

Hathersage Circular (via Stanage Edge, Higger Tor & Padley Gorge)		
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Hathersage Circular (via Stanage Edge, Higger Tor & Padley Gorge)

Start & Finish: Hathersage Station

Hathersage station, map reference SK 232 810, is 14 km south west of Sheffield, 227 km north west of Charing Cross, 163m above sea level and in **Derbyshire**.

Length: 20.0 km (12.4 mi), of which 3.8 km (2.4 mi) on tarmac or concrete

Cumulative ascent/descent: 488m. For a shorter walk, see *below* **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 6 out of 10

Time: 5 hours 30 minutes walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 12 hours.

Transport: Hathersage Station is on the Hope Valley Line from Manchester to Sheffield, with a journey time of 18 mins from Sheffield. Sheffield Station is the terminus of the Midland Main Line from London St. Pancras, with two trains per hour (journey time from 116 mins Mon-Sat, longer on Sundays).

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take a train no later than 9.00 hours.

OS Landranger Map: 110 (Sheffield & Huddersfield)

OS Explorer Map: OL1 (The Peak District – Dark Peak Area)

Walk Notes:

Centred on Hathersage, an attractive village in the Hope Valley, this route leads through some outstandingly beautiful scenery and passes along the cliffs of the Stanage Edge as well as over the distinctive Higger Tor and the ancient iron-age hill fort of Carl Wark on Burbage Moor and down the spectacular wooded Padley Gorge.

You walk from the station through Hathersage village and ascend gradually to Stanage Edge through the Hood Brook valley, a tributary of the Derwent River, not without first diverting past the village church and also passing through the Camp Green medieval ringworks. You also pass Brontë Cottage and North Lees Hall, places inspirational for Charlotte Brontë's 'Jane Eyre'.

From the southerly end of Stanage Edge continue across the plateaus of Higger Tor and Carl Wark (both descents from the plateaus involve some light scrambling) and across the Burbage Brook valley and Burbage Moor to lunch at The Fox House Inn.

From lunch the route is less challenging, as you meander through the landscaped Longshaw Estate on a choice of routes and down through the very atmospheric deep and narrow Padley Gorge following the Burbage Brook with its tumbling waterfalls in ancient woodland. Upper Padley has the Grindelford Station Café and a historic chapel in a gatehouse to offer before you join the Derwent River and follow it through quiet pastures and past bluebell woods back to Hathersage.

Walk Options:

A Variation near the start follows the Hood Brook through attractive woods rather than going past North Lees Hall (recommended in bluebell season).

Bus Lines 65/65A (Buxton to Sheffield) (broadly two-hourly) enable various shorter versions. Stops are passed at a couple of points around lunch (Fox House Inn & Longshaw Estate), and on the B6521 at the end of the stretch through the Padley Gorge, before dropping to Grindleford Station.

Buses 271/272 to Sheffield or Bamford stations (6 buses per day, Mon-Sat only) leave from the lunch stop The Fox House Inn.

A Variation right after lunch avoids the busy parts of the Longshaw Estate and routes through a wood down to the Burnage Brook directly.

A Finish at Grindleford Station (one stop closer to Sheffield) results in a 14.4 km/8.9 mi walk with 416/406m ascent/descent and is **rated 5/10**.

A Shortcut near the end, en route to the Derwent River, cuts 900m.

Lunch: (details last updated 09/10/23)

The Fox House Inn Hathersage Road, Longshaw, Sheffield, South Yorks, S11 7TY (01433 630 374, <http://www.vintageinn.co.uk/restaurants/yorkshire/thefoxhouselongshaw>). The Fox House is located 10.8 km (6.7 mi) into the walk and the pub lunch stop. Open all day every day. Food served all day every day.

The Longshaw Tea Room Longshaw, Sheffield, South Yorks, S11 7TZ (01433 631 757, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/longshaw-burbage-and-the-eastern-moors/features/eating-and-shopping-at-longshaw>). The Tea Room is located 11.3 km (7.0 mi) into the walk and the café lunch stop. Open daily except Christmas: 09.30-17.00 in summer and 10.30-16.00 in winter.

Tea (en route or just off route): (details last updated 09/10/23)

Grindleford Station Café Station Approach, Upper Padley, Grindleford, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1JA (01433 631 011, <https://grindlefordstationcafe.org/>). The Café is located 5.7 km/3.5 mi from the end of the walk. Open 09.00-15.30 weekdays, 09.00-16.30 weekends.

The Plough Inn Leadmill Bridge, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1BA (01433 650 319, <http://www.theploughinn-hathersage.co.uk/>). The Plough is located 1.3 km from the end of the walk. Open all day every day. Food served all day every day.

