

Hathersage to Bamford (via Bamford and Hordron Edges)		
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## Hathersage to Bamford (via Bamford and Hordron Edges)

**Start:** Hathersage Station

**Finish:** Bamford Station

Hathersage station, map reference SK 232 810, is 14 km south west of Sheffield, 227 km north west of Charing Cross and 157m above sea level. Bamford station, map reference SK 207 825, is 3 km north west of Hathersage and 150m above sea level. Both are in **Derbyshire**.

**Length:** 25.0 km (15.5 mi)

**Cumulative ascent/descent:** 861/868m. For a shorter walk, see *below* **Walk Options**.

**Toughness:** 9 out of 10

**Time:** 6 hours 30 minutes walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 13 hours.

**Transport:** Hathersage and Bamford Stations are on the Hope Valley Line from Manchester to Sheffield, with a journey time of 18 mins to Hathersage and up to 24 mins from Bamford from/to 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)

### Walk Notes:

Starting in Hathersage, an attractive village in the Hope Valley, this route leads up a quiet green valley towards the cliffs of the Stanage Edge, only to fork off along the Hood Brook through attractive woods (bluebells in season) and to rise further in a westerly direction through pastures-with-views and along the flanks of Bole Hill up to Bamford Moor and along its gritstone edge. Panoramic views of Mam Tor, Win Hill and Ladybower Reservoir keep the interest before a steep descent through an ancient oak wood and a newer plantation wood to the reservoir shore and the Ladybower Inn for lunch.

After lunch, a gradual ascent through woods leads up to Lead Hill and then the Derwent Edge, revealing stunning views of the Upper Derwent Valley and the Kinder Scout and Bleaklow plateaus. Turn right away from the edge down through Derwent Moor and gently up through Moscar Moor (on good paths) to Hordron Edge with its Bronze Age Stone Circle and across Jarvis Clough back to Bamford Edge for more views up the Hope Valley before the gradual descent to Bamford and the station beyond.

A post-lunch shortcut is described as well as an alternative afternoon route across Moscar and Bamford Moors past an array of pre-historic features (but do not walk this in Ground Nesting Season, from 1 March to 31 July).

Note: For the protection of moorland birds, dogs are not permitted on Moscar and Bamford Moors at any time. In all other Access Land they have to be kept on short leads in Ground Nesting Season (01 March to 31 July).

### Walk Options:

**Shortcut after lunch:** from the Ladybower Inn avoid the ascent up Lead Hill and on to Derwent Edge. Cut 4.9 km/3.0 mi and some ascent, rated **8/10**.

**Bus stops on the A57,** either by the **Ladybower Inn** or further along the route at **Strines Lane End**, allow an early finish by bus to either Sheffield or Bamford.

**Alternative Afternoon Route across Moscar and Bamford Moors:** from Hordron Edge follow a meandering route across the moors past one of the Peak District's finest selection of pre-historic cairns, stone circles and solitary standing stones (in parts pathless).

**Alternative Descent Route into Bamford:** a much more direct descent from Bole Hill into Bamford follows Leeside Road down the Bamford Clough for 600m. This is an ancient packhorse route and was the steepest 'road' in Derbyshire until it was closed for traffic. **The average gradient is 22%** and it is not recommended to take this route other than in perfectly dry conditions, with good profile soles and preferably also with walking poles, as a fall onto – and subsequent slide down – the mainly cobble or concrete 'road' otherwise is all but guaranteed. **Absolutely and entirely at your own risk!**

### Lunch (details last updated 05/03/20)

**The Ladybower Inn** Bamford, *Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 0AX* (01433 651 241, <http://www.ladybower-inn.co.uk/>). The Ladybower Inn is located 10.2 km/6.3 mi into the walk and a quaint stone pub with rooms (some offering views of the picturesque Ladybower Reservoir). Open 08.00-23.00 daily. Food served 08.00-21.00 daily. Owned by the Batemans Brewery from Lincolnshire.

### Tea (details last updated 05/03/20)

**The Anglers Rest** Main Road, *Bamford, Derbyshire, S33 0DY* (01433 659 317, <http://www.anglers.rest/>). The Anglers Rest is located 1.6 km from the end of the walk. In 2013 it became the first community pub in Derbyshire when it was purchased collectively by over 300 people. As a LocAle pub, they mainly source beers from the local area and have been awarded the Sheffield and District CAMRA pub of the month award for their selection of quality ales.

Open 11.00-late Mon-Sat and 12.00-late Sun (summer hours). Light Bites served 12.00-15.00 every day. Full Menu served 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-21.00 Wed-Thu, 12.00-15.00 and 17.30-21.00 Fri (Fish & Chips Night), 12.00-21.00 Sat and 12.00-18.00 Sun. The next-door café is open 08.00-17.00 Mon-Sat and 09.00-16.00 Sun.

## 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 km<sup>2</sup> (550 mi<sup>2</sup>) 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.

### 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>

### 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 138-acre 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.

