

Hathersage

A very pleasant meander along the south side of the valley, following the banks of the river Derwent and then back to Bamford looking down on the valley from its north side

Start off down the Main Road on its right hand side and when you get to the metal gate in about 400m,



leave the main road and all the traffic and take the track down through Riverside

Garage. Drag your eyes from the amazing selection of automobiles to look up and you may see some fabulous cloud formations. After gazing your fill, turn right over



the river bridge and

continue diagonally across the recreation ground, Look to your right for the view to Bamford Edge and WinHill



This beginning of the walk is the same as the walk to Hope. Go under the railway bridge, straight on (unless you want a quick diversion into the Garden Centre) and out onto the main Hathersage to Castleton Road. Cross with great care heading over the next river bridge towards Shatton.

As the road curves round to the right, the path goes left over a

stile (if you pass the Shatton notice board and the scenic grit bin you have gone slightly too far)

Now it's a case of following the path as it meanders along by the river sometimes in the open and sometimes through the woods.



The first notable landmark is the old Marquis of Granby hotel which you can see on the left over the river and through the trees. The hotel was closed, sold and demolished many years ago - the only part remaining is (apparently) the listed bit which is slowly crumbling away. New rumours concerning the future of the site come with unfailing regularity; there has been a really nice stone wall built; a huge

hole dug and road access partially put in but what's it's going to be eventually no body knows.



When we did the walk in early May the lambs were skipping around, the sun was shining, and the river was the lowest we've seen it for a long time. Most of the water comes from Ladybower Dam so when the dams are

low the flow is the minimum that the water board have to put into the river.



There are a lot of fields to go through, each with a gate or a stile. Please make sure that the gates are properly closed and latched; if the latch is still operational.

It's not long before Jack's barn comes into view. So called since on a previous walk with grandsons, Jack was having problems with his trousers; we happened to go into this barn looking for swallows' nests, owl pellets, and so on when all



we actually found was a length of very useful binder twine. For the rest of the walk, Jack looked a real country boy!

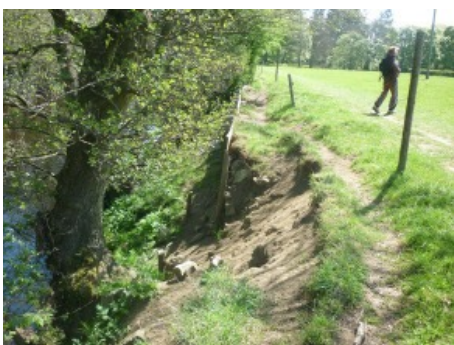


You will meet a substantial signpost; right takes you up to Offerton Hall and then on up to Abney Moor and the TV mast; left goes over the stepping stones to the Hathersage to Hope road and lots of speeding vehicles. Being

able to use the stepping stones is a rarity, the river is normally too high so if you see them it's worth hopping



across and back, but the main road is not to be recommended and a quick return to the onward route is the favoured option.



There's quite a lot of erosion of the river bank and path on the next stretch so take care, especially if it's been

raining and the path is greasy. A second path is being formed away from the danger zone.



Getting nearer to Hathersage now. As the river curves right there's the old mill house and a friendly if noisy and bouncy black dog, happily confined to the other river bank. Tried my best to get a decent pic but fido was obviously not in a photogenic mood.

Very soon enter Goose Nest Wood, a welcome bit of shade if you happen to be walking on a (rare) blisteringly hot day.



Through the wood and when you exit there's a pleasant few hundred meters past the flotilla of ducks and if ducks aren't your thing then check out the mole hills for disturbed archaeology



As you approach the road, the Plough Inn comes into view up the slight hill to the right. A good place for a bit of refreshment. Through the squeeze style - horizontally challenged walkers may have a problem here and the walk goes left over the Derwent and on the road for a few metres until the footpath off to the left is gratefully achieved. Just follow your nose



deviating neither to right nor left till you reach Hathersage village. Well now; don't deviate your footsteps but do deviate your gaze starboard (to the right!) otherwise you will miss one of the 7 wonders of the Hope Valley architectural world; these apartments are known locally as the hencoops. And don't forget one of the 7 wonders of the horticultural world! It's said



that the only things that would survive a total nuclear annihilation are the dandelion and the cockroach.





Wind your way through the suburbs of Hathersage to enter the village proper by the Little John Pub on your right and the tea/coffee/sometimes a plant place on your left. No I haven't printed the picture the other way round. We've exited by the white vehicle, crossed the road, turned and snapped.

If you are really weary there's a bus stop on the main road just behind from where I'm taking the picture. Bus no 272 will take you back to

Bamford; they leave here about 25 mins past the hour. If it's a Hulley's bus it will go right up into Bamford Village; any other sort and you'll have to alight at the bus turnaround and walk up to the village. Lots of good eating/drinking places and several gear shops vie for your custom if you stroll up into Hathersage proper - and there's a public toilet as well! The journey from B to H is almost exactly 4 miles; the journey back isn't as far.

The short way back is straight along the main road towards Hope but that's really boring; much better to head off right from the main road just after Bowyers butchers emporium up Jaggars Lane.