The David Mellor Design Museum Café Leadmill, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1BA (01433 650 220, <https://www.davidmellordesign.com/shops/hathersage>). Last orders at 16.30.

Tea (off route on a loop through Hathersage): (details last updated 09/10/23)

The Pool Café and Tea Rooms Hathersage Swimming Pool, Oddfellows Road, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1DU (01433 650 843, <https://www.hathersageswimmingpool.co.uk/about-us/the-pool-cafe/>). Open to at least 17.00 every day.

The Little John Hotel Station Road, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1DD (01433 650 225, <http://www.littlejohnhotel.co.uk/>).

The George Hotel Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1BB (01433 650 436, <https://thegeorgehathersage.com/>). Open all day every day. Dinner served to 21.30 Mon-Sat (20.30 Sun).

Outside Café Main Road, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1BB (01433 651 936, <http://www.outside.co.uk/our-stores/cafe-hathersage.php>). Open to 16.30 Mon-Fri and to 17.00 Sat-Sun.

Cintra's Tea Rooms & Gardens Main Road, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1BB (01433 651 825, <https://www.cintrastearooms.co.uk/>). With seasonal opening hours.

Bank House Bar & Restaurant Main Road, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1BB (01433 449 060, <https://www.bankhousehathersage.co.uk/>). Open all day every day.

The Scotsman's Pack School Lane, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1BZ (01433 650 253, <https://www.scotsmanspackcountryinn.co.uk/>). A 'Scotchman' or 'Scotsman' is a name given to a pedlar, not necessarily from Scotland, which is how the inn derived its name. Food served all day every day.

Notes:

Hathersage

Hathersage is overlooked by the ringed cliffs of Stanage and Millstone edges and the ancient iron-age hill fort of Carl Wark, and the distinctive Higger Tor can be seen through a break in the cliffs, standing on Burbage Moor. The origins of the name are disputed, although it is generally accepted that the second half derives from the Old English word *ecg* meaning "edge", although there is little to suggest it is to mean "heather's edge".

The area has been occupied since at least Mesolithic times and has remains of a Romano British settlement. Later the area became an important source of pins, needles and brass buttons as well as of building stones and millstones. In 1990, the cutler David Mellor opened the award-winning Round Building on the site of a former gasometer as a cutlery factory. In 2007, an extension was opened as a design museum.

A number of local landmarks are associated with Robin Hood "of Locksley" (there is a Loxley over the moors near Sheffield) and one of the graves in Hathersage is claimed to be Little John's.

In 1845, Charlotte Brontë stayed at the Hathersage vicarage, visiting a friend, whose brother was the vicar, while she was writing *Jane Eyre*. Many of the locations mentioned in her novel match places in Hathersage. Hathersage boasts a public heated outdoor swimming pool.

The Peak District (National Park)

The Peak District is an upland area at the southernmost end of the Pennines.

The Peak District National Park is one of the UK's most popular and is located within the boundaries of five counties (Derbys., Ches., Staffs., Yorks. and Greater Manchester). Founded in 1951, it was the first national park in England. The Park spans an area of around 1,440 km² (550 mi²) and – despite its name – its terrain consists mainly of rolling hills, farmland, moorland and some gritstone escarpments (the "edges"). It is however significantly higher than much of the terrain in the surrounding area.

The Peak District is formed almost exclusively from sedimentary rocks dating from the Carboniferous period. They comprise the Carboniferous Limestone, the overlying Gritstone and finally the Coal Measures, though the latter occur only on the extreme margins of the area. In addition, there are infrequent outcrops of igneous rocks including lavas, tuffs and volcanic vent agglomerates.

The northern Dark Peak (whose geology is gritstone) is one of the most famous landmarks in the Peak District National Park, known for its exposed and isolated tracts of moorland, as well as its expansive rolling plateau which is covered by cotton grass bogs and heather moorlands. The soil of the area is composed of moorland peat which provides the perfect environment for the plant life in the area. The areas to the flanks of the high moorland host numerous copses which are composed of Oak and Birch.

The southern White Peak (whose geology is mainly limestone) is another distinctive area within the park due to its gently sloping Limestone plateau, crisscrossed by the Limestone Dales. The Dales provide the areas' drainage and vary in steepness throughout the area.

Camp Green Medieval Ringwork

Ringworks are medieval fortifications built and occupied from the late Anglo-Saxon period to the later 12th century. They comprised a small defended area containing buildings which was surrounded or partly surrounded by a substantial ditch and bank surmounted by a timber palisade or, rarely, a stone wall.