### 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.

### **Ladybower Reservoir**

Ladybower Reservoir is a large Y-shaped reservoir, the lowest of three in the Upper Derwent Valley. The River Ashop flows into the reservoir from the west; the River Derwent flows south, initially through Howden Reservoir, then Derwent Reservoir, and finally through Ladybower Reservoir. The area is now a tourist attraction, with the Fairholmes visitors' centre located at the northern tip of Ladybower. The east arm of the reservoir, fed by the Ladybower Brook, is overlooked by Hordron Edge stone circle. Ladybower was built between 1935 and 1943 by the Derwent Valley Water Board to supplement the other two reservoirs in supplying the water needs of the East Midlands. It took a further two years to fill (1945). The dam differs from the Howden Reservoir and Derwent Reservoir in that it is a clay-cored earth embankment, and not a solid masonry dam. Below the dam is a cut-off trench 55m deep and 1.8m wide filled with concrete, stretching 150m into the hills each side, to stop water leaking round the dam. During the 1990s the wall was raised and strengthened to reduce the risk of over-topping in a major flood. Drinking water must be pumped to treatment works rather than using gravity flow as in the other two reservoirs, increasing costs. It is treated at Bamford water treatment works and then flows south down the 45 km long Derwent Valley Aqueduct to supply clean water to the cities of Nottingham, Derby and Leicester. The aqueduct passes through the park of Chatsworth House. A tunnel carries some of the water from the Derwent Valley eastwards through the hill and into the lower of the two Rivelin Dams to supply Sheffield. The building of the reservoir resulted in the submergence of the villages of Ashopton and Derwent, including Derwent Woodlands church and Derwent Hall. Ashopton stood roughly where the road to the Snake Pass met the Woodlands Valley. The narrow stone Packhorse Bridge over the Derwent was removed and rebuilt at the head of the Howden reservoir. In 1976, 1995 and 2018, dry conditions caused the water level to drop and the village of Derwent to once again be exposed.

### **Ashopton**

Ashopton was a small village in the valley of the River Ashop with a population of fewer than 100. In the early 1940s, the village (along with neighbouring Derwent) was demolished to make way for the filling of Ladybower Reservoir. The village was located near where the Derwent Valley joins the Woodlands Valley and the route of the current A57 Snake Pass to Glossop. The reminders of the village include the name of the Ashopton Viaduct which carries the A57 (the main part of the village was located immediately to the south of the viaduct) and Ashopton Sawmill and Ashopton Cottage. Unlike the remains of Derwent Village which have become visible when water levels have dropped, Ashopton will never re-emerge from the waters of Ladybower as silt has already covered the remains of its buildings.

### **Hordron Edge Stone Circle**

The Bronze Age Hordron Edge Stone Circle is also known as the 'Seven Stones of Hordron', but there are in fact 23 stones visible these days plus another 3 that are known to be below the peat. Only the 7 higher stones are thought to be ancient and in their original position though, hence the 'Seven Stones of Hordron' tag, with the others having been placed in modern times where gaps suggested stones might have stood originally. The stone circle stands in a prominent position close to Hordron Edge on a shelf of Moscar Moor with the imposing Stanage Edge to the east, looking out south west to Win Hill and Lose Hill across the Upper Derwent Valley (now flooded as Ladybower Reservoir). Unlike many other Derbyshire circles the stones are not set into a bank but instead form a freestanding ring of ca. 15 metres diameter with heights ranging from about 50 to 95 centimetres. Dispersed around the circle are several small and indistinct mounds which may either be natural hummocks or possible clearance cairns.

### **Bamford Mill**

Bamford developed around its mill, which existed before the Industrial Revolution. From 1782, a water powered corn mill was built here, but it was destroyed by fire in 1791. Rebuilt as a cotton mill, it was still powered by water. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century it converted to steam power, with a beam engine. A more modern engine was installed in 1907 (and remains on site today), but water power was still used for generating electricity. At the peak of employment in 1857 the mill employed 230 people, but it closed as a mill in 1965. The building was then used to make electric kilns and laboratory furnaces into the 1990s and later converted to flats.

### **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.

## 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 by a footpath signpost you ignore a right turn through a wooden gate signed 'To the Church'. [SWC 319 Hathersage Circular (via Stanage Edge, Higger Tor & Padley Gorge) turns right here.] In 80m pass the clubhouse of Hathersage Cricket Club, then a Scout's Hut, and continue along Baulk Lane, with **St. Michael and All Angels**, Hathersage church up on the right and **Stanage Edge** ahead. In 70m ignore a signposted footpath on the right and cross a stream on the lane and in 40m ignore a left turning footpath through some allotments, as well as another footpath in 70m from the left.

Go through a wooden gate to the left of a cattle grid and follow the lane gently uphill the scenic valley of the **Hood Brook**. In 125m you pass **Derwentholme**, the first of a couple of houses on the right and in 60m you *turn right* with the track around a second house's garden fence and then *turn left* again. In another 140m go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and *bear left* with the lane and in 200m go through to a wooden gate the left of a metal field gate with a **White to Dark** marker on it (SWC 319 joins from the right out of the field) and continue in the same direction steadily uphill towards **Stanage Edge**, looming in the near distance with the **Sir William Hill and Eyam Moor** (SWC Walk 315 Hathersage Circular via Bretton Clough and Eyam) behind you beyond Hathersage. In 150m 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 40m **North Lees Hall** is visible up on the right (foliage permitting) and in 90m you 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 then tarmac track 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. Cross the lane and go through the wooden field gate opposite (or over a stone slab stile to the left of it, if locked) and follow a left-hand field boundary uphill along a signposted footpath. In 200m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall 30m to the right of the **Hood 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 arrows on a standing stone.

