

Hathersage Circular (via Bretton Clough and Eyam)			Hathersage Circular (omitting Great Hucklow)		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check	1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
19 th August 2018	22 nd Sept. 2022		19 th May 2018		
Current status	Document last updated Monday, 26 th September 2022				
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Hathersage Circular (via Bretton Clough and Eyam)

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: 22.2 km (13.8 mi), of which 7.8 km (4.8 mi) on tarmac or concrete

Cumulative ascent/descent: 649m.

For a shorter or longer walk, see *below* **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 7 out of 10

Time: 6 hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 13 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 up to two trains per hour (journey time from 118 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) & OL24 (The Peak District – White Peak Area)

Walk Notes:

Centred on Hathersage, an attractive village in the Hope Valley surrounded by the ringed cliffs of the Stanage and Millstone edges as well as the ancient iron-age hill fort of Carl Wark and the distinctive Higger Tor on Burbage Moor, this walk leads through some outstandingly beautiful scenery: delightful meadows with a jigsaw of drystone walls and other signs of small-scale livestock farming, rolling hills backed by open moorland and the deep wooded valleys of the Highlow Brook (one of the few remaining in the Peak District with the remains of ancient oakwoods) and the Bretton Clough with their fast flowing streams.

You have magnificent views all day (weather permitting).

The middle part follows the geological fault line between the Dark and White Peak areas along the Eyam and Hucklow Edges with tremendous views into the Hope Valley and then descends through a wood into it, where you pass plenty of signs of its mining heritage: (now grassy) spoil heaps and fenced-off unstable ground suffering from subsidence.

You eventually reach the famous plague village of Eyam with its tea options. Rise up steeply from Eyam to cross the heathery blanket peat bog of Eyam Moor (along a clear path), and – after one last steep descent and partial re-ascent through a remote green valley – re-cross the Derwent River back into Hathersage.

Walk Options:

A Shortcut down from the Hucklow Edge to Foolow cuts out Great Hucklow, this cuts 2.2 km/1.3 mi and 61m ascent and is **rated 6/10**.

Buses from Great Hucklow, Foolow or Eyam enable a finish after 10.0 km/6.2 mi, 11.9 km/7.4 mi or 14.4 km/9.0 mi respectively, with – between them – many buses on Mondays-Saturdays and a few on Sundays: currently these are **Lines 65** (to Sheffield Interchange), **66** (to Chesterfield), **100** (to Bamford), **173** (Great Hucklow only, to Hope) and **257** (to Hathersage, Bamford & Sheffield Interchange).

A Variation in the Morning routes out of the Bretton Clough up the Abney Clough and around Abney Low to re-join the route in Nether Bretton, this adds 1.7 km and 50m ascent.

A short but tough out-and-back to the Wet Withens Bronze Age stone circle and the Eyam Moor Barrow is described, just before the final descent back into Hathersage.

Lunch (details last updated 26/09/22)

The Barrel Inn Bretton, near Eyam, *Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 5QD (01433 630 856, <http://www.thebarrelinn.co.uk/>)*. The Barrel Inn dates back to 1597 and stands at the head of Bretton Clough at the crossing of two important old bridleways: Hathersage to Eyam and Sheffield to Buxton. It is claiming to be the highest pub in Derbyshire at 380m above sea and can certainly boast panoramic views of the Hope Valley and extensive parts of the Peak District National Park (and – on a good day – of five counties). It is located 7.3 km/4.5 mi into the walk and named for a barrel shaped cavern created by mining activity in the Hucklow Edge Lead Vein which runs about 200m below the pub.

Food served 12.00-14.00 and 18.00-20.00 Mon-Sat and all day Sun.

The Queen Anne Inn Main Street, *Great Hucklow, Tideswell, Derbyshire, SK17 8RF (01298 871 246, <http://queenanneinn.co.uk/>)*. Open 12.00-22.00 Thu-Sun. Food served 12.00-14.00 and 18.00-21.00 Thu-Sun. The Queen Anne is located 9.8 km/6.1 mi into the full walk.

The Bulls Head Inn Foolow, near Eyam, *Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 5QR (01433 630 873, <https://thebullsheadfoolow.co.uk/>)*. Open 16.00-21.00 Tue, 15.00-23.00 Wed, 12.00-23.00 Thu-Sat and 12.00-18.00 Sun. Food served 17.00-20.00 Tue, 17.00-21.00 Wed, 12.00-14.30 and 17.00-21.00 Thu-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun. The Bulls Head is located 11.8 km/7.4 mi into the full walk (9.6 km/6.1 mi if walking the shortcut).

