

9 miles

VISIT PEAK DISTRICT & DERBYSHIRE

On the Edge

Hathersage to Stanage Edge Walk

A 9 mile walk from the village of Hathersage up onto Stanage Edge and back, with superb views of the Derwent and Hope Valleys, Mam Tor and Kinder Scout.

Parking

Hathersage car park.

Refreshments on route

In Hathersage only.

Public Toilets

At car park, and on lane above North Lees Hall.

Route

A

From the car park go onto the main road (A6187) through the village and take the lane called Baulk Lane which starts on the opposite side of the road to the petrol station, next to the large stone building (formerly the Hathersage Inn). The lane climbs steadily north, passing the cricket pitch. Beyond the buildings it becomes an unsurfaced track.

Just short of Cowclose Farm take the signposted left fork, which passes to the right of Brookfield Manor to reach a country lane. Turn right here, then left along a drive to North Lees Hall.

The 16th-century manor of North Lees Hall is believed to be the inspiration for Thornfield Hall, Mr Rochester's home in Jane Eyre. The Eyre family did exist in real life. They were Roman Catholics who lived in the hall until the 11th-century, when a narrow-minded Protestant community drove them out. The remains of a chapel, built in 1685, only to be destroyed three years later, can still be seen in the grounds.

After rounding the hall, turn right, climbing some steps that cut the corner to another track. This crosses hillside pastures before continuing through attractive mixed woodland.

A stepped path on the left makes a shortcut to a roadside toilet block and mountain rescue post. Turn left along the road for a short distance, then right on a grassy path heading for the rocks of Stanage Edge. After 200yds (183m) you join the path from the nearby car park. A paved path now climbs through Stanage Plantation before arcing left to the cliff top.

Follow the firm edge path north westwards (right) to see the summit of High Neb and Crow Chin.

Beneath the cliffs of Stanage Edge you'll see piles of old millstones and grindstones, some intact, and some incomplete. They are the abandoned relics of an industry that supplied the flourishing steelworks of Sheffield and local corn mills. French imports, which were both cheaper and better, and the coming of the roller mills saw the decline of the industry by the 1860s.

B

When you reach Crow Chin, where the edge veers north, descend to a lower path that doubles back beneath the cliffs. This eventually joins a track from the right, which returns the route to the top of the cliffs. Continue walking towards the south east along the edge to the bouldery east summit (marked on OS maps by a spot height of 457m), whose rocks are capped by a concrete trig point, until you reach the road at Upper Burbage Bridge.

C

Proceed left along the road for about 150yds (137m), then turn right taking the higher of the two paths which head south to the summit of Higger Tor.

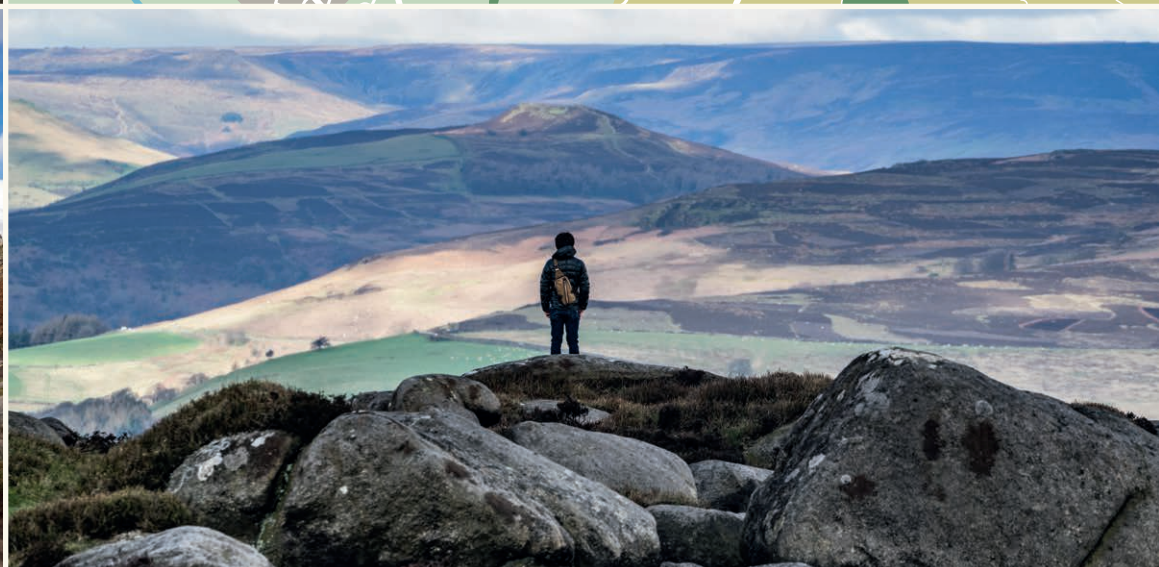
From the rocky top, double back (roughly north of north west) on a path to the Fiddler's Elbow road. Slightly uphill along the road take the path on the left. This descends Callow Bank to a walled track leading down to the Dale Bottom road. Follow the road for 300yds (274m) to a track on the right that traverses the hillslopes to Toothill Farm. Turn left by the farmhouse on a drive that soon joins a tarred lane taking the route down to Hathersage's impressively spired church and the Roman fort of Camp Green. Turn right down School Lane to reach Main Road, which leads into the centre of Hathersage. Go left down Oddfellows Road to return to the car park.

The parish church of St Michael in Hathersage dates back to the 14th century, though the Perpendicular tower and its spire are a hundred years younger. The stained-glass east window comes from the church of Derwent before it was submerged beneath the rising waters of Ladybower Reservoir. In the churchyard a particularly long grave is claimed to be that of Robin Hood's henchman, Little John.



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