Look out for the cannons on your left and then turn right up Coggers Lane. Up and Up and Up you go; Coggers is a

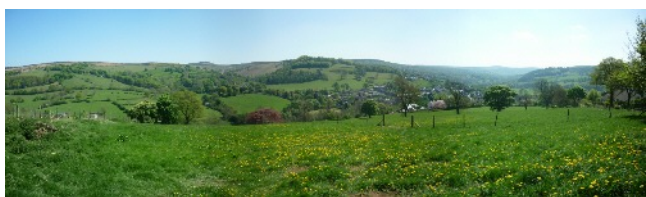
bit of a grunt and to take your mind off increasing heart rate and shortness of breath you could well muse on "what is, or was, a jagger and also, for that matter, a cogger?". Just as you reach the speed de-restriction sign (irrelevant for

pedestrians of course) there's a good viewpoint on the right and you can look over Hathersage as you recover from the climb.

It's a great view and I can't resist including the painting of this view which Jenny, my

wife, was commissioned to produce by a couple who were leaving this area and heading south for a much less fascinating part of the country..

Continue puffing your way up Coggers, eventually you may well



see a tempting sign advertising ice cream on the left and then, just as a lane comes in from the right, look for this plaque on the wall to the left.; a fascinating part of local history . Shortly after this, look out for the footpath sign on the left directing off the road and into the field.



Keep going by the field boundary - well you may be tempted off piste by the next ice cream sign. If you succumb then after

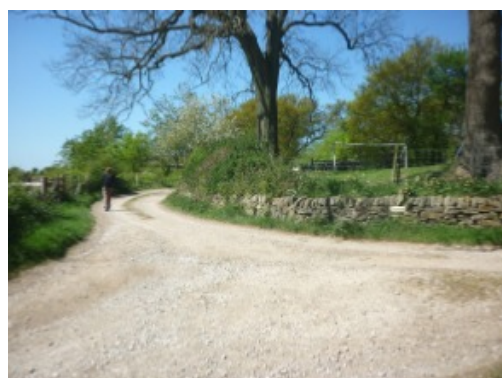
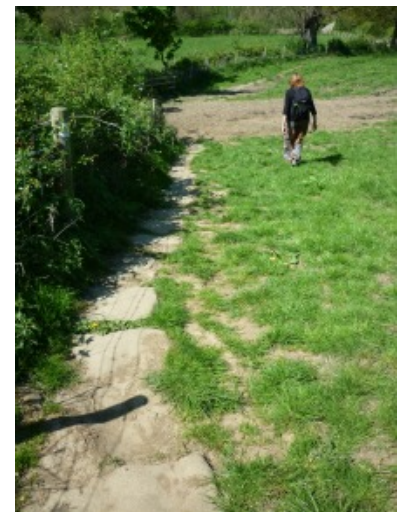
ice cream it's a short back track onto this route, or you can make our own way on the lower level walk across the golf course.



The scenery is magnificent; and if landscape is not your thing there's always something worth admiring.

Through a gate and then down to the left on an old stone trod; usually very muddy and slippery; over the stream at the bottom of the hill and up to the

gate leading out onto the track.



Straight ahead past the camping barn on your left and then just keep going along the track until you come to the gate at the end. This is usually massively muddy. Keep going and after a few yards you can veer left into the field - don't worry if you miss this as the

track and the path meet up again at the bottom. The path across the field stays fairly close to the hedge line and then goes slightly left towards a gap in the next boundary and you may spot a yellow path





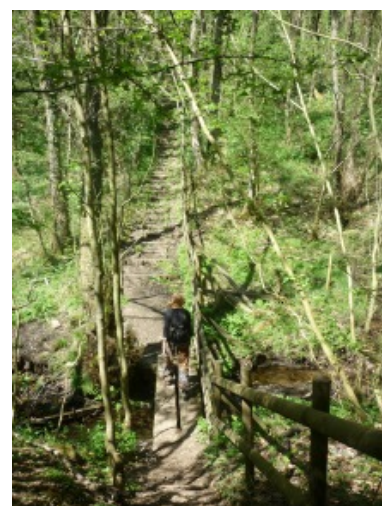
marker; the path is usually clear on the ground anyway.

Here we are heading towards the gap into the wood and a very steep downward path which can be quite lethal after rain; as



long as you pick your route and ricochet from tree to tree it's great fun; but be prepared to emerge at the bottom with a muddy bum (only joking, you'll be fine!)

When you reach the track again turn right and then left across the bridge (if you have come down the track all the way it is, naturally, a right onto the bridge. Then it's up 110 steps, carefully set to be just slightly greater than a comfortable distance apart. Try to get all the way up with out stopping. That aching feeling in your calves is caused, as I am sure you well know, by the production of lactic acid; completely reversible and harmless, if a touch uncomfortable; at least it makes you feel you've achieved something significant when you emerge at the top hot sweaty and breathless.



On your right is now the Severn Trent filter works; you could slow down and admire the engineering but I prefer a speedy passage to the end of the metal fence; then you cut slightly right through the path by the hedge; giving Ian's woodstore an admiring gaze as you pass by. At the end of the path you reach the road up to the water works. Turn right onto the road and it looks as if you are heading straight into the works; at the last minute veer left and down towards the only kissing gate on the route so I hope you are well enough accompanied to enjoy it.





Through the trees to the bottom then across the field; don't go too far to the left, the path is well marked till you end up at the next gate which is not so much a kissing gate as a cuddling gate.



Drop out onto the lane then almost immediately left across another field (you can keep on Joan Lane to reach Bamford City Centre and the Angler's rest); follow the path through the Brentwood housing complex and out onto the Main Road.

You can turn right to visit the village store and the Angler's Rest or go left and be tempted by



the Post Office - drinks and ice cream -

the Bakery - drinks and cakes -

and St John's Church - quiet and reflective.



It was 4 miles on the flat to Hathersage; this second section is just 2.5 miles but more up and down and strenuous.

