Wildlife and nature

Longstone Moor is a limestone heath where acidic and lime-rich plants grow in close proximity and mountain pansies mark abandoned mineral workings. Great crested newts use the ponds for breeding and birds of prey can be seen flying the thermals.

Coombs Dale is a steep sided dry valley cut into the limestone. Limestone ferns, orchids and butterflies can be found here. There are several springs which flow down the dale in the winter and at times of heavy rainfall. The custom of well-dressing is celebrated in the surrounding villages.

The rocks beneath you

The Black Harry Trails are in an area of limestone that was deposited approximately 330 million years ago on the floor of a shallow, tropical sea when Britain was situated very close to the equator. The remains of the shells and skeletons of the creatures and plants which formed the limestone can be seen as fossils. The area is riddled with mineral veins.

People in the landscape

The name Black Harry has several historical associations and is seen today at Black Harry Lane and Gate. In the early eighteenth century, a highwayman took this name and preyed on travellers crossing the lonely moors.

Mineral working has been taking place at Longstone Edge for many centuries. Lead mining hillocks and beehive mine shafts dot the landscape. The modern day fluorspar industry is based at Cavendish Mill. A lime kiln lies at the head of Black Harry Lane and the quarries.

Earlier evidence of man is shown by a prehistoric burial mound, a defensive earthwork, and stone and bronze age artefacts and roman coins.

Code of conduct

Many routes in the area are shared by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and some by motor vehicles. There is also an easy access route for people with limited mobility. Please ensure everyone enjoys their visit by:

- Respecting other users
- Giving way where necessary
- Keeping your speed down
- Motor vehicles, cyclists and horse riders must stick to their legal rights of way.

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/blackharry

Horse-riding and mountain-biking routes in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

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Note: Routes are shared by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and some by motor vehicles. Footpaths and access land are not shown.