



If you're lucky you may spot a dipper bobbing by the water's edge.
Photo by: Amy Lewis



TOLLHOUSE

Ambergate has an interesting transport history with canal, road and railway. The canal was built first in 1794, followed by the road in 1817 and the railway was squeezed between them in 1849. Ambergate gained its name from the tollgate near the crossing of the River Amber. This comprised 3 sets of gates and the Tollhouse building near to the The Hurt Arms.



This picture shows a train at the platform that is still in use today.

OLD STATION

By 1876, Ambergate had a triangular station layout with six platforms and trains to Manchester, Leeds and London (see above). The current platform is located where Platform 2 is shown highlighted in red. As you leave the station down the steps can you see where platforms 3 and 4 once stood? When you return on the train from Whatstandwell, the eagle-eyed may also see where the railway ran towards Platforms 5 and 6. See if you can find remains of the old station.



EXTEND YOUR WALK

The more adventurous may take a longer walk to discover the ancient woodland of Shining Cliff Woods, where in spring there is a fine display of Bluebells. You could also hunt in the woods for the remains of an ancient Yew known as the "Betty Kenny" tree is said to be the origin of the lullaby "Rock-a Bye Baby". An Ordnance Survey map is recommended for finding your way to Shining Cliff Woods and take extra care as there is no footway along Holly Lane leading to the woods.



Photo by: Neil Aldridge



Betty Kenny Tree (Shining Cliff Woods)

TAKE A WALK

Ambergate is a good starting point for a walk along the Cromford Canal where you can re-join the train at Whatstandwell. This two mile stretch of the canal is a nature reserve and the woods and meadows are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



BECOME A 'TWITCHER'

This is a great area for bird watching. Take a small notebook and make simple sketches and notes for identification or look them up on your smartphone. Not surprisingly, I like all birds (but some taste better than others!)



BECOME A TREE DETECTIVE

You can probably guess these 2 trees but can your detective skills enable you to identify any other trees? You may need a field guide to help (or maybe you are with a smart Alec!)

