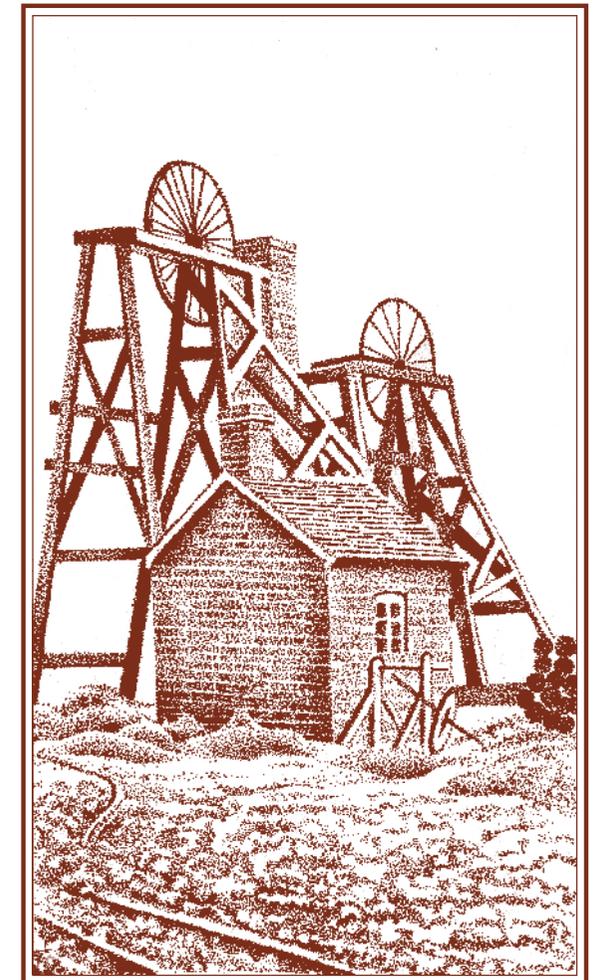


Centuries of Coal

Cheadle to Dilhorne



How to get there

Cheadle is on the A522, 10 miles south of Leek and west of Stoke-on-Trent. Long stay parking is available at Well Street car park to the east of the A522.

Come out of the car park and cross the A522 by the roundabout, walk west along Chapel Street, opposite St Giles RC Church, famously designed by A.W.N. Pugin. Take a right up Cross Street to the High Street, cross over and turn left. Follow High Street past the church using the raised railed pavement. Park Lane is on the right. Bus services run from Stoke and Leek. For information telephone Traveline 0871 200 2233.

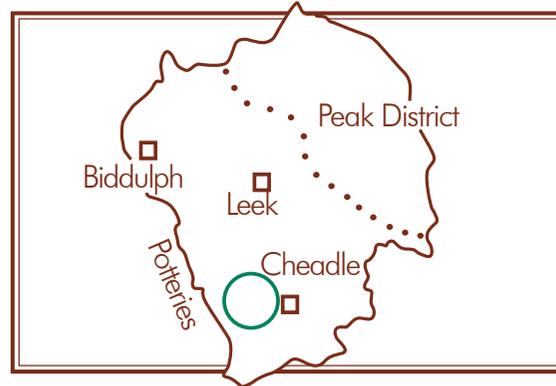
Centuries of Coal

The Cheadle coalfield covers some eighteen square miles extending west from Cheadle to Dilhorne and north to Ipstones. It is a fragmented part of the larger North Staffordshire Coalfield with rock layers of approximately 280 to 300 million years old. The readily available coal of this area led to the growth of these communities and their associated industries. Small scale mining, where surface outcrops occurred can be traced back through the centuries. Between 1550 and 1750 there was a steady increase in both the area mined and the depth of mining. The peak years however, were in the nineteenth century when nearly all men worked as colliers or miners, some being as young as 10 years old. By the end of this century the industry was dominated by just four very large collieries. Many place names reflect the nature of the industry. For example, Dilhorne was known in the Doomsday Book as Delverne meaning a place of diggings. The "Delph" in Delphouse Road is thought to have a similar meaning.

Enjoy the Walk

This 6 mile walk takes you west of Cheadle over the coal field to the former mining village of Dilhorne. Allow 3 hours to complete the walk over gently rolling countryside. Good stout footwear is recommended.

LOCATION OF WALK



Remember, these paths cross private land.
Please follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
 - Leave gates as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
 - Keep dogs under close control
 - Consider other people

Operational Services,
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Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street,
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www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/sm/parks

Map correct at time of going to press. Please check our website for diversions and updates.

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Available in alternative formats

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1. From Town End, follow Park Lane past the houses to the footpath on the left. After the first two fields follow the footpath to the left of the natural depression. Cross the stile at the slope bottom, you are now on the JCB test track. Cross at the crossing point then, keeping the track on your left, walk around the pond to the second crossing point, follow the path over a small footbridge to the stile.

2. After this stile turn left and keep the hedge to your left through two fields. Head directly towards Parkhall Farm and skirt the left side of the buildings to the road.

3. Cross to the opposite footpath and head towards the houses at the top of the field, the stile is in the top corner. Cross to the track opposite and follow it, keeping the field boundary on your right. On reaching the field gate and stile, cross the stile and continue until you reach a small pond. Here you can see heaps of waste from the small collieries around Blake Hall. Look for a stile to the right and then continue up the slope through a large field and heathland following waymarkers, finally crossing the football pitch before you reach Boundary Road.

4. Cross over and head in the direction of the bungalow. After two stiles, keep the fence to the right and then continue down to the corner, and then to the left of the graveyard. The ancient All Saints church boasts the only octagonal tower in Staffordshire and one of the very few in the country.

5. Turn right along Dilhorne Road and continue to the village centre and then around a sharp corner. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries this private "turnpike" route depended entirely on tolls paid by traffic from Dilhorne colliery. The large gates on the right hand side of this road are the remains of Dilhorne Hall which later became a welfare institute set up to improve the health of local miners.

6. Turn right on to Sarver Lane, passing old miners cottages on the left, follow the track over two stiles and turn left over another stile. With the stile behind you walk directly across the field close to the hedge to the next stile hidden in the hedge in the corner of the field. Head diagonally across the next field, through two gates and turn left to follow the track towards Old Engine Farm. The original colliery here housed the first coal fired engine in 1777. The tramway carrying coal from the nearby Foxfield Colliery to Newclose Wharf also passed this site.

7. After the gate bear left off the track through the gate ahead. Follow the hedge on the right then continue straight ahead to the bridge. At the lane turn right and continue to the road junction, turn left and look for the stile which is in the hedge immediately on the right, bear right to the field corner then follow the fenceline on the right. Before reaching the footbridge you will see a stile to the right. Cross this and then bear left to the stream crossing. Skirt around the woods (the site of Park Hall Colliery) until you reach some houses where the path continues in a narrow strip to their left. At the track turn left and then within 10 metres turn right into the field.

8. Carry straight on until you rejoin the path where you left it at point 2. The land to the left now largely occupied by JCB was opencast mined for coal in the 1960's. Retrace your steps back to Park Lane and Cheadle.

