# More Walks around HAYIFIELD New Mills & Surrounds

KINDER SCOUT • EDALE • ROWARTH
LANTERN PIKE • SNAKE PATH • CHINLEY
SETT VALLEY TRAIL

By Jack Hanmer and Wilf Marsden



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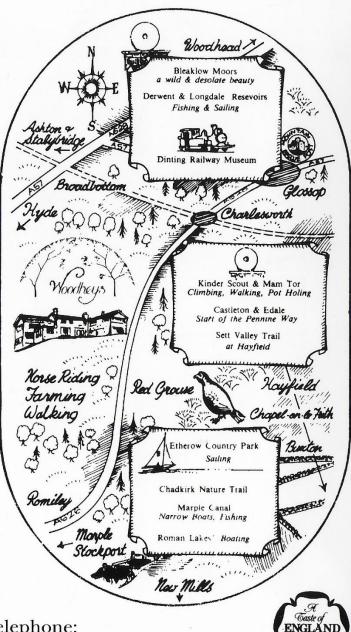
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Cover: Lantern Pike beyond Hayfield

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#### Introduction

When the book 'Walking Around Hayfield, New Mills and Surrounds' was ready to be reprinted, the time was opportune to include some new walks and check that the original walks presented no problems.

In keeping with the first edition, this book is directed at the person who doesn't mind abandoning the car simply for the exercise and an opportunity to take a closer look at an interesting village and its surrounds. All the walks start from Hayfield — usually from the car park at the Sett Valley Trail — but they can easily be adapted to suit one's personal circumstances.

The Peak National Park Rangers and the Wardens of the National Trust patrol the moorlands covered by access agreements to help and advise walkers. National Trust Wardens are also responsible for maintenance and management of all National Trust land in this area. They are concerned to see that access agreements are not violated and remind visitors to the area that while access to open country is granted, much of the land does in fact still remain in private ownership. In this respect you are asked to observe the Country Code, particularly with regard to footpaths, gates, dogs on leads, and of course, litter.

Most of the walks will be found on the OS Outdoor Leisure 1 Dark Peak, and OS Landranger 110.

That most popular walk across Kinder can also be the most dangerous if elementary precautions are not taken. The Mountain Rescue Unit issues a reminder that even in summer the weather on Kinder can change rapidly. Their advice includes the following: allow plenty of time to cover the route in daylight; tell someone you are going over Kinder and which route you are taking; wear suitable clothing — boots, wind and waterproof garments; carry a map, compass, torch and a whistle to summon help; don't walk alone unless you know the area well and finally; there is first aid equipment at Glossop Police Station, the Information Centre, Edale and closer, the Filter House, Kinder Reservoir.

Don't let all this put you off because Kinder is an experience not to be missed and by following the advice of the experts you can avoid becoming another statistic in the records of the Mountain Rescue Unit.

#### **Pennine Way**

One or two of the Kinder walks are in Pennine Way territory and walkers will be aware of reinstatement work which is being carried out on this section of the first UK long-distance footpath. Erosion has led to lack of grazing for sheep, visual scars and damage to wildlife habitats and it is on this length that the Peak National Park and the Countryside Commission jointly ran a three-year research project. Recommended remedial work will be carried out along the Pennine Way over the next few years and walkers may see work in progress. Temporary fencing may be erected to protect fragile vegetation and the reinstatement of footpaths will be undertaken. Your support, by respecting this work, will be warmly welcomed.

#### **Adknowledgments**

Grateful thanks are due to the following for their valuable help in the preparation of this book:

Keith Wood for corrections to the Sett Valley Trail walks.

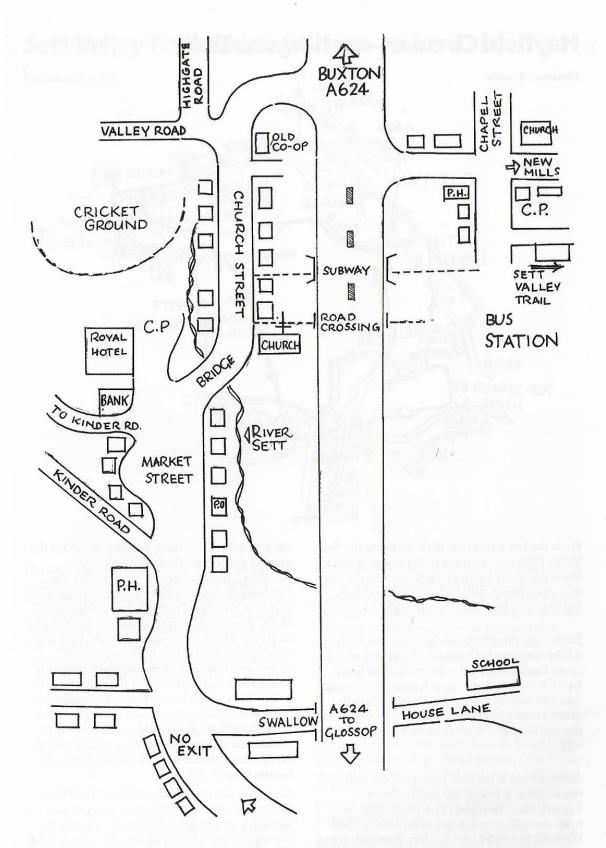
Bill Whitehead who reminded me of changes to the original walks.

John Simmons, veteran walker, whose chats encouraged me to go further afield.

Peak National Park Rangers who checked the walks over their territory.

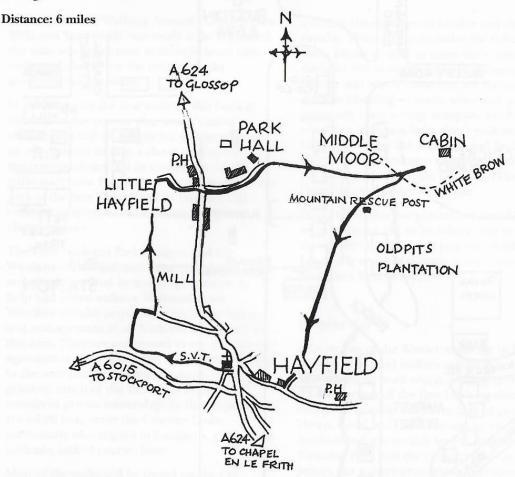
Robert Brown who drew the maps.

The advertisers for supporting the book.



Detail Hayfield village

#### 1. Hayfield Circular—a short starter



From the bus station car park, go along the Sett Valley Trail and continue to the house at Slack's Crossing, where you turn right towards the site of the old paper mill, crossing the River Sett. On reaching the road you turn right.

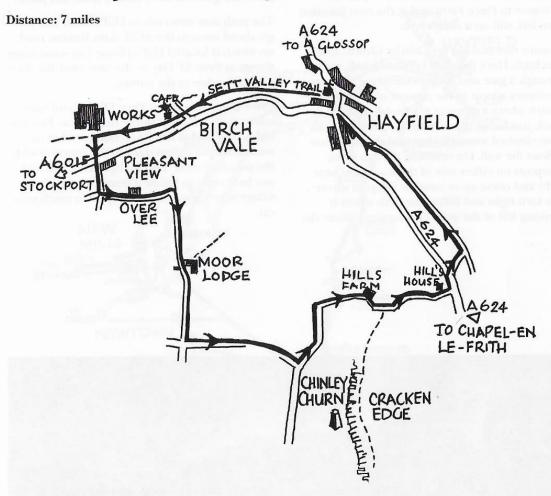
Just before the telephone box you turn sharp left by the gates to Oaklands House and go along Bank Vale Road, passing Swallow Bank Farm. Near a neat group of houses is a footpath sign and stile on your right. Follow this path which crosses two fields and in the second field you will note that it keeps between fence and wall.

Ahead of you is the now converted old mill and this location is one of the approaches to Lantern Pike. Your path now turns right, away from the mill, to reach the main road at Little Hayfield, the A624 (the Lantern Pike pub is just below on your left).

Go across the main road, keeping ahead on the drive of the former Park Hall Estate. On reaching a junction near a house called The Old Stables, you turn right, going through a gate by a National Trust sign saying Middle Moor. Keep straight on to cross the lower slopes of Middle Moor on a very good path. Very soon now the shooting cabin, high on your left, comes into view and when you reach the main Snake Path, turn right, going through the gate by the open country sign. Follow the Snake Path in a southerly direction, going through a number of kissing gates and soon Hayfield comes into view below you. Drop down onto the Kinder Road by the stone steps and turn right for the village.

Now cross the river bridge, noting (right) how the level of the main street has changed over the years, and proceed behind the church to the bypass which you cross by subway or at road level. You are now back at the station car park.

#### 2. Sett Valley Trail, Chinley Churn



Hayfield bus station stands on the site of the former railway station which linked Hayfield, Birch Vale and New Mills with Manchester. This single-track line was built in 1868 but was closed by British Rail in 1970. Three years later it was purchased by Derbyshire County Council and, following reclamation work, was opened as the Sett Valley Trail in September 1979.

The Trail starts at the far end of the car park and by the picnic area. It runs parallel to the main Hayfield/New Mills road, the A6015. A visit should first be made to the information centre where Senior Ranger Keith Wood and his enthusiastic staff are available to help you enjoy your visit to the area.

Now take the Trail, walking westward, and soon you will come to the old mill lodges and the site of the former Birch Vale station. The Trail crosses the Thornsett Road at this point and

continues to Wilde's Crossing where you leave it on the walk. Turn left and proceed up a cobbled track to the main road in the vicinity of The Vine Tavern. Turn right towards New Mills and after about 50 yards, cross the road to a signpost and a footpath which climbs from the gateposts. This path leads you past Birch Vale cricket club to what is known, for obvious reasons, as Pleasant View.

You now pass through two sets of gates and turn left after a second set, going through yet another gate between some farm buildings. Now keep ahead, crossing a small stream, then a stone stile, after which the path now climbs up a field. As a guide, keep the television mast in front of you and your next reference is the farmstead Over Lea.

Leaving the farm the lane now runs uphill to a cattle-grid. Continue past the quarry on your

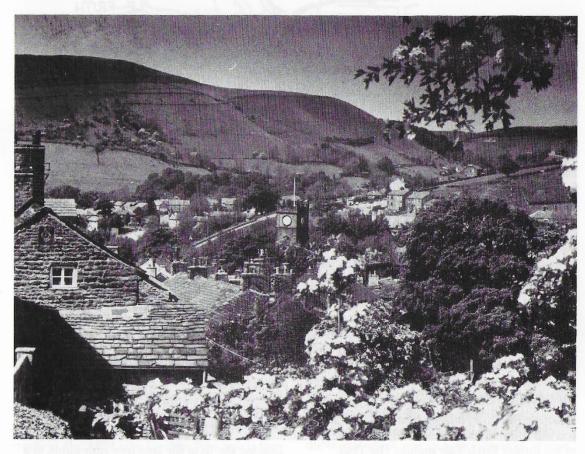
left to Moor Lodge House where the road reverts to a track. Go ahead now to pass the entrance to Piece Farm and at the next junction turn left, still on a rough path.

You are now making for Chinley Churn, 1,480 feet high. Here the path keeps to a wall, going through a gate and into a walled lane. This lane continues almost to the summit of Chinley Churn where a signpost marks the route of the track, just below the top. At this point you will have climbed some 800 feet and the track now follows the wall. On reaching the two stone gateposts on either side of the track, you bear right and come up to another signpost where you turn right and follow the path which is running left of the wall. This continues over the

hill where at the top it goes through a gate and there are good views of Kinder from this point.

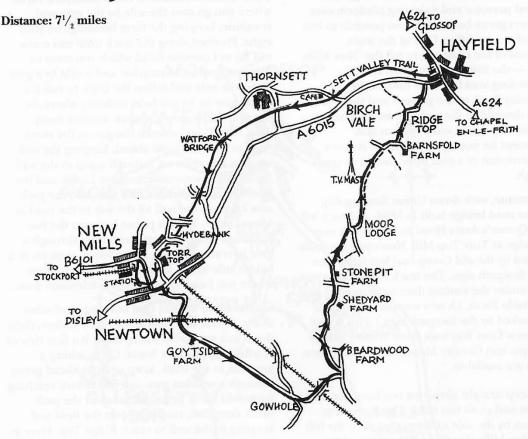
The path now descends to Hill's Farm and you go ahead towards the A624 main Buxton road on which is located Hill's House (on some maps shown as Peep O' Day — the 'eye' over the door giving the clue to the name).

Cross the main road at Peep O' Day and turn left to the track right by the first house. Pass the old quarry and at the T-junction turn left to walk down the walled track to the junction with the metalled road. This is Highgate Road and you bear right to follow it down into Hayfield village where you cross the bypass to reach your car.



Lantern Pike beyond Hayfield

#### 3. Sett Valley Trail, The Torrs, Ollersett Moor



As with Walk 2, this also follows the Sett Valley Trail but does not leave it. Continue to The Torrs at New Mills — a gritstone gorge with rock faces towering 100 feet above the confluence of the rivers Goyt and Sett. The Trail is well marked and as it nears New Mills it crosses High Hill Road then continues with the River Sett running below you. A housing estate lies across left and to the right are the remains of Watford Bridge printworks. Go through a gate and walk down to St George's Road by Dilworth and Morris's engineering works. Cross the road and follow the path, keeping left at the works. Cross a stile, climb the steps and make for the stile to your right which brings you on to Church Lane. Cross over this road to the car park of the New Mills Leisure Centre which you now leave to your right and walk on the path to the subway under Hyde Bank Road and just before reaching the long Hyde Bank Tunnel, which is now blocked, a path on the left leads down to the river. This is the walk through The Torrs, opened in 1974. Follow the river, going

first under the railway bridge, then on reaching another bridge follow the main path right. This leads to the remains of Torr Top Mill built around 1794 and destroyed by fire in 1912. Make a short left diversion here to walk along to view the weir where the two rivers meet. Now continue along the path right to go under Union Road bridge with the sign for the bus station. At the junction with the left path, go down to the ruins of Rock Mill, once a printworks and destroyed by fire in 1882. The right fork, signed Town Centre, is your route. As you climb towards the town centre, Torr Vale Mill, built in 1788 and still in operation weaving towels, is on your left. The path exits by the bus station where is located the Heritage and Information Centre.

The Centre is housed in a stone building of great character and consists of a shop and sales area selling publications, maps and trails; display areas, a model of the town in the 19th century together with a commentary; a

temporary exhibition room; an environmental studies room for schools; a toilet with access for disabled persons; and a viewing platform over the Torrs gorge below. It is also possible to buy a cup of tea or coffee. One of the main functions of the Centre is to tell the 'New Mills Story' — the history of the town and surrounding area from the time of the Domesday Book to the present and there are rooms devoted to the various historical stages. In order to provide some realism and excitement for young visitors there is also a reconstruction of a coal mine tunnel to crawl through.

To continue, walk down Union Road, going over the road bridge built in 1884, and turn left at the Queen's Arms Hotel to look down over the bridge at Torr Top Mill. Now cross the main road and by the old Co-op coal hut follow the public footpath sign. The track follows the river, passes under the viaduct then on through a gate to Goytside Farm. (A new waymarked route is also marked by the footpath sign.) This is part of the new Goyt Way walk from Whaley Bridge to Marple and Greater Manchester, and leaflets on this are available.

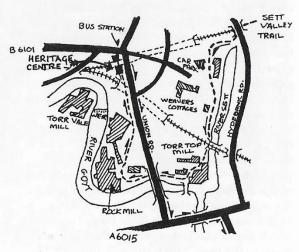
Here keep straight ahead on reaching the signpost and cross two stiles. The River Goyt now runs by the side of the path and to the left is the New Mills/Sheffield railway line. After another stile Furness Vale is seen away to the right.

When you meet the road by the farm buildings at Gowhole turn right and after about 50 yards take the road left (Ladypit Road) which climbs for a short distance passing left a large electricity sub-station. Continue and go under the railway bridge. The disused Ladypit coalmine is at the junction where you turn left along a rough track going over a cattle grid. At the next fork, do not take the right path going to 'Beardwood Farm only'. Take the left-hand track. On reaching the stream which crosses the track is a footpath with a sign pointing up to the right. Follow this sign uphill through some gorse and do not follow what appears to be a path down by the stream. Stay on higher ground and keep the stream down on your right to reach a stone stile in the corner of the wall. From this point there are good views of Whaley Bridge and Disley.

