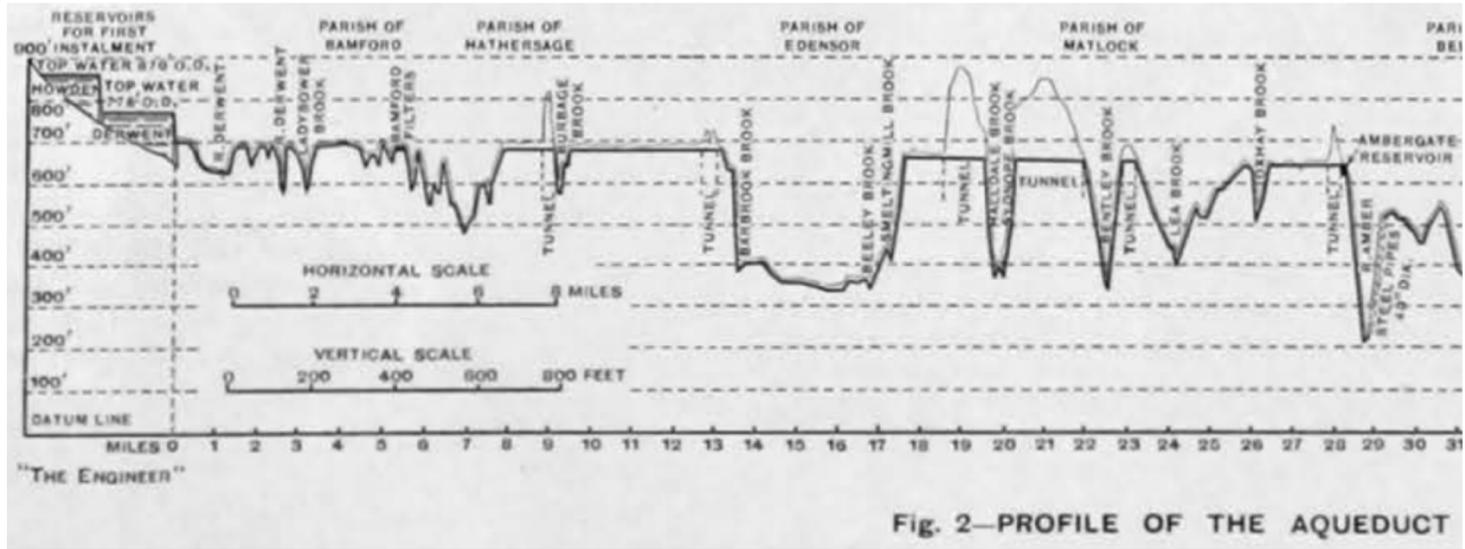


Derwent Valley Aqueduct

The DVA is longest siphon in the UK. Supplying Severn Trent's strategic grid.

