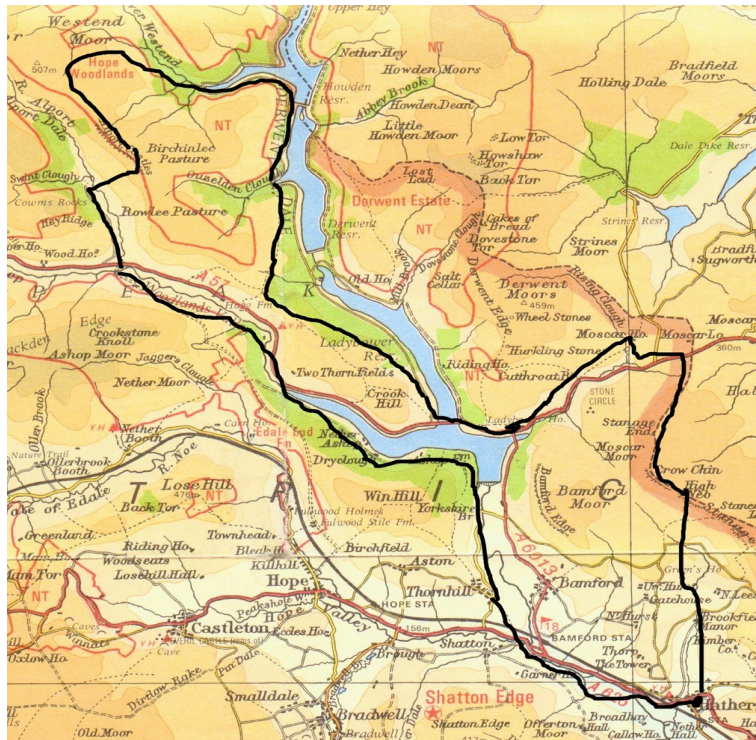


WALK 134.
HATHERSAGE 134.
30-2 Miles. 8 hours 10 minutes.
Map Dark Peak. SK28/38.



“Reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey”
Crown Copyright NC/02/30874.

Start at Hathersage (231814). Walk up Baulk Lane. (Baulk means part of a field or a track for animals of the forest). The lane becomes a farm drive going through three gates with stiles to get to a signpost in a field, the drive goes on to Cowclose Farm but go L at the sign to go down a jitty close to Brookfield Manor on the L.

Now a management Training Centre, Brookfield Manor was once a religious house, a seminary regarded as a safe house during the troubled times of the reformation. Remains of a C.16 and 17 stone house form one side, with 1656, over a blocked doorway. Alterations were made in 1825 and 1870 when crenulations were added. The gateway has an interesting arch, possibly a vestige of a mediaeval house.

From the jitty go through a field to a gate and a road at 234831. Cross the road to stone steps and a sign. Bronte Cottage stands just to the R, another hint of the influence of Charlotte Bronte in these parts, the authoress stayed in 1846 in the vicarage. She visited May Eyre, a descendant of the great mediaeval family, who lived in the North Lees that stands above on the R. She used Hathersage in her novel (Jane Eyre).

Walk N through the field, woods and charming Hood Brook on the L to a swing gate in the wall in front; then enter a small but pleasant wooded area to cross a footbridge, then go through a field and climb gently. There is now a wooded area and stream on the L and R. there is a dry valley on the L.

Go through a gate to enter a field, then walk up to a wall and step up to another gate, climbing gently. Step up through a gap in a wall, then go sharp L through a gate and walk 30 metres L to the buildings of Green House. Then go R at a sign and gate and start climbing on a rough track with a

tiny stream on the L to a step stile. Soon, follow a wall on the R as it goes to the R. then through a gap and walk N with wall on the L. look behind to see the sheltered valley just walked.

Come to a corner to go over stone steps in wall, then continue with wall on the L to reach a road at 229843. Go over a cattle grid then go N on a thin worn path through moorland, crossing a minor stream by massive boulders. Cross the paved way known as a Roman Road, then go over a metal fence by a stile, and make on a path to the top of Stannage Edge. Then come to a Trig-Point on High Neb (228853).

Bear L and walk N along the edge to reach the road A.57 near Moscar Lodge at 231879. The road A.57 over the Snake Pass was built in 1818 by the greatest engineer of his day, Thomas Telford; this was one of his last projects. Bear L and walk downhill for a few hundred metres, then bear R and walk up a minor road marked to Strines. In 100 metres go L at a metal sign erected by the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society number 86 erected in 1935 pointing way to Derwent Edge. Go through a gate then in a few metres go L at a footpath sign. Cross wet ground and keep near to the wall on the R to come to a gate and another metal sign of the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society number 75 dated 1933.