Occasionally a more lightly defended embanked enclosure, the bailey, adjoined the ringwork. Ringworks acted as strongholds for military operations and in some cases as defended aristocratic or manorial settlements. They are rare nationally with only 200 recorded examples and less than 60 with baileys.

Camp Green ringwork is a large and reasonably well-preserved example which, although partially disturbed by modern development, retains substantial archaeological remains. In addition, it is believed to be one of the rarer forms of ringwork with an attached bailey. It comprises a roughly circular area with a diameter of 60m, enclosed on the north and east sides by a substantial earth rampart with a maximum internal height of circa 2m and a 5m wide outer ditch with a maximum depth of circa 2m. On its south side, the ringwork is defined by a steep scarp which drops into the ditch below. The interior of the ringwork is currently occupied by the 18th and 19th century Eastwood House and Eastwood Cottage.

White to Dark

The White to Dark Way is a 43 km (27 mi) waymarked multi-day path from the White Peak to the Dark Peak developed in 2012 by TrailZilla and Country Walking Magazine. It claims to be the first major walking trail dedicated to linking the Peak District's two 'halves', across terrain ranging from meadows, woods and farmland to wild moorland and gritstone edges, going from Bakewell to Hope. The route includes Monsal Head, Cressbrook Dale, Litton, Eyam, Stanage Edge and Win Hill.

Stanage Edge

The largest and most impressive of the gritstone edges, it stretches for 6 km and is crossed by the old Roman Road from Navio (Brough) to Doncaster. It is a famous location for rock-climbers (with over 800 recorded rock climbs) and a popular spot for walkers. The rock face itself attains a maximum height of 25m. Historically this has been a private grouse moor with access forbidden.

Brookfield Manor

Grade II listed Brookfield Manor, parts of which date back to an original farmhouse of 1658, underwent extensive alterations, with additions, in the 1830's when it was the property of Joseph Holworthy of Derby. Holworthy was an artist and set about rebuilding and extending it in gothic style with chimneys, sash windows, turrets and pinnacles. Holworthy was also a friend of JMW Turner and two of Turner's paintings used to hang in Brookfield. Brookfield Manor and its 56-hectare estate were fictionalised as 'Vale Hall' in 'Jane Eyre' written by Charlotte Brontë and inspired by her visit in 1845 when staying with Ellen Nussey in Hathersage, which becomes 'Morton' in the book.

Sheffield Country Walk

A 86 km (53 mi) waymarked circular Long Distance Path through parts of Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. The varied route around the outskirts of the city passes many sites and buildings of archaeological, historical and industrial interest. It follows woodland and riverside paths, crossing undulating farmland and the open gritstone moorlands to the west of the city. The waymark is yellow arrows and sheaf symbols.

Derwent River

The Derwent is a Derbyshire river of 106 km/66 mi length and is a tributary of the River Trent, which it joins south of Derby. Its waters ultimately reach the North Sea via the Humber Estuary. For half its course the river flows through the Peak District and for most of the first 10 km it forms the border to South Yorkshire. In the lower reaches between Matlock and Derby it was one of the cradles of the Industrial Revolution, providing power to the first industrial scale cotton mills. Today it provides a water supply to several surrounding cities, and its steeply sided valley is an important communications corridor through the uplands of the Peak District.

The Hope Valley

The Hope Valley is a wide valley running East-West along the boundary between the gritstone moors and edges of the 'Dark Peak' and the limestone outcrops and deep cut dales of the 'White Peak'. It is a rural area centred on the village of Hope, but although it appears to be a single valley, the name of the river changes several times. The head of the valley lies at Castleton below Mam Tor, once the home of Iron Age people. From here, the Peakshole Water flows out of Peak Cavern to Hope, where it enters the lower reaches of the River Noe, which has risen on Kinder Scout near Edale. The Noe then flows to Bamford, where it enters the River Derwent, which has travelled about 15 km from Bleaklow and is a tributary of the River Trent.

The valley is now technically the Derwent Valley, but the term "Hope Valley" is still used as the Derwent flows through Hathersage and Grindford. Other streams in the area include the Burbage Brook.

The area is a popular tourist destination, particularly as the Hope Valley Line railway from Sheffield to Manchester runs through it.

From earlier times there are traces of a Roman fort at Brough, just to the east of Hope. Its Roman name Navio was later replaced with the Old English word for fort, Brough. It is thought that the fort was probably built to protect Roman lead-mining interests in the Peak District.

Later, the parish of Hope covered two thirds of the Royal Hunting Forest of north Derbyshire.