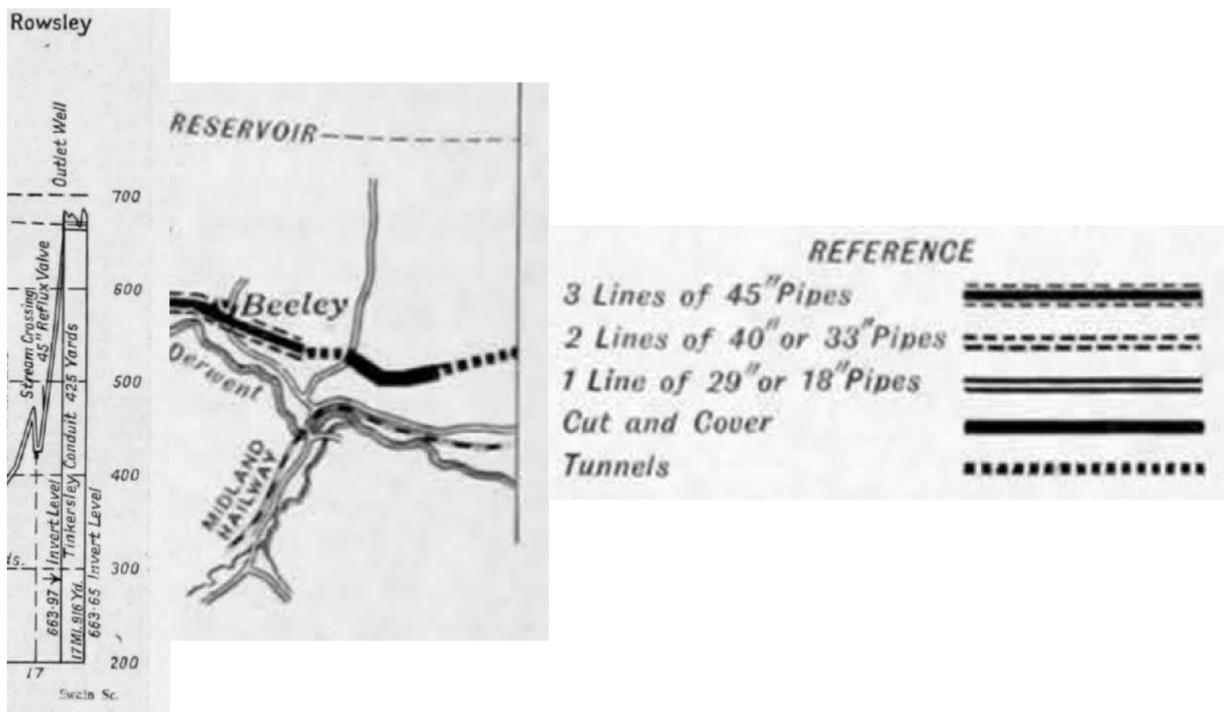


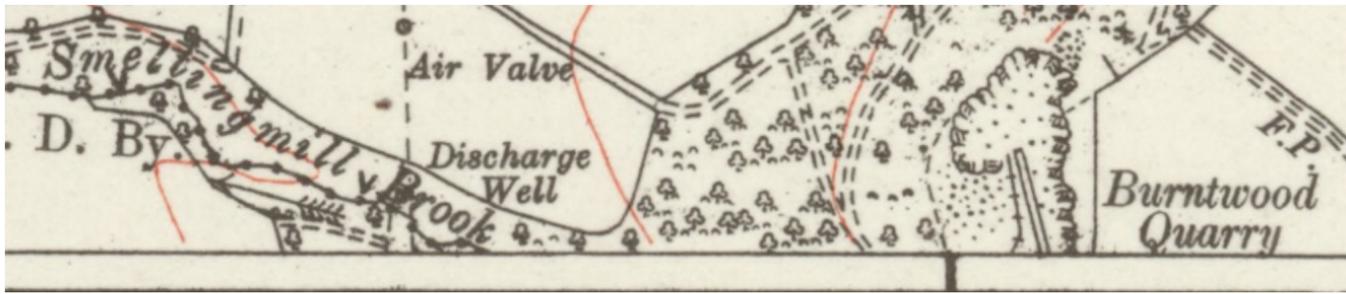
From the boundary of the Peak District at Rowsley to boundary of the Derbyshire Dales at Lea and into Crich I'm following the DVA on a bike where possible. Exploring nearby bike trails.

The 5 dales cycle route passes by the DVA between Rowsley Wood and the eastern end of Northwood Carr.

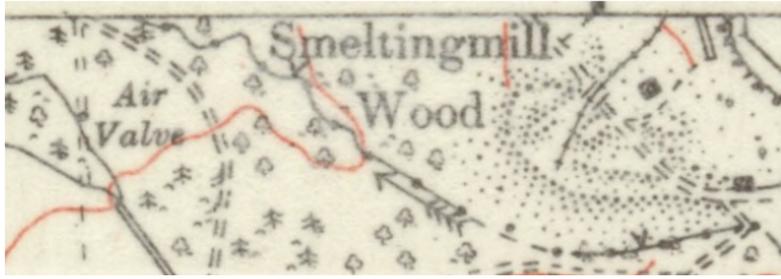


The familiar dome of the air valve could be seen across the field but had to leave the marked paths to get to the smelting mill brook

