



11 DERBYSHIRE/STAFFS PARKHOUSE, CHROME & HOLLINS HILLS

▶ Distance: 4¾ miles/7.5km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



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FEATURE
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Chrome and Parkhouse Hills from the south.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



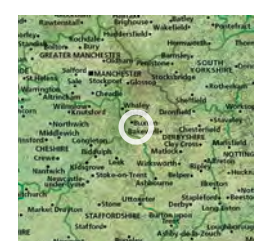
CHOSEN BY... ROGER BUTLER

The delights of Dovedale are well known, but just a few miles north of Hartington the hill country around the hill country around the headwaters of the Dove still feel off the beaten track. Here, above the hamlet of Hollinsclough, the gritstone of the Dark Peak meets the limestone of the White Peak and wild heather moors suddenly merge into valleys with bright green pasture. This walk explores both sides of the divide and takes in two eye-catching and energetic limestone ridges as well as the long whaleback of Hollins Hill. Chrome Hill and Parkhouse Hill both deserve to be the subject

of school geography lessons and their narrow rock-fringed tops were originally formed as reef knolls, at a time when the Peak District was probably somewhere south of the equator. Some say Chrome Hill resembles a stegosaurus; others think it looks like the back of an angry dragon! You could spend all day on each these hills, with their panoramic views down the Upper Dove Valley and south towards the Derbyshire Dales. And look out for the weathered limestone archway near the top of Chrome Hill.

1 Start From the road junction in Hollinsclough, once a centre for silk weaving, take the lane

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking

Hollinsclough, SK17 ORG
grid ref SK065665

Is it for me? Field and hill paths; steep (sometimes slippery) on Chrome Hill and Parkhouse Hill
Stiles 2

PLANNING

Nearest town Buxton

Refreshments Pubs and cafés in Longnor; pub at Earl Sterndale

Public toilets None

Public transport

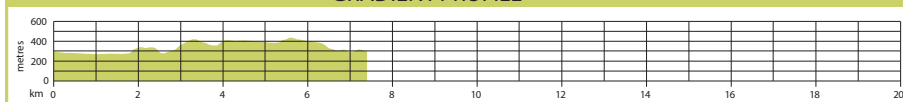
None to start. Nearest station at Buxton

Maps OS Explorer OL24; Landranger 119

leading E with Chrome Hill and Parkhouse Hill both prominent ahead. Fork L on the farm track/byway, by a stone barn, after 400m and keep ahead to meet the meandering headwaters of the Dove. Turn R to pass through a gate and



GRADIENT PROFILE



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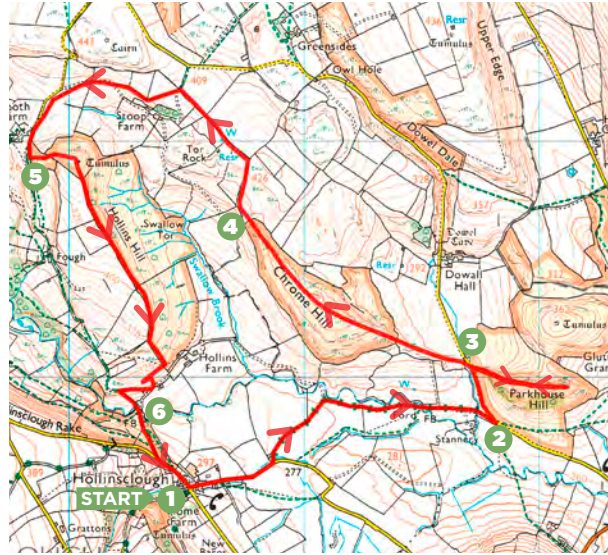
► OS Explorer map OL24 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

cross a footbridge next to a ford. Continue through a pair of gateposts to the open lane.

2 1 mile/1.5km
Turn L for 200m and leave the unfenced lane to climb Parkhouse Hill (Open Access land). Veer R of a conspicuous protruding rock and gradually climb path up the northern flanks. An intermittent path rises to the airy ridge, with outcrops, and it is worth continuing 'up and over' to enjoy the scenery and the unexpected sense of exposure. Retrace your steps back to the lane, taking care on the steep grassy slopes and banks of polished limestone.

3 1¼ miles/2.75km
Go R on lane and by cattle grid take stile on L to follow a permissive path over pasture and a low limestone ridge to a gate in a wall by an isolated tree. Climb the grassy spur which now rears straight ahead to reach the crest of Chrome Hill. Continue for approximately 450m and as the ridge begins to drop N, pass eroded stone arch on R. Keep R towards the end of the ridge and follow a steep path, with some simple scrambling which can be easily avoided, to veer L to a gate.

4 2½ miles/4km
Marker posts indicate the way forward on another permissive path – go through gate and keep ahead to turn



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sharp R after the next gate. Follow permissive path L, keeping alongside wall to N of Tor Rock. Join right of way at track junction, by cattle grid/stile, just N of Stoop Farm and continue, trending SW, for 700m to reach lane near Booth Farm.

5 3½ miles/5.5km
Fork L on track and take gate E onto Hollins Hill (Open Access). Climb E to meet wall leading S along broad ridge. Keep wall on R and follow signs, walking S for almost 1km, with uninterrupted views to Chrome Hill and the valley beyond. The land drops steeply at the end of the ridge and follow fingerposts for a zig-zag

descent, SW through hawthorn bushes, to meet a track/bridleway which leads down to cross a fine old packhorse bridge guarded by a couple of small gates.

6 4½ miles/7km
Continue SE on grassy path for 300m to small gate at lane just N of Hollinsclough. Turn L downhill to return to start. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey

DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING