

A BOOT UP THE EASTERN PEAK

Roger Redfern

This handy, hardback pocket guide to the mainly gritstone eastern fringes of the Peak District National Park makes a grand companion for anyone interested in exploring the area on foot. The ten routes described range in length from a modest 3.25 miles (6 kms) to 8.5 miles (13.5 kms) and simple maps help to locate them when referring to the suggested Ordnance Survey map.

Plenty of captioned colour photographs by the author give a flavour of each route and panels give additional interesting detail about geographical features and historical associations.

The routes cover a broad canvas and are ideal for families and groups of friends, from the wild moorlands around Langsett, Back Tor and Derwent Edge to the wooded confines of Ewden Dale; the reservoirs in delightful Bradfield Dale; crossing the River Derwent and exploring parts of the Eastern Edges. The ten walks are: Langsett and the Porter Valley; The Best of Ewden Dale; On Foot in Bradfield Dale; Wyming Brook and Redmires; Along the Duke of Norfolk's Road; Back Tor and the Delights of Derwent Edge; Double Crossing of the River Derwent; The Steep Way to Stanage; Along Two Eastern Edges; On the Edge of the Moors.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook will ensure a great walking experience and is an ideal reminder of a visit to the Peak District.

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.

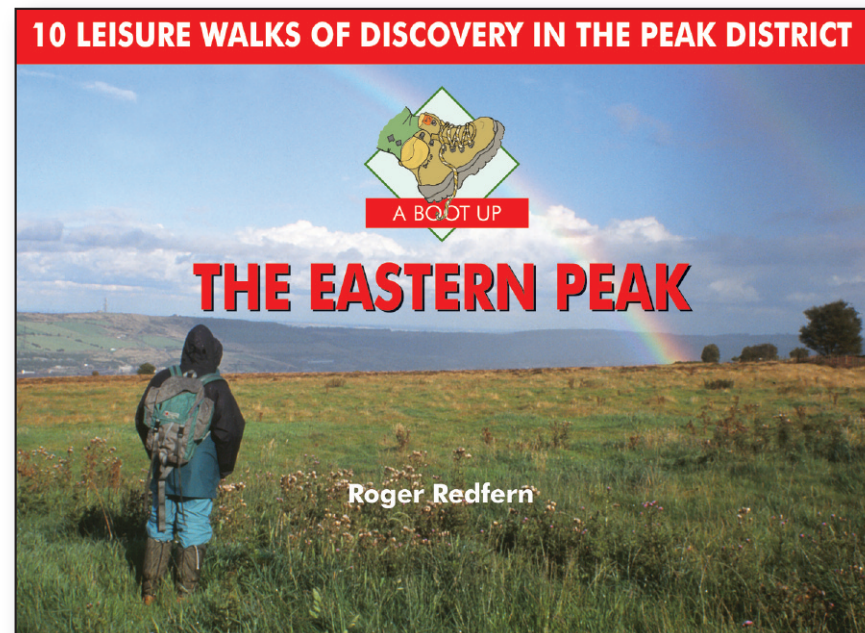
He has travelled widely – from Belarus and Ukraine to Cuba, Brazil and Argentina; from central Africa to the European Alps which he knows intimately. He lives in the heart of the Peak District

HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

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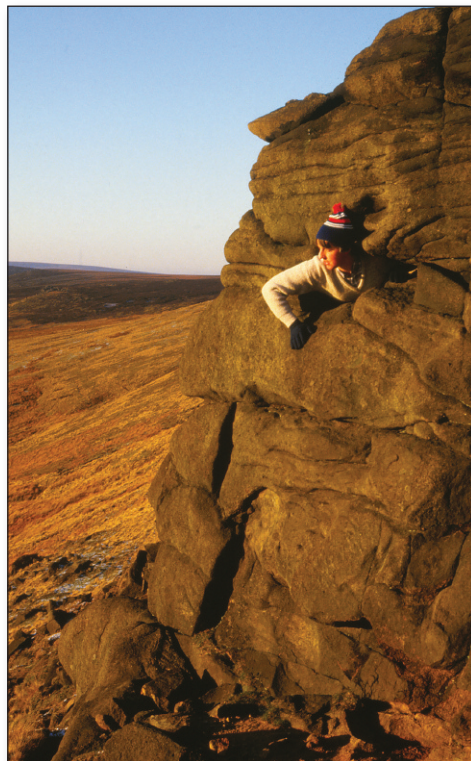
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Pike Low summit at the head of Ewden Dale



The Salt Cellar, Derwent Edge



Wilfrey's Nield on Wilfrey Edge north of Derwent Edge



Dale Dike Reservoir, Bradfield Dale



Looking up Abbey Brook, late summer

1 Langsett and the Ponier Valley

the head of Langsett Reservoir. Climb a short distance and take the path leading off right (east) which traverses the wooded slope called Langsett Bank to return to the car park starting point.

Crossing the River Ponier above Langsett

Langsett Reservoir was the largest one owned by the former Sheffield Water Authority (now part of Yorkshire Water). Construction began in 1898 and was completed in 1904. The valve tower on the impounding wall was modelled on the gateway of Lancaster Castle and the public road running along the top of the dam is the longest dam-top highway in the country. When it was being constructed residents of the district demanded reassurance that the quality of the work on the reservoir "be above suspicion". They were remembering the collapse of the notorious Dale Dike Reservoir in nearby Bradfield Dale in 1864 which caused the loss of 250 lives.

April shower over the Little Don Valley

2 The Best of Ewden Dale
A glimpse of a south Pennine gem

The Ewden Beck flows in a deep west-west valley that, like its southern neighbour of Bradfield Dale, has the feel of a true northern declivity. It is a place of secrets, of reservoirs, woods and sweeping moorland horizons. The route suggested here gives a flavour of its charms, more particularly good views from high ground across the dale.

Two large reservoirs lie on the valley floor, flanked by extensive plantations, but from the high ridge to the north we can walk easily and savour the broad vistas in every direction. This is typical hill farming country: stone-walled

pastures are juxtaposed with heather moors, attractive farmsteads lurk in sheltered corners and the historic Mortimer Road winds, twists and climbs up and down the dale en route to the market town of Penistone. Our route begins up at the ridge-top village of Baldestone almost one

2 The Best of Ewden Dale

Levels: 5.5 miles (8.75 km)
Length: 790 feet (240 metres)
Terrain: breezy ridge-top, valley side paths and public lanes.
Park & start: Baldestone village.
Start ref: OS 271 945
Info: See at Baldestone.

Example of a double-page spread.