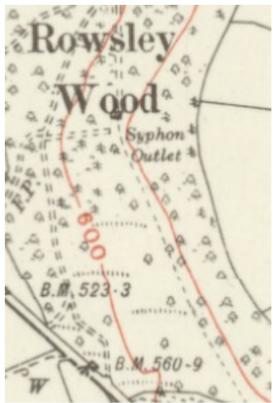




The Air Valve below may have been an overgrown square stone on the ground. The reflux valve shuts off the aqueduct in the case of a break on the lower ground at Chatsworth, they are kept open by the flow. Each reflux valve contains three doors & there are 2 valves on this side of Chatsworth!

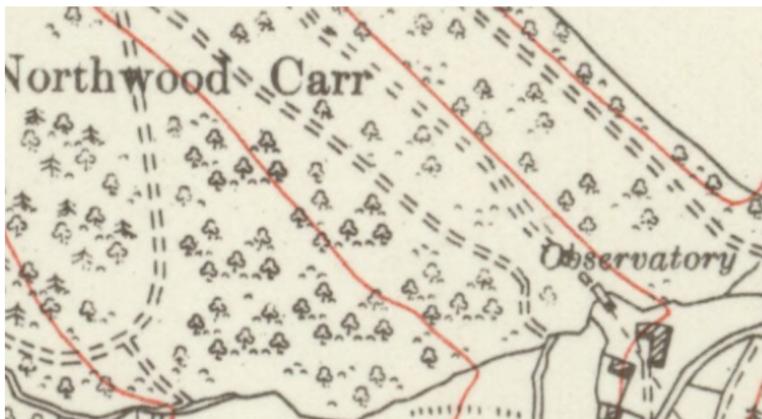


The Rowsley Wood syphon (sic) outlet the beginning of a short tunnel section under the busy road to Chesterfield out of Rowsley. Continuing as cut and cover. The rise after Smeltingmill Brook regains elevation lost after passing through Chatsworth, the DVA is now slightly higher than the top of Matlock (at the time the aqueduct was built). There is a gentle gradient down to Ambergate. The outlet contains a reflux valve.