*Turn left* across the brook using the stepping stones. If they are part submerged, you have to find a narrow bit of the brook and jump across.

On the other side in 15m you can...

- **either** *fork left* with the grassy footpath;
- **or** climb up some steps on the right onto the high stone wall on the right, part of an **old mill pond**. *Turn left* along the mill pond and re-join the footpath a little further along.

The grassy path gently rises, with the Hood Brook away below on the left and in 60m – just after the path from the pond has joined from the right behind – it crosses a streamlet (may be seasonal). In 50m at the top of this rise, you go over a stile to the left of a wooden field gate into a small pasture, with **Bole Hill** visible ahead and **Dennis Knoll** away on the right. In 40m go through a wooden field gate in a drystone wall (with fine views back to Stanage Edge) and in 80m in the top corner of the next pasture, you *bear left* along a car wide farm track between drystone walls (this can be very muddy, although in 50m there is a cobbled strip along its left-hand side, possibly an old packhorse route). In 80m a footpath joins up from the left at a three-way signpost (from the Hood Brook). You continue in the same direction ('Dennis Knoll') through a wooden field gate or over a stile to the right of it and through a farmyard (**Green's House** on the OS map). In 40m ignore a signposted footpath turning up to the right and *bear left* with the farm's tarmac drive. The drive starts to rise gently and in 50m you cross a cattle grid and continue uphill.

In 150m walk through some standing stones either side of the drive (a missing gate) and keep ascending (all the while with ever finer views back to Stanage Edge and North Lees Hall) and in 110m go through a drystone wall. You keep ascending towards another farm ahead and in 100m go over another cattle grid or through a wooden gate to the left of it and continue through **Outlane Farm** to a road in 50m. At a T-junction with the road *turn right* for 15m and *turn left* by a footpath signpost through a wooden field gate to cross a large pasture diagonally on a usually clear path (260°). Half left ahead across the **Hope Valley** you can see **Shatton Edge and Offerton Moor** with a transmission mast on the right-hand end (SWC Walk 343 Hope to Hathersage or Bamford via Castleton) and **Sir William Hill** to the left of it. The path curves a little to the right in 80m and in 25m you walk through a gap in a wire fence by a handwritten low 'Footpath' sign and follow the fenced path towards a drystone wall.

The landowner here clearly wants people to **stay on the right-of-way**, so please follow these directions to the letter: In 20m go over a stone slab stile in the wall and continue in the same direction on the other side. In 15m walk through another gap in a wire fence by a 'Please keep to the Footpath' sign and continue in a pasture towards the right-hand corner of the wall around the large **Upper Hurst Farm** (265°). [!] In 65m, when level with stiles away to the left and right, you have reached **an unmarked four-way footpath junction**. *Turn right* uphill through the pasture towards the upper stile in another fence (due N). In 40m go over the stile and in another 80m over another in the same direction. In the third field you *veer to the left* (350°) towards a stile just to the right of a drystone wall (with first views on the left of **Mam Tor**).

In 60m go over the stile and [!] *turn right* with the yellow marker towards a three-way footpath signpost 20m away on the right and there *turn hard-left* back on yourself (signed 'Bamford Road') along a rising path rounding the steep flank of **Bole Hill**. In 80m *bear right* with the path, now with the scenic steep **Hurst Clough** down on the left below. After a while you can see the **Hope Cement Works** with its huge limestone quarry on the left and after 350m you go over a stile by a footpath signpost onto a road and *turn left* downhill along it. In 100m you pass a corrugated barn in the field on the left and in 90m cross the **Upper Hurst Brook** on the road and start to re-ascend. In 40m *turn left* with the road and ascend a marked rise with very fine views on the left to Higger Tor, Carl Wark and Stanage Edge.

Beyond the brow, in another 70m, and just before the road starts to descend more pronouncedly, you reach a lay-by on the right by a stile and a (usually locked) wooden field gate in the fence. Go over the stile and *turn right* along a broad grassy path, almost back on yourself and gently uphill (55°), ignoring a left fork (the return route on the Main Walk). This is the start of the ascent up to **Bamford Moor**. In 180m *fork left* with the main path (340°) and ascend more steeply. [The right fork is the return route of the Alternative Afternoon Route.] In 160m the path levels out substantially and in 25m you walk through a gap into an ex-quarry. Make your way up to a path skirting the right-hand rim of the quarry (the most obvious path is narrow and steep and with a gap to jump across, so it may be safer to walk back out of the quarry and head up on the outside of it).

You *turn left* with the quarry rim at its head and in 50m at the far corner of the quarry continue in the same direction (245°) along a clear path through the heather. In 50m, at a T-junction with the path along **Bamford Edge**, with views up the **Hope Valley towards Mam Tor**, *turn right* along the edge. **Bamford** village lies below on the left and in 70m you *bear right* with the edge path, now with **Win Hill** visible ahead and the **Kinder Scout** plateau beyond it. In 350m at a four-way junction by a grouse butt, ignore the right turn through the heather (15°) and *turn left* (but not hard-left downhill) along a clear level path (290°). The path meanders for 360m until it again meets Bamford Edge and you *turn right* along it. The return route of the main walk will come back along this stretch of the edge.

