



Leek Club Site – Walk to Hen Cloud

Camping and Caravanning



Route Summary



A hike to the summit of Hen Cloud on The Roaches Ridge. The walk uses field paths to climb to the Roaches and then follows good paths and tracks to reach the awesome top of Hen Cloud. Dropping down the other side, the way continues around the base of Hen Cloud to return via tracks and paths.

Route Overview



Category: Walking
Rating: Unrated
Surface: Very Rough
Date Published: 11th July 2017
Difficulty: Hard
Length: 10.570 km / 6.61 mi
Last Modified: 11th July 2017

Description



CLIMBING HEN CLOUD FROM LEEK CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB SITE



Standing on the summit of Hen Cloud

ALTHOUGH NOT SUITABLE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN OLDER ONES (APPROX. 10+) SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH THIS WALK BUT WILL NEED TO BE CLOSELY SUPERVISED ON THE ROCKS AND SUMMIT OF HEN CLOUD.

This walk leaves Leek Club Site to use a network of field paths (and some tracks) to cross farmland and rise up to the parking areas under The Roaches Ridge. It then follows good paths to climb to the awesome rocky summit and viewpoint of Hen Cloud where care should be taken with dogs and children due to the steep unfenced drops. We continue steeply and roughly down the back of the hill to curve around its base and use lanes, tracks and field paths to work a way back to the Club Site. This is a really challenging route with lots of ups and downs and some rough steep going in places and should be saved for a day of fine settled weather.

NOTE: IF USING A GPS THE MILEAGE WILL BE REGISTERED AS 7.2 MILES.

START

Exit Leek Club Site past Reception and the barrier to continue to the main road. Go right on the pavement, continuing to go right at the entrance to Troutsdale Farm. Pass through a kissing gate to head down the access drive. Pass a house right continuing through a kissing gate by a cattle grid.

Curve left towards the farm, crossing a stile at the next cattle grid. Continue right of the farm, going right over a stile at the end of the drive. Follow a grassy avenue between trees and fences to pass through a gate opening or cross the stile. Go right following the edge of the field to cut left and cross a stile in the bottom right corner of the field. Head left of a telegraph pole following the right field boundary through a gate/opening by a stile.



Crossing one of many stiles on the outbound route

Continue over the right side of the field to cross a stile by a gate/opening. Descend the right edge of the next field shortly going right through a squeeze stile. Cross a bridge and go over a low stile cutting left across the next field towards a house. Descend right of a holly bush to cross a bridge via a gate and opening to reach a drive and house. Go left through the farmyard, passing through a gate to follow the arrows going left past a telegraph pole. Cross a stile going right down the right side of the field.

Cross a stile right into a small wood to curve left on a path and exit the trees over a stile. Shortly go right over another stile, cross a bridge and cross a further stile to go left up a bank rising up the field to go right of a sheep pen crossing a track to pass through a gate in a wall gap. Follow the left edge of the field to pass through a gate going right to a lane.



Heading over the fields towards Hen Cloud

2. Go left along the lane descending over a bridge to rise through buildings. Pass a track/footpath right continuing on the lane to just before a left bend. Here cross a stile right taking the left of two footpaths across the field to pass through a gate by another gate. Go straight over the field through another gate. Cross a bridge bearing slightly left through a gate/opening by an orange-topped marker. Go half right to reach the boundary/hedge line. Here go right following the field boundary to cross a bridge left via gates. Cut half right to a signpost and go ahead over a stile descending by a fence. In a narrow field corner go left over a gated stile. Continue straight over the next field on the top right side to reach a crossroads of paths and a signpost.



Typical walking conditions on the way to Hen Cloud

3. Go right through a squeeze stile following signs for 'Windygates' and 'The Roaches'. Pass through another squeeze stile continuing up the right side of a field. Pass through another squeeze stile next to a gate/barn. Beyond this pick up a track rising to a track junction. Go left on a good track to curve right heading left of a barn and down the side of it. Pass through a narrow gap to continue down an enclosed path passing through a gate to the farm access track. Go ahead on this following it to a road via a gate by a cattle grid.



On the farm track

Go left along the road. Just after a layby parking area right leave the road going right at a footpath sign. Pass through a gate following the slabbed path beyond. After the slabs, continue by the wall right to a path junction. Go right through a gate in the wall taking the path ahead to rise up on it to the unmarked rocky summit of Hen Cloud – TAKE CARE WITH DOGS AND CHILDREN ON THE TOP.



Climbing Hen Cloud



On the summit of Hen Cloud

4. From the top follow the path south easterly with the steep drop off the rocks to your right. Descend to stay left when the path spits and head towards rocks below. Descend steeply through rock outcrops.



Descending Hen Cloud



The descent from Hen Cloud

Just before you reach trees take a path left through fern to descend under outcrops to join a path at a junction. Go right descending to join another path coming in left. Go ahead past rocks to reach Roaches Hall. Pass through a gate, cross the grass and pick up the access drive. Take this to curve right by railings. Continue ahead through a gate by a cattle grid. Follow the track under Hen Cloud and curve left to reach a road via a gate by a cattle grid.



Following the access drive under Hen Cloud

Go left past the tea rooms (right) and a campsite (left). Next descend the road steeply towards Upper Hulme. When the road bends left near 'Steepways' leave it taking a footpath up steps right before a farm drive. Rise over a stile following the left field edge beyond. Descend through a large gap to a farm track and follow it to pass through farm buildings. Continue on the track for a short way to a footpath sign and junction just before a gate/opening.

5. Go left down the side of wall. At the next sign go right through a gate (signposted 'Meerbrook'). Follow the left field edge continuing with a stream left to descend and cross a bridge. Rise up through a gate crossing the next field towards a track. Pass through a gate to pick up the track going ahead on this. Descend to a road. Go left on your outbound route.

As the lane bends left go right taking your outbound route left through a gate. Now continue on the right side of the field to pass through a gate. Descend over a bridge via low stiles. Keep on your outbound route going left over a stile. Rise through woods curving right over a stile. Go left up the field going left over the next stile. Curve right, passing through a gate by a house. Pass the house going right through a gap, cross the bridge, pass through a gate and take the path up the field.

At a bridge leave your outbound route going left to follow the right edge of the field. Dip into a hollow to cross a stream and beyond it continue up the side of the field. Join a stream and cross a stile. Cross a small stream and continue on the right side of the field. Walk between two streams, keeping the field edge right to pass through a gap at the end of a fence. Continue up the right side of the field to cross a stile in a field corner. Follow the right side of the next field to cross a stile in the top right corner. Climb steps and go right on the access track for the Club Site to return to your tent or caravan.

Waypoints

Choose your trail



viewranger