Padley Chapel and Hall

The ruins of Padley Hall are now converted into a private house. All else that remains are part of the foundations and the gatehouse, an important example of a 15th century domestic gatehouse with an upper chapel: The Roman Catholic Padley Chapel. It was used as a barn for over 100 years, before being restored in 1933. Important in the Catholic context are its associations with the recusant Fitzherbert family and the 16th century martyrdom of Nicholas Garlick and Robert Ludlum. The restoration of the building as a pilgrimage chapel during the 1930s was carried out in sympathetic manner and the building continues to honour the memory of the martyrs. It exhibits original medieval architectural features and good stained glass. The associated ruins at the back act as an auditorium and setting for pilgrimage events. Usually open during Summer on Sunday afternoons (14.00-16.00 hours).

Derwent Valley Heritage Way

The Derwent Valley Heritage Way (DVHW) is a 88 km (55 mi) waymarked Long Distance Path along the Derwent Valley from Ladybower Reservoir via Chatsworth, the Derbyshire Dales area, and through the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to Derwent Mouth where it flows into the Trent.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Arriving at **Hathersage Station** in the **Peak District National Park**, follow a tarmac path down to the station forecourt (through an underpass if arriving from the direction of Sheffield) and *turn left* along the **Station Approach** road along its opposite pavement. In 120m you *turn right* along **Station Road** (the **B6001**), ignoring Back Lane on the right. In 110m *turn right* along **Oddfellows Road**, signed for Hathersage's Pool and Pool Café. In 60m you pass **The Pool Café and Tea Rooms** and the Pool on the right, opposite a large car park. Pass a **Fire Station** on the left and in another 90m where the road turns to the right, you continue in the same direction along a pavement to the right of a tarmac drive, a signposted footpath, past **Ibbotsons Croft**.

In 50m you emerge at a T-junction with **Main Road**, the **A6187**, opposite a large outdoor store, with the village centre off to the left. Cross the road carefully and continue in the same direction a little to the right along a signposted tarmac public footpath (**Baulk Lane**), also signed 'Public Footpath to the Church 200 mts. on the right'. In 80m the lane continues on gravel and in another 50m you *turn right* with a footpath signpost through a wooden gate signed 'To the Church'. You have a drystone wall on the right and a barbed wire fence on the left and follow a gravel path. In 60m go through a set of wooden gates and in 120m through a wooden gate and – a little to the left – through a wooden kissing gate into a churchyard. In 40m a footpath joins from the left as you follow a tarmac path to the right of **St. Michael and All Angels**, Hathersage. 10m to the right of the entrance you find the signed (supposed) **grave of Little John**, Robin Hood's companion.

You leave the churchyard through the lychgate and *turn right* down a tarmac lane. In 50m *turn left* at a T-junction up a Private Road, a signposted footpath. In 60m *turn left* with the ascending tarmac road and in 30m, where the road levels out, you have some of the earthwork remnants of **Camp Green Medieval Ringwork** on your right. In 30m you go through a breach in the earthworks and in 20m *turn left* through a metal kissing gate by a three-way footpath signpost. You *turn hard left* along the fence on the left and in 50m *turn right* with a marker post behind a tree to continue down some steps with a wooden fence on your left (with a **White to Dark** marker on it). In 50m walk through a wooden gate and cross a stream across a stone slab. Continue up a sloping pasture to the right of a hedge (330°), ignoring a left turning footpath, and in 170m at the top of the rise ignoring a right forking footpath by a marker post on your left. In 150m leave the field through standing stones followed by a wooden gate and continue in the same direction through the next pasture along its right-hand fence and tree line.

You have the scenic valley of the **Hood Brook** ahead and on the left behind – looming beyond Hathersage – the **Sir William Hill and Eyam Moor** (SWC Walk 315 Hathersage Circular via Bretton Clough and Eyam). In 230m *turn right* at a T-junction with a car wide gravel track (**Baulk Lane** again) and go through to a wooden gate the left of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction steadily uphill towards **Stanage Edge**, looming in the near distance. In 130m walk through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate and continue towards a large farm visible ahead (**Cowclose Farm**). In 110m *fork left* off the lane to the farm with a narrow gravel footpath (a signpost stands 15m ahead). In 130m go through a wooden gate between standing stones and continue with some trees on the left, with **Brookfield Manor** behind, and a wire fence on the right. In 110m go through a wooden gate and continue along a gravel path and in 40m cross a stream on the track. In 150m you go through a metal gate to the left of a wooden field gate onto **Birley Lane** at a T-junction, with **North Lees Hall** visible up on the right.

