

10 Leisure Walks of Discovery in the Peak District

A Boot Up

THE DARK PEAK

Roger Redfern

The northern area of the Peak District National Park rising beyond the Vale of Edale and Hope Valley contains the three moorland domes of Kinder Scout – the highest point in the Park – Bleaklow and Black Hill. It is a wild area of peat moorland dotted with eroded gritstone outcrops through which the Pennine Way National Trail passes. Although hard-core walkers are attracted by the challenges of long walks across these high moors of the Dark Peak, there are lots of easier and less demanding routes where you can experience this unique landscape.

The ten selected walks, ranging from 4 to 8.5 miles, suit the needs of families, groups of friends or individuals looking for a gentle stroll or a longer walk, and reflect the many varied facets of the area – its people, its history, and its working landscape and will help first time visitors to experience some of the great scenery the area has to offer. Many of the walks feature a pub along the route.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to the Peak District.

The 10 walks included are:

- ALONG THE GREAT RIDGE • THE ROUND OF GRINDSBROOK •
- KINDER RESERVOIR AND KINDER DOWNFALL FROM HAYFIELD •
 - HIGHER SHELF STONES AND THE ROMAN ROAD •
- A ROUND OF EASTERN BLEAKLOW • THE WESSENDEN VALLEY AND WEST NAB • ALONG THE PENNINE WAY TO BLACK HILL •
 - CHINLEY CHURN, SOUTH HEAD AND NEW SMITHY •
 - ON HOLLINGWORTH HALL MOOR •
 - EXPLORING THE HOPE WOODLANDS •

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The celebrated mountaineer and photojournalist **Roger Redfern** is author of forty books and his articles have appeared in publications that range from *Country Life*, *The Lady* and *Woman's World* to *TGO*, *High* and the *Dalesman*. He has written a regular piece for the *Guardian's* Country Diary for almost thirty years.

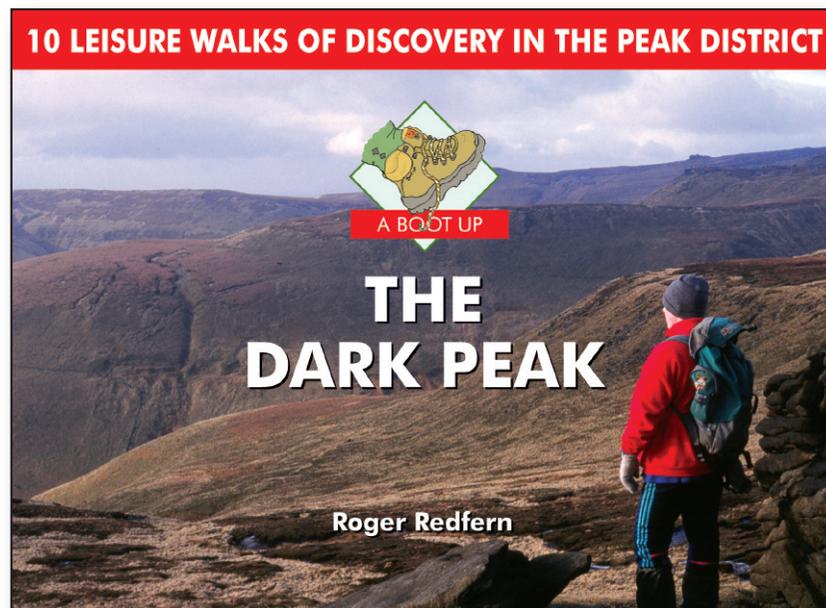
He has travelled widely – from Belarus and Ukraine to Cuba, Brazil and Argentina; from central Africa to the European Alps which he knows intimately. He lives in the heart of the Peak District.

HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

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A BOOT UP THE DARK PEAK



Late summer above the Ashop Valley.



Collapsed road below Mam Tor.



The Cloughs from Jacob's Ladder, Kinder Scout.



Right: The Shelf Brook below Mossylee Farm.

4 Higher Shelf Stones and the Roman Road

turn right (west) along this and soon begin the steep descent into the clough (valley) of the Shelf Brook. In 2 miles (3 kms) the boundary of Open Country is gained and we now traverse the enclosed hill pastures of Mossylee Farm.

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5 A Round of Eastern Bleaklow

A moorland route near the source of the River Derwent.

This 6 miles (9.5 kms) walk gives a flavour of wonderful upper Derwent Dale and the changes wrought here by man in the last 100 years. There is the open dale, forestry plantation, grass moor and a feeling of freedom on the high gritstone territory on this western flank of Bleaklow.

Often called "Bain's only two does" there are no paths, edged acres or dunes here, just a temperate desert of heather, moss and moor grasses covering the deep peat beds of former ancient forests.

Ideal for nesting grouse for sport shooting for many generations we can experience the silence and open skies beside the two shooting cabins in Lower Small Clough. Early in our walk we pass the site of old Bleakley Farm, swept away like others in the upper dale when the trio of giant reservoirs was constructed.

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5 A Round of Eastern Bleaklow

Level:

Length: 6.25 miles (10 kms)

Ascent: 725 feet (220 metres)

Remarks: Steady valley walking and stiff moorland crossing.

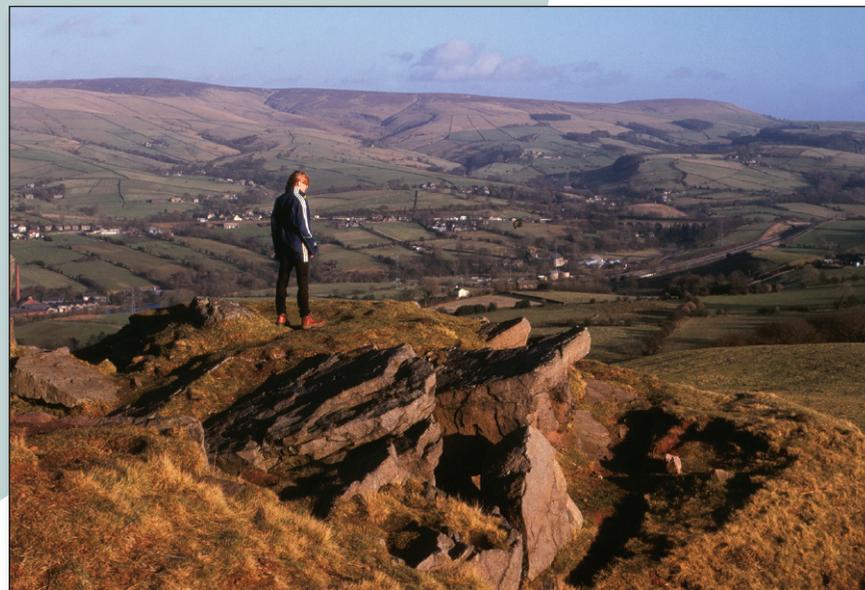
Peak: 870m (2856 ft), 7m or more head in upper Derwent Dale. OS 15729

Info: National Park Information Centre at Gaiskell Farm, Derwentdale of Bleaklow, Derwent Reservoirs (reopening) and Askwith events and oak tree.

Here from early in the twentieth century to supply the growing needs of Derby, Nottingham, Leicester and Sheffield.

At historic Slippery Stones the ancient packhorse bridge from Derwent village makes a useful and fascinating crossing point of the River Derwent, replacing the hazardous ford on the shelving gritstone slabs below.

Example of a double-page spread.



Looking to Roych Clough from Eccles Pike.