

The Edge Alderley Edge



Alderley Edge is a dramatic sandstone ridge with impressive views over the Cheshire plain towards Manchester and to the hills of Cheshire's Peak District. The broad ridge top is well wooded with Scots pine and beech trees. There is historic interest too as the area has been mined for copper as far back as the Bronze Age, by the Romans, and through Medieval times.

VISITOR INFORMATION

LOCATION: Signposted off the B5087 Macclesfield Road about 2.5km (1½ miles) outside Alderley Edge. Approximate postcode: SK10 4UB.

PARKING: Pay and display car park, accessible for minibuses and free for National Trust members. Tarmac surface and 9 disabled bays. 8am-5pm.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Alderley Edge train station is about 2.5km (1½ miles) away.

TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS: There is a toilet block in the car park with a RADAR key accessible toilet. Depending on whether the overflow car park is open, there may be a fence line which offers a gap of 94cm (37") at ground level to reach the toilet block.

FURTHER INFORMATION: The National Trust publishes a 'Walks on Alderley Edge' leaflet, available from the Tea Room. Tel: 01625 584412. Email: alderleyedge@nationaltrust.org.uk.



Suggested Route



National Trust

DISTANCE: 1.6km (1 mile) circular route.

TIME: 45 minutes to 1 hour.

SURFACE: Generally compacted stone and sand, with stretches of uneven ground and slight cobbling on the carriageway stretch. Paths are mostly 1-2m (3½' - 6½') wide.

GRADIENTS: Varying, with prolonged slopes of about 10% (1:10) and a 10m (11yds) stretch with a gradient of 14% (1:7). In places there are cross slopes of 11% (1:9).

GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS: A bollard at the start offers a width of 1.1m (3'7"). A one-way hand gate with a width of 1.1m (3'7") and latch at 90cm (35") off the ground leads into the woods. A one-way hand gate with no latch, offering a width of 1.2m (3'11") leads out of the woods. There is one bench on the route at a height of 40cm (16"), with no backrest. The picnic area is reached by a one-way, sprung hand gate of 84cm (33") width.

DESCRIPTION:

1. Leave the car park by the information boards and at the t-junction, look left to see a hand gate on the other side of the track. Follow this path into the woods.
2. As you follow this path up through the woods, you'll pass a deep dip on the right which was an area of Bronze Age mining known as Engine Vein.
3. At a crossing of paths, continue straight ahead.
4. You'll arrive at the Armada Beacon where signalling fires could have been lit in the late 16th century to warn of invasion. The route curves around to your right.
5. This will lead you to an exposed sandstone bluff, the site of another copper mine, known as the Devil's Grave, with steep drops and views.
6. Continue around to the right over a low brow, to follow a wide, straight track, which descends gently.
7. You'll reach a hand gate at the edge of the woods. Go through the gate and turn right to return to the car park.

