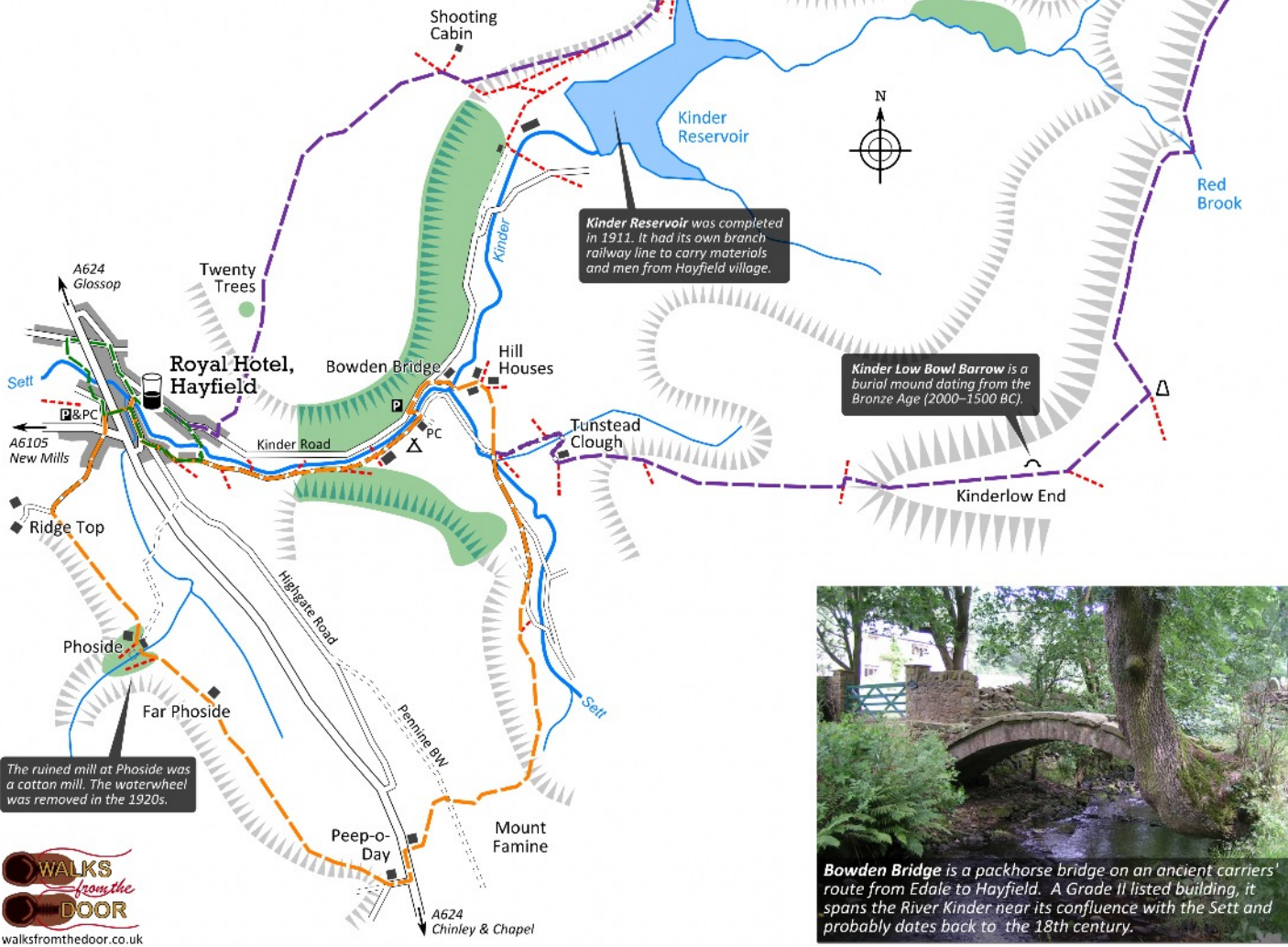


*Kinder Downfall is the highest waterfall in the Peak District. In the summer it reduces to little more than a trickle but in winter it can be an impressive sight, especially when its waters are blown back by a westerly wind. In very cold weather it forms a classic ice climb.*



