




# In the footsteps of the 1932 mass trespass... Hayfield to Kinder Scout

In 1932 around 500 walkers, mostly from Manchester, trespassed en masse and walked from Hayfield to Kinder Scout. To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this milestone event in the struggle to secure access rights to open country forever, the National Trust has created this FREE walk to help you enjoy what others fought so hard for...

## Getting there:

**Train:** Glossop  and New Mills  are on the Manchester to Sheffield and Manchester to Buxton line, Chinley  is just on the Manchester to Sheffield line

**Buses:** Regular buses to Hayfield from Stockport via Marple and New Mills, Glossop and Chapel-en-le-Frith

**Cycling:** Traffic-free cycle route from New Mills to Hayfield

**Road:** Bowden Bridge Peak District National Park car park west of Hayfield

**Map & grid ref:** OS Landranger 110, Explorer OL1, grid ref: SK 048869 (Bowden Bridge)

## Facilities available:

WC, shops and pubs in Hayfield

## Walk distance, terrain and accessibility:

8 miles circular route from Hayfield to Kinder and back. Paths are generally good, but can be rough in places. Some moderately challenging ascent and descent. Take care when walking near to steep sections and the gritstone edges. The route can become muddy after wet weather.

## Points of interest:

- The walk starts at Bowden Bridge – the rallying point for the trespassers. Here there is a commemorative plaque on the quarry wall. In 1932, most of the trespassers arrived on the train but the main protagonists camped in Rowarth, north west of Hayfield, and cycled to avoid the Police who intended to intercept them.
- All the way along the plateau admire the views over Yorkshire, to the north, Cheshire to the west, Wales beyond. These views would not necessarily have been clear in the 1930s due to industrial smokes from mill chimneys and coal fires. In July and August the landscape is colourful with flowering heather.

**Contact us:** High Peak Estate Office, tel: 01433 670368, [highpeakestate@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:highpeakestate@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## Things to look out for:



Kinder Downfall is often shrouded in mists, as the wind blows the tumbling water into the air.

On sunny days a series of colourful rainbows arch over the rocks.

© NTPL / Joe Cornish

Curious gritstone outcrops can be found on the southern edge of the Kinder plateau. Erosion of the peat soils here has been accelerated by the impact of man through air pollution, accidental fires and overgrazing.

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Look and listen for moorland birds like the red grouse (shown here), curlew, golden plover and ring ouzel (or mountain blackbird). They feed on new heather shoots high up on the moors.

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**NT places to visit nearby:** Mam Tor, Longshaw Estate and Lyme Park

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Find out more at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

## Route and directions:

- 1 & 2. From Bowden Bridge car park head towards **Kinder Bank** on the Kinder Road. Spot the remains of Kinder village in nearby fields.
3. Pass **Booth Bridge** and sheep wash. They were constructed after the valley was flooded to create Kinder Reservoir. The 1932 trespassers would have walked on the road, but we can now use paths either side of the river.
4. Follow a bridleway up hill at **White Brow** alongside the reservoir until you reach the Snake Path at the foot of William Clough. Alternatively take the route skirting along the reservoir enclosure wall to the bridge where there is a National Trust information panel.
5. From here follow the path up **William Clough**. William Clough is named after a cutler who worked here. Look for signs of iron smelting underfoot.

During the mass trespass the ramblers left the path which was originally higher up the slope and became embroiled in scuffles with gamekeepers and water bailiffs.

6. Continue upwards to **Ashop Head** where the Pennine Way joins the path and turn right. Carry on along the ridge to **Sandy Heys**. This area was badly damaged by fire in 2003. Peat moorland is a high fire risk after long spells of dry weather.
7. Marvel at the spectacular rock buttresses and cascading water of the **Kinder Downfall**. On a clear day, this natural amphitheatre can be visible for many miles.
8. Continue along the Pennine Way to **Kinder Low** trig point rising to 630m. The National Trust is working to prevent the erosion of peat here by planting cotton grass to hold it in place and limiting water run-off. Below and to your right are Cluther Rocks, where roadside millstones used to be quarried.
9. Continue to the flag path, following the route to the left, to **Edale Road**. Turn right through the gate. Edale Road is an old packhorse route. Edale Cross marks the summit of the road. Continue down hill towards Hayfield.
- 10 & 11. Leave the moorland and walk on a path through fields to the tarmac road at **Coldwell Clough**. Carry on, keeping the stream on your left. Rejoin the metalled road at Ashes Farm and continue to Bowden Bridge car park.

