

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

Every year Ridings Dowsers try to have an extended site visit over a few days. This year the location will be the Derbyshire Peak District and its many ancient sites. The mid-week dates are to 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 style walk

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 [Derbyshire Peak District 2022 | ridings-dowsers \(ridingsdowsers.com\)](http://Derbyshire Peak District 2022 | ridings-dowsers (ridingsdowsers.com))

### **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 Premier Inns at Chesterfield West and Matlock. However, if people are wanting to book accommodation in a central location so they can be close to the sites we will be visiting and to each other to allow meeting 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 Dowsers 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 [ridingsdowsers@gmail.com](mailto:ridingsdowsers@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.ridingsdowsers.com/membership>

## **DAY 1 – TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 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 former stable block and accessed through an archway underneath the clock tower 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 14<sup>TH</sup> 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.

### **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 15<sup>TH</sup> 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 in the little car park opposite Birchover Stone Ltd and car share to Cratcliffe parking area which is a small layby near Harthill Moor. We will walk along the Limestone Way onto Harthill Moor and visit **Nine Stones Close stone circle** 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 return to the car park opposite Birchover Stone Ltd then 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 public toilets on Main Street in Birchover open 9am to 4pm. Post code DE4 2BP

#### **Itinerary for the Day:**

10:30 – Meet in car park opposite “Birchover Stone Ltd”. Named on Google Maps.

10:40 - Car share to small layby called “Cratcliffe Parking area” on the B5056 (5 mins drive) Named on Google Maps; Nearest post code DE4 2LZ.

10:45 - Visit Harthill Moor

12:45 – Lunch at the Druid Inn DE4 2BL. Either eat here or picnic at Rowtor Rocks.

There is a footpath from the Birchover Stone car park to the Druid Inn (5 mins walk)

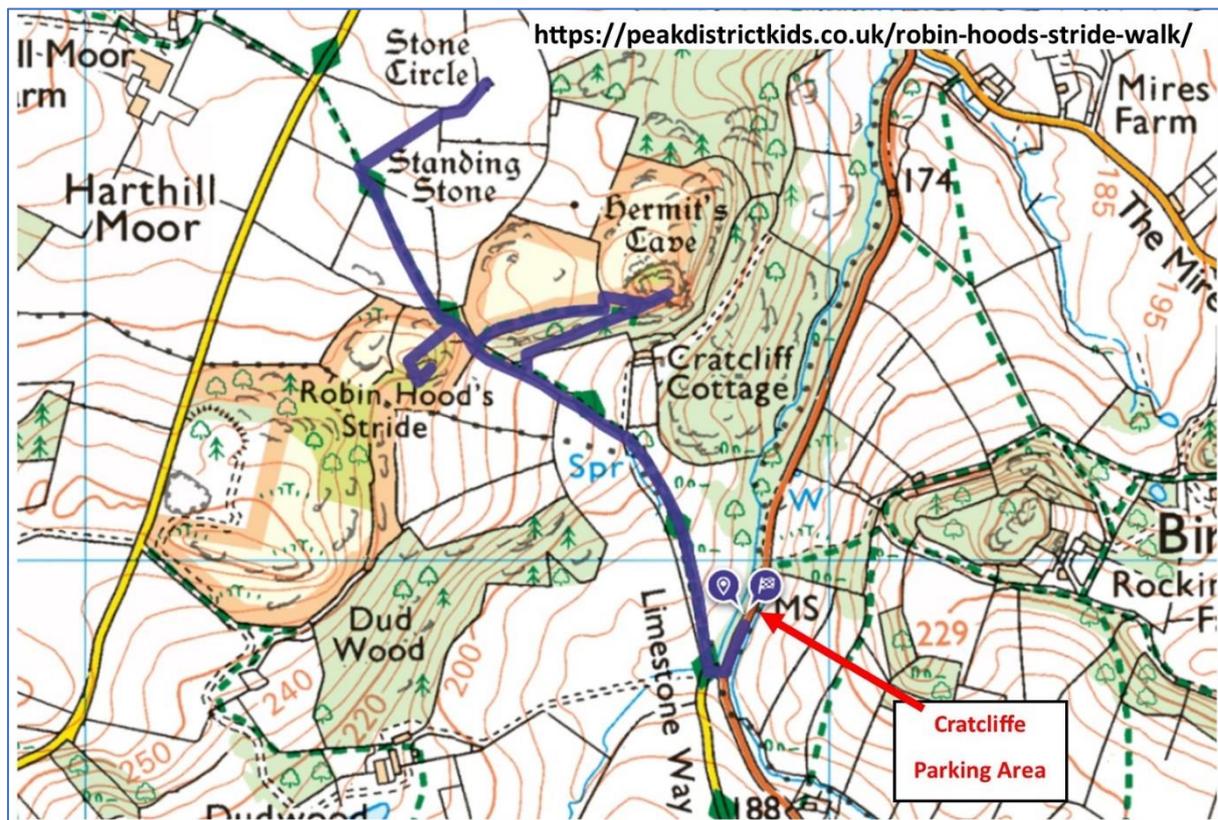
14:00 - Meet in car park opposite “Birchover Stone Ltd” then walk 250m north along Birchover Road to the entrance to Stanton Moor

