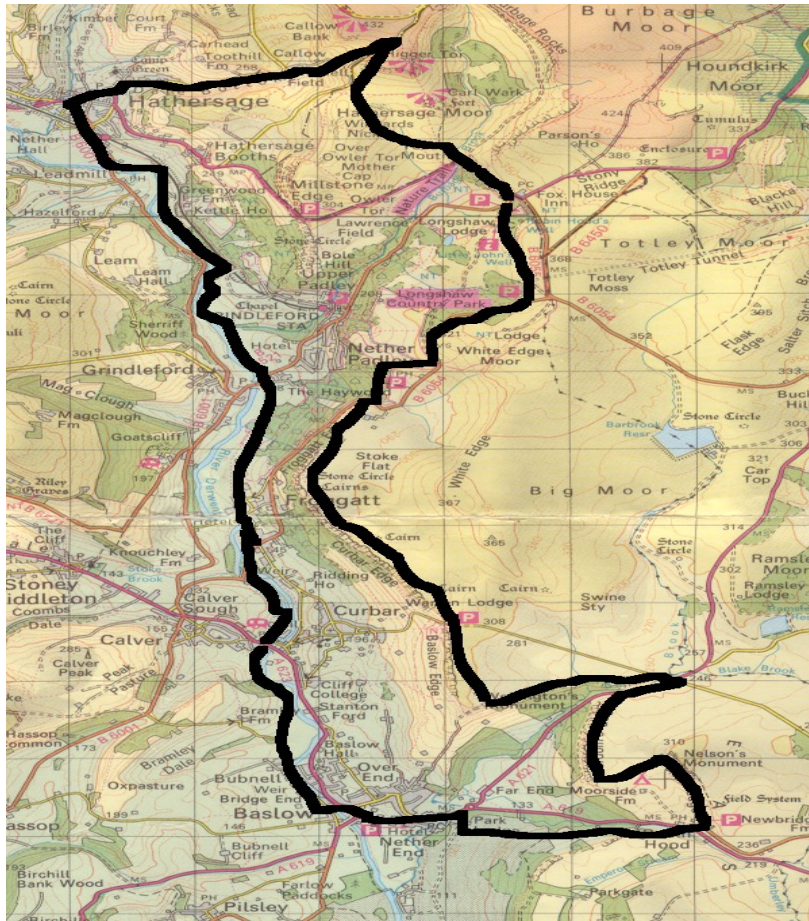


WALK.4.
BASLOW 4
23.2 miles 6 hours 20 minutes
Map White Peak. SK28/38.



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Start, at the Robin Hood (279721), on the A619, to Chesterfield. Walk SE uphill on the B6050 for 50 yards, then go, left over a ladder stile, where a sign indicates open country. Follow a well-trodden, path, that leads under the nursery climbing rocks at Birchens, but keep to the lower path away from the rocks, near to a wall on the left until it cuts off at right angles. Turn left here, to go W, to another climbing edge, Gardoms, where there is a wooden step stile in the fence, you come near to the edge itself. This area has been dug by archaeologists who found remains of several Stone Age houses and artefacts. Walk N on the interesting edge and you see views of the Derwent Valley. The rocks then end; go E over a stile, and walk with the road to your left over the rough grassy ground to the corner of the wall (278740). Go over a large step stile, turn left on a road, go over a cross roads then up a hill for 100 yards, left through a gate, and go W on a good path to Wellington's Monument (265737).

At this point, turn right, and make for Eagle Stone, a large rock. According to legend, the male residents of Baslow had to climb this before they could marry; if we had this custom now there would be fewer marriages. Then N, to Curbar Gap (261747) which has been used since primitive times. Packhorse trains came this way, zigzagging up the steep hill to ease the gradient. The present road was a turnpike in 1759 then straightened. At the gap, go left downhill for 300 yards to Warren Lodge (257749) on the right; turn right up a short lane

to a ladder stile, and a sign to open country. Walk W of N through woods to reach Froggatt Edge. Continue N along the edge. Note a stone circle at (249768). There is a small wicket gate near a farm gate at this point, then the path soon reaches the road via a gate at (254776).