With an early start, the tea options in **Eyam** come into play for lunch.

Tea

In Eyam (details last updated 26/09/22)

A handful of options, from between 7.5 km/4.7 mi and 6.9 km/4.3 mi from the end of the walk. See the walk directions for more details.

In Hathersage (details last updated 26/09/22)

The Plough Inn Leadmill Bridge, *Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 1BA (01433 650 319, <http://www.theploughinn-hathersage.co.uk/>)*. Open daily from 11.00. Food served 12.00-20.30. The Plough is located 1.3 km from the end of the walk.

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.

A handful of options, on a loop through the village beyond the station. See the walk directions for more details.

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.

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.

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.

High Low/Highlow Hall

High Low translates to high hill ('low' = hill in the Derbyshire dialect, from Old English *hlaw* "hill, mound"). Highlow Hall is a historic Elizabethan manor house, that was owned by the Eyre family from approximately 1340 to 1842, at which point one branch of the family had already emigrated to the United States. It is a Grade II* listed building and dates to the late 16th century and is associated with the White Lady, a local ghost of a woman named Elizabeth Archer, said to haunt the estate.

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. <http://www.trailzilla.com/trail-guide/w2d>

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 Grindleford. 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.

Eyam/Eyam Moor

Eyam (pronounced 'eem'), was founded and named by Anglo-Saxons, although lead had been mined in the area since at least the Romans. 'Eyam' is a dative form of the noun *ēg* (an island) and probably refers to a patch of cultivable land amidst the moors, or else to the settlement's situation between two brooks. In the churchyard is an Anglo-Saxon cross in Mercian style dated to the 8th century.

Mining continued into the 19th century, after which better sources were discovered and a change-over was made to the working and treatment of fluorspar as a slagging agent in smelting. Within a 5 km radius of the village there are 439 known mines.

The village became famous after the Black Death of 1665 and 1666. An outbreak of the bubonic plague, started from a large bail of cloth ordered from London, was contained when the villagers uniquely decided to isolate themselves from the surrounding communities. A policy was introduced that families buried their own dead. Also, anyone was forbidden from leaving the village, with food supplies delivered to pick-up points on the fringes of the village. After 14 months of quarantine, only 83 residents of Eyam are thought to have remained alive, while the pre-plague population of the village had been at least 350. It is known that some of the village population were genetically unique and naturally immune to this very deadly disease.

Eyam Hall

Eyam Hall is an unspoilt example of a gritstone Jacobean-style manor house and Grade II* listed. It is still owned by descendants of the original owners, the Wright family, who have held it for nine generations. Its last use was as a wedding venue until 2013 when it was leased to the National Trust (rather than given, the first to be leased ever). It has now been taken back into family management though. House and garden are open to the public every year for 30 days, Eyam Hall Craft Centre is open Tuesdays to Sundays 10.30-16.30 all year.

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 *bear left* with the road to cross **Station Road** (the **B6001**) and continue opposite a little to the right along **Dore Lane**. In good weather you get first views on the left of the **High Low** (hill) and of **Eyam Moor** further in the distance. In 90m the lane goes under the railway line and in 150m, where the lane turns to the right, and by the entrance to **Nether Hall** (on the OS map), you *turn left* with a signposted footpath to 'Leadmill Bridge' over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall or through a double wooden field gate to the left of it (with a 'Nether Hall Farm' sign on it).

You go down a car wide farm track with a hedge on the right and with views of the **Burbage Rocks** edge behind Hathersage village on your left (SWC Walk 266 Sheffield to Bamford or Moscar Lodge). In 130m continue in the same direction along a narrow path with a wooden fence on the right, where the farm track turns to the right towards the farm. In 40m go through a wooden gate and in 220m pass a redundant stile. In 70m go through another wooden gate and continue in the same direction along a fenced path (a footpath has joined from the left). In 160m go through a wall gap by a signpost and then through a wooden gate and *turn right* along the road pavement. In 50m cross the **Derwent River** on the arched **Leadmill Bridge** and *turn right* through a wall gap and a wooden gate with a signposted footpath to 'Shatton', with a **Derwent Valley Heritage Way** marker on the signpost and follow the river on your right.

In 170m *bear left* with a signpost across the grass and in 60m walk up some steps and over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall into a pasture and *turn right* up its right-hand boundary, with a wire fence on the left and soon with a wood on the right. In 180m you walk through a gap (a missing field gate) by a stile to the right of it. In 120m at the corner of the wood on the right, you continue in the same direction uphill (275°) along a grassy track and in 130m at the top of the field go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and *turn right* along a gravel car wide track to the right of **Mount Pleasant Farm**. On your right you have views of the **Stanage and Bamford Edges** and of **Win Hill** (SWC Walks 266 (as above), 302 (Bamford to Edale) & 360 (Hathersage to Bamford)). In 230m cross the **Dunge Brook** on the lane.

In 20m *turn left* with a signpost in a hedge through a wooden field gate and continue along a grassy track through a pasture, with Dunge Brook some 30m away on the left (255°), aiming for the lower-left end of the field (i.e.: not towards the obvious gate in the top-right corner). In 200m you enter **Callow Wood** through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a wooden field gate and follow a clear path uphill through the steep wood (bluebells in season), eventually walking near the top of it. In 370m you leave the wood through a wooden gate and *bear left* (280°) up a grassy slope towards a stepped wall gap 60m away, just to the right of a cottage. In another 20m go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate. *Turn left* uphill with **Callow House Farm** house on your left and in 15m ignore a right turning footpath and continue uphill along a car wide gravel track. In 100m the track levels out and in 60m you cross a cattle grid and continue in the same direction along a tarmac lane coming down from the right.

Follow the lane for 220m steeply downhill (with High Low hill looming on the left) to a crossing of the **Dunge Brook** with **Dunge Wood** on your right and *turn left* with the lane across the brook. Rise out of the valley with the lane with **Hathersage** soon visible again away on the left. In 200m where the lane bears left, you *veer right* along a gravel car wide farm track and in 60m go through a metal field gate onto a tarmac lane at a T-junction opposite the drive of **Highlow Hall** and *turn right* along the lane. In 50m *turn left* through a double metal field gate with a footpath signpost into a large pasture.

You have **striking views** from this field corner of the valley of the **Highlow Brook** and **Bole Hill** beyond it with the edge of **Eyam Moor**, and also of the transmission mast on **Sir William Hill**. Follow the left-hand wall with **High Low** (hill) rising behind the house, and in 90m at the end of the wall *stay to the right* of an intermittent row of large trees downhill through the sloping pasture (175°).

In 160m, just past the last tree, *bear left* towards the bottom of the field and in 30m go over a wooden ladder stile in a drystone wall to the right of a wooden field gate and continue along a car wide track steeply downhill through **Highlow Wood** (bluebells in season). In 180m walk through a wooden field gate (ignore the track joining from the right) and cross the **Highlow Brook** on a two-railed footbridge to the left of a ford. On the other side, by a stile on the left and with another brook ahead, flowing down through **Brook Wood** (ultimately) from **Eyam Moor**, *turn right* across the brook over a railed plank bridge to continue uphill along a wide track with the Highlow Brook down on your right. In 220m you enter **Access Land** over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate and continue uphill along the track, initially along the fence on the right.

In 230m you **[!]** *fork right* along a grassy path, ignoring the continuation of the car wide track further uphill and in 20m pass a low marker post at the top of the rise to start a gentle descent along the footpath, with **Smelting Hill** on the right on the other side of the valley, the table top-shaped **Abney Low** ahead and the flanks of **Bole Hill** on your left. In 280m you leave the **Access Land** over a stile to the left of a wooden field gate with a **White to Dark** marker on the reverse and continue downhill through a mud-prone area and in 30m cross a stream and re-ascend. In 240m descend steeply into the valley. In 70m *fork right* and in 20m you get to a footbridge by a **river junction**. This is the confluence of **Bretton Brook** (from the left) out of **Bretton Clough** ('clough' is Old English, meaning steep valley/ravine, and related to High German 'Klinge' = blade) and **Abney Brook** (to the half right) out of **Abney Clough**, forming the Highlow Brook. **Stoke Ford** (on the OS map) is 30m away on the right.

Here you have a choice:

For a longer walk, via Abney Clough and Abney, cross the bridge and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Abney Clough Extension**.

For the Main Walk, all along the Bretton Clough, do not cross the bridge, but – with your back to Bretton Brook and the footbridge – *turn right* up the slope along a clear path with the signed **Footpath 99** 'By Gotherage Barn to Grindleford and to Eyam' and in 50m ignore a left forking footpath up into the trees (this goes on up to Eyam Moor). You walk up into the **Bretton Clough** with **Abney Brook** below and eventually with views to **Abney Low** on the right across the valley, and in 400m go through a wooden kissing gate and continue with a steep drop on the right. In 130m you have a barbed wire fence on your right and in another 110m go through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a wooden field gate and *turn right* to cross a stream by a small pond on the left and continue along a clear path uphill (230°) with some drystone wall remnants on your left, *forking right* with the earth path. In 60m the path levels out with a grassy plateau ahead and with some ruined farm buildings away to your left on a higher level.

Pick up a clear path through the grassy plateau on a bearing of 230° and follow it for 500m, crossing a few wall remnants along the way, signifying how intensively this remote valley was farmed, and lastly going through a bracken-covered area. Eventually you *turn left* with the path which ascends gently to the left of a fence, to then descend to a stile. Go over the stile and cross a stream via stepping stones and in 30m *turn left* through a wooden gate with a yellow marker and follow a clear path steeply uphill with the stream below on your left in an increasingly deep cutting. In 130m you *turn right*

with the path still steeply uphill and in 80m at a T-junction with a wooden bench on the right, *turn up hard left* along another grassy path, with the valley again on your left. In 40m *turn right* over a stile and follow a narrow, fenced footpath with some sloping pastures on the right and the upper end of the **Bretton Clough** ahead. In 200m (having walked through a wooden gate along the way) *turn right* along a tarmac lane by a footpath signpost, still uphill. Ignore all ways off the lane for 450m.

*) You reach a T-junction with **Sir William Hill Road**, by **Bretton Cottage** B&B on your right and with the first of three possible lunch pubs on your left: **The Barrel Inn**. *Bear left* a little to an info panel by a **fantastic viewpoint** right on the **geological fault line dividing the White Peak and Dark Peak** areas, with views down into the **Hope Valley**. [Note the 'London 142 miles' detail on the panel.] With the view ahead and the pub behind, *turn right* along the road (i.e.: continue with the valley on your left). In 180m continue in the same direction on the level along a minor tarmac lane, ignoring the continuation of the main road bearing left steeply downhill. You have splendid views on the right across the top of **Bretton Clough** to **Abney Moor**, and on the left down the steep hanging wood into the **Hope Valley**. [Update 09/22: the footpath used for the upcoming shortcut and the Access Land it leads through, are closed until at least 04/2023 due to dangerous ground erosion. Therefore, **for the shortcut**, follow the left forking road down into Foolow.]

In 900m at a signposted footpath junction, you have a choice:

For a Shortcut, cutting out 2.2 km, you *turn left* steeply downhill and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut**.

For the Main Walk, you continue in the same direction along the tarmac lane. In 110m the lane veers to the left and starts to gently descend and in 170m a restricted byway joins from the left by a car park and an info panel, out of the **Silence Heritage Site**, a former mining site. [Update 09/22: the road is closed to traffic for about 100m due to ground erosion, but perfectly walkable.] In 50m **[!]** you *bear up to the right* along another tarmac lane (Abney Road, signed 'Gliding Club' and 'Abney'), ignoring the continuation of the lane. In 100m you pass a fenced area on your right a little above, this is an entrance to an old lead mine (Speedgrove Mine) and in 250m a footpath joins from the left up some steps out of **Great Hucklow Wood**. **[!]** *Turn left* down the steps and **[!]** *turn right* immediately along a permissive path through the wood (owned by the **Unitarian Church at the Nightingale Centre**, passed later down in Great Hucklow).

In 220m ignore a path joining from the right above and in 50m ignore a wooden gate in the fence on the left leading into a pasture. In 120m you reach the far end of the wood by an info panel and with **Great Hucklow Primary School** up on the right. *Turn left* down along a car wide gravel track. In 70m pass an info panel on the **Hucklow Edge Vein** and walk through a wall gap to the right of a metal car wide gate onto a tarmac lane and *turn left* along it. In 40m where the lane turns hard left, you *turn right* across a grassy area and in 20m continue along a narrow path to the left of a metal field gate, ignoring a stile on the right. You have a field on the right and trees on the left. In 70m *turn left* at a T-junction with a gravel lane (a three-way footpath junction) and in 90m *turn left* to a road and *turn left* along it past **The Queen Anne Inn**. In 70m you pass the **Nightingale Centre** on the right and in another 20m the **Great Hucklow buttercross** (with an info panel).