Here you have a choice:

For a continuation along the Hood Brook (recommended in bluebell season), go through the wooden field gate opposite and follow a left-hand field boundary uphill. In 200m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall 30m to the right of the brook and continue along a clear path through the brookside wood. You cross a few streamlets and in 140m ignore a footbridge on the left across the brook (a footpath is signed for 'Dennis Knoll via Green's House'). You *fork right*, direction '**Stanage**', and in 300m (take either way at a fork en route) come to a T-junction with a track by some stepping stones in the brook on the left and with yellow markers on a standing stone. [The high stone wall away on the left across the brook is part of an old mill pond.]

Turn right uphill through a wooden field gate and then through a pasture towards a field gate at the far end. In 140m by a gap in the wall remnants on the right you can *turn right* to the ruined **Holy Trinity Chapel, North Lees** 100m away (built near a heathen sacred well, possibly in the times of James II., and believed to be destroyed not long after by Protestants during William III's reign). In another 60m by the field gate, **[!]** *turn left* this side of the gate and in 10m *turn right* and continue steeply uphill through the pasture along a clear grass track, with **The Warren** (wood) on your left. In 180m go through a wooden field gate and follow the grass track gently curving left through the next steep pasture. In 160m leave the field through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate and pick up the directions below at the asterisk ***)**.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* along the lane. In 50m pass **Brontë Cottage** and in 130m where a signposted footpath joins from the right, *turn left* steeply uphill along a tarmac drive, a signposted footpath and concessionary bridleway, through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate. In 250m walk through a wooden field gate and continue to the right of the impressive Elizabethan **North Lees Hall**, said to have been the inspiration for Thornfield Hall in 'Jane Eyre'. In 120m – when level with the hall – the track continues as a gravel drive as it turns to the left around the back of the house. In another 70m *turn hard right* by an info panel on the estate and with a marker post and continue uphill along a narrower cobbled track between stone walls. In 25m go through a wooden field gate into a pasture and follow a clear track towards the top right field corner with Stanage Edge looming above. In 160m ignore a stepped path joining from the right below through a wooden gate by a marker stone on the left and in another 50m leave the field through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate.

***)** You follow a car wide gravel track through a hanging wood and in 140m, with a road visible about 50m ahead, **[!]** *turn left* up some steps and in 40m *turn right* to in 20m leave the wood through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate by a signpost (pointing backwards to 'Hathersage and Bamford'). Cross a road and continue in the same direction through **Access Land** along a signposted bridleway uphill through an area of bracken and towards **Stanage Plantation**. In 60m a narrow path joins from the right behind and in 50m you ignore a right fork. In 50m join a cobbled path up from a car park down on the left and get first fine views back into the **Hope Valley** and the dominant site of the **Hope Cement Works and the top of Mam Tor**. In 100m walk through any of two wooden gates into the wood and follow a meandering part-engineered and stepped path uphill through the plantation (an old packhorse route).

In 40m you pass a giant boulder and in 180m leave the plantation through any of two wooden gates. You now follow a clear path for the last stretch of ascent to the Edge, ignoring a right turn to the base of the rock face, used by rock climbers. In 60m the gradient increases and the path is now engineered and stepped and in 180m you walk through a gap in a drystone wall. In 180m *turn right* with the engineered main path, ignoring a minor path in the same direction, and follow it to the top through a weakness in the crags. In 10m ignore a left turn. In 40m reach **the top of Stanage Edge** and *turn right* along its easterly third.

For the next 2.8 km you reverse-walk a stretch of SWC 266 Sheffield to Bamford (via Burbage Rocks and Stanage Edge). **In more detail:** In 30m ignore a left forking bridleway at a three-way junction, on a post signed for **Redmires Reservoirs** (to the left) and **Hollin Bank Car Park** (to the right). In 50m step across a low wooden fence, with a 'Walkers Only'-sign and a **Sheffield Country Walk**-marker on the reverse, by a drystone wall on the left. You continue along the edge past heathery moorland with some scattered boulders for 2.0 km, passing some random fence parts and remnants of enclosures and drystone walls on your left, as well as a faint path turning left through the moor and a couple of paths joining from a car park on the right below, **by some popular rock-climbing areas**. Far views (on a good day) include **Stanedge Pole** on the left across the moor and **The Hope Valley, Win Hill, The Great Ridge** and **Kinder Scout** (SWC Walks 302-304) to the right.