Follow the path uphill until you reach a wire

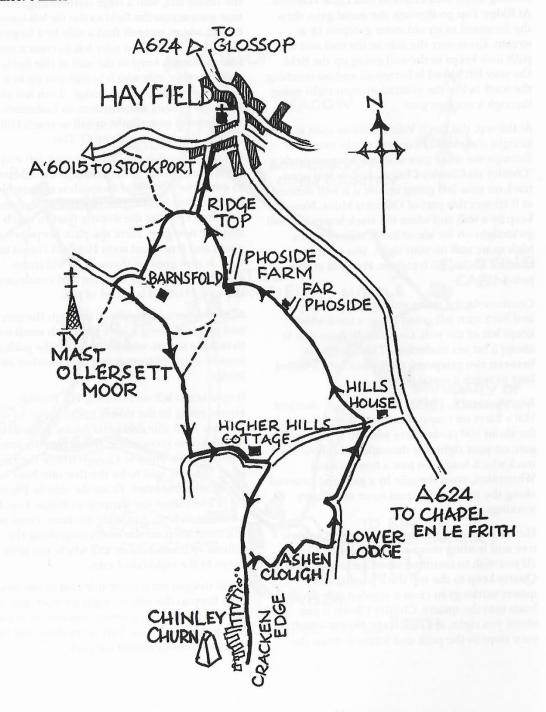
fence near a wall. Turn right here to join a cart track which winds left to reach Shedyard Farm where you go over the stile by the gate and continue, keeping the farm buildings on your right. Proceed along the track until you come out on to Laneside Road which you cross to observe a yellow waymarker and a stile by a gate. Cross the stile and follow the track to reach a metal gate by an old farm building where, by the side of the gate is a small wooden swing gate. Now head between the gap in the stone walls to a stile straight ahead, keeping the wall on your left, then on through a gap in the wall (note yellow waymarker). Moor Lodge and the television station come into view and the path now keeps to the wall all the way to the road at Moor Lodge. Here it passes between the two buildings (footpath sign) and then through a gate to reach a stile in a wire fence, then on to a ladder stile which leads on to Ollersett Moor where you head straight for the television mast.

On the moor are old coal workings and mine shafts. Continue past the television station, then down to a gate from where there is a fine view of Hayfield and Kinder Scout. On reaching a junction in the track, keep straight ahead going through a wooden gate and just before reaching Barnsfold Farm by an old gatepost the path turns sharp left, running down the field and keeping to the wall to reach Ridge Top. Here go straight through the farmyard and then a gate, still keeping to the wall, after which the track winds downhill and soon becomes a road, Chapel Street, which joins the A6015 by St John's Methodist Church. Cross the road to enter the car park.



#### 4. Ollersett Moor and Cracken Edge

Distance: 6 miles



From the bus station car park turn right and walk up to cross the New Mills road, the A6015,

then on up Chapel Street by St John's Methodist Sunday School.

At the top of Chapel Street, the road becomes a rough lane, climbing and passing two houses where you should stop to admire the view looking down over Hayfield and Little Hayfield. At Ridge Top go through the metal gate, then the farmyard to an old stone gatepost by a stream. Cross over the stile in the wall and the path now keeps to the wall going up the field. On your left ahead is Barnsfold and on reaching the track below the plantation, turn right going through a wooden gate.

At the top, the Birch Vale television mast is straight ahead and here four tracks meet. Go through the small gate where a signpost reads 'Chinley via Chinley Churn'. Follow this grass track on your left going uphill; it is well defined as it crosses this part of Ollersett Moor. Now keep by a wall and when the track leaves the wall go straight on for about half a mile to join a high stone wall on your right. You will have climbed about 700 feet from Hayfield at this point.

Continue by the stone wall to reach a signpost and here turn left going along a track which keeps left of the wall. Go carefully here as it is always a bit wet underfoot. The track runs between two gateposts, then turns into a walled lane to reach a metal gate.

Now descend to Higher Hill's Cottage (marked Hill's Farm on maps). Continue down the track for about 500 yards where you will see a wooden gate on your right. Go through and follow this track which leads you past a house called Whiterakes, cross the stile by a gate and proceed along the track, going past some old quarry workings.

Here a path left goes downhill passing a single tree and leading down to Lower Ashen Clough. (If you wish to continue into Cracken Edge Quarry keep to the top track passing more quarry workings to cross a wooden stile which leads into the quarry. Chinley Churn is just above you right, at 1,480 feet.) Now re-trace your steps to the path and follow it down the

clough. The path winds going past some small trees to reach a stone wall with an open gateway. The OS map shows the path running towards the house left, with a large outbuilding, but it now goes across the field to the far left-hand corner where you will find a stile by a large tree. Now keep the wall on your left to cross another stile and again keep to the wall in this field. Now cross another stile which brings you on to a road by a house called Lower Lodge. Turn left along this road passing the entrance to Redmires. The narrow road now climbs uphill to reach Hill's House, also known as Peep O' Day.

Take the new stile and gate on your left and cross straight over to the other new metal gate to enter the field. The footpath is reasonably defined, first heading for the electricity power line then crossing the sloping field to reach another new gate. Here the path keeps between a wall and fence and soon Hayfield comes into view. It now goes on through an old stone gateway then crosses a stream and continues by the wall; Hayfield is ahead of you.

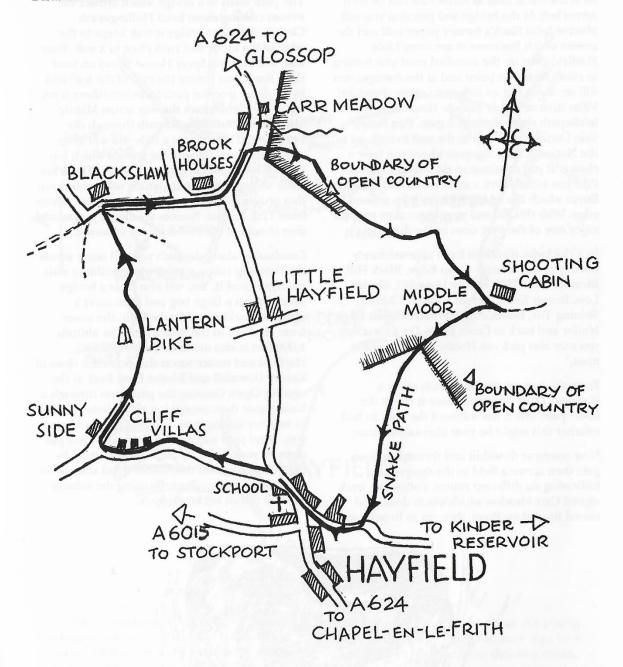
Now go over a high stile or through the gate and proceed along a wide path with small trees to reach a stream which you cross; the path now runs by a line of trees going over another small bridge.

It now keeps left on reaching Far Phoside House going by the side of a wire fence to reach another high stile and gate. Again, keep to the wire fence to cross a stile, then cross the stream coming down Phoside Clough where the ruins of an old mill, said to be the first one built in Hayfield, are located. Cross the stile by Phoside Farm and follow the signpost to Ridge Top, half a mile from here. Just after the farm, cross two stiles and keep on the level going along the hillside to reach a stone wall where the path keeps to the right-hand side.

Head straight for a stone stile and in the next field keep to the wall to reach another stile in the wall ahead which brings you out on to the lane just below Ridge Top. Turn down the lane to reach the bus station car park.

#### 5. Lantern Pike, Snake Path

Distance: 6 miles



From the bus station cross into the village and turn left to pass the church, noting the colourful ducks on the river, and the level of the houses confirming the original road level.

Walk on past the post office and the old school and turn left into Swallow House Lane (a path just after the post office takes you the same way). You will walk under the bypass away from the village, passing ornamental gates on your right and the new primary school on your left. The local television mast at Birch Vale can be seen across left. At the bridge and junction you will observe John Slack's former paper mill and the stream which has come down from Little Hayfield. Stay on the metalled road which starts to climb from this point and at the cottages you will see down left an industrial estate. Pass Cliff Villas then at Windy Knowle House take the bridlepath right, through a gate. Pass Sunny Side Cottage and keep to the wall to walk on to the National Trust signpost where you have a choice. If you continue to the top of Lantern Pike you will observe a stone memorial to Edwin Royce which has an explanatory map around its edge. With this aid and your binoculars you will enjoy one of the best views in the district.

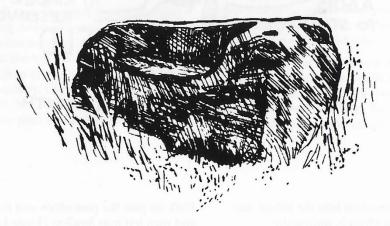
In a clockwise direction from approximately north you can identify Cown Edge, Black Hill, Bleaklow, Mill Hill, Kinder Downfall, Kinder Low, Brown Knoll, Mount Famine, Chinley, Shining Tor, Bowstones, Marple, Cobden Edge, Mellor and back to Cown Edge. On a clear day you may also pick out Holme Moss television mast.

From the summit the path leads on to a National Trust signpost, where it meets the lower path which has followed the wall. In bad weather this might be your alternative route.