In 70m you pass a **bus stop** and in 50m *turn right* along a road. In 130m, just after passing the **Old Chapel** on the left, *turn left* along a signposted footpath over a stone slab stile. Walk along the left-hand boundaries of a succession of fields, crossing between them over stone slab stiles in every case, and in 250m go through a standing stone squeeze gate and along an earthen path with a small wood on the right. In 20m

go through a wall gap and *turn left* along a tarmac lane at a T-junction. In 40m *turn right* at a T-junction with another tarmac lane. In 125m where the lane turns to the right, you continue in the same direction along a signposted footpath along a car wide track to the left of a house. After a while the scenery opens up on the left and you get good views up to the **Hucklow Edge** you walked along earlier.

In 400m by a large shed on the left you *bear right* with the car wide track between drystone walls and in 180m go through a stone slab squeeze gate and *bear right* through a pasture. Aim for a point about 30m to the left of the far-right field corner (135°) and there leave the field through a squeeze stile and continue in the same direction with **Roods Farm** on the left. In 50m you cross the farm's drive and cross another pasture in the same direction and in 70m go through a wall gap onto a road and *turn left* towards **Foolow** village. In 160m there is a pavement on the left and in 60m a road joins from the left down from Bretton. You pass **St. Hugh's Church** (usually open; an informative plaque is to be found on the wall on this side of the church) and in another 40m the Shortcut joins from the left along a tarmac path. In 30m you get to a three-way road junction by **The Bulls Head Inn** on the left and a **bus stop** opposite.

****)** *Turn right* along the road signed 'Wardlow' and 'Middleton'. In 120m, just after the last house on the left, *turn left* with a signpost through a wooden gate in a drystone wall to the right of a wooden field gate and walk along a gravel path through a pasture. In 20m *turn left* through a wooden gate by a marker post and *turn right* through a pasture. In 30m walk through a wooden gate and *veer left* and in 40m go through a wooden gate in a wall gap and past a high marker post and in 40m through a wall gap and *veer right* a little towards a three-way signpost and a wooden gate halfway down this larger pasture, broadly walking in the direction of the transmission mast on Sir William Hill. In 90m (a footpath joins from the left from the road) walk through the gate (signed 'Eyam'). You now walk in broadly the same direction through a succession of small fields (mainly pastures) for 1.8 km all the way to the fringes of Eyam.

In more detail: in 20m go through a wooden gate and along a right-hand wall and in 70m over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall and in 90m go over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall and in 60m walk through a wall gap (a missing gate) and follow the right-hand drystone wall. In 90m go through a stone squeeze stile and continue in the same direction down some steps into **Linen Dale** (on the OS map) and go through a wooden kissing gate by a two-way signpost at its bottom and then and back up the opposite sloping pasture and continue towards a white-painted post 90m away and walk through a wall gap. In 80m walk through a wooden gate and past a high two-way signpost and in 40m pass a low 'Footpath' sign and in 60m, by a two-way signpost, walk through a wooden gate and then a gap in a wall and continue towards a drystone wall corner. In 150m at the wall corner continue in the same direction along the right-hand wall.

In 180m go through a wooden gate and a wall gap, cross a farm track and go through a wall gap and in 90m through another wall gap. In 100m go through a wall gap and in 20m walk through a wooden gate and continue in the same direction through the next pasture along its right-hand side. In 160m *turn left* through some remnants of a wall on the left with a ruined farm building 30m behind and immediately *turn right* downhill with the wall now on your right. You have first sight of **Eyam** village on this gentle descent. In 190m walk through a squeeze gap to the left of the drystone wall. In 140m you pass into the next pasture through a wooden gate and continue in the same direction and in 70m leave the field through a wooden gate and a squeeze gap in a drystone wall and continue in the same direction along a narrow path between a hedge and a wall. In 50m walk down some steps onto a tarmac lane.

Turn left at this four-way footpath junction, along **Tideswell Lane**. In 100m **Windmill Lane** joins from the right. In 150m (20m before a T-junction with a road) you have the **first of many plague plaques or info panels you will encounter throughout the village**, here on a house wall on the right. Eyam is famous for its **self-chosen isolation during an outbreak of The Plague** in 1665/6, to stop the disease from spreading any further. You will find plenty of information on buildings or fences about the fate of the respective habitants at the time of The Plague. In 20m *turn right* along the main road through Eyam and follow it for 800m.