The last stretch is through some large boulders before reaching a trig point at the top of a rocky outcrop at **the southern end of Stanage Edge**, at 457m above sea level the highest point of the walk and a tremendous vantage point. If you walk to the edge of the boulders to the right of the trig point and look down into the valley, you will see some **old abandoned millstones** lying just at the base of the rocky outcrop. Continue by *turning left* with the edge on your right (60°), initially through some more boulders, in 30m picking up a clear engineered path across **Cam Height**, some more heathery moorland (due E). In 120m you descend through a short boulder stretch and in 100m you pass the **Cowper Stone** (on the OS map), a distinctive gritstone, away on your left. In another 600m pass a marker post and then a horizontal boulder on some rocks and in 25m continue in the same direction along the left-hand verge of a road at a bend. In 130m, just before the first of two **Upper Burbage Bridges**, you *turn right* across the road and enter **Burbage Bridge car park**.

In 20m *turn left* through a metal kissing gate by a two-way footpath signpost and *turn right* to follow the furthest right and upper of the two footpaths, through a boulder plateau (initially 170°). In 300m at the top of the gentle rise through the rocky promontory you have **Higger Tor** dead ahead and **Carl Wark** behind it to the left and lower, with **Burbage Rocks** to the left of the valley. You follow the path down through a dip and then up the Tor, avoiding any right turn towards the **Fiddler's Elbow** road. In about 1.0 km from the car park, you reach the plateau of **Higger Tor**, at 434m above sea level, where another path joins from the right from a car park on the road. *Bear left* across the plateau (185°) and in the far-left corner descend from it along the right of three faint tracks down the steep boulder wall (the other two involve some scrambling).

At the bottom of the rock wall continue in the same direction along an engineered path, which in 120m continues as a gravel path. In 50m a path joins from the right and in 200m you start the ascent to **Carl Wark** along a stepped path up to – and then around to the left of – the boulder wall that surrounds this suspected ancient hill fort site in most directions. *Bear left* across the boulder-strewn plateau and in 190m in its south east corner find a suitable descent route down the boulder wall (some routes entail some scrambling, others are more easily walkable). In 30m at the base of the boulder wall pick up an obvious earthen path through the slope of the hill, which consists of bracken initially, then bog lower down. Try to stay on a general bearing of 165° as per the footpath on the OS map, as losing the path makes walking that much harder.

You descend towards the **Burbage Brook**, after about 250m through a boggy stretch with only occasional firm paths, then in 60m steeply down a bank to ford the brook in a deep gully and on the other side go back up the opposite bank and continue in the same direction along a faint but clear path. In 110m you *turn right* along a wide gravel path at a T-junction by a bench on the left. You *curve left* with the track and in another 20m walk through some stone gate posts. In 150m go through a gate to the left of a wooden field gate and through a car park to a road.

By the road *turn hard left* with a signposted footpath, almost back on yourself, and in 30m go through a wooden gate into **Access Land** and follow a clear path along the rising edge of the **Burbage Rocks**. In 100m the path and edge bear to the left and in another 60m **[!]** you *turn right* away from the edge of the moor along a – mostly – clear path through the heather in a broadly south easterly direction for 440m to the other end of the moor (ignore a left running path in 30m, in 350m walk through a wooden gate in a fence line and in 60m walk through another wooden gate...). You are now close to a road to the right and *turn hard left* through grass and bracken along an earth path forking to the right away from the fence on the left (75°). In 70m *turn right* to cross a tarmac drive in 35m and continue in the same direction to the left of the recommended pub lunch option, **The Fox House Inn**, to its entrance.

After lunch you *turn right* from the rear entrance of the pub around a disused toilet block to the main road. A **bus stop for services to Sheffield or Hathersage or Grindleford** is 30m to the left. *Turn right* along the road, passing the pub building and in 40m cross the **A6187** carefully by a three-way junction and continue in the same direction through a wall gap into the **Longshaw Estate**, signed for 'Visitor Information, Discovery Centre, Café and Toilets'. Head down through a wood along a gravel path and in 140m you reach **Longshaw Lodge**.

Here you have a choice:

For a direct route back down to the Burbage Brook and then along it through open heathland, *turn hard right* through a wide wooden gate to the right of a field gate and in 20m *bear right* across a road and go through a wooden gate to the right of a white metal field gate. Follow an earthen path for 370m and **[!]** *fork left* **[!]** where the main path curves away to the right. In 110m walk through a wooden kissing gate and continue down the wood, away from the A road. In another 110m you cross a stream. In 10m *turn left* with the path and a marker post where a faint path joins from the right and re-cross the stream. In another 80m *turn right* with the path over a two-railed wooden footbridge across the **Burbage Brook** and *turn left* with the path. In 600m ignore a footbridge on the left across the brook by a signpost to 'Longshaw Visitor Centre'. The alternative route joins across it. Continue below at the double asterisk ******).

