

RIDINGS DOWSERS DERBYSHIRE PEAK DISTRICT TRIP, 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2022

Every year Ridings Dowers try to have an extended site visit over a few days. This year the location will be the stunning Derbyshire Peak District with its many ancient sites. The mid-week dates have been chosen to try and avoid busy times both for booking accommodation and accessing the sites. There is no charge and you are welcome to join us for the whole trip or just parts of it.

TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER - CHATSWORTH

Morning: Nature Dowsing & Gatekeeper walk to the River Derwent

Afternoon: Dowsing around Chatsworth Parkland (Accessible site)

WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER – ARBOR LOW & BULLRING HENGE

Morning: Arbor Low Stone Circle and Gib Hill Barrow near Monyash

Afternoon: Bull Ring Henge, Dove Holes near Chapel-en-le-Frith (Accessible site)

THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER – HARTHILL MOOR & STANTON MOOR

Morning: Harthill Moor west of Birchover (Nine Stones Close stone circle)

Afternoon: Stanton Moor north-east of Birchover (Nine Ladies stone circle)

Itinerary

A detailed itinerary can be downloaded from our website

Accessibility

The sites visited on the Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons will be suitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and those who are unable to walk far. The others will be a bit more challenging with gates, stiles and walking on uneven ground. Dogs are welcome but must be kept under control due to animals grazing.

Accommodation

There are Travelodges in Glossop and Ashbourne and a Premier Inn in Matlock. However, if people are wanting to book accommodation so they can be close to each other and meet up in the evenings, the Bakewell area is recommended. Driving times from Bakewell to the locations we will be visiting are:

Chatsworth	12 minutes
Arbor Low	15 minutes
Bull Ring Henge	24 minutes
Birchover	12 minutes

Non Members

You don't have to be a fully paid-up member of Ridings Dowers to attend these visits. However, if you are not a member and intend to join us for any or all of it please could you send an email to ridingsdowers@gmail.com with your name and contact details so we can put you on the mailing list for this event and keep you informed of any changes to the itinerary. If you would like to become a fully paid-up member, please use the membership application form on our website <https://www.ridingsdowers.com/membership>

DAY 1 – TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2022: CHATSWORTH

Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1PN

Website: <https://www.chatsworth.org/>

The car park at Chatsworth is open from 9am to 6pm and the House and Garden are open from 10:30am to 4:40pm. Car parking is £5 per car for the day. We will just be dowsing around the parkland so there is no extra charge unless you choose to visit the house and/or its landscaped garden which are both quite expensive. See <https://www.chatsworth.org/visit-chatsworth/book-tickets/>

In the morning Mair Forder will lead us on a Gatekeeper Trust style to do some Nature dowsing and make a Mandala. In the afternoon we will dowse the parkland near the river Derwent in areas that are suitable for people who have limited mobility.

The Carriage House cafe is located in the stable block and accessed through an archway underneath the clock tower and next to the car park. It is open from 10am to 5pm and hot food is served from 11:30am to 3:30pm. Alternatively you may wish to bring a picnic.. Toilet facilities are located under the clock tower and there is an accessible toilet in the Carriage House Café and another near the house entrance.

Itinerary for the Day:

10:30 – Meet in the courtyard outside the Carriage House Cafe

11:00 – Mair Forder will lead us on a Gatekeeper pilgrimage which will involve doing some Nature Dowsing and making a Mandala

13:00 – Meet at the fountain in the courtyard outside the Carriage House Cafe

14:00 – Dowsing in areas of the parkland suitable for those with limited mobility

16:00 – Return to the Carriage House café for a cuppa

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2022: ARBOR LOW & BULL RING HENGE

Arbor Low is one of the best-known ancient sites in Britain consisting of recumbent stones within a henge whereas Bull Ring Henge is one of the least-known sites in Britain. Both have virtually the same footprint however Bull Ring lacks the stones. Bull Ring Henge is situated around 10 miles NNE of Arbor Low and the two are thought to once have been linked. In the morning we will visit Arbor Low and the nearby Gibb Hill Barrow and in the afternoon we will visit Bull Ring Henge.