In more detail: in 130m you pass the **first of several bus stops**, in 120m you have the **Eyam Country Store** on the left. In 140m you have another bus stop and the courtyard of **Eyam Hall** (NT) on the left: in it you will find the **Coolstone at Eyam Hall** (bar & bistro) and **The Nook** (café). In 40m you pass some info panels on the right by the village stocks and market hall and in 70m the **Ever End Troughs** (so called because they never ceased to have water in the 16th century) and a **Sheep Roast** on the left (with an explanatory plaque on the wall on the left), followed by the **Plague Cottages**. In 20m pass **St. Lawrence's, Eyam** on your left (its churchyard has an 8th century Celtic/some say Saxon cross), followed by the ex-Bulls Head pub and The Mechanics' (evening) bar in the **Eyam Mechanics Institute** building by another bus stop on the right.

[!] In 130m you *fork left* with **Church Street** to the left of some remnants of a cottage, where the main road veers to the right gently downhill. In 20m pass an info panel on the left (about the glebe mine site) and in 30m the **Church Street Stores** on the right-hand side. In 40m reach **The Square**, by the **last of the bus stops** on the right by two more info panels, with the **Café Village Green** on the left and the **Eyam Tea Rooms** 30m away on the right across the square, as well as the **Ivy Cottage Vintage Tea Room** 30m down an unnamed lane on the right, then by Rose Cottage turning right down a path for 50m. At the far end of the square *turn left* up along **Water Lane** and in 35m pass **The Miner's Arms** on your right. Continue up Water Lane, which is getting steeper as you continue, en route passing some more water troughs from the 1588 water supply system, and in 320m at the top of the road by a bench on the right, you *turn left* through a wooden gate and along a narrow path between pastures.

In 130m another path joins from the left and in 20m you walk up some steps and through a wooden gate onto a tarmac lane (**Edge Road**). Cross it and go up some steps and walk through a wooden gate a little to the left (currently broken and on the ground) to continue uphill, initially along a paved path. In 100m you have a drystone wall on your left and **Beech Hurst** wood beyond it with **YHA Eyam** in the midst of it. In 110m, where the drystone wall turns to the left, you continue in the same direction steeply further uphill. In 50m at the top of the rise you *turn left* through a wooden gate in a wall gap into a pasture and continue with the hanging wood again on your left. In 70m ignore a wooden gate into the wood and in another 30m go through a wooden gate and *veer right* across another pasture (with clear views on the left of the valley below, a rather large quarry opposite and all the villages walked through earlier) and in 50m enter the adjacent field through a wooden gate between drystone walls. Cross the field diagonally to its upper corner and in 100m leave the field through a wooden gate by a metal footpath signpost and *turn left* along a tarmac lane.

In 30m *turn right* with a footpath signpost over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall and follow the right-hand field boundary to the far-right corner. In about 300m you pass on the right the chimneyed shaft of the **Ladywash Leadmine** (active, with interruptions, from 1717 to 1979, lately for Fluorspar mining). You continue over the brow of this field, the **highest point of this walk**, and leave the field through a stone slab stile in a drystone wall onto a tree-lined gravel car wide track between drystone walls (a BOAT – Byway Open to All Traffic) with the signposted footpath continuing in the same direction

across the track towards **Stoke Ford** (seen earlier by the confluence of Abney and Bretton Brooks) and with some transmission masts away up on the left (police communications masts, also used by other services). You are on **Sir William Hill Road**, part of an old toll road from **Sheffield to Buxton**.

For a short out-and-back to the **Sir William Hill** (allegedly named after Sir William Cavendish, but that is disputed) with fine views back out across the area walked through earlier, you *turn left* uphill along the track for 250m.

