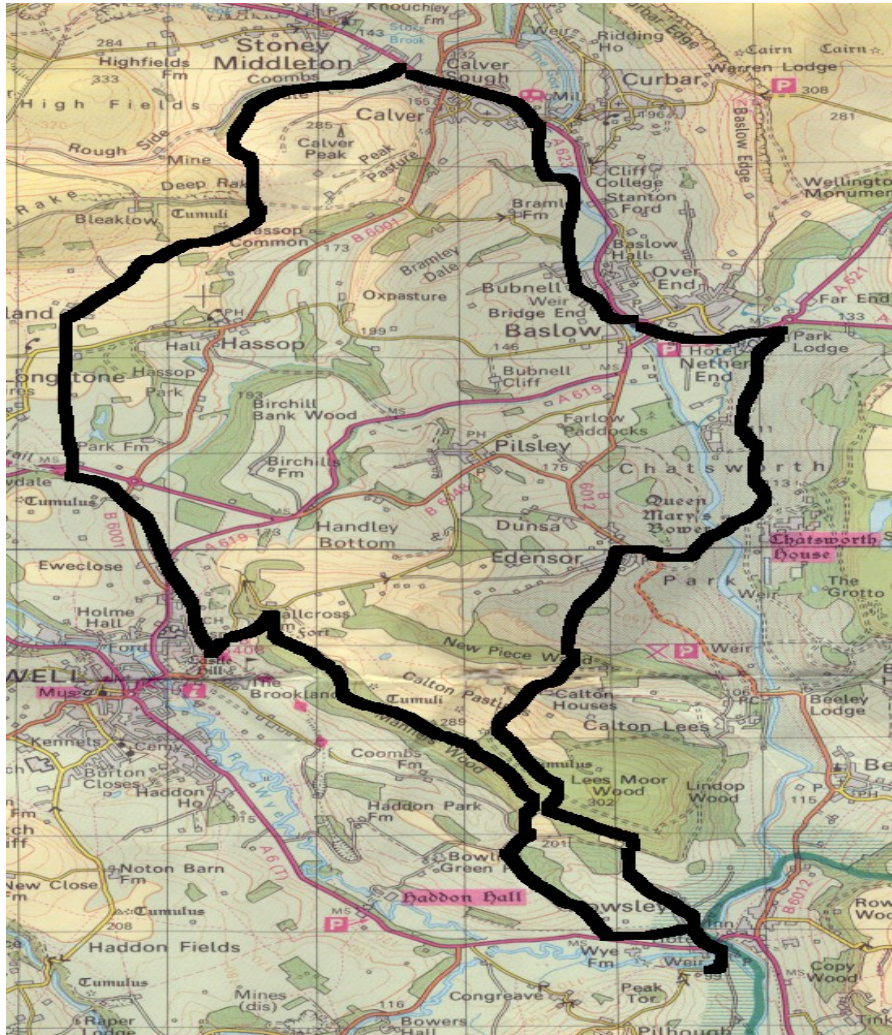


**WALK 8.
ROWSLEY 8.
18 Miles. 5 hours 15 minutes.
Map White Peak.**



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Start near the football field (256656), and walk over the River Wye at Picory Corner passing the old mill. The grandfather of Edward Caudwell the present owner, founded the mill here in 1854. Later the undershot wheel was replaced by the two present turbines, and the gritstone rollers changed for more modern ones. The mill is still powered by a leat from the Wye.

Cross over the A6 to the Peacock Hotel, built in 1652, and note the symmetrical gables and mullioned and transomed windows with a semicircular pediment over the door. Just inside the entrance is a ceramic peacock, the crest of the Manners of Haddon; (the hotel was originally a dower house of Haddon Hall). This peacock was one of five made by Minton of Stoke on Trent in 1850-1; it went down in the ship "Loch Ard" in 1878 off Australia. It was recovered in salvage operations and later traced by Minton. Other interesting features in Rowsley include the old railway station other side of the river and four rows of cottages built by Joseph Paxton.

