

High Peak Trail

Four circuit walks from Middleton Top

2

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1 MIDDLETON TOP TO MIDDLETON MOOR

Distance: 1.5 miles (2.5kms). Time: 1 hour.
Short, easy walk.

From the rear of the Visitor Centre, cross the trail to the Middleton Moor finger post. Go up the steps, through a gate and turn right through the kissing gate. Go left up the track to the top of the rise. Behind you are impressive views southwards towards Derby. Carry straight on until you meet Raines Lane. On the way you will pass a large hollow caused when part of the roof of Middleton Limestone Mine collapsed several years ago. There is no danger however, as there are massive pillars of the rock left to support the ground you are walking on!

Turn left on Raines Lane and follow the track via a series of stiles beside gates and be ready to leave it as you approach a solitary hawthorn tree. The next stile is in the left hand corner of the field and not by a gate. Once over this stile, continue straight ahead beside a wire fence which forms the boundary with the now abandoned Intake Quarry. The stone from this quarry was taken away for many years by the Cromford and High Peak Railway (now the High Peak Trail).

2 MIDDLETON MOOR TO HOPTON TOP

Distance: 4.5 miles (7 kms). Time: 2.5 hours.
A pleasant walk with one steep climb.

Follow the fence over the rise (passing the old Bradwell lead mine shaft, now capped). Lead had a variety of uses from pipes to pigments in paint, and was used in cosmetics. Many of these uses have since stopped due to the highly toxic nature of lead. Then carry on downhill to a farm track. The buildings on the opposite side of the valley are the Hopton Works of Ryder Point Processing. Mineral extraction and processing are still very important to the local economy. Turn left along the track and on until you come to the yard of Moor Farm.

This is the turning off point for the Hopton Top circuit. To return to Middleton Top, turn left through the farmyard, follow the lane to where it is crossed by the High Peak Trail and turn left along the trail to your starting point.

Turn right into Moor Farm's yard and right again over a stile beside a gate at the first finger post. The path follows the wall on the right for some 25 metres and then slightly veers away from it, but still heads straight on. A waymarking post will soon come into view in front. Pass this and head straight on down the hill.

From left: View from the High Peak Trail, Hopton Tunnel on the High Peak Trail and Ryder Point bridge carries the trail over the road.



Follow the Country Code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Leave all gates as you find them.
- Keep your dogs under close control.
- Keep to public paths across farmland.
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- Take your litter home.
- Help to keep all water clean.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Take special care on country roads.
- Make no unnecessary noise.
- No cycling on public footpaths.

Cycle Hire

Prefer to cycle rather than walk? Cycles can be hired from Middleton Top. Contact 01629 823204 for more information on opening hours and costs. Alternatively visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk and search for cycle hire.

The High Peak Trail offers 17.5 traffic-free miles of cycling through beautiful countryside. It connects with the Tissington Trail at Parsley Hay. Pick up one of our leaflets at the shop for details.

Middleton Top Engine House

This Scheduled Ancient Monument contains a superb pair of beam engines. Built in 1829 and driven by steam, the winding engine raised and lowered waggons on the Middleton Incline of the Cromford and High Peak Railway.

The Engine House is open some weekends during the summer months. For dates and times see our separate literature or visit our website. There is an admission charge.

High Peak Junction

Situated within the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site at the junction of the Cromford Canal with the High Peak Trail, you can visit these former railway workshops or explore further using another set of four circuit walks that start here. Open every day in the summer and weekends only in the winter, the shop sells refreshments and stocks gifts and information.

How to Find Us

Easily accessed from Middleton Top, the High Peak Trail is just off the B5035 between Wirksworth and Ashbourne. Look for the brown tourist signs. There is ample on site pay and display parking.

Contacts

If you need to find out more please contact 01629 823204, alternatively telephone **Call Derbyshire** on **01629 533190**.

If you have difficulty reading this, it can be made available in other formats. For information please contact **Call Derbyshire** on **01629 533190**.

Public Transport

You can find out the most suitable bus and rail service by contacting Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.