Now continue downhill and through an iron gate then across a field to the signpost indicating six different routes. Follow the track signed Carr Meadow which winds down and round Blackshaw Farm, then on to Brookhouses

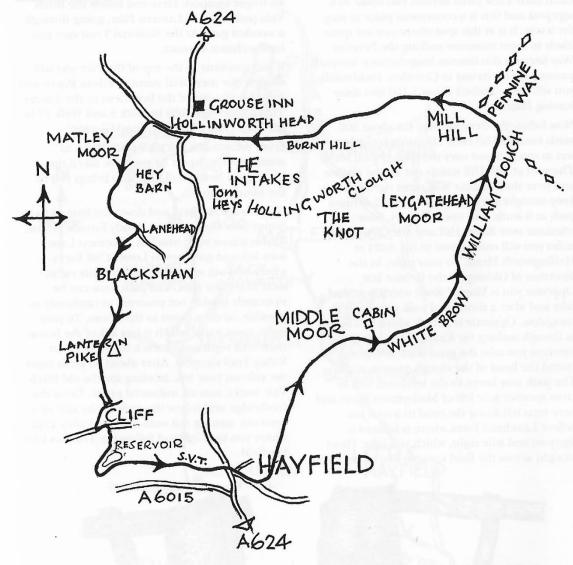
which is by the main A624 Glossop/Buxton road. Turn left and in 400 yards you are at Carr Meadow with its gate leading to open country. The path leads to a bridge which crosses the stream coming down from Hollingworth Clough. After the bridge it now keeps to the edge of the moor and runs close to a wall. Your map will indicate Spray House Wood on your right hand. Just before the end of the wall and by a solitary tree the path forks left (there is no sign) and cairns mark the way across Middle Moor. It is a well defined path through the heather and after about a mile you will drop down into the gully with the stream which has come down from Leygatehead Moor. There are some shooting butts here which will remind you that grouse shooting takes place on these moors from 12th August. Notices are always posted and they should of course be strictly observed.

Continuing along the path you will come across the shooting cabin, a small white building with railings round it. You will also cross a bridge which covers a large bog and then meet a signpost marking the Snake Path, the route from Hayfield to the Snake Inn. The altitude 1,090 feet is also marked. Turn right for Hayfield and notice too at this point the views of Kinder Downfall and Kinder Low. Back at the sign for Open Country the path goes through a kissing gate then sweeps left and follows a wall to another kissing gate. Hayfield now lies below you. Wind your way down a field past some tall trees on your right, through another gate, by the wall and out on the Kinder Road where you turn right for the village. By using the subway you will return to the car park.



#### 6. Snake Path, Mill Hill, Lantern Pike

Distance: 10 miles



From the car park at the Sett Valley Trail cross the bypass by subway or road and in the main street turn left to cross the river, the Royal Hotel and the bank being on your right. Turn by the bank up Bank Street to Kinder Road and go ahead until you see a footpath sign left between two houses. Climb the stone steps and you now follow the Snake Path, going through various kissing gates.

When the path levels out look back and note the fine view of Chinley Churn at 1,480 feet and the Sett Valley down below. From the kissing gate which has the 'Open Country' sign by it carry on until you reach the shooting cabin, passing a signpost where you now follow the Snake Inn sign. The path now runs along White Brow with the Kinder Reservoir below you and you drop down Nab Brow to the stream at the bottom of William Clough. In places this path has become so well worn that walkers tend now to use the higher ground, the shoulders, on the more difficult stretches.

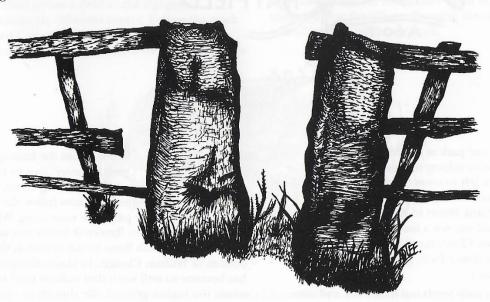
Ascend the clough, which is quite a long climb to the top, the path crossing the stream in several places. On reaching the top, you pass a cairn then a few yards beyond you come to a signpost and this is a convenient place to stop for a rest. It is at this spot where you are quite likely to meet someone walking the Pennine Way because this famous long-distance footpath passes here on its way to Crowden. Incidentally, you will have climbed about 1,100 feet since leaving Hayfield.

Now follow the Pennine Way for about 500 yards towards Mill Hill. This stretch can be very wet as you proceed over the spongy peat moss. The post at Mill Hill stands out on the skyline and here the Pennine Way turns right but you keep straight ahead to pick up a well-defined path as it leads over open country. Now continue over Burnt Hill and after about two miles you will come down to the A624 at Hollingworth Head. To your right, in the direction of Glossop, is the Grouse Inn. Opposite you is Monks' Road which you now take and after a short road walk you reach a bungalow. Opposite is a track which you follow as though making for Knarrs Farm but at the junction you take the grass track left, going round the head of the clough to cross a stile. The path now keeps to the left-hand wall to cross another stile left of Matleymoor Farm and here turn left along the road to a spot just before Lanehead Farm where is located a signpost and stile right, which you take. Head straight across the field towards Blackshaw Farm and you will find the stile in the left-hand top corner by the outbuildings. Proceed through the gate, turning right up the lane to reach the six-finger signpost. Here you follow the Birch Vale path towards Lantern Pike, going through a wooden gate. At the National Trust sign you have a choice of route.

If you continue to the top of the Pike you will observe the memorial stone to Edwin Royce and from here is one of the best views in the district. This is described fully in Walk 5 and Walk 12 in the book 'More Walks Around Glossop'.

From the summit the path leads down to another NT signpost (if you have taken the lower path by the wall, that also brings you to the same signpost).

Go through the gate and down the lane to pass Sunny Side Cottage then Windy Knowle House. At this minor road which is Thornsett Lane, turn left and go down to Lower Cliff Farm where you will see a signpost and stile right, next to a white gate. The path here can be extremely muddy but proceed, as cautiously as possible, to drop down to the house. To your right, cross a stile which is just left of the house then turn right onto a track to follow a Sett Valley Trail signpost. After about 50 yards cross the stile on your left, heading for the old Birch Vale works, now an industrial estate. Cross the footbridge and follow the path by the side of the reservoir coming out onto the Sett Valley Trail where you turn left and follow the Trail back to Hayfield.



#### 7. Sett Valley Trail, Rowarth, Cown Edge Rocks

Distance: 101/, miles ROBIN HOOD'S PICKING ROD PLAINSTEA FAR MATLEYMOOR UPPER BACK ROWARTH ROWARTH ROWARTH BROOKHOUSES BLACKSHAW LITTLE HAYFIELD THORNSETT

This walk to Rowarth starts at the bus station car park and continues along the Sett Valley Trail as far as Wilde's Crossing where you leave the Trail turning right where the road goes round the back of the old Garrison Bleachworks. This area is now a small industrial estate with a vehicle exit at Thornsett Bandroom. Your route lies

behind the old works and joins the main road just above the Printer's Arms public house and the crossroads at Thornsett. Turn left towards the chapel and a right fork, Aspenshaw Road, which you take to continue on past the school to the next junction.

At this junction, take the road right for about 100 yards where an old footpath sign on your left leads you up a small flight of stairs. Continue over a stile following the path through the trees where it now keeps to a wall. Note the old lamp standards along the way, once a main highway for workers from Rowarth going to work in New Mills.

Pass through a gate into a field, still keeping to the wall and on coming to Thornsett Fields Farm cross the stone stile on the left-hand side of the gate. Go straight through the farmyard and cross a stone stile by a wooden gate, then cross the field to reach a stile left of a large holly bush.

Now keep to the fence in this field to cross another stile by a gate and Rowarth village is straight ahead of you. Proceed along a wide track to reach a stile which brings you out on to a road where you turn left and continue downhill to the Little Mill Inn at Rowarth.

Follow the signpost just after the inn into Rowarth village (do not continue up the road). Walk up The Street to the T-junction and turn right. To follow the complete walk you note a green signpost (No. 159) left in about 30 yards and you take this for Cown Edge. This well-worn path climbs, going over various stiles, to reach a four-fingered signpost in memory of Norman Ings. Turn left here to follow the broken arm of the post which should read Near Slack. The path climbs, crossing Coalpit Hill where at the top you cross a stile, the path keeping to the wall to pass Near Slack Farm. Stay by the wall to reach Far Slack Farm and just past the farm go over a stile turning sharp right to go through a gate. From here you can make a short diversion left to view Robin Hood's Picking Rods then return to this spot.