For the continuation of the walk, you *turn right* downhill along it. In 700m just before a junction with a road at a bend, ignore a footpath from Abney via Stoke Ford joining from the left over a stone slab stile across the drystone wall. In another 15m [!] you *turn left* through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a wooden field gate with a footpath signpost into **Eyam Moor** and [!] *bear right* (50°) to in 40m follow a right-hand fence, with some pastures on the right behind (i.e.: ignore the other clear path on 20° straight ahead). On the right across the Hope Valley you again can see **Burbage Rocks, Higger Tor** and **Carl Wark**, as well as the **Stanage and Froggatt Edges**. In 500m, where the fence bears to the right, you continue in the same direction along the clear path, gently descending, with Hathersage starting to come into view. In almost 700m, *30m before a couple of stone gate posts* with some remnants of a drystone wall on either side, you pass a heavily overgrown **Embanked Stone Circle** just to the right of the path (ca. 12m in diameter and with 4 upright stones, with most of their length believed to be below the peat). Continue to the gate posts.

Here you have a choice:

For a strenuous 600m each-way pathless out-and-back to the fascinating Wet Withens Stone Circle and the Eyam Moor Barrow, *turn left* on a bearing of 275° through the heather and bracken, minding occasional holes and drainage channels en route (but **do not walk this route** in ground nesting season: 01 March – 31 July). In about 450m you go over a brow and should now see the impressive but heavily damaged, **Eyam Moor Barrow** about 150m ahead, with a green metal Scheduled Ancient Monument sign to its left. The **Wet Withens** are just to the left of the barrow, at 335m above sea. The Bronze Age stone circle is ca. 30m in diameter and about 10 uprights can still be seen around its grass and heather filled interior. There are fine views from here to the Highlow and the Abney Low, as well as to Higger Tor across the Hope Valley.

For the continuation of the walk, go through the gate posts and *bear left* to continue with the path down through the bracken and heather (15° initially). In 350m leave the **Access Land** through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate by a signpost and *turn left* down a tarmac lane. The lane then curves ever so slightly to the right and in 250m you pass the drive to **Leam Farm** on the right and in 150m the entrance to **Leam Cottage Farm** and in 150m *turn hard left* with the lane, ignoring a signposted footpath into a pasture in the same direction. In 250m *bear right* with the lane and in 50m *turn hard left* along a minor lane. In 10m *turn right* downhill along a tarmac drive between drystone walls to '**Hoghall**' and in 120m go through a wooden gate to the right of a double wooden field gate and continue in the same direction along the right-hand boundary down a steep grassy slope.

In 180m at the bottom of the drop you go through a wooden gate then a standing stone squeeze gate and cross the **Highlow Brook** on an arched stone bridge and on the other side *veer right* with a grassy path with the brook 30m away to the right and in 80m you ascend a steep slope through some scattered trees along a clear path. In 60m *turn right* along a gravel lane (by a well-weathered wooden two-way signpost). In 30m go through a wooden gate to the right of a cattle grid and in 150m *bear right* along a road joining from the left by a footpath signpost on the right. In 200m you reach a main road at a T-

junction. You have the recommended tea stop the **Plough Inn** on the right. *Turn left* downhill long the left-hand road pavement. In 110m you pass the signposted footpath to 'Shatton' that was the outbound route in the morning. Continue in the same direction over the **Derwent River** and either re-trace your outbound route back to the station or follow the roadside pavement all the way to the turnoff to **Station Approach**, en route passing **The David Mellor Design Museum Café**.

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, by the **Hathersage Social** on the left and opposite **The George Hotel**. *Turn right* and pass some restaurants and the **Bank House Bar & Restaurant** along **Main Road** 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.

Foolow Shortcut (cut 2.2 km/1.3 km and 61m ascent)

In 100m continue in the same direction at a four-way path junction, further downhill. In 100m by an info panel on the **Silence Heritage Site**, a former mining site, you walk down some steps and go through a wooden gate and follow a left-hand field boundary for 150m and walk through a wooden gate and continue in the same direction through the next pasture. In 400m near the far corner (just after having curved around a fenced pond) you go over a stone slab stile and continue in the same direction along a road joining from the left behind down from the edge. You follow the road towards **Foolow** village and in 500m, 30m before a T-junction, *bear left* along a tarmac path and pass a charming barn to its left. At a road junction [40m to the right, **St. Hugh's Church** is worth a look, its exterior more so than its interior though (usually open; an info panel can be found on the far-side of the church)] you *turn left* and in 30m you get to a three-way road junction with **The Bulls Head Inn** on the left and a **bus stop** on the right.

Pick up the directions in the main text at the double asterisk **).