More information on this website: <https://derbyshireheritage.co.uk/historical/henge>

Arbor Low is part of Upper Oldhams Farm . There is limited parking along a farm track. However, there is a large car park with toilets and a refreshment kiosk a mile away at Parsley Hay. We will meet here and car share. The charge for Arbor Low is £1 per person via an honesty box. We will then walk through the farmyard and up a grassy hill. Walking boots and waterproof clothing are recommended as it is quite exposed up at the henge and can be cold and windy. There are no facilities at Arbor Low so please use the ones at Parsley Hay.

Bull Ring Henge is in the village of Dove Holes and very accessible. At Dove Holes park in the village car park which is on the main A6 road (Hallsteads) opposite Station Road and a large BnG Coaches sign. Post code SK17 8BL. From the car park it is about a 250m walk along a short level track to the henge. The henge is next to Dove Holes cricket club so it may be possible for us to arrange with Doveholes community association to open the gates so those with limited mobility can park right next to the henge.

There are no facilities at Bull Ring Henge or in the village of Dove Holes. However, there is a Morrisons in Chapel-en-le-Frith 2.5 miles away. Post code SK23 0HY. Here you can use the toilets, obtain food and fuel. You may wish to purchase a picnic lunch for tomorrow here.

Itinerary for the Day:

10:30 - Meet at Blueberry Kiosk at Parsley Hay for toilets and a cuppa. Post code SK17 0DG

11:00 - Car share to Arbor Low (1 mile) or make your own way there. Post code DE45 1JS

12:30 – Meet back at Parsley Hay to use facilities, have lunch and retrieve cars.

13:30 – Drive 13 miles north (25 mins) to Bull Ring Henge. Post code SK17 8BL

14:00 – Meet in Dove Holes village car park or at the Henge itself

16:00 – Meet in Morrisons Café in Chapel-en-le-Frith SK23 0HY for a cuppa and toilets

DAY 3 – THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2022: HARTHILL MOOR & STANTON MOOR

In the morning we will visit Harthill Moor and in the afternoon we will visit Stanton Moor. We will be walking around 4 miles. Access to the sites involves walking over moorland with gates, stiles and uneven surfaces so suitable clothing and sturdy boots are recommended.

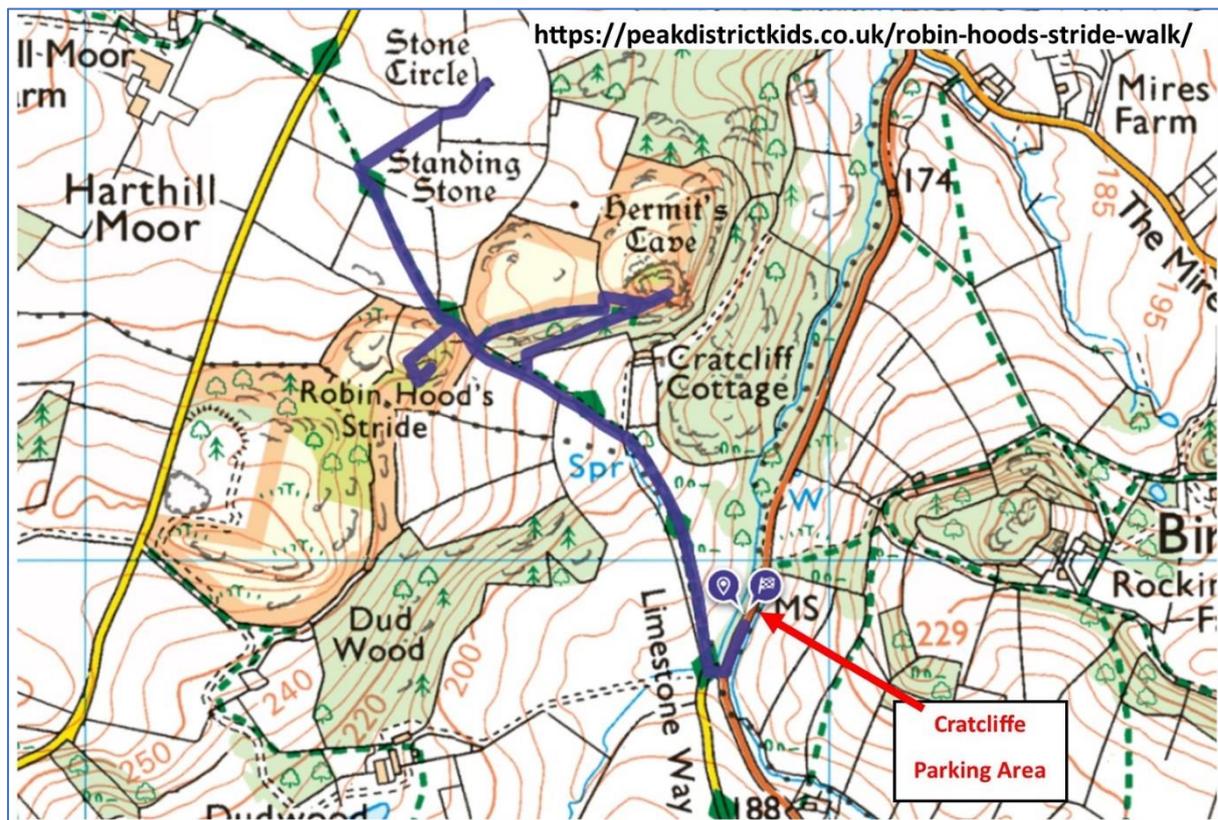
We will meet at Cratcliffe parking area which is a layby near Harthill Moor. We will walk along the Limestone Way onto Harthill Moor and visit the stone circle at Nine Stones Close with the option to also visit Robin Hood's Stride and Hermit's Cave (around 2 miles in total). At lunchtime we will visit the Druid Inn at Birchover, post code DE4 2BL. In the afternoon we will drive to the little car park opposite Birchover Stone Ltd then either car share or walk to the entrance to Stanton Moor 250m up the road. Here we will walk to Nine Ladies Stone Circle passing the Cork Stone (around 2 miles in total). Afterwards we will return to the Druid Inn for a cuppa or a scramble up Rowtor Rocks which are directly behind the Druid Inn.