In 180m you pass two notable rock features on the left, the beginning of **Great Tor**, and in another 30m you *turn right* with the edge path, now with first views of the **Ashopton Viaduct** across one arm of the **Ladybower Reservoir**. In 160m go through a crumbling drystone wall and follow a clear path through an old enclosure. In 100m *fork left* along the edge (the right fork will be the return route on the main walk) and follow it to the far end of the walled enclosure 600m away, with views ahead of **Derwent Edge** and some of its rock formations (the early afternoon route) and with some road noise wafting up from the A roads in the valley. Beyond the walled enclosure you continue in the same direction through bracken. In 30m ignore a left fork steeply downhill and in 60m *turn hard left* at a four-way junction, which in 25m continues as a sunken path between low earth banks. In 75m *turn left* at a T-junction. In 35m you go through some wall remnants (this is the same wall walked through a few minutes ago higher up) and enter a wooded area.

The path narrows and runs over some boulders (a streambed after heavy rain), and in 90m you enter a beautiful old **Oak Wood**. [You are now **leaving the Access Land** as per the OS map, but this short stretch and the later route through Heatherdene Wood to the A6013 follow permissive paths.] In 80m you can see a stone wall down below and the path keeps descending to converge with the wall in 140m. You pass the wall corner and *bear right* with the path, now with views up on the left of **Great Tor**, walked along earlier. In 110m you cross a stream by a wall turning away to the left, and *turn right* with a Permissive Path marker post (white arrow on black roundel) to follow the wall closest to the wood downhill, with the stream on the right. In 50m cross another stream from the left and in 40m *turn right* with a marker post (permissive path and Access Land markers) over a make-shift plank bridge, through a gap in the wall and over a stile in a subsequent wire fence into **Heatherdene Wood**. You have left the Access Land until after lunch and have to follow the waymarked permissive paths.

*Turn left* in a few metres with a marker post and follow the path close to the wall on the left. In 60m *turn right* with a marker post across a plank bridge in a muddy section, away from the wall and with an electricity line visible on the left in a clearing. In 50m you go under the electricity line and in 60m ignore a first left turning path to continue in the clearing under the electricity lines along a clear grassy path. In 40m – level with the reservoir dam visible through the trees on the left – you pass a low marker post on the

right and *turn left* into trees, ignoring a right turn. In 70m *turn right* at a path junction through the wood. You are now following this mildly meandering path, parallel to the A road below (out of sight but not out of earshot) through the woods for 500m to a T-junction, where you *turn left* downhill.

**In more detail:** pass a tall standing stone on the left in 10m; in 25m go through remnants of a drystone wall; pass several marker posts (permissive path, red 'Walking Trails' arrow,) over the next 130m before the path curves up to the right then back to the left; in 15m pass another marker post and in 20m cross a stream on a railed footbridge; the path veers to the left and by a marker post back to the right; in 60m go over a long footbridge crossing a muddy area; picnic tables are now visible below on the left as well as a concrete pumping station (possibly for the pipeline sending water to the Rivelin dam and therefore Sheffield); you pass more marker posts – now with a car park visible on the left – and in 220m *turn down to the left* at a T-junction by a final marker post.

In 20m go past a wooden car barrier and in 20m *turn left* across the tarmac drive and pick up a footpath on the other side and *turn right downhill* along it. In 40m by the A6013 you pass a 'Heatherdene – Severn Trent Water' sign and cross the road (there are medians on both sides) to *turn right* along the opposite pavement (a shared cycle and footpath). You can see **Ashopton Viaduct** away on the left with **Crook Hill** rising beyond it (SWC Walk 349 Ladybower Inn Circular via Alport Castles and Derwent Reservoirs). Cross **Ladybower Viaduct** and *turn right* at a T-junction with the **A57 Snake Road** to in 200m pass a stream-fed water spout on the opposite side of the road (perfect for cleaning muddy boots, but at your own risk!) and in another 50m you reach the **Ashopton**, Ladybower Inn **bus stop** by **The Ladybower Inn**.

Coming out of the pub, *turn left* to follow the road's left-hand pavement past the Inn – away from the Ladybower Reservoir – in an easterly direction. In 20m *fork up to the left* along a car wide gravel track, a signposted public footpath and bridleway ('Cutthroat Bridge & Ashopton'), with an **Access Land** marker.

**In 80m by a three-way wooden signpost you have a choice:**

**For a Shortcut**, continue in the same direction along the gravel bridleway ('Cutthroat Bridge') uphill and in 160m go through a metal field gate in a drystone wall into **Ladybower Wood Nature Reserve** and past an info panel and curve to the right with the steep track. You pass an info post on Woodland Birds in 130m and in 110m – just before the track levels out – get views on the right through trees across the Ladybower Brook valley to **Hordron Edge** and to Stanage Edge beyond it. In 20m, where the track levels out, you can see **Ladybower Tor** up on the left (which has some ancient cup-and-ring marks). In 50m ignore a car wide left fork and in 40m pass another info post ('Trees'). In 30m you can see the **Hurkling Stones** rock formation up on the left on Derwent Edge (325°, the main walk goes past it), and in 90m ford a stream and walk through a metal gate (as part of a metal field gate) to leave the nature reserve. Continue along a clear path through open moorland with some pylon lines to the left and the A57 below on your right.

