

WALK 115.
HATHERSAGE 115.
27-6 miles. 7 hours 30 minutes.
Map White Peak. SK28/38. SK29/39.



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Start at Hathersage (231814). Walk S under the railway bridge, and walk as far as Leadmill Bridge, going L on a wide track just before the bridge, river on the R, signed Harpur Lees, a house that is soon passed on the R (an isolated house). Go forward through a field to a gate with a stile on its L, then to a gate with a swing gate on its R; to enter woods. Enjoy the Derwent river side walk. Go only a few hundred metres to a fork in the path and a sign. Then leave the main path to walk L uphill to a ladder stile and enter a field. Cut the L corner, then go L over the railway bridge to a tall ladder stile at a white gate, then walk E straight ahead amid scattered trees, Bole Hill ridge and quarries ahead.

Soon come to a well-worn wide stony path; bear R and walk towards Padley. Just before the Chapel come to a cattle grid, go L up a bank, walking with wall on the R and a view to the nearby Padley Chapel and the remains of an old Eyre Hall. Find the way through trees, climbing the fairly steep hillside, possibly an old quarry railway track that goes up to the quarries, go straight forward so as to gain the top of the quarries where a worn path goes L. Walk on top of the rocky edge; pass a chimney in a wall (Why) and go N to come to a gate and out on to the road at 249799 called Surprise View with its magnificent view into the Hope Valley.

Cross the road, then go up a bank to a wooden step stile in a fence and walk NE to an area covered with gritstone boulders and again note the view down the valleys. Then note the house on the L: Scraperlow which was built with the Victorian predilection for towers and battlements. Its position from here is a fine one.

Walk through these interesting stones, passing a fine tower at Over Owler Tor and proceed to Carl Wark by the many paths, so as to come to it by its back entrance, so as to speak.

Carl Wark is a superb hill-fort of about two acres in area. The great fortress is built at over 1200 feet in wild moorland littered with boulders and outcrops of Millstone Grit. Some of its defences still survive up to 10 feet in height. Gate openings can be seen on the SE and E front. The

area may belong to the Iron Age; some argue that it was built after the Roman Period: traces have been found nearby of a Roman Road that came from Shatton, through the Hathersage area, past Carl Wark and across the Burbage Brook to the Houdkirk Road.

Now follow the route of the road by going E down the slope to cross the Brook by a fine single-arched stone footbridge, then climb up through the heather to cross the track that runs N-S under Burbage Rocks to look for a path that climbs up and continues over moorland to reach Houndkirk Road at 277816. Bear L on this road and walk Ne along this fine hard track for just under a mile, then go L off it on another good track that goes N. in only 200 metres, go L off this track to another and much fainter track and follow it to Ox Stones where a trig-point stands at 280831. Two prominent outcrops of gritstone worn into interesting shapes which stand here and serve as good markers; then can be seen from a good distance away. A good track leads to a third and larger outcrop, hen onto the road by a wooden step stile near a car park.

Cross the road to another stile over a fence and go into a wet area. Go R along a prominent and very wet path through heather. Walking N. in a short distance the path runs out so walk where possible near the fence on the L until that too ends at a wall, go L over a week stile. Walk N now over the summit of Rud Hill (271842) by high stepping it over thick tufted grass (no path). Here, find the remains of a small square stone-walled construction with a pole standing in a prominent position. The views from this point are of wild unspoiled moorland. Bear L and proceed W in the direction of Stannage Pole, and walk again, through trackless grass where progress is slow and tiring. Drop into Fairthorn Clough which feeds the Redmires Reservoirs below; go LL here and walk alongside the Clough to the S until the turn up to Stannage Pole by a recognised track through the heather at 247844.

Set off on a good paved track that leads to Stannage Edge, hen bear R to then walk NW under the edge, then walk N towards Moscar Lodge. Go over a ladder stile on this long but interesting easy walk accompanied by distant views to Win Hill and beyond; then near to the road, go over a double stile. Cross the road at 231880 then go up the drive to Moscar Lodge dated 1872, a strong well-made building. Go over a wood stile, through a metal gate then come to Moscar Cross, a guide stone that stood here for centuries on a route from Sheffield to Derwent. It is inscribed on all four faces. In 1571 it was recorded as Humblestone Cross, but the present name was already coming in to use by the mid-C.17. In 1702 an act of Parliament required such guide stones to be set up where required bear R to walk NE along a lane, Moscar Cross Farm on the R, a wall either side. In just under half a mile, come to a gate. Keep to the L now, close to wall on the L and then change direction so as to walk N to a gate in the L corner. Now enter Snake Hill Road, walking N through Ughill Moors along this old track with wall either side; with superb cappings.