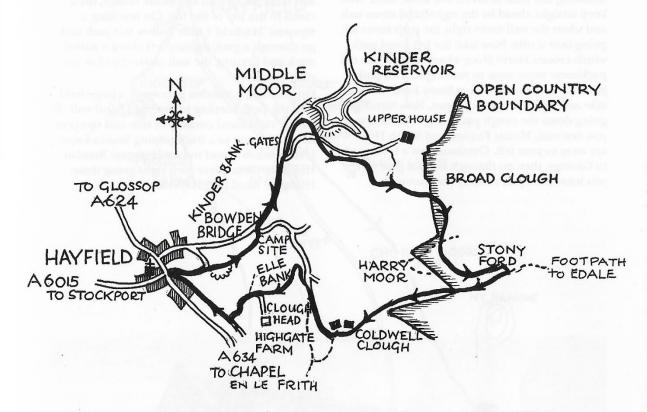
The path now keeps between a wall and wire fence and at the top you turn left, then right, through a gate with a yellow marker by it. In another 100 yards by a marker post turn left along a wide track to cross two stiles together and follow the yellow markers straight ahead. In

a short time you reach The Edge and Charlesworth lies below you with Coombe Edge across right. Stay on the track until you reach a gate at a junction where you turn right along a track. Now pass some old quarries and drop down to Rocks Farm, the track forking left to reach the farm. Cross the stile by the house and head towards Higher Plainsteads Farm. When you reach Monks' Road do not join it but take the signpost right to cross the field to the far corner, and over a stile onto the road. Cross over at this junction and go straight ahead along the minor road to the bend and some farm sheds. Here cross the stile then cross Matley Moor heading for the far left-hand corner. Here cross another stile and you are back on the original route of the shorter walk to Matley Moor Farm. Now keep ahead and at the farm bear right with the main track to Bullshaw Farm, right and on to the multi-fingered signpost which offers six routes. Go through the gate here and follow the Little Hayfield sign. The path now runs by a wall, then crosses a stile by a wood. At the cottage it becomes a track which keeps straight ahead and you will observe the old Clough Mill (now flats) and Little Hayfield below. The track crosses a stream by a farmhouse then by an old chimney and at the sharp bend you continue ahead along a path to a kissing gate. Here keep to the wire fence and the chimney of the old paper mill now comes into view. The path next drops down to reach a gate, going over a small stone bridge by Primrose Cottage. This leads into Primrose Lane where you continue to pass a large house called Oaklands. At the road turn left into Swallow House Lane, just before the new road bridge and on your right by a sub-station a path leads across a field, heading towards the church. You can either take this path or go on under the new road bridge and turn right into Market Street then right again by the church to return to the bypass and the bus station car park.

NOTE: This walk can be reduced by some 3 miles if you omit the extension from Rowarth to Cown Edge rocks and return direct via Matley Moor Farm.

#### 8. Stony Ford, Coldwell Clough

Distance: 61/, miles



This walk takes you around the lower slopes of Kinder Scout with excellent views of the plateau. From the bus station cross into the village and walk up right to Valley Road running left off the top of Church Street. Continue along this road and after a row of cottages right is a fork signed Rockhall Garage to the right. You bear left to walk down to the river and continue past more cottages to an old stone gateway. Here bear left with the sign Kinder Reservoir and walk on with the camp site to your right. At the entrance and shop is a Peak National Park Ranger Post where weather details are usually displayed. Proceed along the tarmac road to exit at Bowden Bridge where it's left then right to pass the quarry car park. Stay on this road until you reach the gates leading to the waterworks.

Here turn right over the bridge, then after about 200 yards turn left (FP sign here) to follow a path which runs by the river. At the iron bridge near the reservoir treatment plant, turn right going uphill with a house away to your left by the dam wall. Cross the road which leads to the house, take the path straight ahead, closing the gate behind you (FP sign to open country here).

Follow the uphill path which runs by the side of the plantation and on reaching a gate go through and turn right, again still going uphill. The path now keeps between the wall and a wire fence, then turns left keeping to the wall. From here is the best view of Kinder Downfall with Broad Clough below.

Continue, going through two stone gateposts on a well-defined path which joins a wall leading to a kissing gate. A signpost here marks the start of open country and you turn sharp right following the path between two stone walls. Now keep straight ahead by the right-hand stone wall and when the wall turns right the path turns left going over a stile. Now take the left-hand path which crosses Harry Moor where you see the old packhorse route away to your right. This path joins the packhorse road at Stony Ford where a stile and signpost mark the spot. Now turn right going down the rough packhorse road and as you descend, Mount Famine and South Head are away to your left. Continue past a bridlepath to Glossop, then go through a metal gate where you leave the open country and come to

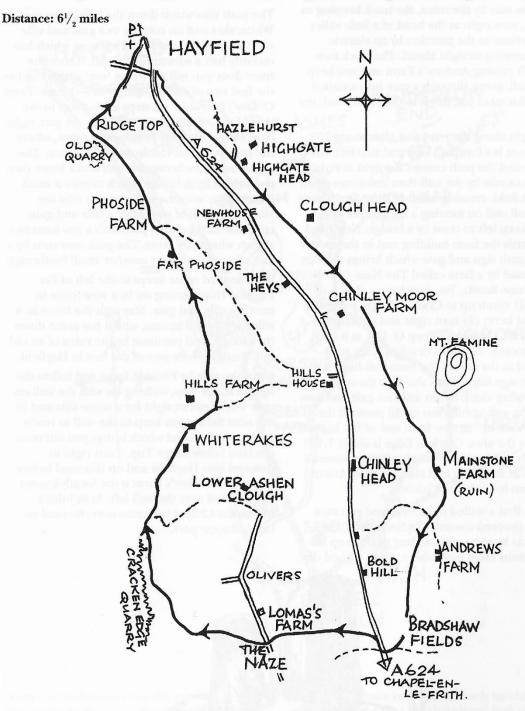
another gate leading on to a tarmac lane which leads to Coldwell Clough Farm. Mount Famine and South Head now tower above to your left. On reaching two gates go through the left one and cross the stream by a stone bridge, then climb to the top of the hill. On reaching a signpost 'Hayfield 1 mile' follow this path and go through a gate, turning left along a walled track and keeping the wall on the right as the path winds.

On reaching a wooden gate enter a large field with the path keeping to the right-hand wall. At the far right-hand corner is a stile and signpost which leads on to a track passing Stubbs Farm. It then winds round to join Highgate Road at Highgate Farm. Here turn right going down Highgate Road into Hayfield.



Chinley Chapel

#### 9. Chinley Head, Cracken Edge, Peep O' Day



As with Walk 9, enter the village and walk up Church Street to the junction at the old Co-op building. Turn left here as for Valley Road but take the right fork which is Highgate Road and near the top of this road you pass Highgate Farm. Continue until you reach a small building on your right and a footpath sign left. Take the walled track, passing some farm buildings, and right at the top of this track is a gate and stile. Here look back for the excellent view of Hayfield and beyond.

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Over the stile you are now on a grass track heading towards the ruins of Mainstone Farm. Cross the stile by the ruins, the track keeping to the wall, turn right at the head of a little valley and continue to the junction by an electric pylon, keeping straight ahead. The track now turns left passing Andrew's Farm and you keep to the wall, going through a gate into a walled track. This takes you down to the main road, the A624.

Turn right along the road and after about 100 yards there is a footpath sign and stile left. Cross the stile and the path crosses the field at right angles to a stile by the wall then continues down the next field, crossing another stile. Again keep to the wall and on nearing a stream, the Otter Brook, keep left to cross by a bridge. Now head left towards the farm building and in the corner is a footpath sign and gate which brings you out onto a road by a farm called The Naze (this is Maynestone Road). You now have a choice of route: (1) climb up to Cracken Edge, some 600 feet from here; (2) turn right and walk up the road to Hill's House or Peep O' Day as it is known locally. To climb Cracken Edge turn right and at the end of the farm buildings is a footpath sign left. Follow the path through a gate, turning sharp left to another gate and now follow the wall uphill. You could pause at the top and take in the view from one of the highest points in the area. Cracken Edge is about 1,400 feet high and is part of Chinley Churn, covered by walks in this book and also 'Walking Around Chapel-en-le-Frith and Chinley'.

You will find a walled track here and you turn right to proceed towards Hayfield where the path forks by some old winding gear. Keep left on the main Edge path where, given a good day, this route rivals the Rushup Edge path for its views.

The path now winds down the hillside to pass Whiterakes and on coming to a gate and stile you turn right to reach Hill's House which has recently had a substantial facelift. Above the front door you will notice an 'eye' which catches the first rays of the morning sun - hence 'Peep O' Day'. Retrace your steps a few yards to the rear of the house and go through the gate right. Now head across the field near a pylon, where the path becomes visible, to reach a gate. The path now keeps between a wall and a fence then goes over a little bridge which crosses a small swamp. Stay with the wall and you now see Hayfield ahead of you. After a stile and gate continue along a wide path with a few trees to a stream which you cross. The path now runs by a line of trees then over another small footbridge.