There are no toilet facilities on either Harthill Moor or Stanton Moor so be prepared to use the facilities that nature provides. There are toilets at the Druid Inn at Birchover, but it doesn't open until 12 noon. For people driving to the area on the day there are public toilets in Granby Croft at Bakewell open from 8am to 5pm. They cost 20p. Use post code DE45 1EG for the car park next to them. The Gallery Café in Orme Court opposite the car park opens at 9am. From here it is a 10 minute drive to Cratcliffe parking area near Birchover.

Itinerary for the Day:

- 10:30 - Meet in layby at Cratcliffe Parking area DE4 2LZ or named on Google Maps
- 10:45 - Visit Harthill Moor
- 12:45 - Drive 1 mile to the Druid Inn DE4 2BL. Either eat here or picnic at Rowtor Rocks.
- 14:00 - Drive 0.75 miles from the Druid Inn to the car park near Stanton Moor
- 14:15 - Visit Stanton Moor
- 16:00 - Meet back at the Druid Inn for a cuppa and toilets

HARTHILL MOOR



Nine Stones Close is the remains of a 15 metre diameter stone circle. The four remaining stones are said to be the tallest in Derbyshire. The location of the stones is a pleasant one, and is also known as the 'Grey Ladies', so called because they are supposed to represent ladies who dance at midnight. Nine Stones Close lies away from the official footpath, sitting in a secluded spot in the corner of a field, nestled against a wall beneath the shadow of an oak tree. In the background, to the SSW, rise the irregular crags of **Robin Hood's Stride**. On the opposite side of the footpath is the **Hermit's Cave** with a stone crucifix inside.