*Bowden Bridge is a packhorse bridge on an ancient carriers' route from Edale to Hayfield. A Grade II listed building, it spans the River Kinder near its confluence with the Sett and probably dates back to the 18th century.*

**THE ROYAL HOTEL**  
HAYFIELD • PEAK DISTRICT

# Three walks from The Royal Hotel

Hayfield, Derbyshire



**Hayfield village**  
**1 mile: Easy**  
*An easy stroll around the pretty village of Hayfield.*

**Bowden Bridge & Peep-o-Day**  
**4½ miles: Moderate**  
*A brisk river and hillside walk with good views.*

**Kinder Downfall round**  
**9 miles: Strenuous**  
*A classic Dark Peak circuit featuring Derbyshire's highest waterfall and a section of the Pennine Way.*

## Hayfield village

**1 mile: Easy**

*On surfaced paths throughout. Allow 1 hour.*

**1** From the front door, turn right then immediately right again, up a cobbled way beside the pub known as the "Broad Ginnel". **2** Turn left and keep right at the top of Bank St, to meet Market St by the Packhorse pub. Turn right. **3** Opposite Fairy Bank Rd, turn left into Swallow House Lane, and pass under the A624 bridge. **4** At the footpath sign, turn left into the May Queen Field and at the bottom of the field follow the River Sett upstream. **5** By the remains of the Walk Mill, before the main road bridge, cross the footbridge over the river and follow the footpath beyond to emerge in Wood Lane. Turn left. **6** When you emerge by the car park and visitor centre, turn left and cross the pedestrian crossing over the bypass. **7** Continue past St Matthew's Church to Church St. **8** Turn right and walk up Church St past the George Hotel. **9** Turn left into Highgate Rd then immediately left again into Valley Road. **10** Ignore a farm drive on the right, bearing left to remain on Valley Rd. At the end of a terrace of houses on your left, turn left. **11** Cross the River Sett via a footbridge and walk up Spring Vale Rd opposite. **12** At the top of the road, turn left and walk down Kinder Rd to return to the rear of the Royal Hotel.

## Bowden Bridge & Peep-o-Day

**4½ miles: Moderate**

*May be muddy in places after rain. Allow 2–3 hours.*

**1** Leave the Royal Hotel car park and turn left to cross the river. Keep left up Church St past the George pub. **2** Turn left into Highgate Rd then immediately left again into Valley Rd. **3** Continue along Valley Rd, ignoring any turnings to left or right, keeping the river on your left. When the road ends, keep on along the footpath beyond. **4** At a fork in the path, keep left through a stone gateway. Walk past the campsite to its entrance. **5** Turn left and cross the river to Kinder Rd; turn right past Bowden Bridge car park. **6** After a short distance, before the road starts to climb, turn right along a footpath between Bowden Bridge Cottage and the river. **7** Cross the packhorse bridge and then leave the river through a gate to follow a short climb between walls to Hill Houses. **8** Pass between a barn conversion on your right and a farmhouse on your left, then turn right and descend along the farm entrance track. **9** When you reach the road again, go straight over, crossing the river again. **10** At a fork in the road, take the right-hand fork, through a gate, and then pass through a second gate a little further on. **11** From the white-painted stone pillar known as the White Lady, the road descends slightly, then take the Pennine Bridleway on your right, signposted "South Head". This path contours initially, then climbs to the top of the Mount Famine ridge. **12** At the top of the hill pass through a gate; continue beyond until you meet the Pennine Bridleway. **13** Turn right and immediately left and descend past a quarry. **14** At the main road turn left along the near verge, then cross carefully to Peep-o-Day Farm. Beyond the farm go through a

gate, then immediately right. **15** At the far end of the field, pass through a metal gate. Follow this path along the contour to pass behind the buildings of Far Phoside. **16** As you approach the wooded valley of Phoside, take the right-hand of two gates and descend more steeply through the trees to the stream. **17** Cross the stream and climb up beyond between the ruined watermill on your left and a stone barn on your right. Follow the footpath beyond the barn, in front of the house. Emerge from the wood and continue in the same direction to Ridge Top Lane. **18** When you reach the lane, turn right and descend, steeply at first, until you reach a main road. **19** Cross the main road into Station Rd. **20** At the car park, turn right to cross the bypass via the pedestrian crossing. **21** Continue past St Matthew's Church and recross the bridge beyond to return to the Royal Hotel.