Walk up the lane with the Peacock on your right, passing the church, which was rebuilt in 1855; it contains an Anglo-Saxon cross head dating from the C.9. Keep to this lane, Coombes Lane, which was once an important road to Bakewell. The lane gets rougher; it eventually goes around Burns Corner Wood, then goes E to a point where three tracks and a footpath meet at (244669) Go right on the footpath, first NNW then curve NNE, going uphill all the time for 400 yards to a wide track. Turn left on this and walk NW on fairly level ground for about a mile and a half, through interesting woodland until you reach the intersection of paths at (227692), not far from Ball Cross (228691), an Iron Age hillfort which had only one bank and ditch and covered less than two acres. It is not comparable to Fin Cop, Mam Tor, Combs Moss or Burr Tor; it was probably the stronghold of an Iron Age chieftain who held this local area. Pottery and querns for grinding were found here. A packhorse way passed near this spot and work on it is referred to in the work involving: "1678 –Pd Otterwell Broomhead for Causing the Bawcross.... £3.19.8". Later, in 1810, the ancient causway was broken up; the base of Ball Cross itself was left but has since disappeared.

Go left, SW, downhill for about 400 yards to a road, passing the golf course on one's right, then go right into the railway station, now used for other purposes. Here may be seen evidence of the influence of the Dukes in the design of the station buildings with its fine stone carvings. (There is a great deal more evidence in the town itself). Go through the left of the station on to the Monsal Trail, walk NW and note, in about a mile, another building similar in style to Bakewell Station; it is at the time of writing a café and bookshop. This was Hassop Station, situated miles from anywhere, because the two great Dukes could not agree to the railway passing over their estates. The situation was resolved by the Duke of Rutland allowing the construction of Bakewell Station and the Duke of Devonshire the construction of Hassop where he caught his train by stopping any that suited him.

In another 400 yards at (214708), go off the trail right through a wooden swing gate, then in 100 yards across a field to a road and the Toll House at Rowdale, a striking dwelling, bearing evidence of its former role with a gate and bell fastened to its gable. It stood on the new Buxton Turnpike from Ashford to Edensor, which we shall visit shortly. Turn left, go 100 yards, then, at a sign, go right through a slot stile into a field, walking N for about 350 yards to the imposing wall around the Hassop estate, once the property of the Eyres of Padley, their former home now a hotel. Keeping close to the wall on one's right, go through several stiles and emerge out to a road, which you cross. Walk N up a road to pass through Rowland, the road now deteriorating to a rough lane. In 600 yards, you come to a cattle grid and gate at (219731). Continue on a firm track wide enough for lorries; in fact here are considerable signs of this area having been worked. The route curves around NE; there are good views over Hassop Common to the right. At a cattle grid, there is a good wooden step stile from which the path curves around to the left to join another track. Leave the path at this point and go straight on NNE to a wooden step stile in a wire fence (226736).

In a few yards, the path goes over Deep Rake, where outcrop mining went on in 1970's to a depth of 100 feet, the rake being filled in to restore the landscape. Deep Rake was a seam of lead and fluorspar, the fluorspar now being more valuable than lead, being used in the paint and chemical industry. Walk over the impressive landscape, stonewall on the right. When this wall turns away to the right, continue N, and avoid the temptation to follow the wall. Instead, go down to a gate, no stile, and continue with wall on right for 200 yards or so before turning off this track, and going NW on high ground above Coombs Dale. Keep to the edge on one's left, though it is rounded and not a sharp, rocky edge as elsewhere in Derbyshire. You pass an interesting outcrop, then go N then NE, the view confirming the impression that this is an interesting if small, Derbyshire Dale. Lose a little height, then cross a stile in a barbed wire fence, and continue until it is possible to descend to a worn path below, follow this to a stile, then another step stile that leads in to some trees, going E now, uphill to enter a flat area that was once a busy quarry.

Leave it by a narrow, grassy path, a fence either side, and do not take the stile you will meet on the right, (signed Calver), but go down some wooden steps through trees to a wooden step stile and out onto a lane, then down to the A.623 at (235751). Turn right and walk down to the bridges in Calver. The older of the two is referred to in the later C.15. It was washed away in the great flood of 1799 then rebuilt. Go down steps to the right of the C.20 bridge and walk with the river on left, houses on the right, over a little footbridge, through a stile and into a field which affords pleasant riverside walking; continue over two fields with river on left, to a stile which takes you to a track in the woods now going SE then S, the river leaving you to go E. Go through the wood, with bank on the right, over a low wall, then follow a track for 50 yards; you then angle to the right to go through a gritstone wall stile, into a field, and make for the far wall, where there is a gritstone slot stile to the left of a gate, and so out on to a lane at (247733).

