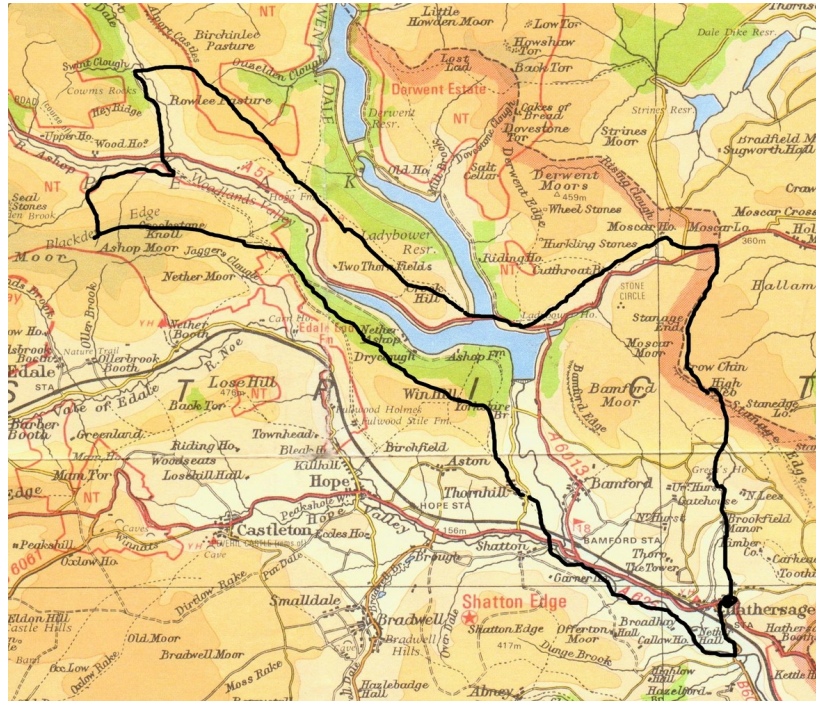


WALK 133.
HATHERSAGE 133.
30-6 Miles. 8 hours 20 minutes.
Map. Dark Peak. SK28/38.



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Start at Hathersage (231878). Walk N up Baulk Lane (baulk means part of a field or a trap for animals in a forest). The church stands high up on the R as the lane is progressed. The lane becomes a farm drive, pass through gates each having a stile at the side. Come to a fork where the drive goes up to Cowclose Farm; there is a footpath sign directing you L down to a good stile into a narrow jitty alongside Brookfield Manor.

Now a management centre, Brookfield Manor was originally a religious house, a seminary regarded as a safe during the troubled time of the reformation. It now has the appearance of a romantic castellated house situated in the valley of the Hood Brook. Remains of a C.16 and C.17 stone house form one side of the building with 1656 over a blocked doorway.

Just beyond the manor, go through a swing gate and cross the road (232831) to a footpath sign and steps near a gate and enter a field. Bronte Cottage near-by, another reference to the influence of Charlotte Bronte in these parts. The authoress came to Hathersage and visited May Eyre in North Lees, the gaunt house that broods over the valley from its site just above.

With woods on the L and views of Stannage edge ahead, it is pleasant walking to a swing gate, the entry into trees where the stream is crossed by a footbridge in a delightful scene. Climb gently through a field with the brook on the L and another stream on the R; go through a swing gate with Green House approaching on the L. Go through a gate with a fence on the L to a gap in wall above. Bear immediately L through a farm gate and walk 30 metres close to the buildings to a sign and gate on the R into a rough track.

Walk steeply up to a wooden step stile, there is a small stream on the L and wall on the R to follow it round to the R to go through a gap in the wall. Walk now with wall on the L; look back for a striking view. Come to a corner with steps in a wall and soon come to a minor road at 229843.

Cross a cattle grid and go straight off the road to go over rough ground where there is a worn path. Cross a small stream by two mighty stones. Come to and cross the wide stony track known as

the Long Causeway and thought to be by some a Roman Road to Anvio. Go over a step stile in a metal fence then climb onto a good track that goes under and fairly close to Stanage Edge. Pass several grit millstones that tell a sad tale of redundancy and different ways of milling.

Walk N then NW, following the edge until a track is met that comes down from the top of Stanage Edge and then goes onto the A.57 at 231879 near Moscar Lodge. The A.57 was built in 1818 by Thomas Telford the greatest road engineer of his day, one of the last of his projects.

Bear L and walk carefully down the busy road for a few hundred metres, then go R North along a minor road to Strines. In a few hundred metres, go L at a sign erected by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society, No 86 erected in 1935. Repeating the road to Derwent.