## Kinder Downfall round

**9 miles: Strenuous**

*Not for the inexperienced or ill-equipped: this walk includes long, steep climbs and descents over rough and rocky moorland terrain. Do not attempt in bad weather. Allow 4–5 hours.*

Follow steps **1** – **8** from **Bowden Bridge & Peep-o-Day**. **9** When you regain the road, turn left through gateposts and follow the track uphill. Follow it round to the right as it crosses the stream to reach Tunstead Clough Farm, which the path skirts along a driveway to the right. **10** Beyond the buildings, follow a short walled section to reach open fields. **11** Keep along the left-hand wall of the first field, then cross the middle of the next three fields, heading relentlessly uphill from gate to gate. In the fifth field, as the slope eases off, keep parallel to the right-hand wall to a gateway and then a further gate into open country by the scant remains of a ruined building. **12** Turn left briefly across rushy ground, then beyond a gate in the fence turn right, steeply up the spine of Kinderlow End ridge. The central section is pitched with stones. Beyond the steepest rocky section the gradient eases but the path continues uphill along the centre of the ridge to a further rocky outcrop. Pick up the paved path that skirts to the right of Kinderlow Bowl Barrow. **13** Keep left when another paved path joins from the right, following the slabs to the trig point on Kinderlow End. At the trig point, turn almost 90° left to reach the plateau edge at a cairn. **14** Turn right and walk along the edge path for a little over a mile to Kinder Downfall, fording Red Brook above its rocky valley about halfway along. At times, particularly in the rockier sections, there is a choice of paths and the way forward is indistinct, but route-finding is generally simple: keep between the peat on your right and the steeper ground dropping to your left. **15** Ford the shallow River Kinder above the Downfall and continue along the plateau edge in similar fashion to before, except now heading northwest. Follow the path as it makes an obvious right turn at the top of the slight eminence of Sandy Hey (where a possible escape route heads off to the left). The path beyond drops gradually towards Ashop Head, where the plateau edge swings eastward above an obvious saddle dividing the valley of William Clough (coming up from the reservoir on your left) from the

headwaters of the River Ashop (heading off to the right). **16** The point at which our route drops off the Kinder plateau is marked by a cairn; the path, stone-pitched, leads down a short steep section to a triangle of paths. Take the left-hand (slabbed) side of the triangle, then turn left down the valley of William Clough. **17** The path follows the growing stream downhill for three-quarters of a mile, switching banks every so often and sometimes following the stream bed. **18** As you approach the reservoir and the clough opens out slightly, the path crosses the stream from left to right and leaves it for the final time, climbing the right-hand bank, gradually at first, until it reaches the wall around the reservoir compound. (If you miss this path and reach a footbridge over the stream, head diagonally right up the slope to meet the intended path at the wall corner.) **19** Follow the path above the wall until, as you approach the line of the dam with mature trees appearing below the wall, to avoid losing height, our route forks right onto a narrow path that climbs gradually through the heather to the white-painted shooting cabin (just before the cabin, the original path rejoins from the left). **20** At the crossroads of paths below the shooting cabin, take the left-hand track, signposted "Hayfield 1½ miles". **21** At the end of a level, sandy path, leave the open moorland through the wall via a kissing gate by a National Trust sign; keep left when the farm tracks split, shortly meeting the wall on your right. Beyond a second kissing gate head out across the field, aiming for the clump of trees whose tops are visible above the curve of the slope ahead of you. **22** A third kissing gate on your right leads past the trees (known locally as Twenty Trees, although there are actually only nineteen). The path leads downhill through a series of gates to meet Kinder Road. **23** Turn right and walk downhill, passing Spring Vale Road on your left and Vicarage Close on your right. At the junction with Bank Street by the greengrocers, take the cobbled ginnel on your left to return to the Royal Hotel for a well-earned drink.

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