14:15 - Visit Stanton Moor

16:00 - Meet back at the Druid Inn for a cuppa and toilets

**Please use Google Maps for “Birchover Stone Ltd” and “Cratcliffe Parking Area” rather than the postcodes. Cratcliffe is only a layby so we will need to car share**

## 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. Also known as the 'Grey Ladies' representing 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

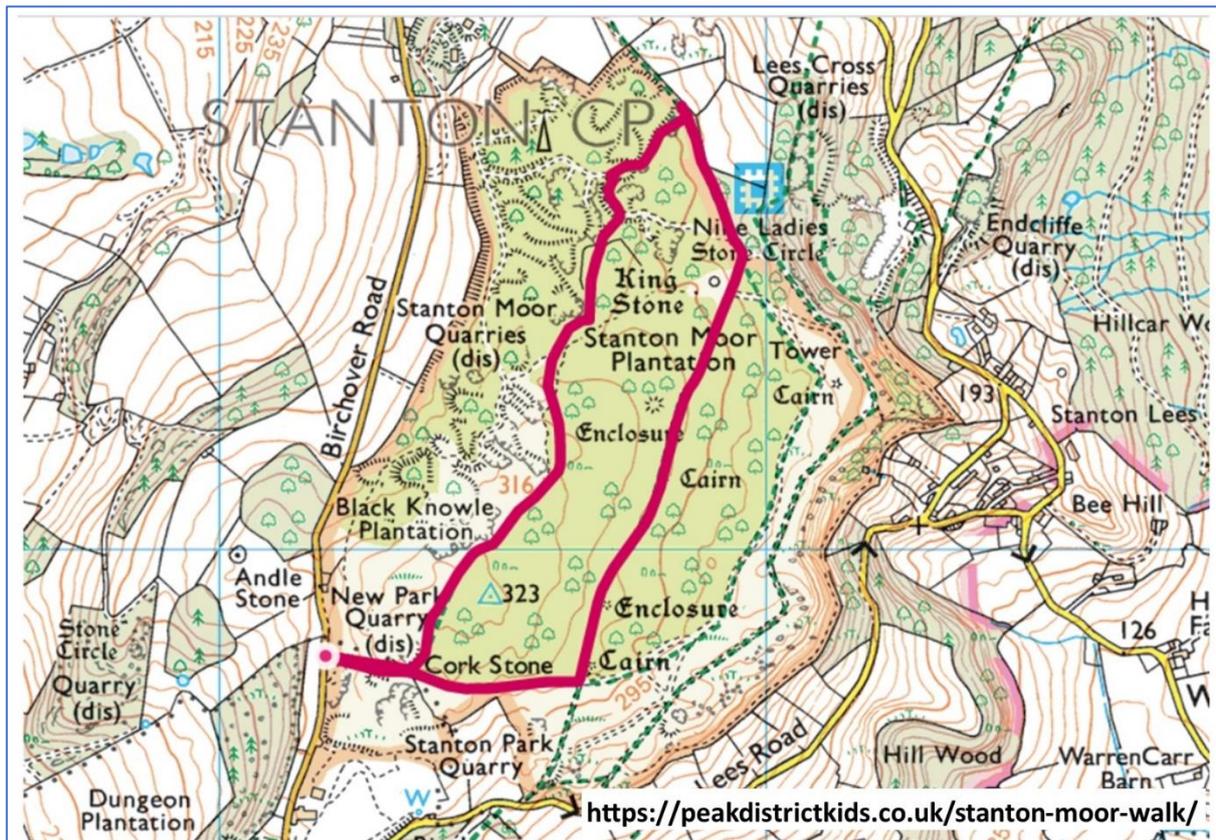
"Cratcliffe Parking area" is a layby along the B5056 named on Google Maps. It is 50m north of Dudwood Lane that takes us onto the footpath known as The Limestone Way up onto Harthill Moor. From the larger car park opposite Birchover Stone Ltd turn right and drive through Birchover passing the Druid Inn and along "The Mires". After about half a mile you reach a T junction with the B5056. Turn left and the parking area is on your left in about half a mile. The nearest post code is DE4 2LZ which takes you to around 150m south of the layby.

### 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. Car park opposite. Footpath to the Druid Inn from the car park opposite Birchover Stone Ltd. It is about a five minute walk.

Directly behind the Druid Inn in at Birchover is **Rowtor Rocks** which is thought to have been a Druid stronghold. Carved into the rocks are 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. The car park opposite **Birchover Stone Ltd** is signposted on the left about 100m further on. Park here walk the 250m to the entrance to Stanton Moor which is signposted on your right between some large boulders. "Birchover Stone Ltd" is named on Google Maps. The post code is DE4 2BN but this will take you to the public toilets centre of Birchover, not to the car park.