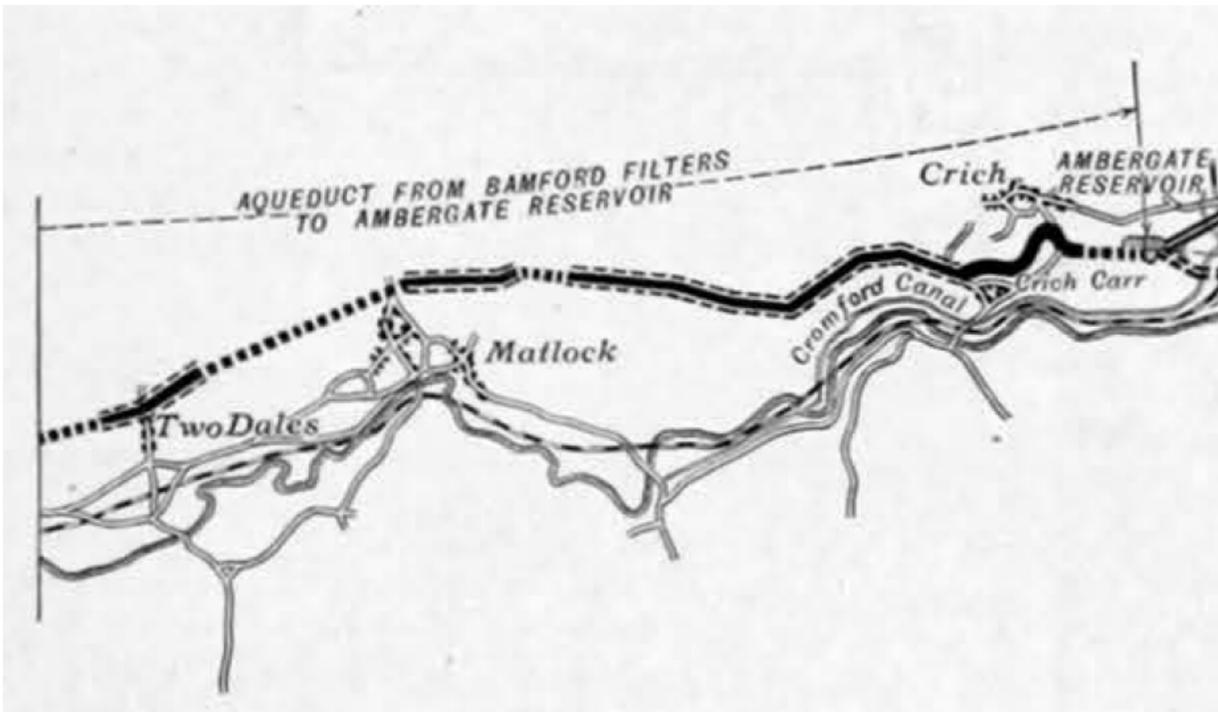
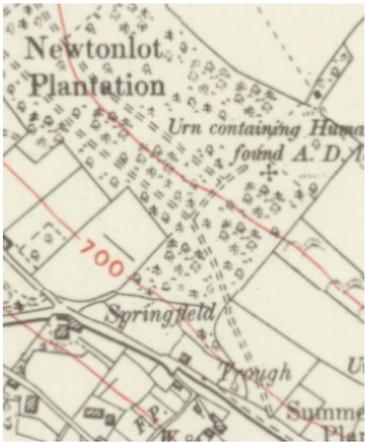
There is a lower path marked in Copy wood between the rises at Rowsley bar and Tinkersley that can be reached through a green gate from the farm lane.

There was a structure beyond the green gate at the brook in Northwood Carr and possibly one on the section described in the previous paragraph





The 5 dales cycle route enters Northwood Carr on a bridleway above & parallel to where the DVA crosses the brook. This is the end of cut and cover and the beginning of a deep tunnel section the highest ground it will pass under.



Hallmoor woods is accessible by bike containing more trails to the north east. The 1920s map shows two further markings either side of the syphon (sic) house. The end of a tunnel section. This isn't marked as a inlet, but the inlets drain into the nearest brook which is Hall dale. The syphon inlets have a gauge and a mechanism to stop the flow of water in the event of a break.

'In front of the end of each 45in. pipe there is a "float well" or vertical cast iron pipe, made in flanged segments, 4ft. diameter ; the top of this is 6in. above water level and

the bottom 5ft. below invert level of the syphon outlet at the south end of the syphon.' – The Engineer

In this case the south end of the siphon is Holt wood, this siphon is relatively short compared to the largest through Chatsworth, where the float well needed to be 26ft deep.



Where the DVA crosses the brooks in Two dales it emerges.

The Halldale brook valve house.