Directions

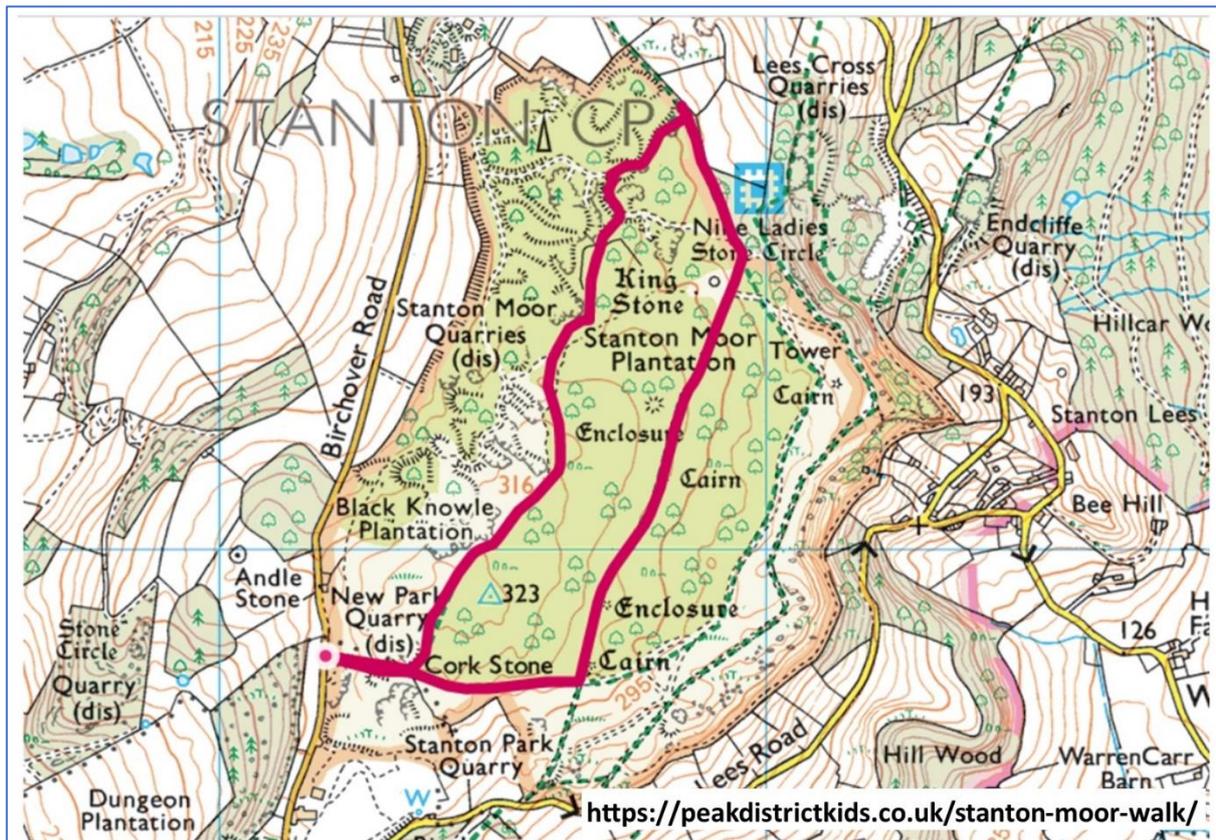
"Cratcliffe Parking area" is a small layby along the B5056 named on Google Maps. The nearest post code is DE4 2LZ which takes you to around 150m south of the layby. The layby is 50m north of Dudwood Lane that takes us onto the footpath known as The Limestone Way up onto Harthill Moor.

THE DRUID INN & ROWTOR ROCKS AT BIRCHOVER

Druid Inn, Main Street, Birchover DE4 2BL Website: <https://druidbirchover.co.uk/menu/>
Open from 12 noon to 9:30pm. Lunches served until 3pm. Large gravel car park opposite

Behind the Druid Inn in Birchover is a jumble of rocks piled on top of one another as if a giant had dropped them upon the ground. Once thought to be a Druid stronghold **Rowtor Rocks** is an intriguing place. As you explore you will find carved into the rocks, a font, armchairs, rooms and tunnels, many of the rocks have cup and ring markings on them a form of prehistoric art. Please note that it is a steep scramble up to these rocks and can be slippery in wet weather.

STANTON MOOR



Nine Ladies stone circle on Stanton Moor is a small early Bronze Age stone circle traditionally believed to depict nine ladies turned to stone as a penalty for dancing on Sunday. It is part of a complex of prehistoric circles and standing stones on Stanton Moor. The **Cork Stone** is a large block of wind eroded sandstone that resembles a mushroom or cork.

Directions

Turn right out of the Druid Inn car park and head up the hill through Birchover passing the Red Lion Inn on your left. Keep going uphill. After half a mile there is a junction. Take the sharp left uphill signposted Stanton-in-the-Peak. There is a small car park signposted on the left 100m further on opposite Birchover Stone Ltd. Park here and either car share or walk the 250m to the entrance to Stanton Moor which is in a small layby on your right. There is no footpath and the road is narrow so take care. "Birchover Stone Ltd" is named on Google Maps. The post code is DE4 2BN but this will only take you to the centre of Birchover, not to the car park.