Your onward route keeps to the left of Far Phoside House going on by a wire fence to another stile and gate. Stay with the fence to a stile then over a stream, which has come down the clough, and continue by the ruins of an old mill thought to be one of the first in Hayfield.

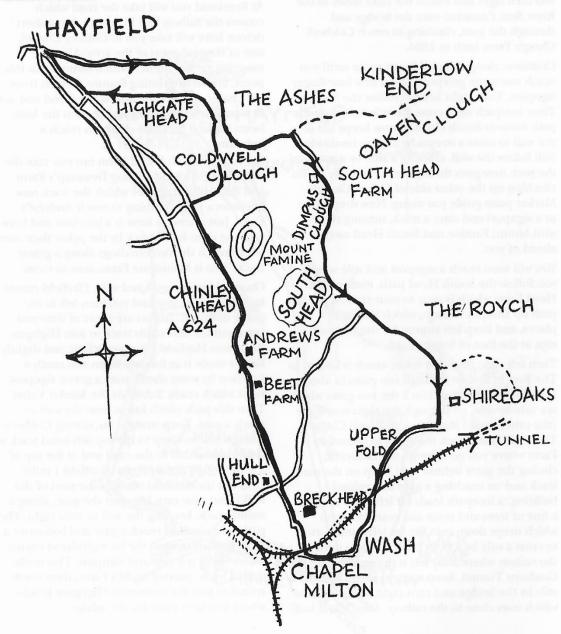
Cross the stile by Phoside Farm and follow the sign to Ridge Top, walking on with the wall on your left. Head straight for a stone stile and in the next field again keep to the wall to reach another stile ahead which brings you out onto the lane below Ridge Top. Turn right to descend into Hayfield and on this road before reaching Meadow's Farm is the locally-known Gospel Well over the wall left. At St John's Methodist Chapel you cross over the road to reach the car park.



Robin Hood's Picking Rods

#### 10. Coldwell Clough, South Head, Wash

Distance: 10 miles



From the bus station cross the road or go under the subway to the main street of the village where you turn right. At the top of Church Street is a junction where you turn left into Valley Road and continue for about half-a-mile. At a row of cottages take the left-hand track and when you reach a junction which is signed, turn left. The track now keeps close to the River Sett and passes some cottages to reach an old stone gateway. Here take the right-hand fork signed Kinder Low, Edale, going through the gate and this path runs behind Hayfield camp site, bearing right with Kinder Low straight ahead. It now climbs to reach Stones House Farm where it keeps right of the house and then turns left.

From here there is a good view of the Kinder Plateau. The path now winds round to reach a gate then onto a road by a signpost and here you turn right and follow the road down to the River Sett. Continue over the bridge and through the gate, climbing to reach Coldwell Clough Farm built in 1804.

Continue along this packhorse route until you reach two stone gateposts and a new four-finger signpost. Turn right here to follow the National Trust footpath sign, cross the stile following the path towards South Head. It now keeps left of the wall to cross a stream by a stone footbridge. Still follow the wall, crossing a stile by a gate and the path now goes through some trees by a ruin climbing up the other side of Oaken Clough. Marker posts guide you along. Now drop down to a signpost and onto a track, turning right with Mount Famine and South Head away ahead of you.

You will soon reach a signpost and stile where you follow the South Head path, noting South Head Farm which is away to your right. Take the path up Dimpus Clough, which is faint in places, and keep left aiming for the footpath sign at the foot of South Head.

Turn left onto this wide track, which is known as The Roych, and go through two gates in about half-a-mile. When you reach the two gates which are side-by-side, go through the right-hand one (the other would lead you into Roych Clough). This right-hand track leads you to Shireoaks Farm where you go through the farmyard, closing the gates behind you! Keep on the main track and on reaching a gate by a ruined building, a footpath leads off left. This keeps to a line of trees and posts also mark the path which drops down into the far left-hand corner to cross a stile by a holly bush. Now go under the railway where away left is the entrance to the Cowburn Tunnel. Keep straight ahead to cross a stile by the bridge and turn right along the lane which stays close to the railway. After about halfa-mile you reach Breckend by the 30 mph sign. A footpath left will take you the few yards down to the hamlet of Wash.

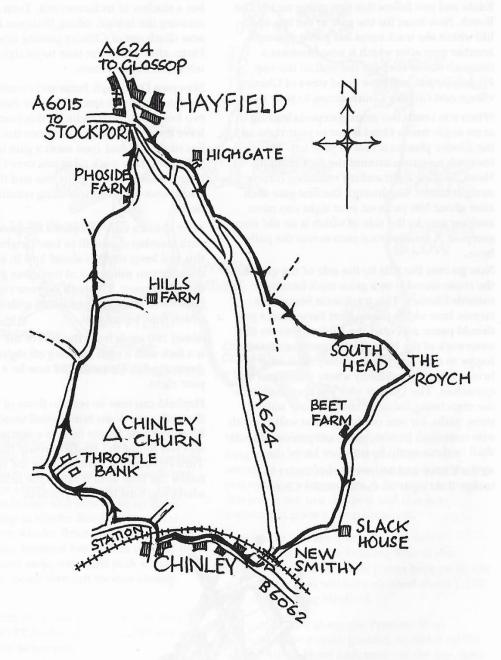
At Breckend you will take the road which crosses the railway line by bridge, but a short detour here will take you to Chinley Chapel, one of the real gems of the area. Also, the towering railway arches, which bifurcate at this point, are an interesting feature. Return from the chapel to cross the line at Breckend and you first pass Breck Meadow House then the lane bears left and dips and climbs to reach a junction.

On your left is Hull End Farm but you take the track straight ahead passing Dewsnap's Farm and Bull Hill Farm after which the track now becomes a path climbing to reach Andrew's Farm. Just after this farm is a junction and here take the right-hand track by the pylon then turn left to reach the two buildings along a grassy track. This is Mainstone Farm, now in ruins.

On reaching the gate and stile, Hayfield comes into view below you and you turn left here, going downhill. (If you are short of time you can continue down this track to join Highgate Road into Hayfield.) A more scenic and slightly longer route is as follows: when you reach a junction by some sheds, note a green signpost right which reads 'Edale via the Kinder Valley'. Take this path which keeps near the wall to reach a gate. Keep straight on, noting Coldwell Clough below. Keep to the top left-hand track as it winds downhill to the road and at the top of the hill follow the signpost 'Hayfield 1 mile' (this was the outward route at the start of this walk). But now turn left after the gate, along a walled track, keeping the wall to your right. The path now winds to reach a gate and you enter a large field to cross to the far right-hand corner where there is a stile and signpost. This leads onto a track, passing Stubbs Farm, then winds round to join the bottom of Highgate Road where you turn right for the village.

#### 11. South Head, Chinley, Chinley Churn

Distance: 8 miles



Cross the subway from the car park and out into the main street of the village. Turn right to go past the George Hotel and continue up the road taking the left turn opposite the old Co-op building. Now take the right fork which is Highgate Road and near the top you will pass Highgate Farm. Keep on this road until you reach a small building on your right. You are now about a mile out of Hayfield. On this track, which runs between walls, you will pass farm buildings and notice the track coming in right from off the main Buxton road. At this point is a green footpath sign. The Roych and Edale and you follow this sign going on via The Roych. Now head for the gate at the top of the hill where the track turns left going through another gate after which it now becomes a footpath which keeps to the wall all the way. From here you will have good views of Chinley village and Chinley Churn across to your right.

When you reach two stone gateposts leaning in at an angle South Head is just to your right and the Kinder plateau across to your left. The footpath now runs around the foot of South Head, bearing right and on rounding it runs straight ahead. Go through the first gate then after about 300 yards on your right you meet another gate by the side of which is an old stone gatepost. A small stream runs across the path here.

Now go over the stile by the side of the gate and the route ahead is by a grass track heading towards Chinley. This track soon becomes a tarmac lane which passes Beet Farm where you should pause and read the Biblical texts in the stonework of the barn. The present occupier is happy to tell you of their history. This lane brings you to New Smithy where thirsts can be quenched. The Quaker who was responsible for the texts being located thus may have walked these paths, for one reads: 'He that walketh with wise men shall be wise but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.' So now you know!

At the Crown and Mitre turn left under the bridge then right on the B6062 for Chinley.