For a route through parts of the landscaped Longshaw Estate and past their Visitor Centre and The Longshaw Tea Room and then down to the Burbage Brook further along, *turn left* along a tarmac drive and in 50m ignore a left forking gravel track and a left turn. In 120m ignore a left turning track to the Estate Office and a right forking gravel path and in 30m you reach the **Longshaw Visitor Centre** and **The Longshaw Tea Room**, the café lunch option, on the left. *Turn right* along a tarmac path, with 'Estate Walks' markers and in 10m *turn left* along a gravel path at a T-junction with a fence on the right and a pasture behind and the gardens of Longshaw House (private) on the left. In 100m go through a wooden gate and *turn right* at a path junction under trees, past a mill stone. The gravel path runs between rows of rhododendrons with a ditch on the left initially and in 60m you have an open area on the left.

In 100m walk through a wooden gate in a drystone wall and continue in the same direction. The path curves to the right in 100m and in 80m enters **Granby Wood**. In 120m with a pond on the right, *turn right* with the path around the pond, ignoring the signposted footpath to 'Yarncliff' towards a wooden gate. In 200m, just after passing a barn on the right, you get good views of Higger Tor, Carl Wark, Burbage Rocks and Stanage Edge behind. In 40m walk through a wooden gate and continue along the gravel path with a barbed wire fence on the right. In 60m ignore a left turn and in 110m go through a wall gap by a very good information point in **Granby Barn**. In 20m go through a gate and cross a road by another **bus stop for services to Sheffield or Grindleford** to continue a little to the left through a wooden gate and down a stepped

path with a metal railing on the right. Ignore a left turn and in 100m cross a two-railed footbridge over **Burbage Brook** and *turn left* along it.

******) In 150m ignore a footbridge on the left and in 40m the heathland discontinues as you enter some trees. In 40m ignore a right fork and in 20m walk through a metal gate to **leave the Access Land** and enter a wood. Ignore all ways off for 800m, staying high up in the wooded gorge, close to the brook audible (and at times visible) down below on the left. **In more detail:** You cross some streamlets in 350m (by a drystone wall turning right), in 120m more and another one in another 110m. In 50m ignore a right running footpath signposted '**Surprise View, Bolehill Quarry**' and in another 25m at a four-way junction of paths, *veer right*, in 60m with a drop to the river level on the left. In another 130m, where the broad path bears up to the right along a stepped section, you **[!]** *turn hard left* down a descending path into the steep gorge (50°).

In 50m the path *turns hard right* (the faint path in the same direction leads to a **fine view of some small waterfalls**) and passes a stone bench and in another 60m *turns hard left* to in 20m cross a two-railed wooden footbridge over the brook. On the other side *turn right* for 20m and then *turn left* up some steps to ascend a steep bank to the higher level of the wood above (the oak-birch **Yarncliff Wood**). *Bear right* along a clear path at a bend and in 25m ignore a right turn to continue in the same direction uphill with the path and in another 60m *turn right* at a four-way junction. In 250m a faint path joins from the right behind and in 100m you leave the wooded gorge through a wall gap past a National Trust **Padley Gorge** sign. *Turn right* to the right of the **B6521** and in 20m pass a **bus stop for services to Sheffield**.

In 50m *turn right* along a tarmac signposted footpath dropping steeply, with a cascading stream down below on the left, and in 120m at the bottom of the drop *turn right* at a T-junction with a lane, past the **Grindleford Station Café**, the recommended early tea stop. Pass a path to the left down to the Manchester bound platform of **Grindleford Station**, then cross the bridge over the **Hope Valley Line** (with the entrance to the 1893-built, 5697 metres long, **Totley Tunnel** on the right), and ignore the left turning path to the Sheffield bound platform. In 50m ignore a path through a wall gap on the right back into the NT Padley Gorge estate and *turn left* with the drive (now on gravel) and a signpost for 'Longshaw Estate via Padley Gorge'. You cross the **Burbage Brook** on an arched concrete bridge and continue on a cobbled lane to the left of **Padley Mill** and in 70m ignore a signposted footpath up to the right. You have a wall on the left and in 200m the lane continues as tarmac. In 25m ignore a wooden gate on the left into the '**Friends of Brunt's Barn Ecology Project**'.