In 600m **at a fork you can go either way** to drop down to a path by a stream flowing out of **Highshaw Clough**: the right-hand path involves a little scrambling, the left-hand path (the public footpath on the OS map) takes a gentler route by forking left then turning right back on itself in 70m. At the meeting of the two routes by the stream, do not cross it, but follow it and in 80m go through a wooden gate to the right of **Cutthroat Bridge** (part of the **Snake Turnpike Road**, and named after a deadly 16<sup>th</sup> century incident). Cross the road carefully (leaving the Access Land briefly) and go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate to the right of a car park and follow a car wide track (a permissive path) uphill



through trees. In 90m you emerge from the trees (back into Access Land) with **Hordron Edge** rising on your left and in 40m – just after the path levels out – *turn up left* along a faint grassy path up past some rock slabs in 20m and further up onto the edge, passing a boulder and turning right at a T-junction en route. At the top continue through grass for 20m and *turn right* along a car wide track. Pick up the directions below at the asterisk \*).

**For the Main Walk, [!]** *turn hard left* back on yourself on the level by a three-way wooden signpost, along a signposted public footpath and bridleway signed 'Ashopton', with a **White to Dark** marker on it. You have a drystone wall and **Ladybower Wood** on your right and in 60m you can spot the Ladybower Inn on the left below, and the Ladybower Viaduct over the **Ladybower Reservoir** as well as the **Reservoir Dam** ahead to the left. In 100m by a drystone wall corner on the left, you have **Ladybower House** on the left below. In 40m go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate and keep the drystone wall on your left, now gently ascending. In 130m the gradient eases a little and you have **fine views of Bamford Edge** out to Great Tor on the left and of the Reservoir with the wooded lower slopes of Win Hill behind (SWC Walk 302 Bamford to Edale via Win Hill and Great Ridge) and Offerton Moor/Shatton Edge in the distance on the left (SWC Walk 343 Hope to Hathersage or Bamford via Castleton).

In 80m – at an unmarked fork by an electricity pole – you *fork left* along the drystone wall on the level, ignoring the fork uphill to the right of the pole. In 130m you get good views of the westerly arm of the Reservoir, up the **Woodlands Valley**, which rises up to the Pennine Watershed. The path starts a gentle descent and in 90m you can see one of the twin tops of **Crook Hill** (on 280°). In 100m a path joins down from the right, and in another 40m you go through a wooden field gate by a signpost (**leaving the Access Land**) and continue along a car wide gravel track, gently downhill. In 20m **[!]** *turn up to the right* through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate along a signposted public footpath ('Whinstone Lee Tor'), ignoring the continuation downhill (the route of SWC 349 Ladybower Inn Circular via Alport Castles and Derwent Reservoirs or Win Hill), and continue uphill through **Dingbank Wood**.

In 90m ignore a right forking grassy track and *veer left* uphill towards a drystone wall and in 80m the path mostly levels out. In 75m you pass remnants of a perpendicular drystone wall on the right and in 110m you have a part-collapsed wall on the right. In 60m the wall turns away to the right and in 50m you descend gently through the wood and in 80m leave it through a wooden field gate, now with the open hillside of **Lead Hill** on the right, and continue in the same direction along the plantation boundary on the left (and **back in Access Land**). In 230m, at the end of the plantation, you have fine views along the reservoir up the **Upper Derwent Valley** and across to **Crook Hill**, and in 20m ignore a left forking path through a gap in the wall and continue uphill. In 250m *bear right* with the path, away from the wall, to cut the walled slope's corner, and in 130m *bear right* steeply uphill by a drystone wall corner on the left. In 100m at the top of the relentlessly steep rise emerge at a **six-way junction of paths by a four-way signpost**. For a fine viewpoint, *turn hard right* for 30m: you can see **Crook Hill, Win Hill, Mam Tor, Lose Hill**, the easterly face of **Kinder Scout** and **Grindleford Knoll**, towering above Edale.

At the six-way junction, ignore a hard-left turning bridleway (to Whinstone Lee Tor and Fairholmes) and the bridleway coming up through the moor opposite and **[!]** *turn left* uphill along a permitted footpath to 'Derwent Edge' ('Walkers Only', Dogs on Lead'), along a sandy path through the heathery ground (35° initially). Higher up – in 120m – the sandy path continues through some scattered boulders (the top of Whinstone Lee Tor) and from here you can also see **Rushup Edge** and **Brown Knoll** at the end of Edale on the left. Where the gradient gets easier, in another 75m, you can see ahead **along Derwent Edge to several prominent gritstone rock formations** along the ridge. The path substantially

levels out for about 200m and then rises in 180m to the **Hurkling Stones**, about 30m off to the right, 170m before the top of this rise at spot height 454m. Far away on the left across the **Upper Derwent Valley** you have the 'other' upland peat bog ridge of the Dark Peak: **Bleaklow** (SWC Walk 350 Fairholmes Circular via Bleaklow and Derwent Head) and on the right the A57 cuts past Moscar towards Sheffield, this side of **Stanage Edge**.