Abney Clough Extension (add 1.7 km and 50m ascent)

Go through a wooden gate on the other side of the **Bretton Brook** and *turn right* to in 10m cross the **Abney Brook** on another footbridge by a marker post (**leaving the Access Land**). In 50m *turn left* at a signposted three-way footpath junction, signed 'Abney'. You gently ascend the tight and steep wooded **Abney Clough** for 1.4 km to a road in **Abney**, with the brook and some wall remnants on the left below.

In more detail: in 200m the gradient eases and in another 70m the path almost levels out and you have the edge of **Abney Moor** visible ahead; the gradient increases again but in 220m the path levels out temporarily; in 75m cross a streamlet, with a large newly planted area on the right (**White Edge Plantation**); go through a couple of wooden gates in 40m and in 60m and in 50m cross a stream; in 80m cross a streamlet

and *veer right* with the path to a wooden gate 50m away and *turn left* past the gate, now high above the brook; in 30m emerge from the trees with views of the top of the clough before re-entering trees in 200m; in 15m cross a stream and emerge from the trees; in 20m cross a streamlet, now with a drystone wall visible at the top of the clough; the path veers to the right away from **Abney Brook** to follow a tributary up a side valley and in 160m you go through a metal field gate and up a car wide bouldery track; in 100m continue along a tarmac lane and in 50m go through a rusty metal field gate onto a road at a T-junction, opposite **Heather Lodge**.

Turn left along the road, gently uphill through **Abney**. In 100m the lane levels out and you ignore a right turning lane. In 25m you have the transmission mast on **Sir William Hill** away on the left (the afternoon route passes it close by) and in another 75m, by a right fork to **Ash House Farm**, *turn left* with a signposted footpath ('**Nether Bretton**') through a wooden gate in a drystone wall. Descend towards **Abney Brook** and in 60m cross it on a railed plank bridge to re-ascend along a stepped path on the left. At the top go through a wooden gate and *turn left* along a fence, with a steep pasture to the right. Curve to the right with the path along a tributary stream and in 50m *turn left* to ford it on a car wide track and ascend to a wooden gate with a yellow marker on a gate post.

In 25m you get views of Abney Low on the half left and of some farm buildings ahead. Aim for the upper far-right field corner in the direction of the furthest left of the buildings of **Cockey Farm** (on the OS map) and in 130m go through a wooden gate and a slab stone stile and in 10m *turn left* by a two-way footpath signpost between a fence and a wall. In 70m go through a wooden gate and *veer right* to continue towards a metal field gate to the left of the farm, in 30m passing another two-way signpost, now level with **Abney Low's** top on the left (no public access). In 20m go through a metal field gate and follow a car wide gravel track along a left-hand field boundary. Ignore a right turn in 25m and continue in the same direction along the wall and in 40m by a signpost *veer right* across the field (due S) to a drystone wall corner (although a handwritten 'Footpath' sign further along indicates that the farmer is content with walkers continuing along the track to the field corner and turning right there).

In 80m pass the wall corner and in 20m go over a stone slab stile and *bear left* with the wall on the left (150°). In 130m go over a stone slab stile to the left of a wooden field gate and *veer right* towards the bottom left-corner of this narrow field. In 80m go up some steps and over a stile into **Access Land** ('Please keep dogs on a short lead 01 March-31 July') and follow a clear path through bracken. In 50m the path starts its descent into the **Bretton Clough** with some fabulous views across the valley and up on the right to its higher parts and in 180m you cross a tributary stream on a footbridge and in 20m go through a wooden gate and down some steps to cross the **Bretton Brook** on a two-railed wooden footbridge. *Veer right* along a clear path and in 30m – with a tributary stream to the left below – *fork up to the right*. In 50m the gradient eases and in 10m *turn right* with the grass path along the westerly arm of the stream.

In 70m *fork left* further uphill, with the stream on the left, in 20m going up steeply. In 30m at the top of this part of the ascent you have fine views back to **Abneylow Farm** and Abney Low behind it and *veer right steeply again*, to the right of a large hawthorn tree. In 40m the path continues up engineered steps and at the top you go through a wooden gate in a fence. You follow the obvious path to the right and curve up to the left towards the top corner of this last steep field and **leave the Access Land** over a stone slab stile and through a wooden gate into a large pasture. The brow of the rise is a little ahead still and from there you can then see some houses in **Nether Bretton**. Aim for the left corner of their garden wall and go over a stone slab stile and along a walled path to the road through the hamlet in 50m. The Main Walk joins from the left.

Turn right along the road and pick up the directions in the main text at the asterisk *).