In 40m the views open up as you emerge from trees to the left, across the **Derwent River's** valley (here still referred to as **Hope Valley**, Derwent Valley it is only further downriver towards Derby) to **Sherriff Wood**. In 120m you pass **Brunt's Barn**, a Conservation Volunteer Centre, and in 10m on the right find **Padley Chapel**, an interesting (and well worth a visit if open) remnant of a larger complex, **Padley Hall** (interesting ruined remains at the back). Continue along the gravel path and in 50m go through a gate to the right of a cattle grid by a NT Longshaw Estate sign. In 25m *turn left* and in 10m go through a kissing gate to the left of a wooden field gate with a footpath signpost, to in 40m cross the railway line on a bridge. *Curve to the right* with the path and in 120m by the first wide gap in the drystone wall on the left you reach a three-way path junction (at time of writing, the marker post lies on the ground though).

Here you have a choice:

For a shorter route (cut 900m) continue in the same direction along the drystone wall. In 120m in the far-left field corner, you *turn right* with a 'Leadmill' signpost, again with a drystone wall on the left. In 80m go through a gap in a crumbled drystone wall and

veer *right* with the obvious grassy path (350°). In 120m go through a gap in a drystone wall (a missing gate) and *bear right* (due N) towards a drystone wall corner around a wood, protruding into the far-right field corner. You walk through a wooden gate in the stone wall into **Coppice Wood** (NT) and follow a clear path through it. In 80m *bear right* with the obvious path and in another 220m reach the main walk at a T-junction with the **Derwent Valley Heritage Way** along the **Derwent River**. Pick up the directions at the triple asterisk *******) below.

For the main walk, you *turn left* through a crumbling drystone wall into a pasture. Follow a clear path to the far-right bottom corner of this field (220°) and in 110m go through a wall gap and *bear left* to continue with the wall on your right (due S initially). In 100m curve to the right with the wall, walk over a short paved section, and in 260m by a concrete bridge over the **Burbage Brook** on the left, you *turn right* across a stile into a large pasture along the **Derwent River**. *Turn right* along it, with the often-audible **B6001** Grindleford – Hathersage road on the other side of the river at the bottom of **Sherriff Wood**. You will now follow the **Derwent Valley Heritage Way** for 1.8 km to **Leadmill Bridge**, just outside of Hathersage. **In more detail**: walk through a couple of pastures and in 660m leave the second field through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate into **Coppice Wood** (NT). In 470m a couple of paths join from the right behind (one of them is the shorter route).

*******) In 130m you leave the wood through a wooden kissing gate. Walk along the left edge of a couple of pastures and in 350m into a third one. In 35m, where the river veers away to the left, you *bear right* with the path towards a house (can be part hidden by foliage). In 280m pass **Harper Lees** to its left and in 70m leave the field through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a wooden field gate. Now follow the tarmac drive of the house to Leadmill Bridge, with the railway line above on the right at some distance. Mostly you can walk through a grassy margin or along the riverside. A footpath joins in 50m and another one in another 320m, where you *turn left* with the drive. At the T-junction with the B6001 by **Leadmill Bridge** on the left, you have the recommended (pub) tea stop the **Plough Inn** 230m on the left uphill in Leadmill hamlet.

For the station, either follow the roadside pavement for 600m to the turnoff to Station Approach, en route passing **The David Mellor Design Museum Café**; **or** cross the road and go through a wall gap and then a wooden gate by a signpost and continue along a fenced path. In 160m walk through a wooden gate and ignore a footpath forking right towards the road. In 300m go through another wooden gate. In 40m a farm track joins from the left from **Nether Hall Farm** and you continue with a hedge on the left and in 130m go over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall or through a double wooden field gate to the right of it and *turn right* along a tarmac lane at a bend by **Nether Hall's** drive on the left. In 150m the lane (**Dore Lane**) goes under the railway line and in 90m you cross **Station Road** (the **B6001** again) a little to the right and *bear right* with the **Station Approach** road along its opposite pavement. In 120m in the station forecourt *turn right* to the platforms.

For more tea stops and/or a tour through Hathersage (adds up to 1.6 km): **do not go up Station Approach** but follow the B road (Station Road) into the village and follow the route as per the route map, in 340m passing **The Little John Hotel**, in another 40m reaching **Main Road** at a T-junction, opposite **The George Hotel**. *Turn right* and pass some restaurants along **Main Road** as well as **Cintra's Tea Rooms & Gardens**, **Outside Café** and **Bank House Bar & Restaurant** and in 380m *turn left* along **School Lane** to in 170m reach the recommended **Scotsman's Pack** pub. From there return to Main Road and *turn left* along it uphill. In 150m *bear right* away from the main road and follow **Back Lane** to the bottom of **Station Approach**, 350m away.