

11.5km/7 miles

moderate

3.5 hours

Lyme Park & Bowstones

This walk takes you into the Lyme Park estate, up on to the high moors where there are impressive vistas of Manchester and the surrounding countryside. Birds such as the beautiful red-legged partridge, skylark and meadow pipit can be seen relatively easily, especially with binoculars. At Bowstones farm, look out for the Bowstones, two shafts of medieval Saxon crosses thought to have been used as boundary stones. The route then enters the deer park and past grand Lyme Hall, scene of Colin Firth's famous jodhpur swim in the television drama 'Pride and Prejudice'. The final leg leads you through ancient woodland and back via a country lane.

1 Park at the small car park at the Coffee Tavern (patrons only). Turn L along the road and after just a few yards L again up a bridleway, continuing past some impressive terraced farmhouses, and between two millponds. After the gate turn L and then, just before the house, R up the hill along the path marked 'To Bowstones Gate'. At the top of the hill, bear slightly L towards a gate and upon reaching it go L along broad track. These damp, high moors are host to specialist plants such as the luminous green Star Moss and fluffy Cotton Grass; keep your eyes peeled for these oddities. Skylarks are also common here and continuously serenade the walker or fellrunner with a lilting refrain. On reaching another broad track, turn L towards Bowstones Gate to arrive at lonely Bowstones

Farm, visible from miles away in its lofty position, and hosting a small enclosure containing the Bowstones. At the farm turn R down a small footpath to join the road next to a house.

2 Turn L along the road, past the Moorside Hotel on your R (possible refreshment stop), past some houses, until you see a large wooden gate on your L and a sign for 'The Millennium Wood'.

3 Go through the gate, by the cattery, and then L along the Gritstone Trail, observing a squat tower called 'The Cage' on your R, used as an observatory for deer hunting in the 19th-century, and there are still large herds of deer in the park. On reaching Lyme Hall, go down the steps to the car park, past the lake on your R, over the large wooden gate. This leads into ancient woodland, containing a multitude of wild flowers such as bluebells, anemones and campions. Proceed until you reach a small lane. Turn L along the lane to join a more substantial lane and go straight on to return to the Coffee Tavern.

The walk

DETAILS

Country Walking ID
2821
Mag Route 17, June 2007

Region North
Area Cheshire
Length of walk 11.5km/7 miles
Time needed 3.5 hours
Difficulty Moderate

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Hilly. Boots required
Stiles 9

PLANNING
Parking The Coffee Tavern (patrons only) grid ref. SJ944807
Start grid ref SJ944807

Nearest town Stockport
Refreshments Moorside Hotel or café at start
Public toilets None
Public transport None

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 268; Landranger 109



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