

How to get there

If travelling by car, turn off the A52 Stoke-Ashbourne road at Froghall onto the B5053. The village lies astride this road two miles north of Froghall. Please park considerately in the village so as not to block access for residents.

Ipstones

The village sits on the south facing slope below Ipstones Edge at a height of 800ft/250m above sea level.

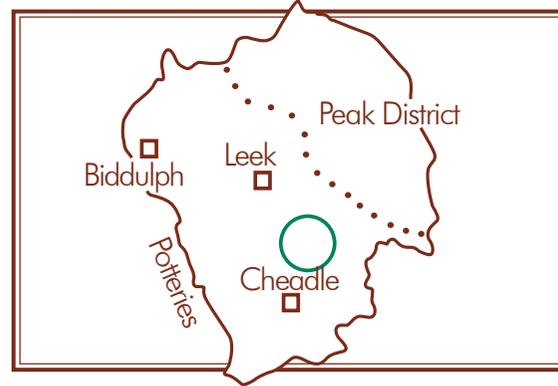
The edge itself is formed from hard-wearing sandstones used locally for building stone. Below the edge the curious Hopestone formed from the Chatsworth Grit is passed by the walk. On the slopes below the village, coal was won in times past. Evidence of spoil heaps and old tramways is visible in the fields.

The name Ipstones originates in Anglo-Saxon times where it has the meaning either of Ippa's stone or hill stone – certainly an appropriate name in this rocky part of the Moorlands.

To enjoy the walk

This 4½ mile (7km) walk climbs to a height of 1250 feet/380m at Ipstones Edge. This section of the walk is very exposed when the weather is wet or windy. Allow 3 hours and time for stops. The Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 24, White Peak together with Explorer map No. 259, Uttoxeter, Ashbourne and Cheadle cover the area

The walk is described anti-clockwise starting from the road junction in the centre of Ipstones Village.

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

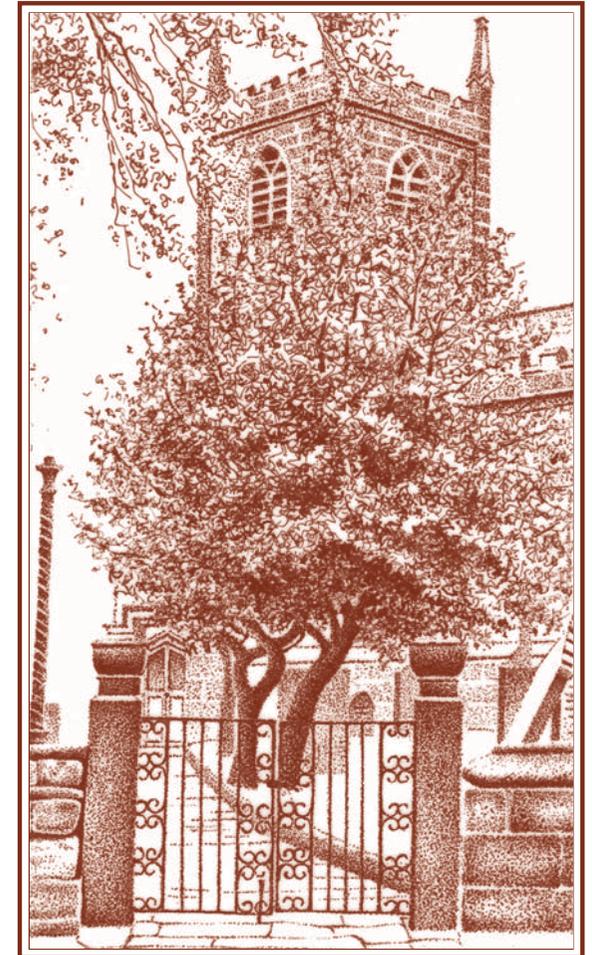
Consider other people.

Horticulture Service,
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council,
Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street,
Leek,
Staffordshire Moorlands,
ST13 6HQ.

Telephone: 0345 605 4510

www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/sm/parks

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Available in alternative formats.

Moors' Edge**A WALK AROUND IPSTONES**

1. Walk down Brookfields Road for 1/3 mile / 1/2 km until stone steps lead down to the left to a lane. Turn left and follow the lane as it winds between hedges. After 1/2 mile turn left up a track to Park Farm. You will encounter a number of place-names containing 'park'. Ipstones Park is not a park in the formal sense but refers to an area of formerly wild moorland enclosed at some stage so that it might be farmed. Stone walls criss-cross the higher ground whilst thick hedges containing much hazel and holly are a feature of the lower slopes. The hedgerows are particularly valuable for wildlife and add to the attractiveness of the walk.

2. At the end of the track, before Park Farm head through a metal kissing gate 125m along the edge of a field. At the end of the field turn right across the field passing through a kissing gate. Descend diagonally across the field with Park Farm below you to the field corner. The pale and yellow-green colour of these small fields shows that they are less intensely cultivated and have more wild plants than some of the larger, deeply green fields. Cross diagonally down two fields to a wooded stream. Cross this by a footbridge. Zig-zag up opposite bank, then keep the wall close to your left until you can turn left up a walled track through Lower Park Farm and on up to Park Lane.

3. Turn right and almost immediately left up a short track to Hopstone. The name derives from the Old English word hop meaning a remote enclosed place. Passing to the left of the rock, bear right across the field to a stile. Bear left across another field to Upper Park Farm.