Go right uphill SE for 100 yards, then turn left off the road through a small wooden gate, and go down some steps to a little stream, then up the other side to a wooden step stile, passing a National Trust car park on one's right. Leave this by a step stile and walk uphill near a wall on right; when the wall turns right, follow it going E. The Grouse Inn is to your right. You come to a gate in the wall in front. A sign states "National Trust Jubilee". There are good stone steps to the left of the gate. Once, over them, go right to a gate and a stile of large stones giving access to the road at (259782). Go N on road for 100 yards, then turn left off the road through a wicket gate near a farm gate, and a National Trust Sign "Longshaw. It was previously "Grouse Tail".

You are now on a good track, going N until a farm gate is reached, with a side gate, then through two old gateposts. Up to another farm gate, and on to a narrow path with fence on right, Longshaw on right.

This dark but impressive house was built for the Duke of Rutland in 1827. It has five gables, lancet windows with hood moulds, a battlemented tower to the rear, and a separate chapel. There are extensive stabling and servants' quarters. The estate comprises over 1,000 acres of rocky moorland and woods on either side of Burbage Brook. The inn at the top of Longshaw Wood was Charlotte Bronte's Whitecross where Jane Eyre was set down from the coach during her flight. Fox House takes its name from the original builder; its origin lies in the seventeenth century when it was a shepherd's cottage. Later, it was enlarged by the Duke of Rutland in whose shooting estate it lay until 1931 when the estate was given to the National Trust. The popular sheepdog trials held here had their origin in 1896 when a group of shepherds met in Fox House to discuss the possibility of holding trials on Totley Moor. They are now held just below the Longshaw House.

Change maps to SK28/38 at (265800). The walk goes down to the gate and out on to the road at (265802). Cross the road to a gate and a National Trust sign, take a good path for 100 yards that leads to another road. Cross the road and take the track that goes N under Burbage Rocks, a pleasant walk with views to the left of Carl's Wark and Higger Tor, both prominent land marks. At the top of Burbage Edge you take a gate onto the road at (262830). Bear left here and walk 300 yard W then leave to go right at via sign to open country. Make for the edge ahead, climb up to the trig point at (251830), the walk NW on Stanage Edge. The views ahead include the triumvirate of Lose Hill, Back Tor and Mam Tor as well as Kinder Scout beyond them.

At (240843), drop down to your left to a sign to open country on the roadside at (239837), go left for 100 yards, then go right off the road through a open gateway where signs indicate this is North Lees Estate. A hard, wide track takes you down through the woods, the stream far below on your left, a pleasant walk, to a double wooden step stile at a gate where you leave the woods and walk on short grass to a metal gate, no stile. Go along a lane past North Lees, which is on your right.

North Lees is a small manor house, three storeyed above a basement with an external chimney and three, four and six-light mullioned windows. The house is embattled with semicircular merlons and has a staircase turret. It was built in 1594. Previously, the site was the home of the supposed Eyre who built a hall for each of his seven sons; it played a part in "Jane Eyre" as Marsh End or Moor House.

Proceed downhill to a gate with wooden step stile on its right, then out on to the road at (233831) where you bear right and walk past Bronte Cottage which is on your right; just beyond this on the left is a green gate and footpath sign which is the route you take to Hathersage. Take the stile go over a field, then along a narrow track at the left hand side of Brookfield Manor; angle left in the next field to a farm track, which you go down, eventually leading to Baulk Lane which takes you to Hathersage. This is a fine peakland town visited by

Charlotte Bronte, who stayed at the vicarage, where they still keep her writing desk inlaid with pearl, one of her shawls, and the slippers worn by her and her sister Anne. The parish church has castellated aisles, porch and clerestory, gargoyles and spire. The stained glass in the E window was put there in 1949. It came from Derwent Church when it was submerged in the reservoir. There are many monuments to the Eyres, and the grave of Little John, who, according to legend, came here with a broken heart, after the death of Robin Hood. There is a Jaggars' Lane in Hathersage and an Inn named The Scotsman's Pack, which suggests that packhorse trains came this way.

