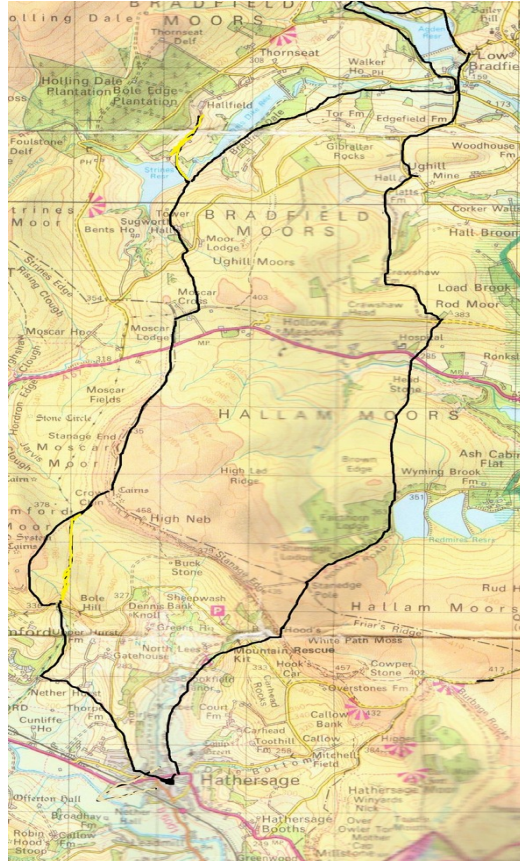


WALK 94.
HATHERSAGE 94.
23-4 miles. 6 hours 31 minutes.
SK28/38. SK29/39.



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Start at Hathersage (232815). Walk W on the Hope Road for a hundred metres, then go R up a road named Jaggers Lane that leads up to a housing estate. In several hundred metres, go R up Coggers Lane and walk uphill. The estate is now on the L; to the R there is a view of the church. On the L is a sign bearing the inscription “In this field was the site of Geer Green School, the first school in the area 1718-1878. It appears as the school in Morton in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte.” Then come, on the L of the road a good sign that directs on a public bridle way to Hurst Clough and Bamford, take this and enter a field and walk on the contour to a second field. Drop down to a gate from this cross a small stream then climb uphill near to a fence on the L that comes to a gate, on the L is a step stile. A sign indicates bridle way.

Cross a drive and go straight ahead on a lane walking W. In hundred metres a second bridle way sign to soon come to a narrow grassy lane, hedge either side. Bear R before Hurstclough Lane and walk NE. a step stile leads back on to the road; take it and walk along the road which curves at this point. In hundred metres, go L over a stile; a large tree on the R, walk through a field going N and rising gently. A small stream flows on the R. in a few hundred metres, come to a fence and a stile near a tree to enter a field. On the L is Upper Hurst Farm, a fence in front has a stile and enter a larger field. On the L stands a well-built wall around the farm and now begin to climb, keeping to

the L to make for the top L hand corner there is a poor stile. Bear L and walk in the direction of a sign to Bamford Road NW, following the contour around the bankside trees on L, Upper Hurst Farm below and come out on to the road at 220840.

Bear L and walk downhill, on the R is Bole Hill, the name indicating an old smelting area. The road goes in and out of Hurst Clough. In about 500 metres, where the road begins to drop toward Bamford, go R at a spot where one car might park, a large gritstone provides a step, walk now N uphill on a thin worn path that leads up to a quarry; much overgrown. Keep going N; the path disappears so now high-step over heather until, in 400 metres come to a broken wall. At the N end, bear R and walk NE through heather, this point is called Moscar Moor. Go N until a path is reached from Stannage Rocks, keep to this to come to a stile in a fence and so down to a road at 230879.

Continue N on a drive to pass Moscar Lodge and see the date 1872. Go over a stile at a gate, then go through a metal gate and come to an old guide stone, Moscar Cross (231884); known as Humblestone Cross in 1571. The mediaeval guide stone was replaced by the present one to comply with the act of parliament of 1702; it has carved four faces: Sheffield Road, Hathersage, Hope Road, and Bradfield. It is interesting to meet these historical remains. They remind that some of these paths we use today have been used for hundreds of years.

Bear R and go through a gateway, walking now E past Moscar Cross Farm. In 400 metres, go L at a sign and over a wall. Walk now NNW through moorland, level going wall on L, the views are very extensive and interesting. Take a step stile, and then drop slightly through a field. Down below on the L is Bents House which appears to be C.17 and quite magnificent. Arrive at another step stile and so out on to a road at 232892. Bear R and walk downhill along Sugworth Road to the entrance of Sugworth Hall to go down the drive of this fine hall. A sign directs through rhododendrons to go to the R of this interesting house, C19 (looks Jacobean), and leave by a gate so to emerge in to a field to be confronted by the striking monument that has been seen from several viewpoints, a tall, severe gritstone tower, square with a turret above, some mullioned windows. (Is it a folly?).