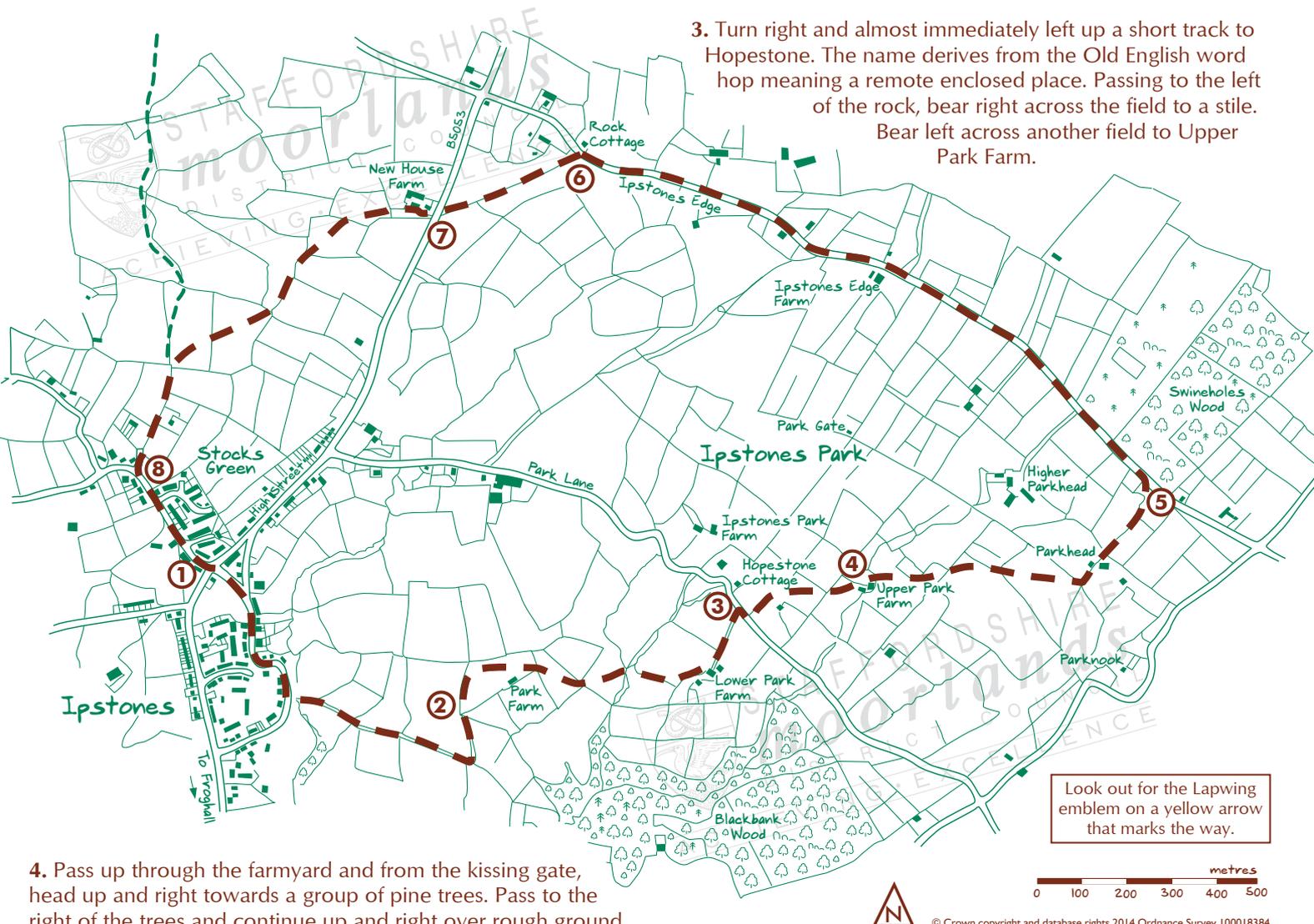
4. Pass up through the farmyard and from the kissing gate, head up and right towards a group of pine trees. Pass to the right of the trees and continue up and right over rough ground to a second stile. Continue in similar line rising through a patch of small trees past the right hand end of a fence to a stone wall. Cross and aim for the top right hand corner of field, entering a track leading to Lower Parkhead Farm. Continue up past farm buildings on your right. Keep a derelict wall to your left, aiming for radio mast. Continue all the way to the Ipstones Edge road at the top of the hill.

5. Turn left. There now follows approximately 1 1/4 miles / 2kms of road walking with superb panoramic views if the weather is good. The edge marks the very southern tip of the Pennine hills extending 150 miles north to the Scottish border. Swineholes Wood across the road is one of the most southerly remaining pockets of Pennine heathland vegetation. This is a last remnant of the upland landscape before agriculture. There are attractive moorland plants such as heather, bilberry, Bog Asphodel and Cotton Grass. It is one of eleven sites of Special Scientific Interest in the Moorlands. Southwards beyond the heavily wooded valley of the Churnet stretch the rich plains of the English Midlands. To the west the Wrekin can be seen in Shropshire (45 miles/72kms) as can the Welsh hills.

6. Leave the road as it bends quite sharply to the right by means of a stone stile on the left opposite Rock Cottage. Keep close by the wall on your left as it cuts down the slopes, eventually arriving at a road.

7. Cross and pass straight through the farmyard at New House. Bear left, aiming for a stone stile with a gate at the furthest corner of the field. Cross and keeping by the wall on your left for 50 metres, cross a second gate/stile, over the rise. After a squeeze gap and further gate, bear slightly right across the field aiming for a gate between stone walls. Continue for a further 150 metres, on the same line to the far-left corner of the field, until a further gap under the first large beech tree allows you to put the wall on your right. Continue down a track to the road at Stocks Green.

8. The name Stocks Green originates perhaps from the Anglo-Saxon word stoc meaning a holy place. The church dominates this spot. Turn left down Church Lane, back into Ipstones.



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