Walk SE out of Hathersage, on the A622, under the railway bridge, down to the river bridge, but turn left before the bridge, and walk with the river on one's right going E then S, pleasant walking.

Turn now to the White Peak Map at (240800). The charming riverside path leads through several gates in woods and fields. High up on the left you see the edge where you walked earlier. At one point, the track goes over a concrete bridge for tractors, then, eventually comes out on to the road at (245779) in Grindleford. Turn right; go S for 40 yards, then left into a field through a small gate just before the bridge. Here stands a metal sign number 34 erected in 1908 by the Peak and Northern Counties Footpath Society; it points the way to Froggatt, and states the altitude to be 427 feet.

Go E of S across this flat field to the far corner where there is a poor gate. Go through this and proceed with the wall on your right to a gritstone slot stile going S into Horse Hay Coppice on a path that, you notice, is paved with good stones for some of the way.

Go through the woods. At the far end there is a wall and grit slot stile, and a National Trust Sign indicating Froggatt Wood. Enter a field, make for a gate and then into another field with wall on right; at the end of wall angle right into a narrow field; cut across this, then go with wall on the left to a gate with a slot stile at its side, and so into a paved lane, which takes you to Froggatt at (243762). Pass the little Chapel on one's left, then to a river bridge built in the seventeenth century, with two arches odd in size. Up on your right is Stoke Hall, also built in the seventeenth century for Sir William Cavendish who spent a fortune in his support for King Charles I and lost all his estates. It is reputed to be haunted.

Do not cross the bridge, but continue 50 yards to a stile in a wall on your right: go through this and walk along the river Derwent to another bridge at (244754), where you have to climb up several steps to get to the road, which you cross to a slot stile and so on to another riverside walk, down to a wooden stile and out on to the road at (248747). Continue W of S down to a road junction in Calver, the mill lying on the right. This tall, six-storeyed building was built by Sir William Arkwright, in 1803-4. After expensive renovation, it now looks to be a magnificent site for high-cost flats, which is what it is.

Cross the river by the old bridge, remembering that before this bridge, there was an even older one here in the fifteenth century, for there was much traffic passing this way. The old bridge was washed away in the great flood of August 1799. When the turnpikes came, a new road was made from Fox House on territory we have walked today, ie. down to Froggatt and Calver.

Once over the bridge, go left under the new bridge and pass a few cottages on one's right, to a stile and footbridge and thus into a field, walking with the river on one's left. Go over two fields to a bend in the river, over a stile into Bramley Woods, the river going away to one's left; the path continuing S through the trees. Go across a track to another field, angle to the right of this to a farm gate; the grit slot stile is ten yards to its left, and so out to the road at (247732).

Walk S past Bubnell Farm, then Bubnell Hall, a fine seventeenth century building with mullioned and transomed windows. It was built for the Bassets, one of whom put his name to Magna Carta, another went on a Crusade with Richard Lionheart and a third sat in our first Parliament. Now down to Baslow Bridge, built in the seventeenth century. It has three arches and cutwaters, but is remembered more for its tiny tollhouse. Go left over the

bridge, then right past Baslow Church, beautifully placed by the river. Its oldest parts are fragments of a Saxon Cross in the porch, which has, also, a coffin stone 700 years old. The tower, which has angle buttresses, and a broached spire, are 700 years old. Paxton worked on the church for the Duke of Devonshire.

At (256722) in Baslow, just past the entrance to the caravan site, go right down steps in a wall, go through a metal swing gate then cross over a stream and come to a metal swing gate near to a house. You have by-passed the town! Turn right, go 50 yards to another swing gate, then enter Chatsworth Park.

A sign near a map of the estate directs you to Robin Hood. Climb up gently through this fine parkland, look for a track going upwards to a boundary wall where, near footpath signs, you get over excellent stone steps in a wall to the left of a gate, then walk on a fine hard track to more steps over a wall. Your track passes Chatsworth Rocks where climbers may sometimes be seen in action, and then go forward to a wooden step stile. In about 50 yard angle left through some bushes down to Wadshelf Brook. Cross this over a wooden bridge then up steep concrete steps up to a road above. Turn right and head for Robin Hood and finish.

Checked. 21 Oct. 2002