

## Rowsley, Stanton Moor & Nine Ladies Stone Circle

### Walk Information

Walk Area:	Rowsley	OS Map:	Explorer OL24
Distance:	5.5 Miles		White Peak Area
Start Point:	Caudwell's Mill		1:25000
Map Ref:	SK 257 657		

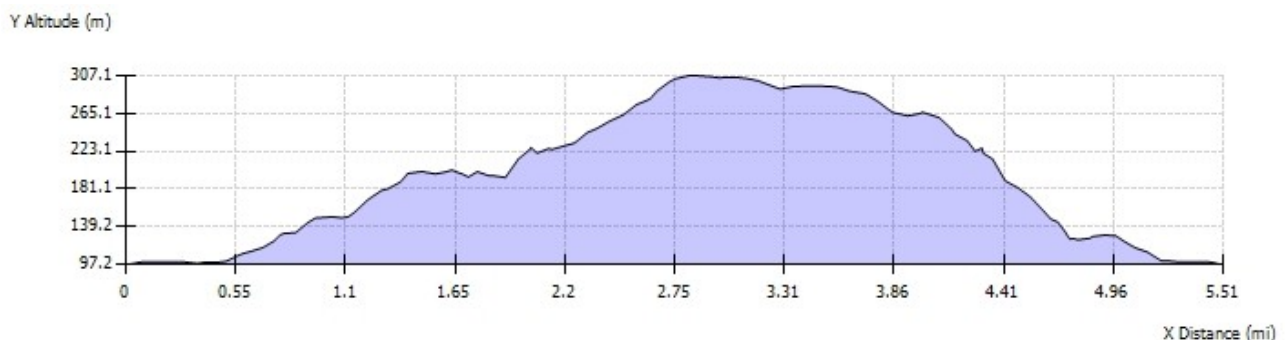
### General Information

Parking:	Road Side
Tea Shops:	One
Duration:	2 Hours 45 Minutes

### Altitude Data

Start:	318 ft (97m)
Minimum	318 ft (97m)
Maximum	1007 ft(307m)

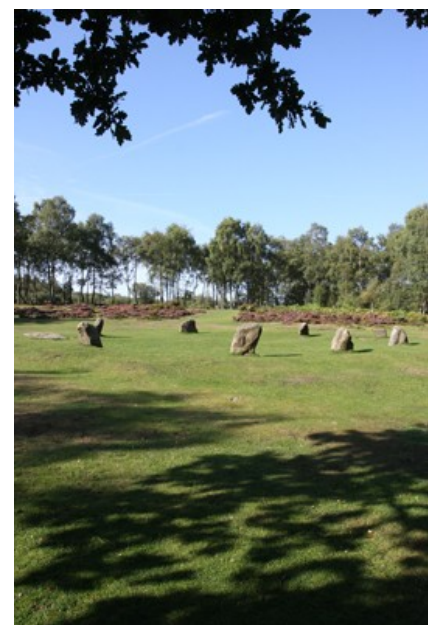
### Altitude Profile



A five and a half mile walk with some stunning views and a visit to Nine Ladies Stone Circle on Stanton Moor. This walk has a fair amount of farm track and country lanes, plus the whole of the 690 foot (210 meter) ascent in the first half. Having said that it is one of my favourite walks as I always find time walking through the heather of Stanton Moor a pleasant experience.

### Getting There:

Rowsley lies on the A6 around four and a half miles north of Matlock (not Matlock Bath), three and a half miles south-east of Bakewell and three miles south of Chatsworth House. I think that pinpoints Rowsley fairly accurately. Parking for this walk is limited, being an early walker I park on the roadside outside the school near to Caudwell's Mill. There is also some parking on Old Station Close the other "P" symbol on the parking map above. Parking at Caudwell's Mill is strictly for patrons only so I have not included it in this write-up. The tea shop for this walk is Caudwell's Country Parlour within the Mill complex, it serves really good tea, coffee and vegetarian fare,



Nine Ladies Stone Circle  
Stanton Moor

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the downside is it gets really busy around lunchtimes and on Sundays. Rowsley is also well served by public transport with regular services from Derby (6.1 and TransPeak) Nottingham, Buxton and Manchester (TransPeak) and Sheffield (services 214 and 215). Timetable information for these services is available from the Derby Bus Info web site.



Farm Traffic

### The Walk:

This walk starts from the entrance to Caudwell's Mill car park; the Mill complex is opposite the Peacock on the A6 and is well signposted. Walking away from the A6 and the school cross the bridge over the River Wye, on the far side of the bridge the road turns right, do not follow the road instead take the private road

directly ahead towards Stanton Woodhouse Farm. Although not heavily used by traffic this driveway does see a fair few cattle movements, so don't be too surprised to find yourself confronted with an oncoming heard of cows.