In 110m at **Sheffield Gate Head** by a public footpath crossing, signposted (left: 'Derwent', right: 'Moscar') on the reverse, **[!]** *turn right* (120°) from the previous direction down through the heathery **Derwent Moors**, in 10m passing the first of a line of **Grouse Butts** on the left (i.e. ignoring the continuation of the path along Derwent Edge, the route of SWC 348 Ladybower Inn Circular via Derwent Edge and Strines). There is a service track along the butts somewhat away to the left at a slightly higher level and ahead to the right you can see **Stanage Edge**, with **Moscar and Bamford Moors** this side of it and ending in **Hordron Edge**. In 470m you pass a tall standing stone on the left. In 150m you pass a wooden post on the left (inscribed on the reverse 'Public Footpath', i.e. despite this being Access Land, the shooting interest likes walkers to stay away from the grouse butts and their service track!). In 25m the service track comes close on the left then veers away.

You continue the gradual descent towards **Moscar House and Lodge** visible ahead and pass some more grouse butts (although some older ones look more like pre-historic tumuli) and in 400m you *turn right* along the service track at a T-junction by **grouse butt '6'** on the right. In 90m cross the stream running down **Highshaw Clough** on the track and re-ascend with it. In 250m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction along a drystone wall on the right. In another 250m *bear right* with the wall as you go under some electricity lines, in 40m pass a footpath sign pointing back ('via Derwent Edge to Derwent') and in another 40m you reach an unmarked four-way footpath junction with Moscar House away on the left.

Cross a farm track and go over a drystone wall (or through a metal field gate to the left) and follow a clear path in the same direction (125°) through a tussocky pasture down a dip, somewhat to the right of the left-hand field boundary wall. In 50m you negotiate an often-wet stretch and cross a stream on a plank bridge (10m to the right of the wall) and in 100m *turn left* with the wall **[!]** but in 30m *turn right* to cross another stream on a well-hidden plank bridge and continue in the previous direction along a grassy bank, parallel to the stream and the wall on the left. In 150m by a footpath signpost *turn right* at a T-junction with a gravel car wide track leading to **Moscar House** on the left. In 120m go over a cattle grid and pass **Moscar Cottage** to its left and *turn right* along **Strines Lane** towards the A57. In 140m *turn right* along **Snake Road**, soon passing the Strines Lane End **bus stop for services to Sheffield or Bamford** (opposite).

In 230m opposite a small lay-by *turn left* to cross the busy road and go through a metal field gate or over a stepless stile to the right of it and *bear left* to pick up a clear car wide track curving gently uphill to the right in 40m. In 150m, while still ascending gently, you have **Win Hill** directly ahead. In 550m you go through a metal field gate in a fence line (with a sign on the side of a fence post: '**Dogs not permitted on this Access Land**'). In about 300m the path turns left to continue along **Hordron Edge**. You have **Ladybower Reservoir** below and (the top of) **Mam Tor** visible and on your right can spot the **Hurkling Stones** on Derwent Edge. In 100m a faint path joins from a car wide track down the right below. This is the Shortcut.

\*) Continue along the edge and in 90m you pass some rock slabs on the right and in another 150m *bear left* to the **Hordron Edge Stone Circle** 30m away. Re-join the edge path and continue in the previous direction. In 430m a steep track joins out of **Jarvis Clough** on the right below at a three-way junction, just before the track crosses a stream.

## Here you have a choice:

**For an alternative onwards route** across Moscar and Bamford Moors, continue in the same direction across the stream along the car wide gravel track up through Moscar Moor and pick up the directions at the end of this walk under **Across the Moors Route**.

**For the Main Walk**, *turn right* steeply downhill along the car wide part-boulder track into the clough. In 60m curve to the right with the track and in 30m – just after passing a dead tree a little on the left – **[!]** *turn left* through the bracken along a clear path to pass the tree and cross the stream running down the clough, just a little to the left.

Ascend steeply up the other side of the clough along a clear path and in 70m at a T-junction *turn right* along another narrow path, further uphill. In 70m you pass a lone pine tree on the right and heaps of rocks and boulders, the remains of parts of a disused quarry (on the OS map). In 50m – still with the former quarry on your right – you can see a wall about 30m ahead and at the wall *turn left* at a T-junction. In 110m you cross a stream and continue along the wall. In 50m where the path levels out, you can see **Ladybower Tor** across the valley of the **Ladybower Brook** on the half right (320°, to the left of a walled pasture), just before wall and path curve to the left. You follow the wall for another 450m to a meeting of several walls, on the approach to which you can spot two tall pillars (on the OS map), first one up on the left and then one down to the right in a field: these were **sighting pillars** erected during the building of the water tunnel from Ladybower Reservoir under the moors to the lower of the **Rivelin Reservoirs** to complement Sheffield's needs.

The wall turns away to the right in 50m but you continue in the same direction along a clear path, in 200m crossing another stream. Ignore a hard-right turn skirting the top of the clough on the right and continue uphill in the same direction initially, and in 50m gently curve to the right with the path past an old grouse butt. In 120m you join a path from the right behind and *bear to the left* with it (230°). In 75m go through a gap in the corner of a crumbling wall around an old enclosure, already crossed on the outbound route (but somewhat down to the right) and follow a clear path along the wall on the left. In 20m ignore a right turn but in another 70m *bear right* with the path, away from the wall. In 500m a path joins from the right behind: that is the outbound route, i.e.: you are now (for the next 470m) **re-tracing a part of the morning route**. In more detail: in 100m go over the crumbling wall to leave the enclosure behind and follow the path along **Bamford Edge**. In 160m at the far end of **Great Tor**, *turn left* with the path and in 210m *ignore a left fork* to stay along the edge (the left fork is the outbound route).