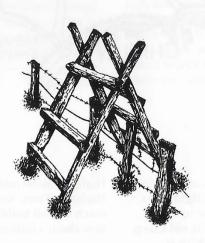
This main road follows the railway line into Chinley village where, at the T-junction is the Squirrels Hotel and you turn right to cross the bridge. This once-busy mainline station is now but a shadow of its former self. Turn left after crossing the bridge, taking Stubbins Lane and now climb out of Chinley passing first Lea End Farm, after which the lane turns right by a television booster mast.

Now pass Dryclough Farm and continue along the lane until you reach Throstle Bank Farm, two houses on your right. At this junction you leave the road and take the grass track which lies straight ahead (you meet a gate in a short distance). This track takes you over Chinley Churn almost in a straight line and there are good views of the surrounding countryside from here.

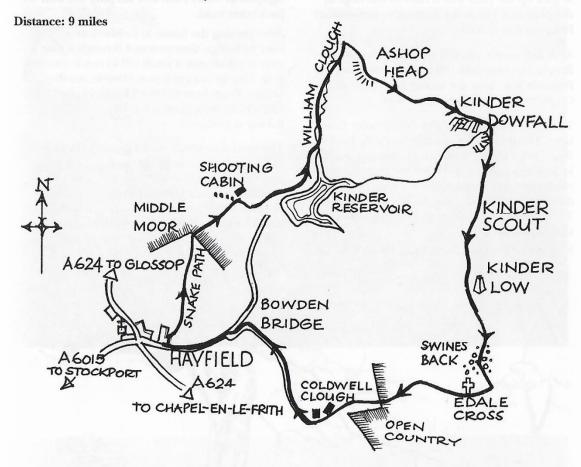
After about a mile you pass a signpost with a path running downhill to Low Leighton. Ignore this and keep straight ahead and in a short distance you will arrive at two stone gateposts then a signpost. The path on your right leads to Hills Farm but you keep ahead with the path which runs by the wall.

About 200 yards from the end of the wall there is a fork with a path running off right taking you down a gully. There should now be a stream on your right.

Hayfield can now be seen in front of you and the path runs down into a small wood and on to Phoside Farm. By the farm is a signpost and stile and you follow the Hayfield route (half-a-mile). Turn right by the barn, go over the stile then follow the lane until it meets the main road where you turn left into Hayfield.



#### 12. Kinder Downfall, Edale Cross



This walk follows the route of Walk 6 from Hayfield to the Pennine Way. From the Hayfield car park go down the subway which brings you to the George Hotel in the main street. Turn left, cross the bridge and turn right up Bank Street (leading to Kinder Road). Continue ahead, now on Kinder Road itself, until you see a footpath sign between two houses on your left. A flight of stone steps starts this path which you follow uphill, going through various kissing gates.

When the path levels out look back and note the fine view of Chinley Churn at 1,480 feet and the Sett Valley below you.

From the kissing gate which has the Open Country sign by it carry on until you reach the shooting cabin, passing a signpost marking the path. Here follow the Snake Inn sign with the path going down to the stream at the bottom of William Clough.

You now ascend the clough which is quite a long climb to the top. The path crosses the stream in several places and on reaching the top you will pass a large cairn. A few yards beyond this you come to a signpost and this is a convenient place to stop for a rest.

At this spot you are quite likely to meet someone walking the Penning Way as this famous long-distance walk passes here on its way to Crowden. You will have climbed about 1,100 feet since leaving Hayfield.

Turn right now along the Pennine Way, crossing some marshy ground, to climb up the side of Ashop Head and, once on the top, turn right to pick up the path which runs along the edge. Follow this path for about a mile until you reach the Kinder River and the famous Kinder Downfall.

Leave the Downfall by crossing the shallow river to pick up the path which runs by the edge of the plateau. (This is the alternative wet-weather Pennine Way route.)

After half-a-mile you will come to a stream, Red Brook, and here fork left to continue down the Pennine Way, over the spongy peat moss to the OS pillar at Kinder Low, 2,077 feet.

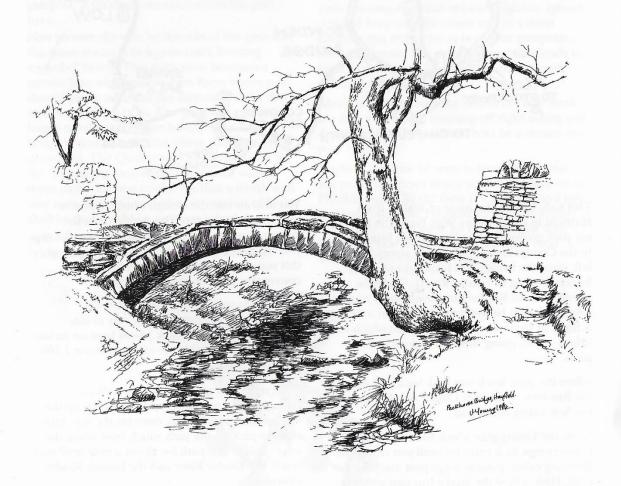
There are good views of the Edale Valley from here. The path now continues to Edale Rocks then Swine's Back, a hill which, not unnaturally, looks like a pig's back. Here turn right for a few yards and you should now see a path running down to a signpost by the old packhorse road. Turn right at the road and climb slightly uphill to reach Edale Cross.

Now follow the packhorse road downhill all the

way to Coldwell Clough Farm, passing the signpost at Stony Ford and keeping left with the packhorse road.

After passing the house at Coldwell cross the river by bridge then proceed through a gate and start to climb over a small hill to reach another gate. Nearby is a guidepost close to another bridge. From here the road keeps by the River Sett which, incidentally, has trout in it but fishing is private.

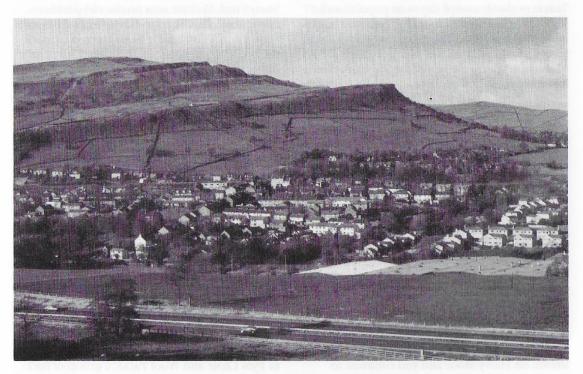
The road now winds round passing Hayfield campsite at Bowden Bridge with the car park opposite. If you have left your car at the Hayfield car park turn left after crossing Bowden Bridge, pass the Sportsman and continue along this route to pass your starting point. Back in the village use the subway to reach the car park.



Packhorse Bridge, Hayfield



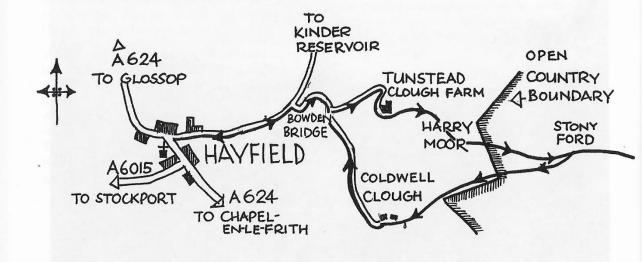
South Head



Cracken Edge

#### 13. Kinder Scout, Jacob's Ladder

Distance: 16 miles return (but see footnote)



This is probably one of the most popular walks in the area and known to walkers from all points of Britain. It can also be one of the most hazardous if you do not take elementary precautions particularly with regard to clothing, footwear, maps and compass.

The notes in the introduction are for your guidance.

Use the subway from the car park, cross the river bridge and turn right up Bank Street (leading to Kinder Road). Proceed along Kinder Road past the Sportsman and on to the alternative starting point, the quarry car park.

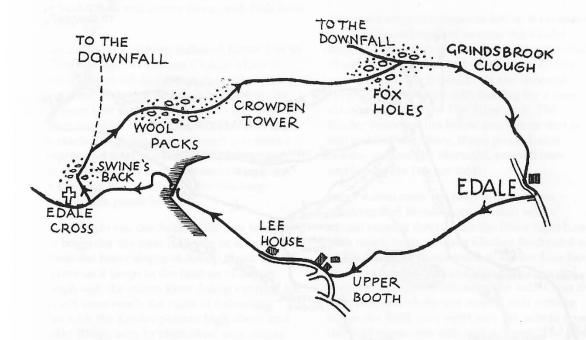
Almost opposite is the confluence of the Sett and the Kinder, at Bowden Bridge which you cross and turn left then follow the road to the next bridge where a lane on your left leads round to Tunstead Clough Farm.

A well-marked footpath runs uphill going through various gates and turning in a righthand sweep. A step-ladder stile crosses the stream on Harry Moor and you continue to Stony Ford. You are now on the old packhorse route which climbs up to Edale Cross. This was restored in 1810, having been erected to mark the boundary of land owned by the Cistercian Abbots of Basingwerk Abbey.