For more details on public transport in Derbyshire log on to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/public_transport

This is the turning off point for the Hopton Top circuit. To return to Middleton Top, turn left before the gate, onto the bridleway and follow the wall until you meet a track. Carry on straight ahead, as Carsington Water comes into view, until you reach the High Peak Trail at Hopton Cottage. Turn left along the Trail to Middleton Top.

From the road go straight on up the hill, (keeping close to the wall) to a stile. Turn left here, over another stile and then on to pick up the boundary fence of the old mineral lagoons, now established wildlife habitats. Follow the fence over two fields and then up the hill to join a wide quarry track. This is a Roman built route known as the Portway (locally called the Chariot Way). It ran from Brough on Noe in the north to Little Chester, near Derby, in the south, via Wirksworth. Turn right and follow it up the hill past a few trees struggling to survive on the exposed hilltop. Drop down to the first gateway taking in lovely views of the limestone White Peak area ahead and the top of Harboro Rocks to your left.

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From left: View from the High Peak Trail, Hopton Tunnel on the High Peak Trail and Ryder Point bridge carries the trail over the road.

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Around the High Peak Trail



From left: The Portway, Harboro' Rocks and a 'kneetrapping' type stile.

3 HOPTON TOP TO HARBORO' ROCKS

Distance: 5 miles (7.5kms). Time: 3 hours.
Very pleasant walk, with spectacular views and one steep climb.

For Harboro' Rocks, continue straight on through the gate for about 0.25 mile. Another track joins on the left, by a cattle grid, from the mineral processing works on the brow of the hill.

To ascend to Harboro' Rocks turn left over the cattle grid, and follow the wall on your right to New Harboro' Farm. Turn right through a small gate and then left along the back of the farm buildings and through a gateway. Go straight uphill, heading just right of a tree on the hilltop. Cross a stone stile and then a step over stile in the next wall, (about 40 metres right of the tree). Carry on up the hill bearing right to the waymarker post on the horizon.

K You are now at the back of Harboro' Rocks, an impressive outcrop of dolomitic limestone, with caves that were inhabited in the Stone Age and probably later by lead miners. The path bears to the right, over the rocks and steeply down. **L** Mind your step whilst admiring the view of Carsington Water, or discovering the wild herbs such as Wild Thyme and Common Rock Rose that grow on the rocks. Pass Harboro' Farm and join the High Peak Trail by Hoben Industrial works. Turn left to return to Middleton Top.

Key

- Walk 1
- Walk 2
- Walk 3
- Walk 4
- ▲ Start/finish
- ☆ Features of interest
- i Information
- WC Toilets
- ☕ Refreshments/snacks
- P Pay and Display Parking
- 🍴 Picnic site
- S Shop

4 HARBORO' ROCKS TO MANYSTONES

Distance: 7 miles (11.5kms). Time: 4 hours.
A pleasant walk over open countryside returning via the High Peak Trail.

To carry on and walk the longest circuit to Manystones Cutting, do not turn to New Harboro' Farm. Continue along the Chariot Way, downhill, over a cattle grid and past the private road to Griffie Walk Farm. Keep straight ahead on this long, wide walled lane with the steep sided Via Gellia Valley on your right. Pass under the power lines and continue along the track until you reach a finger post.

M The path from here can be harder to follow as it passes through fields, sometimes growing tall barley or silage grass for livestock feed.

The path turns left through a wicket gate and heads up the field moving away from the fence on your right. Look for a stile on the brow of the hill (approximately 20 metres left of a gateway). Go on across the next field to the stile in the left corner. Continue, then diagonally right downhill **N** to a real "knee trapper" stile. The path then joins a farm track. Follow it down the dip. Do not go through the gate at the very bottom, but turn left at the next gateway on the left, into the next field.

The path now heads across the middle of this field, straight up the hill towards the trees. At the plantation, cross two more stiles and emerge out onto the High Peak Trail at Manystones Cutting. Turn left onto the trail to return to Middleton Top.