Follow the farm track for around three-quarters of a mile; not too far after the point where Holly Wood is being cut down and grubbed out there is a footpath sign to the right. Rather than walking on towards the Manor House ahead take the footpath and climb up behind the hedge. Pass through a kissing gate then walk along the fence line to a farm gate with way marker arrows. Go through the gate then resume your way along the farm track towards Stanton Woodhouse Farm cottages. The track then go's in front of the cottages to a metal gate. Beyond the gate the path continues as a set of vehicle tracks across the pasture. Keeping to this track follow it to a point here the track splits shortly after passing between a set of stone gate posts. Take the track to the left as indicated by the arrow carved into the large stone set into the ground where the paths diverge. At the next gate the track becomes a footpath bounded on both sides by fence posts and bracken. The bracken eventually gives way to woodland, follow this path until it reaches a wall with a footpath signpost, walk up through the gap in the wall and out onto lane. Turn left and walk up the lane into Stanton Lees.

As you enter Stanton Lees, take the turn on the right opposite the first set of houses. Go up the hill and follow this lane to it's end at Stanton Lees Chapel. At the Chapel turn right and continue up the road for a just over half a mile. Eventually there is a sandy passing place on the right with a footpath mark's with a National Trust way marker "Stanton Moor Edge", do not take this footpath, continue for a hundred or so meters more to the next marked footpath on the right. Cross the wooden stile and walk up onto Stanton Moor, follow the path directly ahead, ignoring the track to the right, at the cairn near to the point where another path crosses ours we have reached the summit of the walk. Stanton Moor must have been a hive of activity in the



Stanton Lees Chapel

Bronze Age as it is littered with over thirty-six cairns and recorder burial sites in addition to it's stone circle. Continue across the open heather moorland for a further half a mile taking time to

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enjoy the wide panoramas across the Derwent Valley as you go. Eventually the heather gives way to trees and on the left in a grassy clearing are the "Nine Ladies".



Nine Ladies Stone Circle On Stanton Moor

### Nine Ladies Stone Circle.

Nine Ladies stone circle is a set of nine small stone set upright on the inside of a stone bank 35 feet (10.6 meters) in diameter, some 130 feet (40m) to the south-east is a single standing stone known as The King Stone. Stewardship of the circle was given to "The Department Of Works" around 1900, in the infinite wisdom of the time they immediately built a stone wall around the circle (and a smaller wall around the King stone). Thankfully these "protective measures" have since been removed. A local legend recorded in the 19th century, is that the circle is all that remains of nine ladies that that were turned into stones for dancing on the Sabbath, and that the king stone is the fiddler that was playing for them.

Some of the pottery and associated tools and weapons from Stanton Moor can now be seen in the museums at Sheffield, Derby, Oxford and Belvoir Castle.

After visiting the stone circle continue along the original path through the woodland, passing through three stock gates and on to Lees Road. From here on the walk truly is all down hill. Turn left and walk down Lees Road for almost half a mile. On approaching Stanton In Peak look for the entrance to the cricket club on the right just before the 30 mph sign. Turn right and walk along the drive way behind the cricket pitch and into an area of woodland. Keeping the stone wall always a few meters to the left follow the path through the Sheepwalk Wood to a point where the wall turns ninety degrees left. Again keeping the wall to the left follow it down the hill and out onto Pilough Lane near Beighton Houses. Turn left past the viewing platform next to the road to a signposted stile in the roadside fencing.



Beighton House View.

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Go through the stile down the stone steps and onto the hillside, pass between the two trees slightly to the right then follow the grassy track to a wooden kissing gate. With the hedge to the right walk down the field to a metal gate near a water trough, continue forward following the hedge line until the path the path exits onto Stantonhall Lane. Turn left and walk down the hill, the road soon bears right then switches back, left, right and left again. Beware of traffic through these switchbacks as visibility is poor and the road is very steep. On the elbow of the final left bend look for a footpath marker on the right opposite the cottage. Walk down the grassy farm track to a wooden gate and squeeze stile, pass through the stile into the field beyond. The path across this field is little more and an animal track in places, but can easily be followed, after a short distance it comes to a rather rickety double stock gate construction bounding a small stream. Go through the gates and across the stream into an wooded area. The path now bears left and rises sharply to another stock gate and then out of the woodland.

On this next section I could not see the path, so this is how I navigated it. Up the hill to the right is Peak Tor (the hilltop covered with trees) walk up the side of the field with the woodland to the right until you reach a bank with a ditch behind it. Turn left and walk along the top of the bank until you reach a single stone gate post with a hole through it by a tree. Leave the bank at this point and pass between the living and dead trees, the River Wye should now be clearly visible below to the left.



Caudwell's Mill, Rowsley.

Follow the green track until it becomes a rough stone vehicle track. Walk down or alongside this rough track until it joins a country lane. Go ahead (left) with the recreation grounds to the right until you come to the bridge over the River. Cross the bridge and the walk has returned to it's start point at Caudwell's Mill.

Map of walk with route overlay on following page.

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