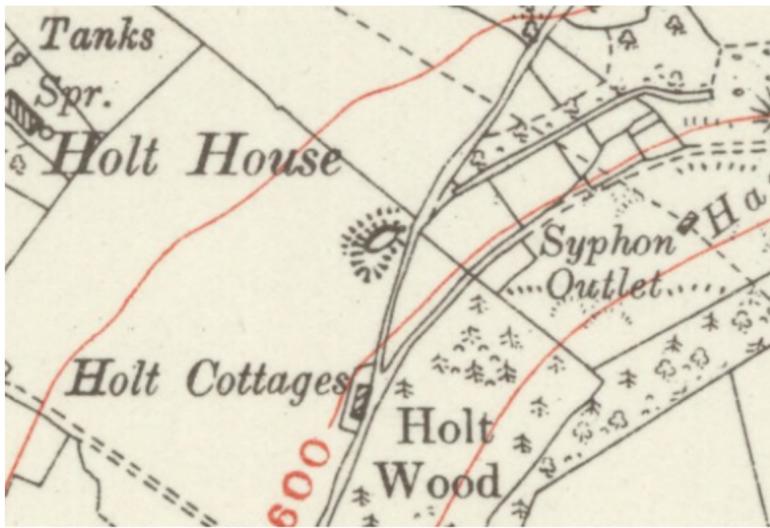
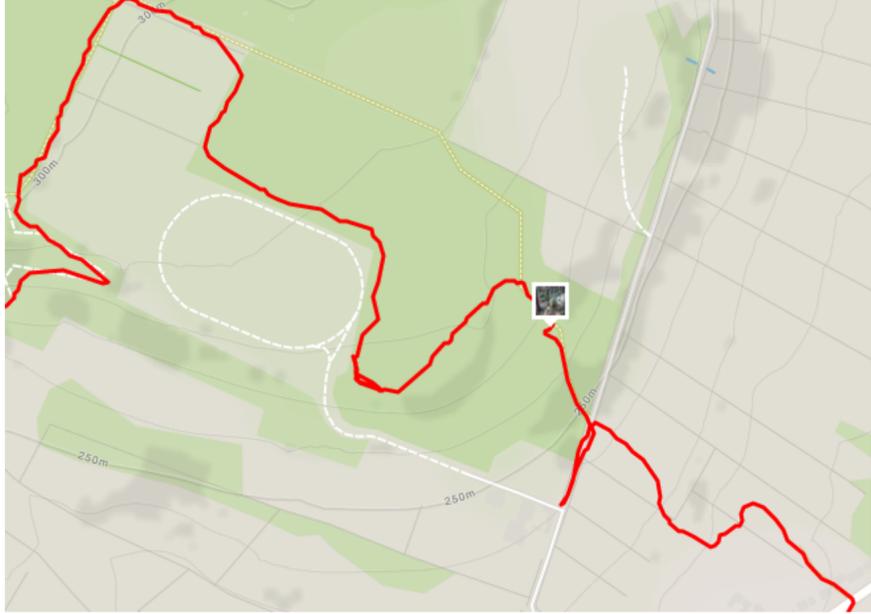


Warney Brook



There are also a couple of familiar pressure relief valves in the field on the opposite side

Syphon (sic) outlet building in Holt Wood appeared like a tunnel entrance with 3 arched doors. Adjacent to the foot path, the trails are also used by bikes and can be linked up with trails in Hurker woods to rejoin the DVA at Lumsdale.



Holt wood is the beginning (similar elevation) of the longest section of tunnel, the aqueduct passes under the raised ground above Matlock and the busy A632 where it emerges (~ 670ft) before dropping to Lumsdale. Over 100ft below the elevation of the first section of Bent Lane mountain bike trail.





The syphon (sic) inlet at Lums hill rise with an overflow likely to Bentley brook



Above, at Asker Lane – DVA “across fields to the west”

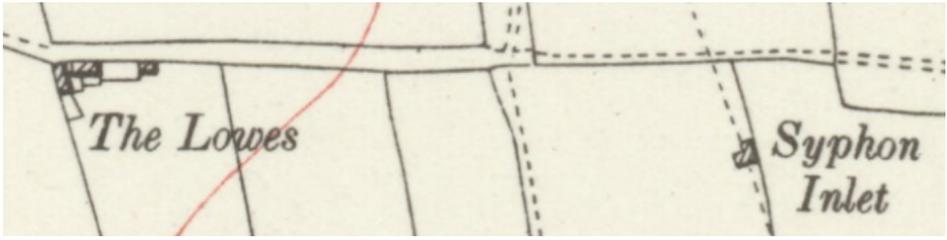


In Lumsdale just after a confluence with Bentley brook. Marked as a pumping house which is strange considering the syphon!

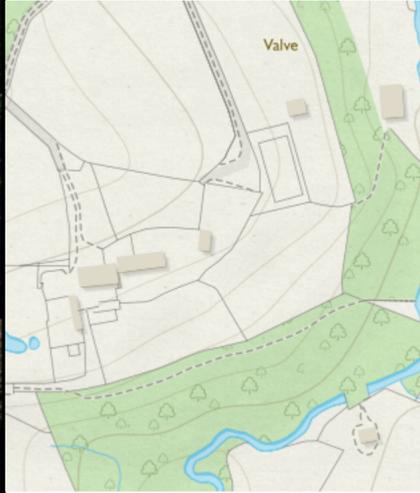
From below the outlet at Hilltop Farm the DVAs path across Hurst Farm estate can be seen. This is the beginning of a short shallow tunnel.



Inlet where the DVA emerges from the tunnel, near what is called “The Lowes” on the 1920s map. With an overflow following the route down to Littlemoor brook



Dropping to the Valve house and Lea Brook, the boundary between Derbyshire Dales into Amber Valley BC.

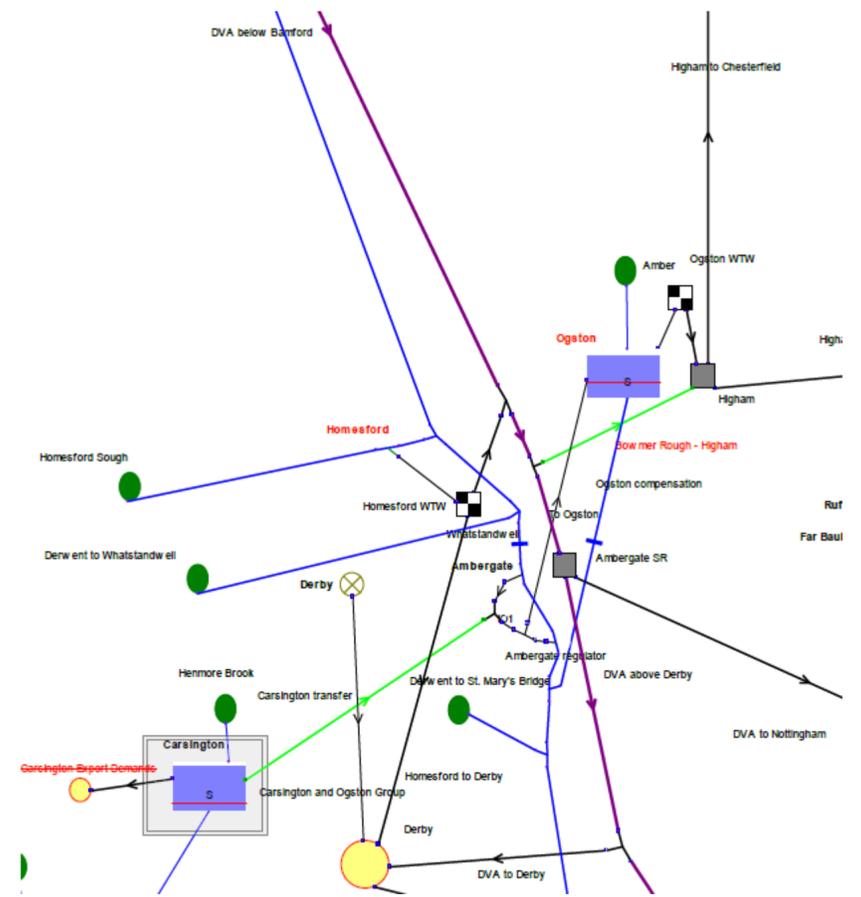
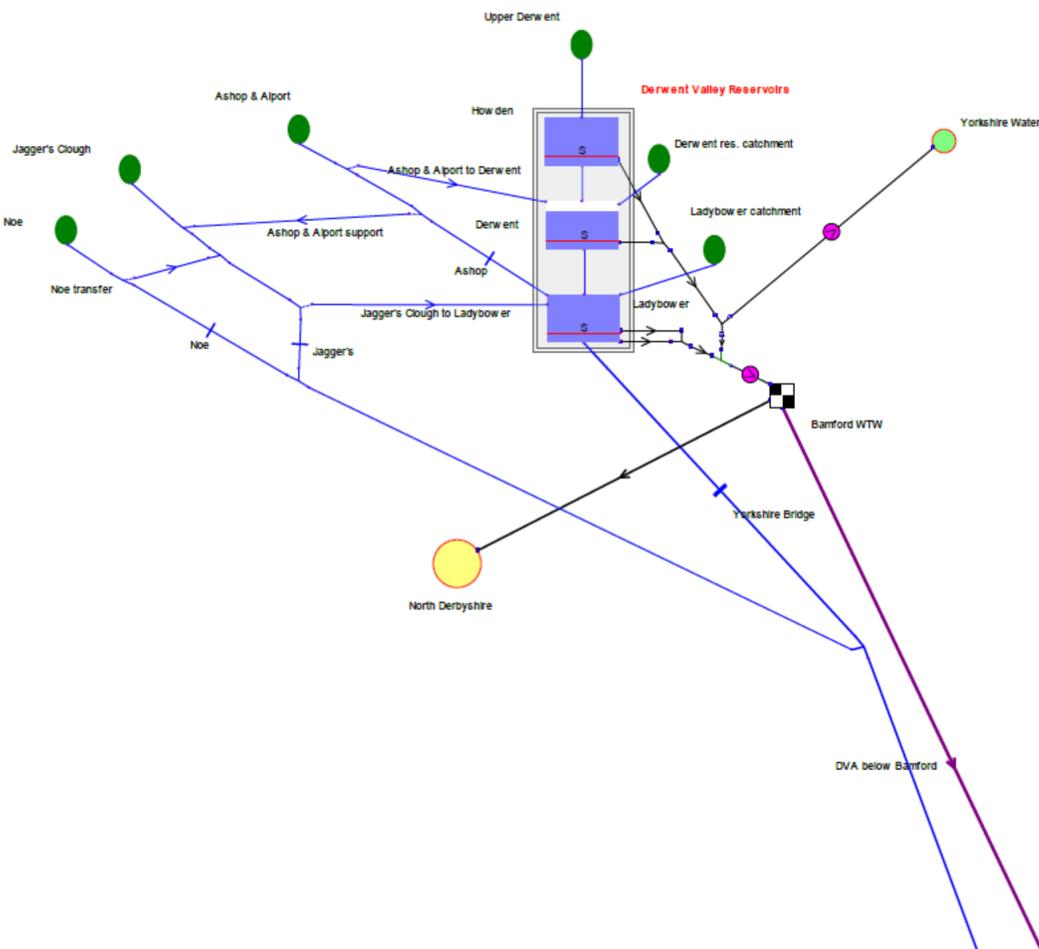


Leaving the DVA a couple of mountain bikers were on Hearthstone lane.

The last brook crossed before the Ambergate reservoir is Oxhay



STW Strategic Grid context



References

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/> (<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/>)

Derbyshire XXIX (includes: Ashover; Darley; Matlock.)

Revised: 1919 to 1920

Published: 1923

Derbyshire XXXIV (includes: Bonsall; Cromford; Matlock; Matlock Bath; Wirksworth.)

Revised: 1920

Published: 1924

<https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/2734272> (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/2734272>) – approximate route of DVA

<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk> (<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk>)

The Engineer – https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Derwent_Valley_Waterworks (https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Derwent_Valley_Waterworks)
4/3/1910,19/7/1912

<http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/your-council/data-information/boundary-map> (<http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/your-council/data-information/boundary-map>)

<http://strava.com> (<http://strava.com>) – segment and heatmaps

<https://www.v-publishing.co.uk/books/categories/mountain-biking/white-peak-mountain-biking.html> (<https://www.v-publishing.co.uk/books/categories/mountain-biking/white-peak-mountain-biking.html>) Vertebrae press White Peak book – 5 dales route