Walk N downhill on a thin worn path; the path drops rapidly near the dam passing several yellow markers, get a longer view over Dale Dyke Reservoir; it seems very cultivated yet the moors are not far away. Go through a stile and walk on soft grass, a luxury to the hill walker. Two strong stones in a wall afford the next stile; see across the water Hallfield, a fine old C.17 house that has weathered the centuries and escaped drowning by the foresight of its builder. The next stile has stone steps fitted from L to R and it is here woodland is entered on a wide path that comes to a gate and stile to leave the woods on a road at 244912. Bear L and walk NE along Blindsight Lane through Bradfield Dale for less than a mile to come to a sign to Lowe Bradfield. Go R off the road here and walk E through Dale Dyke, a pleasant dell where the path is high up to the R. the path comes to a wall and slot stile to still walk high up to the R. continue to a gate, then a lane and come out on to a road at 263916 Bradfield.

Bear L and walk N on the road, passing water works on the L, then a fine Methodist church. Continue on the road. Do not go R over a single arched bridge but go on, the road curves to the L and rises; so climb the hill, school on L and take the first turning to the R at a junction (260919) and walk along the road. Climb up the road and on the R is a gate which admits into a plantation. A sign states that this is concessionary; walk on a level track with Agden reservoir on the R to then emerge at a bridge over a stream.

Cross the dyke, turn R and take stone steps in a wall on the R and walk E on grassland downhill into the valley. Come to a stream do not cross the bridge and soon walk on reservoir level, taking a stile in a wall. Continue to another stile and so out onto a road at Smallfield (258928). Bear R and walk E along the road for half a mile to a sign to Bailey Hill. Go up stone steps and climb up on a narrow footpath trees on L, to come to the top to a wall on the R with a stile. From here examine the remains of the Motte and Bailey Castle on Bailey Hill then return

Go R and walk through a field, level going with a fine view. Enter a church yard through a gate and come to a fine C.15 church of St Nicholas, a large building the tower is probably C.14. Go forward, passing the E end whose window has five lights, then take the road that goes downhill, in a few hundred metres, go L at a sign to Low Bradfield. Glance back to the church which now asserts its dominance. Go up the stone steps off the road and enter a field, walking with wall on the L. all the height made to Bailey Hill now lose again.

Get over the wall in the corner, then stone steps in the next. The next choice is to take the gate for the lower field where there is a thorn hedge, continue to drop downhill though a gateway, then make for the L there is a stile in a wall to go into a field, wall on L, farm close on R. this comes down to a road on some precipitous steps at 264918. Bear R; in a few metres, go L over a stone bridge and go up a lane; a wall on either side, climbing gently on a paved surface. Look back at the church standing with powerful assertion, like a castle. Come to a road junction previously seen.

Bear L and walk S up Mill Lee Road, climbing steeply, at the top, bear R and have another glance at the church, then walk half a mile W to a road junction: bear L and walk half a mile S to another road junction where stands Ughill Hall (258904). Bear R and walk about 300 metres to a farm drive that goes off to the L. take this and slog up this drive passing Platts Farm first then Royds Clough on the L. eventually come to Crawshaw Farm; a sign directs to a wooden step stile and a gateway in 20 metres to enter a field, walking uphill to another gate and stile to enter a farm track.

This good track leads out on to the moors, a sign directs E, the path is going towards Crawshal Lodge. Take a stile on the L of a gate and walk past the house which has a dominating position on the hillside. At the far end go through a gate with a sign and come out on to the road at 262883. Bear R and walk W for a short distance to a house, then drop L off the road to a sign to Stannage Pole and a stile; then drop down the hillside to a sign and step in a wall; then down to a wall with a slot in it; then down to a stile and out on to the road at 259877. (A hospital stands to the R).

Cross the road; go 20 metres to a sign to Stannage Pole, then go L over a wall with steps and drop down through a field to the R where there is, again, steps in a wall. Drop down beneath trees to a wooden footbridge above a clear stream, climb a steep bank and continue S uphill, rising on a thin but firm footpath through heather, wall on L to reach a conduit (man- made). Continue walking untill the path levels out to see Redmires Reservoir on the L. go through a gate, walk through woods and come out at the side of a reservoir at 257857. (This walk will have pasted eight reservoirs).

Walk S on the water for about 600 metres then go R at the side of a plantation on a stony road, and climb gently to Stannage Pole (247844). Go WSW on a good track to Stannage Edge, then look for a path to drop down S to the road to then enter woodland where a sign states that this is North Lees Estate. A good wide track leads down to good steps at a gate. The track becomes soft grass to reach a metal gate and on to a lane. North Lees is on the R. This is one of the seven halls that tradition states was built by Robert Eyre for his seven sons it has a tower, unusual in shape and was built in 1594. One of the seven halls could be seen by one of the other halls and if in trouble would light beacons and would all rally to help.

Follow the lane down to the road, then turn R; here is a house that Charlotte Bronte stayed when she wrote Jane Eyre, and was influenced by the Eyre tradition. After a few hundred metres down the road at a green gate turn L to enter a field, stream on R, and walk past a conference centre on the R to enter a field, climb gently to a good track to turn R on it. Walk down the track to take a dog leg past houses on the L and walk down the road with the Church high up on the L back to Hathersage and the start.