In 300m by the last rock outcrops of the Bamford Edge on the right, you *turn briefly left* (but not hard left) then right again to continue in the previous direction (135°), gently downhill. A path is now visible far ahead, leading in the direction of some large farm buildings in the distance, aim for this path. There are many faint and not so faint paths over the next 750m along the flank of the hill, just pick a route that keeps aiming for those farm buildings, forking left prominently once en route and then following the path around the nose of the hill to the left, just before meeting **New Road**. At a T-junction with another descent route from the top, *turn right* downhill to the stile and gate passed early in the walk. In 30m **leave the fenced Access Land** the way you entered it: over the stile by a lay-by and *turn right* downhill along the road.

**\*\* ) In 110m, by a two-way 'Touchstone Trail' signpost on the left, you have a choice:**

**For the At-Your-Own-Risk Descent down Bamford Clough**, *fork left* along a car wide track and in 40m cross the drive to High Lees Farm away on the left. Follow Leaside Road

very steeply downhill (the steepest bit only starts 150m away), ignoring the 'Footpath Closed' sign at the top and a left fork up to a house near the bottom, and in 600m reach a junction of residential lanes in **Bamford village**. The only tea stop, **The Anglers Rest**, is 100m away to the right. You can pick up the route in the main text at the pub, but for the shortest route to the station, cross the lane and continue downhill past a triangular green in 90m to the **A6013**. Cross the A road (Main Road) and continue in the same direction to the left of **Old Post Office Row** (cottages) along a gravel car wide lane (**The Hollow**). Pick up the directions in the last paragraph ("In 270m, where the lane bears to the left...").

**For the Main Walk**, continue along New Road, gently descending with it. You have Bamford village and the Hope Cement Works on the left below and Bamford Edge on the right above. In 625m you have some trees on the left. In 250m ignore a wooden field gate on the left and continue in the same direction along the road and wood. In 150m you **[!]** *turn hard left* back on yourself along a gravel car wide drive with a wooden footpath signpost away to the left and immediately *fork right* by the signpost over a stile into a pasture, ignoring the drive towards **Thie Veg**. *Bear left* across the pasture along a clear grassy path (160°) towards a wooden gate in the field corner by a drystone wall and in 125m go through the gate and in 10m go over the low drystone wall with a wooden railing this side and a stone slab stile on the other side.

*Bear right* from the previous direction, downhill along the left-hand field boundary and in 50m go through a wooden gate in the bottom-left field corner and *turn left* with a yellow marker in the adjacent pasture along its left-hand boundary. You now go through four pastures in the same direction towards the houses of **Bamford**: in 70m go through a wooden gate and a squeeze stile, in 160m go through a wooden gate in a fence (level with the first house down on the right), in 40m pass a low standing stone and *veer right* across this field towards a metal gate 110m away. You could turn right through the gate and down a fenced path, but to avoid some roadside walking: continue through the pasture and in 20m go over a stile into another pasture and in 30m *turn right* through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate and walk down a path between a hedge on the right and garden fences on the left and in 80m meet **Ashopton Road** (the A6013) at a T-junction.

*Turn left* along a tarmac path to the left of the road and in 160m, just before the only tea stop **The Anglers Rest** (and its café), you pass a stream-fed water spout on the left, perfect for cleaning your boots. Continue down Ashopton Road and in 130m you pass a triangular green to the left of the road. At the end of the green and by the corner of **Old Post Office Row** (cottages) on the right, you *turn right* downhill along a gravel car wide lane (**The Hollow**). In 270m, where the lane bears to the left, you *turn right* for a short out-and-back to the right of the impressive **Bamford Mill** and then to the weir across the **River Derwent** (a public footpath negotiates the spillway and a flood-damage prone wooden footbridge). Follow the lane (now called **Mill Lane**) back to the A road in 220m and *turn right* along it (here called **Station Road**). In 540m you *fork left* along **Station Approach** and in 130m reach **Bamford Station**.

Sheffield bound trains depart from the near platform.

## Across the Moors Route

[**Note: do not walk this variant** during Ground Nesting Season (01 March - 31 July).]

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**This meandering route**, while trying to stay on discernible paths as much as possible, **passes the following pre-historic Stone Features** (as well as several modern age boundary fence or standing stones):

**Moscar Moor Kerbed Cairn** (Bronze Age, Grid Reference SK216858) – a kerbed cairn (or an infilled stone circle, depending on view) of about 7 metres diameter and 1 metre height, surrounded by five equidistant standing stones (some of which are now leaning).

**Glory Stones/Rocking Stones** (SK213853) – now just a large scattered group of small gritstone boulders from which there are very fine views over to Mam Tor and Win Hill, but originally thought to have had one or more Rocking Stones amongst them, supposedly destroyed early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by gamekeepers to deter trespassing ramblers, when the moor was private land without public access rights.

**Bamford Moor Central Cairns** (Bronze Age, SK212849, SK 213849, SK 214849, SK214848) – a small group of dispersed larger cairns, although mostly only remnants can be seen, suggesting they are 'robbed' cairns, and robbed also of most of its stones, which may well have ended up as parts of the nearby modern age stone wall. Difficult to spot amongst the heather and bracken in late summer.