Turn left, walk S taking note on the right of Bubnell Hall which is passed by many walkers oblivious of the fact that it is a C.17 building, with gables and transomed and mullioned windows. It is the site of the home of the Basset family, famous in medieval times; one of them signed the Magna Carta; another went on the Crusades with Richard the Lionheart; a third sat in our first Parliament. You cannot walk far in Derbyshire without finding history at every turn.

Continue down to the C.15 Bridge; it has three arches and cutwaters, and a little shelter for the toll collector. He must have had much to contend with: an order in 1500 was made that "no one shall henceforth lead or carry any Millstones over the bridge at Basselowe under the pain of 6s-8d to the Lord for every pair of millstones so carried". Cross the bridge, bear right past the church which stands so impressively, its tower with angle buttresses, its spire with big early broaches. It was restored in 1852 by the Duke of Devonshire who, naturally, called in his talented gardener, Joseph Paxton, to assist in the work. Continue E through the town, bearing to the right so as to pass near the car park, then straight ahead, over the little bridge, turn right and pass the delightful thatched cottages on the left. This track leads to the tall metal gate, and entrance to Chatsworth Park.

Walk S through this pleasant park, the river close on one's right and muse on the fact that while most private estates are closed to walkers, one may enter Chatsworth Park from almost all sides. Pass Queen Mary's Bower where Mary Queen of Scots liked to come and sit when she was held prisoner during the five occasions when she was captive to the Earl of Shrewsbury. Cross the bridge built by Paine in 1760 and make for Edensor by the path going SW then W. Edensor was the village that was removed out of site of Chatsworth and rebuilt in 1839 by Joseph Paxton, the gardener who later became famous for his Crystal Palace. The church was built thirty years later by Sir Gilbert Scott. A fine new road was already in existence connecting the Buxton Turnpike at Ashford and Edensor Inn; in fact you will have passed the tollhouse at Rowdale mentioned previously. The new village offered better amenities and a splendid mixture of styles and shapes: a Swiss chalet roof, Jacobean gables, barge boarding, Norman window surrounds, Tudor Chimneys, an octagonal turret, an oriel window. Among the memorials in the new church is one of Lord Frederick Cavendish who was murdered in Dublin in 1882; and one to the sister of President Kennedy who was married to a Cavendish.

Leave the village by some steps to the left, almost hidden by the houses, then go through a wicket gate and walk uphill SSW over grassland to some woods where stands a graphic sign explaining the local amenities. To the left of this is a ladder stile over a wall in to a lane that leads up and around in 150 yards or so to a gate with a good stone steps in a wall on the left. Go SW with a glance to the left to the Russian cottage built in 1855 from a model of a Russian farm sent to the Duke by the Tsar, who was to visit the area, but alas never came; then walk 500 yards SW then W to a gap in Calton Plantations where the path goes to a farm gate with stile on left, then out into Calton Pasture and walk uphill SSW to a ladder stile over a wall at (244681) passing two stone troughs and tumulus with Barrows. These were dug by Thomas

Bateman whose artefacts are in a museum in Bakewell. Walk 100 yards through woodland with wall on right, then turn left at broken wall and go 300 yards through pleasant woodland SE on good path to a pair of gateposts, then out to an excellent view of Bakewell and Haddon. Walk SE downhill now with wall on left for about 200 yards. The path moves away from the wall, going first S then SW to a wide and level track; left on this for 100 yards, then cut off right steeply downhill to an open area at (244669) where several paths merge. This is the point we walked earlier. Go forward SW for 250 yards, then, at junction, turn left down a lane, walking SE with Aaron Hole Plantation on the left, going under the disused railway bridge and out on to the A.6. Turn left and walk towards Rowsley for 100 yards, then left through farm gate in to field. Go immediately right, then walk through three fields, good stiles all the way, between cottages and out on to the road at Rowsley. Turn right over the A.6 passing the Peacock Inn. Go down the road back to the start. Checked 21 Oct. 2002