Just in front of a gate, see a gritstone upright standing in isolation, and admire the neat carving and fine shape, not unlike an obelisk. Now lose the R wall and walk through a field to a gate and another section of the road, down to a gate with gate on its R, and so out on to Wet Shaw Lane at 245904. Walk L passing one road junction, then going R, at the second road junction to walk N, losing height; the view has great variety. Reservoirs fill the base of the valley.

Now walk down Blindsie Lane, at 244912, go L at a sign, solid stone steps stand at the L of a gate and walk SW though pleasant woodland, contemplating the fact that the walk is turning for home. Come to a step stile, ahead see the tower standing high up to show the way; walk through a field with Deep Dale Reservoir on the R and go through a gateway in a wall. Continue this pleasant stroll through another field to another gateway to stone steps at a gate in 25 metres ahead. Contour along the hillside and admire the view; this is most certainly very beautiful walking, providing a change from what has gone before.

Come to a corner between two walls with a slot stile, and drop to a footbridge to go round the narrow path that climbs the hillside, going away from the wall on the R. Pass another of several grit uprights doing nothing but displaying the yellow arrows. Go between grit uprights and climb a grassy bank with the green dam in front, the track getting steeper above Strines Reservoir and climb up to the tower, a neat building with turret, all battlemented (is it a folly)?

Make for Sugworth Hall to go through a gate to walk between rhododendrons to the drive then up the road through imposing gate piers at 233893. Go R; walk SW along Sugworth Road;

down on the R stands Bents House, one of several fine houses in this lonely area. Come to a road junction; go straight across the road to a gate, then walk through rough land, fence on the L. go through a gate into a lane, then through a second gate into the farmyard of Moscar House. The farmhouse has been added to, but the original dwelling has strong rustication around the door, windows and in the quoins, unusual features in a farm dwelling.

Leave the farmyard by a gate, then go down a lane to a gate ahead where stands a metal sign, erected by the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society No. 75 erected in 1933 pointing the way to Derwent. Proceed, wall on the R on short grass, and come down to a wall to cross over by stone steps and walk into Highshaw Clough to ford the stream easily.

Look down to the fine single-arched stone bridge called Cutthroat Bridge; it stood on a Packhorse Way, the common way which leads from Sheffield to Derwent. Cutthroat Bridge acquired its gruesome name in the C.17: a deposition of 1635 reads: found a man with a wound in his throat in Bagshaw Clough carried him in to the house at Lady Bower. The road was built as a Turnpike here by the great road builder, Thomas Telford. It left Sheffield along the Rivelin Valley and came down this way to the River Derwent.

Continue to a gate. Go down the road past the old pub, cross the viaduct and walk S along the A.6103 for just over half a mile, then go up L along New Road, a minor road that climbs relentlessly straight up to a point at 220840 to then go R off the road at a sign on which a small plaque tells the story of a dedicated walker. Go through a slot stile and walk through trees to a sign to Gatehouse, then go over a poor stile and enter a fine wide field. Pass Upper Hurst Farm on the R and come to a step stile over a fence. In 50 metres come to a stile near to trees; beware of the insecurity of that treacherous step.

The next stile is between an oak and a holly tree and comes out on to a lane at 223833. Go R along Hurstclough Lane for about 400 metres, then go down a muddy lane to Nether Hurst Farm. A footpath sign directs into a field below the house; walk downhill, farm drive on the R, go through a poor gate, then climb steeply uphill, hedge on R to a metal gate. Several metres to the L of this is a small gate and a bridle way sign. Rise up through the field, old hedge on the R, to another small gate and thus out on to the road at 225824 and a sign; Public Bridleway.

Bear R; in a few metres, on the R, see a plaque bearing the statement that. "In this field was the site of Geer Green School, the first school in this area 1718-1808. It appears as the school in the village of Morton in "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte".

Do not turn R at the road junction but go forward to a slot on the R at a double metal gate to Birley Farm, then walk around the farm to the R to a stile on the L, a slot between concrete uprights. Walk through pleasant surroundings, fence on the R, down past a single upright to an indifferent slot stile, then walk down through the quiet wooded hillside to parkland below. Cross the drive and go to a concrete footbridge, then bear R and keep close to the stream on the R. go through a slot then forward to the next slot and enter the cricket ground to leave on the R through a slot between concrete uprights and walk with houses on the L and fence on the R into the historic town and the start.