

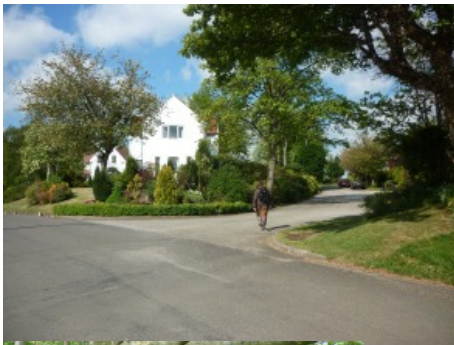
Hope

This walk goes along the South side of the Hope Valley and back on the North. Packed with wonderful landscapes it is about 6 ½ miles long and will take 2 to 3 hrs

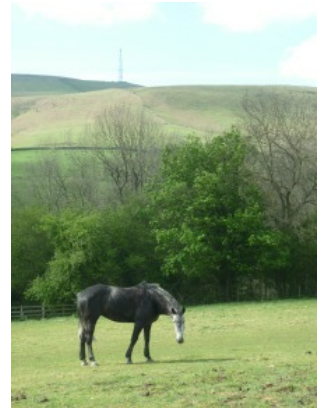
Start off down the Main Road, cross Victoria Rd and Mill Lane and when you get to the metal gate in at the end of the pavement take the track down through Riverside Garage; turn right over the river bridge and continue diagonally across the recreation ground, This beginning of the walk is the same as the walk to Hathersage. 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.



On the corner the Hathersage Walk goes left on the footpath; we continue round to the right and up the hill. After another 150m or so, at the fork in the road, , head



right and at the top of the road you'll see a style; cross and meander along the fields. The horses in the fields are usually friendly - when I took the picture he/she was obviously more interested in food! On your left is Shatton Moor with our TV transmitter on top and on your right you see the bulk of Win Hill.



The profile of Win Hill changes dramatically depending on from where you view it. At the end of the fields, having followed the fence line on your left, drop down onto the lane and immediately up again on the other side into the Townfield Barn field. Again the path hugs the hedge and goes behind the barn but I went into the field to take the picture which shows you the extent of it. It's a great place for events - weddings, family camps, birthday celebrations and so on.



At the bottom of the field

is a stream and lake: when we had a family



camp here a couple of years ago one of our grandsons actually caught a trout! The barn can be booked through Angela and James Kellie who live at Shatton Hall Farm. Go past the barn, admire James' apple orchard on your left and exit onto the track which you follow until you reach the T junction. Left



here takes you to Shatton Hall Farm, the walk goes right along the track and up to the next gate. In winter this is where the sheep are fed and it can be a bit messy. Don't go left but through the gate and down, down, down into Brough.

When you reach the tarmac (still going down) you might just catch a glimpse of the scenic cement works in the distance; more importantly, in the autumn this is a good place for blackberries.

At the T junction the walk goes left - however, if you go right, just out of sight round the corner is Brough Mills, a vast emporium of all sorts of country equipment and animal feeds.



Don't be misled by this sign; it doesn't mean pedestrians and take care with the traffic when crossing the road. Over the river bridge by the footpath and then right onto the footpath through the only kissing gate on the route so make the most of it. As you head up hill you will notice an earthwork that surrounds the Navio Roman fort, of which not a lot remains; whether



these stones are part of the original structure I have no idea. Over the top and down to the very muddy stream crossing then just follow the left hand fence line. It's usually



half way along this stretch that I regret the 2nd coffee before setting out. Whilst stopping this time I noticed what I've never seen before; snails climbing trees. Almost every tree had 3 or 4 snails on it. My lovely walking (and constant) companion suggested that they might be looking for cool air and trying to find a breeze. Just keep going, pausing from



time to time to admire the panorama on your right. Reading from right to left as you face it: Stanage Edge, Bamford Edge, Win Hill, Lose Hill and Mam Tor. There are some fine trees along here; see if you can spot this one.





Just after Hope Church tower comes into view. Cut right down by the wall and then contour round on the terrace, finally exiting onto the road by this wonderful sign. Go right downhill; it's a quiet road but soon joins the road up to the cement works which usually carries a plethora of big stuff so take



Julia Bradbury eat your heart out

care. And then you are in Hope Village. Spend as much time as you like admiring the shops and taking suitable refreshment on board. We've walked about 3 miles so you might need a little something. The route goes right along the main road then left by the Old Hall pub into the road to Edale.



Stan at the Blue Apple gallery does good coffee and cake; and at Watson's Farm shop you can get an ice cream.



It's a busy road, amble along it till you get to the cut right towards the cemetery (if you go straight on you reach the Cheshire Cheese pub which has a charm and an ambience of some note)



Turn right up the track by the cemetery and keep going past the caravan site to the road; turn left here and then you follow the lane (very quiet and peaceful) for quite a way. It has some ups and downs; the ups seem to have got steeper over the years! There are a couple of marked paths off left up to Win Hill if you are feeling

mega energetic. And when you reach the footpath sign off to the right "Hope via Hallum Barn" you can hop over the style and, going left follow a path by the lane

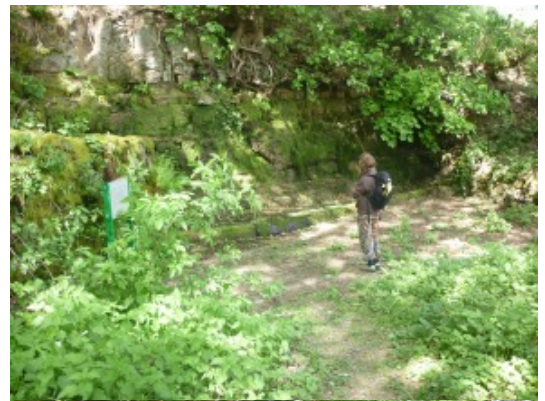


Lots of interesting flora and fauna along the way; this time we noted the difference between native bluebells, which hang their heads in true British self effacing style; and incomers which stand up (rather arrogantly I think).





Admire the views over the other side of the valley: Abney, Shatton, Bradwell; eventually reaching Thornhill and the Old Chapel on your right, now a picture



framery of some note. Just after the framery, angle left down a track and follow the path round, dropping down to the old Thornhill well.



When you've had your fill of this (figuratively, not



literally please, the water didn't look too clear when we were there) retrace your steps a few metres and then take the top signed path above the well to join the path back to Bamford. Just follow



straight, over the road, down the usually very muddy and slippery slope, across the old railway line, down more and then head towards the Mill - this is the reverse bit of the start of the

River and Garden Centre walk. Over the river, up the stony track, right at the end by the conker trees, right again and then make sure you don't miss the opening left in the wall to go up onto Victoria Road via David's allotment on the left and Magic the Labrador on the right.



Victoria Road brings you back out onto Main Road and almost home and dry (well hopefully) to the end.

You've walked another 3 1/2 miles from Hope