After the cross, the path now descends to the guidepost which leads to Kinder Low.

Turn left and follow this path as far as Swine's Back (aptly named when you observe the outline) where it now runs by the wall. Here you will leave the Pennine Way, bear right and this path now takes you to Noe Stool Rocks (the wall eventually stops after a short distance).

At Edale Head Rocks is a natural amphitheatre, one of several features of the landscape which have been the subject of many an amateur artist's sketchpad. Without becoming too overburdened with paraphernalia both camera and binoculars are frequently carried by walkers on this route. You will keep very near to the edge of the plateau on what is now quite a peaty path. After rounding Edale Head you come up to Pym Chair and Wool Packs, a group of rocks



sculptured by wind and rain. At Crowden Tower you will have a fine view of the Edale Valley.

The path now leads towards Grindlow Knoll but here we turn left to reach the edge of the plateau at Fox Holes where more rocks are scattered over the terrain. At this point you rejoin the main route of the Pennine Way and descend Grindsbrook Clough into Edale.

The Nag's Head Inn, the start of the Pennine Way, dates back to 1577. To the left of the inn as you face it a footpath crosses the fields, going over various stiles to reach Upper Booth where you continue ahead on what is the alternative wet-weather route of the Pennine Way.

This track now takes you to Lee House and after about another half mile you reach the packhorse bridge at the bottom of Jacob's Ladder. The parapets were deliberately built low to allow for the hanging horse packs.

You now climb Jacob's Ladder which was at one time a series of steps cut into the hill by Jacob Marshall in the year 1768.

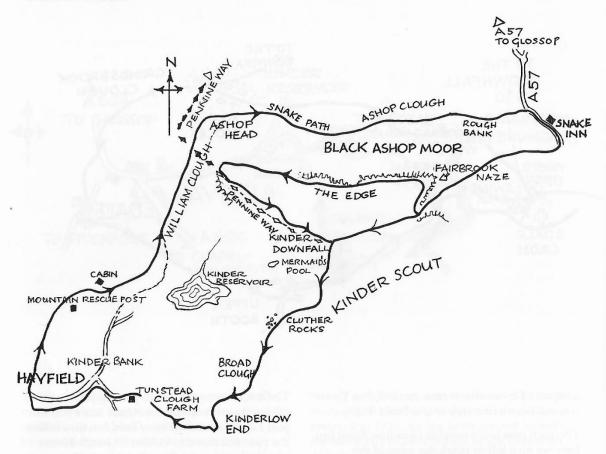
The track continues uphill passing your turning off point earlier in the day. Once more you will pass Edale Cross and Stony Ford but now follow the road left down to Coldwell Clough House where you cross the River Sett by a bridge.

The road now descends to the turnoff to Tunstead Clough Farm (your outward route) but now continue to Bowden Bridge returning into Hayfield by the Kinder Road if you have left your car in the village.

NOTE: This walk can be converted to two 8-mile walks by returning to New Mills by train from Edale or starting from New Mills Central Station, train to Edale then walk via Jacob's Ladder to Hayfield.

#### 14. Snake Path, Snake Inn, Kinder Downfall

Distance: 14 miles



There are two alternative routes out of Hayfield to William Clough: (1) From the old station car park go over or under the bypass into the main street, turn left, cross the bridge and turn right up Bank Street to Kinder Road. Go ahead to the footpath sign, left between two houses. This indicates the Snake Path and you climb the stone steps, proceed through various gates to pass the shooting cabin when Kinder Reservoir comes into view. Walk along White Brow and the path now drops down Nab Brow to the stream at the bottom of William Clough. (2) Turn right in Hayfield village and at the top of Church Street turn left into Valley Road. After about half-a-mile and at a row of cottages take the left-hand track. When you reach a junction which is signed, turn left keeping close to the River Sett to pass some cottages and onto an old stone gateway.

Here take the left-hand path going by the entrance to Hayfield campsite where, at the Ranger Post right, you can check the weather forecast for the Kinder area (you will find it in the window). Proceed along the tarmac road and over a large stone stile, or through the gate, to reach Bowden Bridge. Here turn left to cross the bridge, then right, passing the quarry car park on your left. Note here the plaque which commemorates the famous Kinder Trespass.

Follow this road until you reach the gates leading to the waterworks and here turn right over the bridge then after about 200 yards turn left with the footpath sign, to follow a path which runs by the river. Turn left to go over the bridge and near the reservoir treatment plant go through the side gate by the works entrance.

The path now climbs then levels out along White Brow where it takes you around the edge of the reservoir. On reaching a stone wall there are two signposts, one denoting open country and yours is for William Clough. Here you join the Snake Path as it comes down, with Nab Brow on your left.

Main route (after having followed Route 1 or 2) — You now ascend William Clough which is quite a long climb to the top, the path crossing the stream in several places. It has become so well worn that walkers tend now to use the higher shoulder on the more difficult stretches. On reaching the top of the clough you meet a signpost and this is a convenient place to rest. You are quite likely to meet someone walking the Pennine Way at this spot for this long-distance walk passes here.

Carry straight on, the Snake Path now becoming very boggy for the next half-mile or so as it rounds the lower slopes of Ashop Head. It does improve as it keeps in the bottom of Ashop Clough with the infant River Ashop running by. You will soon reach the ruins of a shooting cabin with the Kinder plateau high above and Saukin Ridge, with its plantation, now comes into view. Once through the fir trees you come to the River Ashop again and the path winds round to cross a footbridge from where you can hear the traffic on the A57, the Snake Road. Climb up to the ladder stile (you are now  $6^3/_4$  miles from Hayfield) and turn right along the road, taking care since it is often boggy.

In about 200 yards you reach the Snake Inn where walkers are welcome in the family room. From the inn, carry on along the road and in another 300 yards is a stile right with an open country sign. Cross over and go through the plantation, the path leading you to a footbridge and another open country sign. On reaching the sheepfold turn right to follow a well-trodden path which climbs up through the valley with the Fairbrook stream on your left.

Climbing, you will pass several small waterfalls and the valley narrows, going into a scree slope to reach the Kinder plateau. The path keeps right of the boulders and on reaching the top you again have a choice of routes. These alternatives would take you away from the main route and might be followed on other occasions.

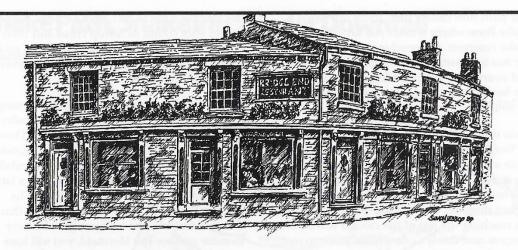
By turning right to pick up The Edge path you could walk round to Ashop Head and then go around to the Downfall. You could also go down Ashop Head and William Clough — a reverse of your outward route.

The main route continues as below: A compass bearing is now required to cross the Kinder Plateau which is about one mile to the Downfall. Should you meet the bed of the River Kinder, turn right for the Downfall. At the Downfall keep on the left-hand side, making for a large cairn and now follow The Edge path. The Kinder Reservoir lies below and before that is Mermaid's Pool where, if you go on Easter Sunday and see the Mermaid, you will have everlasting life (we are told).

Large cairns mark the path south and on reaching Red Brook (a small valley with a stream coming down) take the lower right-hand path which leads you past Cluther Rocks and on to Three Knolls then round to Kinder Low End. On reaching the gate and stile cross over and keep straight ahead following the wall. Cross the next stile and where you meet a path coming across the field, turn right over the stile to cross the field to another stile and signpost. The path now leads down to reach Tunstead Clough Farm then winds round to reach the bridge by a road. Here turn right and follow the road to Bowden Bridge where you proceed by road or along the campsite road back into Valley Road and Hayfield village.

#### NOTES:

- A good seven hours should be allowed for this walk. Kinder is not the place to be on if darkness falls.
- 2. You should be experienced in reading map and compass.
- 3. Go fully equipped.
- 4. Kinder is often covered in low cloud even in summer, so pick your day carefully.
- 5. In atrocious weather conditions, Kinder can be very inhospitable.
- 6. This is the hardest walk in the book so, if wet, thumb through it and select another on the lower slopes.



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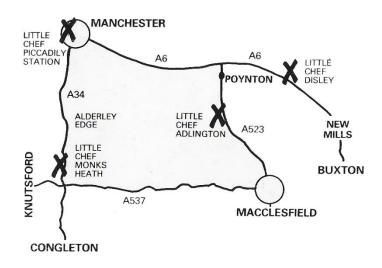
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