Bear L to walk on good short grass, wall on the R, to steps in the wall in front. Win Hill stands ahead. The A.57 is away on the L. cross the lower reaches of Highshaw Clough near Cut-throat Bridge. This gruesome name was acquired in 1635 when a document states that (found a man with a wound in his throat in Eashaw Clough...carried him to the house at Ladybower.

Proceed to the road near the Lady Bower Inn (204865) and continue on the Snake Road avoiding the first viaduct but going over the second. At its far end, go R up the Derwent Road for 100 metres, to then cut L up a bank to a swing gate and into a field. Climb to the far gate, passing a stone building on the R. Continue to climb in the second field and approach a ladder stile then two wicket gates to then enter the yard of Crookhill Farm.

Go through the farm to a gate and a hard track, wall on the R. Go through a gate into a field then through the next to come to a ladder stile; the view is now impressive. Walk NW to a swing gate and continue NW past some posts, whilst appreciating the views into the Edale Valley and the Ashop Valley.

A swing gate appears in front as the walk goes through Bridge-end Pasture, and continue NW, trees on the R; pleasant walking to another ladder stile on the R. Go straight on through a metal farm gate on level ground to a hard track at 163890 which is crossed. Hag Farm Hostel lies to the L. pass a footpath sign, and a sign to open country, and climb a bank to a wall which is spanned by an impressive, six-step ladder stile.

Walk NW and soon come to a ladder stile and sign to open country. The path is now worn and wet; it leads to Alport Castles, to then cut down the bank on the L to a stony track, wall on the R. go over a ladder stile and begin the steep descent "notice the impressive castles on the R", after losing the height gained previously cross the River Alport by the memorial bridge; nearby is another of those metal signs by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society number 107 erected in 1948. Walk through the buildings which include a camping barn. Follow the drive down to a fork then go L down a bank to a step stile and so out onto the road A.57 at 141895 where another metal sign stands erected by the P.D. and N.C. Footpath society number 106 erected in 1948 and is identical to the previous one.

Cross the road to a gate, then cross the River Alport by a ford or bridge. Follow the rough farm drive to a gate and stile, and then bear R to Upper Ashop Farm. Do not enter the farm area, but go L and follow the farmer's garden wall around the house, then continue to walk with wall on the R, going W and contouring on a worn path. Come to a ladder stile over a wall on the R; it overlooks the Blackden Barn. Go L, climb gently and commence the walk into and up Blackden Clough, level at first. Forced down to stream level and begin to find the going rough over rugged stones, the banks get steeper where rock outcrops pieces the surface, and a few isolated trees clutch the precipitous hillside. The stream flows over a rocky bed, tumbling over great boulders with constant gurgling music. Ahead the spurs interlock and block the vision; what is around the corner?

So struggle up this fascinating and probably the best of all the Cloughs to reach the top to then bear L to walk E along the edge; look down the Clough to see the magnificent view. The view N is never dull as the walk leads to Crookstone Knoll. Just around the corner, descend on a good and well-worn path between prominent rocky outcrop to a wall, gate and a stile. Continue on path towards two trees near a footpath signpost, the view around taking in all the prominent hills.

From the signpost make for a wooden steps stile (158879) on the track from Alport Bridge to Hope Cross (161874). Bear R and walk on this (the old Roman Roan from Navio to Doctors Gate and Glossop). The track was also a pack horse route. Hope Cross is a restored mediaeval guide stone; the squared capstone reads Sheffield, Hope, Edale and Glossop.

From Hope Cross, walk to Win Hill, then drop down E to two ladder stiles, then downhill to Win Hill Plantation, then descend the steep and not pleasant path down to the old railway line near to Yorkshire Bridge. Bear R and walk along this disused railway line. Leave it to cross a road, and then regain it to walk to its end near where there is an imposing house, to bear L and walk in front of it. Here, go R over a stile and enter a field and walk to the corner and a double step stile. Go under a railway bridge and walk near a garden centre to a white gate and so out onto the road A.625 at 203826.

Cross the road leave the A.625, go over the river Noe and in only a few metres, go L through a stile and at a sign and begin the interesting walk along the River Derwent to Hathersage. Go over two small footbridges, but always walk close to the river, mostly on firm grass; sometimes overlooking the river on the L with overhanging trees? This walk in delightful meadows is a pleasant change from the previous moorland.

Cross the river with stepping stones which are just after a section away from the river and a drop down back to it by some steps on a narrow strip; a risky business in wet weather when the water is high and the flow strong. Continue the river side walk only on the other side of the river. Angle away from the river to get to the road again the A.625. Go through a slot stile and walk R down the road to Hathersage and back to the start.