient woodland. The wood supports a diverse bird community including warblers and flycatchers and, in the winter, bramblings and other finches. You will see that the species of trees and the management of them changes through the woodland. Notice the coppiced sycamore trees beneath which in spring is a carpet of bluebells.

4. After ½ mile take the main path on the left. Follow this uphill (marked by white posts) with pine trees on your right. Halfway up the hill take the path on your right uphill into the pine trees. The white posts lead you to the remains of the Betty Kenny Tree.

Betty Kenny (Kate Kenyon) and her husband Luke lived during the late 1700s in a huge yew tree reputed to be 2,000 years old, of which you can see the remains. Their house was formed within the yew tree. It probably had a turf roof. The Kenyons raised 8 children. A bough of the tree was hollowed out to act as a cradle for their children and local legend has it that this is the origin of the nursery

Shining Cliff Woods is an ancient woodland. It was part of a Royal Hunting Forest called Duffield Frith owned by the de Ferrers family of Duffield Castle. The family was disgraced after the Barons Revolt against Henry III; the castle was destroyed and the lands given to the king's son Edmund. Local legend has it that a local man gave his magnificent white horse as a gift to Edmund and in return received the ownership of Shining Cliff Woods. In 1690 the wood came into the ownership of the Hurt family and remained with them until several years after World War I. The majority of the woodland is now managed by Forest Enterprise.

3. Continue through the barrier and follow the path. Notice the change in tree species and the density of trees. After ¼ mile take the right fork to follow the path downhill for a short distance.



rhyme “rock-a-bye-baby”. Luke was a charcoal burner and he and Betty became favourites of the Hurt family who had their portraits painted by James Ward of the Royal Academy.

5. Follow the path beyond the Betty Kenny tree down the hill. Cross the public footpath and continue