Do not go through the gate, but bear L and walk SW with wall on the R; the A.57 on the L. soon come to a corner with stone steps. Continue SW through moorland to approach Cutthroat Bridge which gained its name as far back as C.17 when a deposition dated 1635 reads "found a man with a wound in his throat in Eashaw Clough; carried him to the house at Lady Bower".

The track then goes down to the A.57 at the Ladybower Inn. Do not go L over the first viaduct but go ahead over the second on the Snake Road, then turn R and walk N alongside the reservoir as far as the War Memorial at 183882. A little further on come on the L to another metal sign of the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society, number 67 dated 1924. These are part of walking history and need recording. Turn L at this point through a gate.

Walk W uphill along this old packhorse trail, a stony track between trees, this brings up to a ladder stile on the L, a three arms sign and a stile on the R; take this one. Go NW on generally ground along Open Hagg, trees on R; the views are comprehensive. Come to a junction of paths at 164890 where a track goes down past Hagg Farm to the A.57; another goes NW to Alport Castles.

Go R on a wide track and walk N gaining height gradually, pass Lockerbrook Farm now a water authority property, keep to the wide track and in a few hundred metres pass a sign that indicates a path to Fairholmes. Do not take it but continue through trees that overhang the path. Descend now steeply down to the road at 167910.

Bear L and walk along the waterside. Pass the former site of Birchinlee Village where the workmen who built the dams were housed. Pass Howden Dam and walk then W into Westend Clough. Reach a U-turn in the road, go L off the road over a stile into woodland, a sign indicates a footpath into Open Country; nearby is a metal sign by the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society No 118 erected in 1953.

Bear L and walk SW away from the waterside. Go steeply uphill in a straight line through trees to come to a gateway and here stands a sign to Open Country. Continue to climb in the same direction as before, hills opening out all sides, level out near some shooting butts, then continue to the edge of Birchen Hat. Bear L and walk along the edge SE to pass over the top of the Alport Castles.

In several hundred metres, go R steeply down the bank to a path that begins with a gateway. Walk downhill on a stony and slippery path, "notice the Castles on the R" wall on the R, to a ladder stile. Go R over this, then continue downhill, losing height as quickly as it was gained. Continue past another metal sign of the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society number 107 dated 1948.

At the river level cross the River Alport by the Memorial Bridge and come to another metal sign by the P.D. and N.C. number 108 dated 1948. Go through the cluster of buildings, which includes Alport Castle camping barn. Follow the farm drive down to a fork just before Haybridge Farm to then go L down a bank to a stile then a little further on another metal sign of the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society number 106 dated 1948.

Cross the A.57 road at 141895 then cross the river, then walk up a farm drive to a ladder stile on the L of a gate, then continue along the driver for 400 metres to a gate across the road. Go

through a slot; with a sign to open country stands near. Contour the hillside with a fence on the L and a leat on the L of that. Come to a new wooden gate, then pass new trees. Another gate stands at the end of the leat; continue in the same direction towards trees, then over a stile, the path then improves, pass a circular stone building. The trees grow denser; pass a sign to Hope Cross (to the R) but go ahead through deep rutted mud, and come to Haggwater footbridge at 162884.

Take a wide muddy track, trees on the R; now face a long slog on the waterside. Eventually arrive at Yorkshire Bridge and the Ladybower Dam Wall on the L. Go R off the road onto a disused railway line, built to feed the building of the dam wall. Follow the muddy track to cross a road and regain the old railway line and continue on it to reach a large house at 201830; at this time a religious house.

Go around the front, go over a stile at a gate into a field and walk S to the far corner to go over a step stile, then immediately go R under a railway bridge. Walk with garden centre on the L, then go through a swing gate and out onto the road A.625 at 203826.

Cross the road and go over the River Noe, then in a few metres go L through a slot stile and sign. Enter a field and begin the long riverside walk down to the stepping stones. Go over a footbridge and walk on good short grass close to the river's edge, the high ridge of Shatton on the R with Shatton mast like a flagpole.

Take helpful stiles on the way, and at times walk just above the river. Another footbridge is left behind, go down a step bank with steps to come to stepping stones over the river at 217815. If the river is in flood do not risk going over but carry on down the river side to Leadmill Bridge and walk up the road to the start. If possible cross the river by the stones, then walk slowly away from the riverside for 100 metres then to cut up L to a gate and stile, and so out onto the road A.625. Turn R and walk into Hathersage and the start.