**Old Woman Stone** (Bronze Age, SK220847) – this highly fluted stone (fluted from Millenia of water erosion) was an 2.5 metres tall and 1 metre wide standing stone (a marker stone or Menhir) resembling a hunched old woman in shape until in the 1930s it was deliberately felled by gamekeepers to prevent its use as a way marker by trespassing ramblers, when the moor was private land without public access rights. It is now lying on the ground and separated from its part-overgrown base close by.

**Bamford Moor South Stone Circle** (Bronze Age, SK221845) – set on a rather featureless sloping part of the moor towards its south eastern edge, just under the highest stretch of Stanage Edge, this fine example of a platformed stone circle has a diameter of ca. 8 metres and is formed of 6 low height stones set inside the inner edge of an earth embankment.

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In 210m ignore a left turning grassy track towards Stanage Edge (a service track for a line of grouse butts en route) and in 30m cross a stream on the track and in 40m – where the track turns right – you continue in the same direction towards a stone shelter along a grassy path. At the shelter *turn right* with the path across the stream and *turn left* in front of the shooting shelter, with the stream now on the left. In 30m *veer up to the right* with the path out of **Jarvis Clough** and continue gently through tussocky grass and bracken, then heather on a bearing of 210°, aiming for distant wooden post, seemingly at the top of the rise and – closer by – a grouse butt with a medium height wooden post next to it. In 75m you pass the first of a line of grouse butts (number 6, in white paint on a wooden post), where a car wide grass track joins from the right behind. [The **Hurkling Stones** on Derwent Edge are visible on the right in continuation of that track.]

In 50m you reach grouse butt number 5 and for an out-and back to the **Moscar Moor Kerbed Cairn**, *turn left* on a bearing of 150° for 100m (the cairn is already discernible from the path). Return to the track and continue uphill in the previous direction along the grouse butts. In 215m you pass grouse butt 1, near the top of the rise and with fine views on the left along **Stanage Edge**, from its near end at Crow Chin all the way to its southerly end. In another 40m you pass the wooden pole that was visible earlier on, from the start of the ascent. Continue in the same direction (205°), gently uphill. The Ladybower Reservoir

is out of view from here, but you can see the twin-topped Crook Hill on the right and Bleaklow beyond.

In 220m you should reach a narrow standing stone, one of many stretching in a line across the moor on a bearing of 170°, and equally spaced every 90m: they are modern age boundary stones or **fence posts**. *Bear left* along the former fence/boundary line along a good path. In 160m – just before reaching the second next standing stone/fence post, and at spot height 407m – *turn right* at a right angle (260°) for an 100m (pathless) out-and-back to the area of the **Glory Stones**. Return to the path along the fence posts and *turn right* along it, continuing in the previous direction. In 60m – after passing the next standing stone/fence post, *fork right* along a faint but clear path on a bearing of 200°. Stay on the path for 400m to a T-junction, while it veers ever so slightly to the left. *Turn right* along the path and in 120m *turn left* off the path to reach the most north westerly of the **Bamford Moor Central Cairns** in 10m. *Bear left* from the cairn (115°) to pass the second one in 90m and the third in another 40m. *Bear right* in a southerly direction for 90m and *turn left* to reach the fourth and last of the cairns in 20m.

Continue in the same direction – broadly easterly – for 170m to a two-line drystone wall, with a sunken area in the middle. Walk briefly to the left along the wall to where the two-line wall meets the fence line remnants walked along earlier and an old overgrown drystone wall (running north-south) at an angle. From this easily identifiable point, the next target, the **Old Woman Stone**, is 480m away on a bearing of 108°, so east south easterly. Or – in relation to the two areas of woodland visible below Stanage Edge, the stone is in line with the right-hand corner of the left (smaller) plantation. There is no direct path to it though. So, start walking (initially) easterly on a usually discernible and meandering path (broadly heading for the far away car wide gravel track winding up to Stanage Edge) for 480m and *turn right* (southerly) for 40m to find the stone prostrate on the ground.

*Bear left* from the stone on a bearing of 145° (broadly aiming just to the right of the larger of the two woods – Dennis Knoll) and in 60m you should be able to see the tops of the standing stones of the **Bamford Moor South Stone Circle**, reached in another 140m. From the stone circle, *turn right* uphill from the previous direction (220°, pathless), aiming just to the right of a large tree at the top of the rise (part of a small copse). In 100m you pass **another Bronze Age cairn** on your right and in another 150m reach the copse after passing an impressive but **modern standing stone** just before it (for completists: there is another similar standing stone 140m downhill down the left of the copse and then the fenced wood, visible deep in the clough close by the stream in the fenced wood).

**Stay to the right of the copse** and then to the right of the fenced wood covering the upper part of **Hurst Clough** and in 60m *curve to the right* with the path and in 20m cross the **Upper Hurst Brook** and ascend on the other side on a (relatively) clear path. In 90m *turn left* at a T-junction with a slightly more prominent path and in 50m this continues in a gully, but it pays to stay high on the bank of the gully. **New Road** is visible below on the left, walked along early in the walk. In 170m a wide path joins from the right above from an ex-quarry. This was the outbound route up to Bamford Moor. You continue in the same direction gently downhill and in another 170m **leave the fenced Access Land** the way you entered it: over the stile by a lay-by and *turn right* downhill along the road.

Pick up the directions above at the double asterisk \*\*).